

ประจำวันพฤหัสบดีที่ 5 สิงหาคม พ.ศ. 2553

## SIX YOUNG SCIENTISTS LAND TOP NATIONAL AWARD FOR THE YEAR

WANNAPA KHAOPA  
THE NATION

Six scientists from around the country have scooped Young Scientist Awards this year.

They are Kruawun Jankaew at Chulalongkorn University, Chanakan Promu-thai at Chiang Mai University, Banjong Boonchom at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang-Chumphon campus, Verawat Champreda at the National Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Sa-Ad Riyajan at Prince of Songkla University and Uracha Ruktanonchai at the National Nanotechnology Centre.

The winners were announced yesterday by the Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Technology under the patronage of His Majesty the King.

Kruawun's research into paleo-tsunami in Thailand was invaluable in producing tsunami hazard maps. The data can help calibrate, test and improve tsunami run-up models and can be used to increase public awareness and promote effective coastal disaster prevention and tsunami mitigation.

Chanakan succeeded in adding value to Thai rice by improving its nutritional quality. Thanks to her research, rice grains can be fortified with iron and zinc by parboiling.

Banjong has worked on metal phosphate compound groups, which can be applied to laser hosts, ceramics, dielectrics, magnetic products, catalytic agents, corrosion-resistant coatings, ceramic pigments and fertilisers.



KRUAWUN



CHANAKAN



BANJONG



VERAWAT



SA-AD



URACHA

Verawat's current research focuses on the development of efficient lignocellulosytic enzyme systems from lignocellulose degrading microbial consortia bred in the laboratory and environment metagenomic libraries.

Also, the research focuses on the enzyme synergistic action that will provide the basis for understanding the degradation of agricultural biomass for future applications in the promising biorefinery industry for the production of biofuels and chemicals.

Sa-Ad has developed the controlled release of urea fertiliser via natural rubber, which does not affect the environment.

He has also prepared a novel polymer and improved the surface of natural rubber sheets via chemical modification. The novel polymer showed good mechanical properties, antibacterial activity and resistance to

water and toluene.

Uracha has carried out various research projects involving the development of solid lipid nanoparticles for cosmetics and drug delivery as well as the development and evaluation of nanoparticles encapsulated with lemongrass oil and oil from *Hyptis suaveolens* (L) Poit for new mosquito-repellent products.

She wants to determine how chemical/drug lipid types and lipid concentrations are incorporated and distributed inside nanoparticles, enhancing the control of drug retention and release characteristics and the biological properties of these lipid-based nanoparticle drug-delivery systems.