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# Memorandum

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**TO:** Academic Affairs

**FROM:** James R. Walton

**DATE:** April 7, 2011

**RE:** Professional Development Grant Report

In October 2008 I received a Professional Development grant to attend the International Conference on Business & Management Education (ICBME) in Bangkok, Thailand. Originally the ICBME was scheduled to be held in October, 2008 however it was rescheduled due to political unrest in Bangkok and held concurrently with the 2nd International Colloquium on Business & Management (ICBM).

While attending the conference I served as discussion chair for two sessions on marketing and international education. The conference sessions I were able to attend were very interesting and provided me with a great deal of exposure to faculty from throughout south Asia and the Middle East. I was especially interested in the pedagogical papers presented during the international education session. It was interesting to learn about the differences in business education between the U.S. and the schools in Southeast Asia.

While in Bangkok I also visited with the Rotary Club of Bangkok which meets every Thursday at the Grand Hyatt Erawan. During this visit I was able to meet and visit with a number of Thai and ex-patriot business people and community leaders.

I departed Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International; Airport early on November 25<sup>th</sup> and I later learned that demonstrators had stormed and closed the airport just hours after I had left and occupied it for nearly two weeks.