

The 7th Symposium on Asia AI :: From Multimodal Intelligence to Conscious AI : Connecting Human Activity, Language Understanding, and Distributed Systems ::

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[活動報告]

**The 7th Symposium on Asia AI
::From Multimodal Intelligence to Conscious AI: Connecting Human
Activity, Language Understanding, and Distributed Systems: :**

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On November 13, 2025, at the Ketho Meeting Room on the fifth floor of the President's Office Building at Prince of Songkla University, Phuket, the 7th International Symposium on Asia AI was hosted to bring together researchers from five institutions: Prince of Songkla University, Musashino University, Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology, Burapha University, and Thailand Cyber University. The 7th International Symposium on Asia AI, co-organized with Musashino University's Faculty of Data Science (MUDS) and the College of Computing of Prince of Songkla University, Phuket (COC), carried the theme "From Multimodal Intelligence to Conscious AI: Connecting Human Activity, Language Understanding, and Distributed Systems."

After a welcome from Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aziz Nanthamornphong, Dean of the College of Computing, the symposium was moderated by Dr. Kama Baha (COC) and Prof. Dr. Thatsanee Charoenporn (MUDS). Prof. Dr. Yasushi Kiyoki opened the academic programme with his Asia AI Research Vision. His core point was not especially complicated, but it bears repeating: the hardest problems in AI right now are not purely engineering problems. They are questions about how intelligence relates to culture, language, and human context – and those questions do not get answered by a single lab working in isolation. The AAI exists, in his framing, precisely because sustained cross-border collaboration is the only realistic path forward. It is a vision the network has been building toward since its founding, and the day's programme was a reasonable demonstration of it in practice.

The morning's most-discussed talk came from Prof. Dr. Virach Sornlertlamvanich, whose presentation "Conscious AI – Mission (Im)Possible?" did exactly what a good symposium talk should do: it framed a genuinely difficult question clearly enough that people kept arguing about it afterward.

What would machine consciousness actually consist of? How would you recognize it? Sornlertlamvanich did not pretend to have answers, but he mapped the terrain carefully, which turned out to be more useful. The lunchtime conversation it generated probably covered more ground than some of the formal presentations. Closing out the morning, Prof. Dr. Thanaruk Theeramunkong described the Super AI Engineer Program, a Thai capacity-building initiative built around a curriculum that takes seriously the idea that technical training alone does not produce good AI practitioners – ethics and application contexts are part of the core, not electives.

The afternoon presentations came in two sessions and covered considerable ground. Session 2 opened with Asst. Prof. Dr. Norrathep Rattanaivanon's examination of security, privacy, and scalability in edge AI – a paper that made a point worth making loudly in a field where deployment risks often get buried under accuracy numbers. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teerayut Horanont followed with an introduction to AI-NEXT, a national hub for AI talent development, and Jirayus Arbking of Burapha University described a grading system built to support Thailand Olympiad in Informatics candidates. Prof. Dr. Naoki Ishibashi closed the session with the Art Sensorium Project, which uses data science to reconstruct and distribute art experiences through a network of cyber museums. It was a useful reminder that the field's reach extends a long way past the kinds of problems that tend to dominate conference programmes.

Session 3 moved into multimodal systems and applied work. Asst. Prof. Dr. Kwankamon Dittakan presented research on image caption generation using transformer models, with Instagram images as a practical test case. Prof. Dr. Ryota Nakamura demonstrated a virtual environment designed for data science education – one that seems particularly well-suited to the distributed teaching arrangements the AAIL has been trying to scale up. Aritath Siraphatwongkorn offered a mobility study reconstructing Thai movement patterns during COVID-19 from Google Mobility Reports, showing what can be done with publicly available data when it is handled with care. Asst. Prof. Dr. Veeraporn Siddoo then took a different direction entirely, presenting practical AI marketing guidance aimed squarely at small and medium enterprises. The session wrapped with two papers from Musashino: Prof. Dr. Asako Uraki on semantic microscope methods for expert knowledge modeling, and Prof. Yusuke Takahashi on eleven months running an AI coaching service for runners – a project that started as a product and ended up as a study of long-term human-AI interaction.

Session 4 turned to education and the labour market. Chanachai Siriphunwaraphon and Asst. Prof. Dr. Nattapong Tongtep presented MultiEx, a role-playing game platform designed to make exam preparation less passive – an application that raises interesting questions about what “serious games” actually accomplish. A team from Thailand Cyber University – Prof. Dr. Thapanee Thammetar, Prof. Dr. Jintavee Khlaisang, and Prof. Dr. Anuchai Theeraroungchaisri – shared findings from the Thai MOOC initiative and the analytics infrastructure supporting it, giving a concrete picture of how online learning is being both delivered and studied at national scale. Assoc. Prof. Yasuhiro Hayashi closed the session with research on AI-driven job matching and reskilling, addressing what happens when workers’ existing skills no longer align with what the market actually needs.

The final session took the form of an interactive workshop. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shiori Sasaki and Prasetyo Wibowo ran a structured brainstorming workshop on research funding – a topic that matters but rarely makes it onto academic agendas. The collaborative discussion that followed, chaired by Prof. Dr. Kiyoki along with Asst. Prof. Dr. Jakapan Suaboot and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Warodom Werapun, was where several threads from the day came together: shared datasets, joint student supervision, co-organized workshops. These are not new ideas in the network, but the discussion moved them from aspiration toward something more like planning.

