PUBA Professor Pratt Visits Khon Kaen University and PUBA Graduates in Thailand

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In late January Dick Pratt traveled to Khon Kaen University in northeast Thailand. UH Manoa has a long-term relationship with KKU, and Dick has been going there for a number of years to work with the Development Administration Program. This time he gave a seminar on the role of critical thinking in both graduate studies and public service work; participated in a two-day conference on the roles local public administration can play in environmental issues, and worked on a project to develop local government leadership. As a first step in that project, in the spring of 2008 a small group of exemplary leaders from northeast Thailand will come to UHM to discuss their successes and challenges, attend PUBA classes, and meet with local officials. This program is being organized with the support of the UHM Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

On the way back from Khon Kaen Dick met with two Thai PUBA graduates, Chotima "Poon" Chaitiamwong and Wannasiri "Val" Weerasampan, who now both live in Bangkok. Poon works with the Fulbright Program in Thailand as a program organizer, and Wannasiri works with a firm that makes equipment to improve air emissions from certain industrial processes. Together with Debbie Shiraisihi-Pratt they spent the day at a former capital of Thailand, Ayutthaya, where this picture was taken. Poon and Wannasiri are starting to work on their idea of organizing a get-together of PUBA grads somewhere in Asia, joining getting together, touring, and some volunteer work.
Poon, Dick and Val.