

# Sumaa Newsletter

*Hello, everyone.*

In this month's newsletter, we want to talk about writing Thai phonetically. For beginners who can't yet read and write Thai, writing out Thai phonetically is crucial for knowing how to pronounce words correctly, but different schools all seem to use their own systems. Have you ever wondered why this is and why, unlike in some other languages, we don't have a common system for writing Thai in the Roman alphabet that everyone can use?



With this in mind, Sumaa Language and Culture Institute joined with Khon Kaen University and Mae Fah Luang University (the latter is in Chiang Rai) to organize the first national conference on teaching Thai as a foreign language. The conference was devoted to the subject of the phonetic transcription of Thai and was held on 21 July, 2023. Throughout the day, participants presented papers on topics related to the teaching of Thai as a foreign language and joined in with lively seminar discussions to exchange ideas on how to specify a suitable phonetic system for Thai. We hope that the conference will stimulate a broader discussion among other interested parties about how to move forward with the development of a standardized and unified Thai phonetic writing system since such a move would surely be beneficial for both learners and teachers of Thai.



"We asked a sample group of learners at Sumaa what they think about the system for transcribing Thai. If you're curious about their answers, have a look at .... "



We've already talked about ร้๓๓ (เสียง) but when this is used in Thai words, and it's in a lot, does it always have



sà·sǒm·sàp  
(สะสุ่มศัพท์)

meanings connected to the voice or to sound? If you want to know the answer to that, check out this month's SASOMSAP