EISENHOWER FELLOW





Southeast Asia Regional Program

SARINEE ACHAVANUNTAKUL, THAILAND Editorial Board, ThaiPublica; Director, Thai Netizen Network

As a result of her blog posts, investment banker Sarinee Achavanuntakul unexpectedly found herself to be a significant contributor to the popular protests in 2005-2006 in Thailand that led to the ousting of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Since then, she has translated 12 books from English; written 28 Thai books (three of which are coauthored); writes 7 regular newspaper and magazine columns, co-founded an investigative journalism-focused news outfit called ThaiPublica, and co-founded Thailand's first Internet freedom civil society group called Thai Netizen Network (TNN). During her fellowship, she will examine the interplay between internet governance and digital rights, human rights, and the technical architecture of the Internet; study best practices and changing business models of investigative journalism; and explore mechanisms to use the Internet to enhance participatory democracy and raise public awareness of societal challenges.

Professional Highlights

- Co-Founder and Editorial Board Member, ThaiPublica (online investigative news journal), 2011 Present
- Co-Founder and Director, Thai Netizen Network (Internet rights group), 2008 Present
- Member, Broadcasting Consumer Protection Subcommittee, Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, 2012 - 2013
- Evangelist, Creative Commons of Thailand, 2009 2010
- Executive Director, Hunters Advisory Co., Ltd., 2007 2008
- Associate Vice President, SCB Securities Co., Ltd., 2003 2006

Education

- New York University, Stern School of Business, M.B.A., Finance, 2000
- Harvard University, B.A., Economics, 1996

Fellowship Interests

- To understand issues relating to the interplay between Internet governance (formal and informal), digital rights, human rights, and technical architecture of the Internet
- To improve investigative journalism techniques
- To explore viable new media business models
- To discuss ideas on using the Internet and web-based tools and websites can be used to enhance participatory democracy and raise public awareness on long-term development issues

For further information, contact Leigh Cohen, Senior Program Officer, at lcohen@efworld.org