

ISU President  
ISU Director  
Distinguished Lecturers and Participants of ISU SSP99  
Other Honored Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to warmly welcome you all to this traditional Thai dinner, Northeastern Thailand or Isarn style. We call this kind of dinner reception “Paa Laeng” which literally means “Evening Dishes”. During this reception, it is traditional to wear “Mor Hom” shirt and one sits cross-legged on the floor to enjoy the Paa Laeng Dinner.

In addition to Paa Laeng Dinner Reception, tonight we have just had “Baa Sii Suu Khwan Ceremony” specially arranged for you. This ceremony is the tradition of Northeast Thailand to welcome our guests and visitors of high honour. A sacred thread that was tied around your wrist signifies close relationship and lasting bond of friendship. You may keep it with you as long as you wish.

I wish you a great evening with Paa Laeng, and hope you enjoy the special Isarn dishes, Thai music and dance.

Thank you.