

IAAPS has organized a Special Lecture Programme 27<sup>TH</sup> November 2018 in collaboration with Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta. The Lecture programme was named as - “THAILAND IN PERSPECTIVE”

**Prof Sakorn Mahahing, Mahachulalongkornrajamahawithalaya, Khon Kean, Thailand,** delivered a talk on *Management of Tourism Resources for Sustainable Development: A Study in Khon Kaen Management Province, Thailand*. Tourism is one of the fastest developing smokeless businesses in this blue planet. It has the largest employability and income distribution among the various stakeholders of this industry. But one of the major challenges in this industry is the implication of sustainability in this business. Sakhorn talked about Khon Kaen Province, Thailand There are various significant differences observed among the various stakeholders in tourism industries both in problems and he identified the barriers of the management of tourism resources for sustainable development.

**James Gomez , Director, Asia Centre, Bangkok, Thailand** delivered a talk on *Thainess: Contemporary Challenges of a Diverse Society* the lecture focused on the importance and significance of diasporic community in Thai society. He basically focused on the Chinese Thai who have been settled in Thailand for years. The Chinese Thai have been able to exert their control in the social sphere of Thai life. They are the major stakeholders in terms of economic sphere in Thailand. They have culturally associated themselves with the Thai people, so it has been seen as in the case of matrimony etc. Historically the origin of Thai people can be traced in the Yunnan district of China, so in that case the Thai people are much closer to the Indian counterparts. Indian community in Thailand i.e.the Punjabis, Sikhs, Biharis and Gorakhpuris are not culturally inclined to Thai people because of their skin color, and so they are subjected to racial discrimination in jobs and in the school. But whatever it may be Thai society is a multi-faced and open minded society so they have accepted this diasporic community within their social parameters.

Dr Harish Chandra Mehta, Editor-in-Chief, Calcutta Journal of Global Affairs as chairperson, addressed the session by saying that Soft power diplomacy is the order of the day. There are many aspects in which India can be connected with Thailand, especially through gastronomical aspect and here comes the role of Intangible Cultural Heritage. But India is the country of lost opportunities since because of their bureaucracy and diplomacy, whereas China has already asserted their control in the region. So he blamed the India foreign policy and bureaucracy who have failed to take quick actions in policy implementations.