Ora-orn Poocharoen, Ph.D.

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PROFILE

Public policy scholar and foresight practitioner with over twenty years of experience in governance, public sector reform, and anti-corruption in Thailand and Asia. Former Director of the School of Public Policy and Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration at Chiang Mai University, and former faculty member of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Has designed and facilitated strategic foresight processes for Thai government agencies, parliament, provincial governments, and civil society, and has served as advisor to international organizations including the United Nations, UNDP, and the World Bank. Research spans public policy and administration, collaborative and network governance, institutional reform, co-production, and futures thinking in Thailand and Asia.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Public Policy · Public Administration · Public Organization · Political Science · International Relations · Strategic Foresight and Anticipatory Governance · Anti-Corruption and Governance Integrity

EDUCATION

2005	**Ph.D. in Public Administration** Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, USA
2000	**LL.M. in Political Science** University of Tokyo, Japan
1998	**LL.B. in International Relations** Hitotsubashi University, Japan

ACADEMIC AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

2026 – present	**Faculty Member** School of Public Policy, Chiang Mai University
2018 – 2025	**Director** School of Public Policy, Chiang Mai University
2015 – 2017	**Dean** Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University
2015 – 2020	**Adjunct Associate Professor** Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore
2007 – 2015	**Assistant Professor** Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore *Chair, Master in Public Administration Programme (2009–2013); Assistant Dean, Student Affairs (2009–2011); Coordinator, Governance Study Project (2013–2015); Co-Chair, Teaching Excellence Committee (2015); Faculty Search Committee (2015)*
2003 – 2007	**Lecturer** Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University *Director, Ph.D. Programme in Political Science (2007); Deputy Head, Master of Public Administration Programme (2007)*
1999 – 2000	**Broadcaster and Thai–Japanese Translator**

NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), Tokyo

ADVISORY AND CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

- International: United Nations, UNDP, World Bank, USAID, IDRC, Fraunhofer, The Asia Foundation, Oxfam, Asian Productivity Organization
- Thailand: Office of the Civil Service Commission, National Anti-Corruption Commission, Public Sector Reform Commission, Bureau of the Budget, Chiang Mai Provincial Government, Thai Parliament, Thailand Policy Lab
- Ten years of strategic foresight training and scenario work for Thai public officials; extensive experience training officials from around the world on performance management, network governance, anti-corruption strategies, and public participation

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND EDITORIAL ROLES

- Steering Committee, International Commission on Accreditation of Public Administration (ICAPA), 2026 – 2028
- Executive Committee, International Public Policy Association (IPPA), 2025 – 2027
- Member, United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), 2018 – 2021
- Senior Advisor, Policy Design and Practice
- Editorial Board Member: International Public Management Journal (IPMJ); Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice (JCPA); Public Policy and Administration (PPA)
- Former Associate Editor, Policy Sciences (2015 – 2017)

BOOKS

Poocharoen, O., Boossabong, P., & Chamchong, P. (Eds.). (2025). Handbook of Public Policy in Asia. Handbooks of Research on Public Policy series. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. 560 pp. ISBN 978-1-03531-959-6.

Poocharoen, O., & Boossabong, P. (Eds.). (2023). Policy Analysis in Thailand. International Library of Policy Analysis. Bristol: Policy Press. 356 pp. https://doi.org/10.51952/9781447367109

Poocharoen, O., Wu, X., & Wasson, R. (Eds.). (2017). Governance and Policy for Ganga Rejuvenation: Directions towards a Brighter Future. World Scientific.

Poocharoen, O., & Tangsupvattana, A. (2009). Problems of the Three Southern Border Provinces: Policy Recommendations (in Thai). Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Press.

Poocharoen, O., Tangsupvattana, A., Kuwinpun, P., & Pintoptang, P. (2008). Bureaucracy: The Case of CEO Governors (in Thai). Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Press. 222 pp.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Milojević, I., Inayatullah, S., Poocharoen, O., & Boonmavichit, N. (2025). Drama to Dharma and the Holographic Buddha: Futures Thinking in Thailand. Journal of Futures Studies. Published online 4 May 2025 (in press). https://jfsdigital.org/21789-2/

Sudhipongpracha, T., & Poocharoen, O. (2021). Community Health Workers as Street-level Quasi-Bureaucrats in the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Cases of Kenya and Thailand. Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice, 23(2), 234–249. https://doi.org/10.1080/13876988.2021.1879599

