

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCE

Award acceptance speech by Prapimphan Chiengkul

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.



Award presented by Mr David Andrews, Graduate Programme Manager of Standard Chartered Bank

It is a great pleasure to be here with you tonight. I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Anglo-Thai society for holding the Educational Awards for Excellence competition every year, which serves as an inspiration for Thai PhD students to better themselves, and also for giving me this year's award in the humanities and social science category. A few words on the contribution of my thesis... In recent years, food security and land grabbing have become important concerns in

Thailand and globally. It has been recognised that political and market power relations are key to the understanding of these issues. This is where my thesis comes in.

My thesis of the title "Hegemony and counter-hegemony in the agri-food system in Thailand (1990s to present)", adopts a transdisciplinary international political economy approach to analyse the structural problems of the agricultural and food sector of Thailand as part of the global system. Despite being a net exporter of food, Thailand has causes to be concerned. For example, land grabbing, monopoly control over seeds, and environmental destruction arising from intensive industrial agriculture can have negative consequences to the population, as well as future domestic food security.

In addition to an analysis of current problems, my thesis explores different possibilities of how the current agricultural and food production and distribution system can be transformed towards more socially and ecologically sustainable paths. For these reasons, the thesis is very much relevant in present day context, not just to Thailand, but also to the global community.

Thank you very much.