

Report on the 8th Academic Forum

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The Journal of Urban Culture Research has its origin and is closely tied to the Academic Forum, which has been co-sponsored by the Urban Research Plaza (URP) at Osaka City University and its branch office at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

This Academic Forum serves as a platform for young scholars, doctoral students, and practitioners in related fields of urban studies, performing arts, history, architecture, and the arts to present their research findings in relation to current issues and themes on urban culture research. In 2010, the 8th Academic Forum was hosted from March 9-10, 2010 at the Maha Chulalongkorn Building,



A scene from a modernized version of the Likay Thai folk drama performed by doctoral students from Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts

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Chulalongkorn University. The Forum's title "Empowering Urban Culture and Creativity: Art, PublicITY, and Transformation" represented the diverse range of topics unveiled and was very special for many reasons.

After first extending a warm welcome to the twenty presenters and approximately two hundred attendees from North America, Europe, and Asia, the Forum provided an important venue in which to examine the directions of the developing cultural network in both the public and private sectors. Secondly, the Forum had the former Mayor of Bangkok and a current advisor to Thailand's Prime Minister, Mr. Apirak Kosayodhin as the keynote speaker. His speech helped broaden the audience's perspective of Bangkok as a creative city as the Thai government has transformed this idea into a key concept to provide an economic catalyst for better urban living conditions and quality of life. As a member of URP, the Bangkok branch office continues to extend its projects into the directions of important social inclusion issues and empowering urban culture through the arts in Thailand.



Mr. Apirak Kosayodhin, former Mayor of Bangkok giving the keynote speech



Professor Shin Nakagawa, Director of Urban Research Plaza (URP) giving the closing speech at the forum