



"These Alumni functions are always a great success. The organisers do a brilliant job and they generate good media coverage," Professor Sutton said. "And I am always impressed with how excited and proud the Thai Alumni members are to be associated with the University of Wollongong. They are wonderful ambassadors."

"The attendance of Dr Yodmani and so many high-ranking Thai educationalists underlined UOW's status. Having presidents and leaders of a number of Thailand's top universities attending, along with the Australian Ambassador, demonstrates the respect in which the University is held in Thailand," Professor Sutton said. NH

Left: Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton with some of the Thai alumni who attended the UOW Alumni and Friends function in Bangkok.

Below: Professor Sutton with UOW's Thai student recruitment representative Dusada Nunta (left) and Thai Alumni Chapter president Assistant Professor Linchong Chorrojprasert, who is Dean of Arts at Assumption University in Thailand.

## Thai Alumni Chapter maintains strong links

The Australian Ambassador to Thailand joined University of Wollongong Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton and the leaders of some of Thailand's leading educational institutions at a recent UOW alumni function in Bangkok.

More than 200 Thai-based UOW graduates attended Thailand's UOW Alumni and Friends Association evening at Bangkok's Hyatt Erawan Hotel in September.

They were joined by Ambassador Paul Grigson and a number of Australian Embassy staff, UOW Fellow and former Thai Government Minister Dr Suvit Yodmani and his wife Khunying Songsuda Yodmani, also a UOW Fellow, and a number of distinguished Thai tertiary education sector leaders.

The event underlined UOW's special status among Australian universities in Thailand. UOW attracts more Thai students than any other Australian university, with an average of around 350 enrolled at any one time.

In 2002 the University was greatly honoured when the King of Thailand, His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej accepted the inaugural (and still the only) Honorary Doctorate of the University to be conferred.

His Majesty's youngest daughter, Professor Dr HRH Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol, travelled to Wollongong in 1999 to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Science and to sign an Education and Scientific Agreement between her Chulabhorn Research Institute and UOW.

Professor Sutton has strong ties with Thailand, and visits the country at least once every year and often more regularly.

Professor Sutton presented an update of recent developments at UOW, including the opening of the Innovation Campus, the Library expansion and the success of the Graduate School of Medicine. He also outlined his vision for the University's future.

Ambassador Grigson spoke about Australia's higher education sector, and UOW's role in it, while Dr Yodmani also addressed the gathering.

The UOW Alumni Network-Thailand Chapter president, Assistant Professor Linchong Chorrojprasert, who has a PhD in Education from UOW (2005) and is Dean of Arts at Assumption University of Thailand, spoke about the Thai network's activities and initiatives over the past year and plans for the future.

