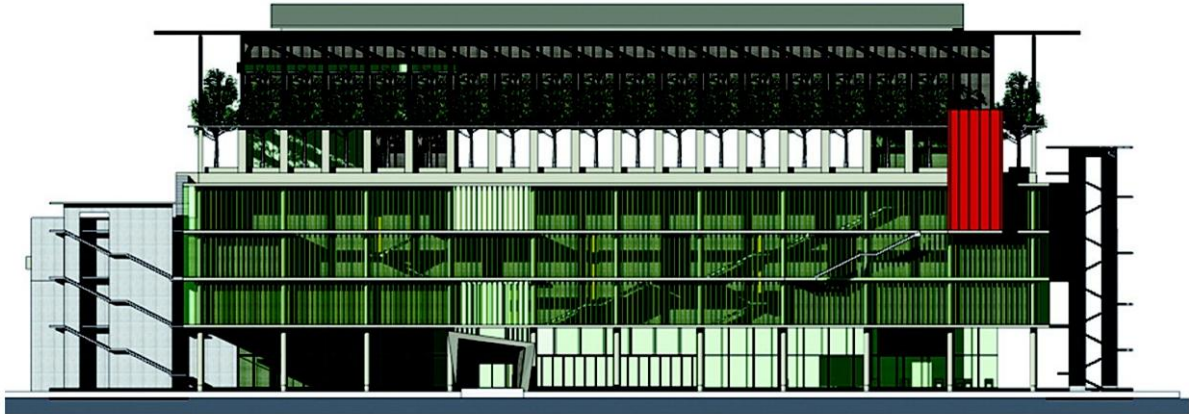


Southeast Asian music museum soon to be a reality



The Music Museum of Southeast Asia is expected to open in 2013 at Mahidol University's College of Music.

Two years from now, Thailand will have a new museum on Southeast Asian music under a Mahidol University's College of Music project to honour the princess of Thai heritage and culture.

Assoc Prof Sugree Charoensook, dean of the Mahidol's College of Music, revealed that he is seeking support for this project and hoping many people will visit the Music Museum of Southeast Asia, which will become a symbol of the country's continuing cultural development.

"Southeast Asia has a rich musical tradition and cultural heritage. I hope that preserving and researching this heritage can bring us together." The university will open the Music Museum of Southeast Asia in 2013. "It will be seven-storeys and 20,000-square metres and will have the purpose of celebrating the music of all Southeast Asian cultures," he said.

According to the dean, the new museum will showcase ancient musical instruments, music sheets and recordings and attract scholars and student researchers from around the world to share and learn about the region's unique cultural history. Among the highlights will be a cello of the late music guru Phra Jenduriyang who composed the national anthem.

Aimed at honouring Thailand's heritage and culture patron HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the museum will highlight the history of musical cultures in Southeast Asia and show to the world Southeast Asian people's ways of life. It will become a cultural asset of Thailand, attract tourists and bring more income to this country.



The first and second floors of the museum will reflect the identity of Southeast Asia comprising people of many ethnicities and their music, which cannot be separated from ways of life.

The third and fourth floors will show the connections between Southeast Asia and the rest of the world through its music, such as the influence of Southeast Asian music in Europe and America.

The fifth floor will host temporary exhibitions on world music, instrument repair rooms and conference rooms, while the sixth and seventh floors will serve as a 150-seat recital hall for folk, local and national music.

Also at this museum, local music and world music will be taught by experts 48 hours per semester and see demonstrations by famous local musicians. Students from around the world can register and transfer credits between this college and participating

universities abroad.

Those wishing to know more about the project or support it may contact College of Music, Mahidol University, Salaya campus in Nakhon Pathom, on 02-800-2525—34, visit www.music.mahidol.ac.th or email mwww@mahidol.ac.th.