

# IASS Newsletter

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Dr. Otto F. von Feigenblatt and Sister Dr. Maleerat Boonanantabutra, Principal of Assumption Suksa School (Bangkok, Thailand).

## *Special events in IASS*

- *Insignia of IASS*
- *New Membership Rank*
- *Award Ceremonies*

## **IASS News**

The first half of 2014 has been an exciting and rewarding time for the International Academy of Social Sciences (IASS). Several noteworthy events and changes include the following: full transition of the Guild of International Scholars and associated journals into a full fledged learned society, the creation of the rank of Academician of Social Sciences as the highest rank granted by the Academy, the appointment of several prominent community leaders and scholars as Academicians of Social Sciences, and keynote speeches delivered by several members of IASS in Thailand

## **Insignia of the International Academy of Social Sciences**

The Guild of Independent Scholars was established in 2008 to serve as the steering committee to oversee the Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Sciences. Due to the success of the Journal and massive expansion of the membership its duties were expanded and its structure started to reflect traditional learned societies. The Editorial and Advisory boards were expanded over the years to reflect a more diverse membership and to represent a larger variety of disciplinary areas. Early this year the decision was made to change the name of the Guild of Independent Scholars into the International Academy of Social Sciences (IASS) and transform the organization into a more traditional learned society. In order to reflect the changes in function, the governing

structure of the organization was changed to one emulating the traditional Orders of Knighthood and European Confraternities. Dr. Otto F. von Feigenblatt, Count of Kobryn was chosen to serve as the Academy's first chairman with the title of Grandmaster of the International Academy of Social Sciences. Dr. von Feigenblatt's pivotal role in the establishment and subsequent success of the Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Science were taken into consideration in making this very important appointment. The structure still maintains the Editorial and Advisory Boards with important supervisory and advisory functions.





Keynote Lecture about Learning and the Community. Dr. Vannapond von Feigenblatt (Bangkok, Thailand)

## Establishment of a New Membership Rank

One of the first changes that were made under the new organizational name of International Academy of Social Sciences (IASS) was the establishment of a new membership rank, that of Academician of Social Sciences. This new rank follows the European model of the National Learned Societies and reflects the higher caliber of members that the organization is attracting. This new rank also led to the design and regulation of the Academy's insignia and academic regalia.

partial list includes our initial roster of Academicians of Social Science:

- Dr. Seema Rohmetra, University of Jammu
- Dr. Eko Priyo Purnomo, University of Bradford
- Dr. Erna Oliver, University of South Africa
- Dr. William J. Jones, Mahidol University, Thailand

The IASS had the pleasure to make several appointments to the prestigious rank of Academician of Social Sciences during the first few months of 2014. Those chosen are prominent scholars and community leaders chosen due to their contributions to both knowledge and social service. The following

## The Ceremonies

Two solemn investiture ceremonies were held in Bangkok, Thailand during the months of July and August. One event was held at Assumption Suksa School and a second con at Wat Vorajanyawas. The investiture ceremonies were attended by members of the community and by religious leaders of the Catholic Church and the Buddhist Sangha. In addition to serving as important rites of passage for the new Academicians, the investiture ceremonies also provided the opportunity for the IASS to reach out to the community through a series of keynote lectures delivered by Dr. Otto F. von Feigenblatt and by Dr. Vannapond von Feigenblatt. The lectures focused on the role of education in society and also on the interface between the community and the process of learning. Both events were very well attended and were reported by the local media.



New Academicians at investiture held at Wat Vorajanyawas (Bangkok, Thailand)

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## Events



Drs. Otto and Vannapond von Feigenblatt with a group of Academicians of Social Science from Assumption Suksa School (Bangkok, Thailand)



Academicians of Social Science from Wat Vorajanyavas, Bangkok, Thailand