Poocharoen, O., Straussman, J., & Guinn, D. (2019). The Problem of Chronic Refugee Communities: Applying Complexity Theory to Analyzing the Case of the Thai–Myanmar Border. Journal of Refugee Studies. https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/fez058

Howlett, M., Kekez Kostro, A., & Poocharoen, O. (2017). Understanding Co-production as a Policy Tool: Integrating New Public Governance and Comparative Policy Theory. Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice, 19(5), 487–501. https://doi.org/10.1080/13876988.2017.1287445

Poocharoen, O., & Wong, N. H.-L. (2016). Performance Management of Collaborative Projects: The Stronger the Collaboration the Less is Measured. Public Performance & Management Review, 39(3), 607–629.

Poocharoen, O. (2015). Intersections between Civil Society, Insurgency, and Development: Case of the Subnational Conflict in the South of Thailand. The Journal of Territorial and Maritime Studies, 2(2), 73–94.

Poocharoen, O., & Ting, B. (2015). Collaboration, Coproduction, Networks – Convergence of Theories. Public Management Review, 17(4), 587–614.

Poocharoen, O., & Lee, C. (2013). Talent Management in the Public Sector: A Comparative Study of Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand. Public Management Review, 15(8), 1185–1207.

Poocharoen, O., & Brillantes, A. (2013). Meritocracy in Asia: Issues and Challenges. Review of Public Personnel Administration, 33(2), 140–163.

Poocharoen, O., & Sovacool, B. (2012). Exploring the Challenges of Energy and Resources Network Governance. Energy Policy, 42, 409–418.

Poocharoen, O., Hou, Y., Ni, A., Yang, K., & Zhao, Z. (2011). The Case for Public Administration with a Global Perspective. Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, 21(Suppl. 1), i45–i51.

Poocharoen, O., Bushouse, B., Jacobson, W., Lambright, K., Llorens, J., & Morse, R. (2011). Crossing the Divide: Building Bridges between Public Administration Practitioners and Scholars. Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, 21(Suppl. 1), i99–i112.

Poocharoen, O., & Bowornwathana, B. (2010). Bureaucratic Politics and Administrative Reforms: Why Politics Matter. Public Organization Review: A Global Journal, 10(4), 303–321.

Poocharoen, O. (2010). The Bureaucracy: Problem or Solution to Thailand's Far South Flames? Contemporary Southeast Asia, 32(2), 184–207.

Poocharoen, O., & Bowornwathana, B. (2005). Managing Reforms: The Politics of Organizing Reform Work. Public Organization Review: A Global Journal, 5(3), 233–247.

Poocharoen, O., Schroeder, L., O'Leary, R., & Jones, D. (2004). Routes to Scholarly Success in Public Administration: Is There a Right Path? Public Administration Review, 64(1), 92–105.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Poocharoen, O., & Chatrium, P. (2025). Thailand's Responses to COVID-19 and the Acceleration of Public Sector Reform. In M. J. Moon & D.-Y. Kim (Eds.), Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic: An International Comparative Approach (Ch. 9). Public Administration and Public Policy series. New York: Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003362760

Chutima, V., Piboonrungroj, P., Chinnakum, W., & Poocharoen, O. (2021). The Role of Social Trust in Governing the Sharing Economy for Poverty Reduction. In F. Taghizadeh-Hesary, N. Panthamit, & N. Yoshino (Eds.), Poverty Reduction for Inclusive Sustainable Growth in Developing Asia. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-1107-0_2

Poocharoen, O., Thiengburanathum, P., & Lee, K. C. (2019). Smart City as a Complex Adaptive System – the Ebbs and Flows of Humans and Materials. In Y. M. Joo (Ed.), Smart Cities in Asia: Development, Policy, and Governance. Edward Elgar.

Poocharoen, O. (2015). Public Administration Scholarship in Thailand: Key Paradigms and Future Directions. In S. Punyaratabandhu (Ed.), Public Administration in Thailand – Change, Development, and Directions (pp. 229–252). NIDA.

Poocharoen, O. (2014). Bureaucracy, I Love You. In Governing Asia: Reflections on a Research Journey (pp. 141–146). World Scientific. https://doi.org/10.1142/9789814635394_0026

Poocharoen, O., & Abdullah, F. (2014). Controlling or Empowering Non-Profit Organizations? Dimensions of Accountability in Singapore. In T. Brandsen, W. Trommel, & B. Verschuere (Eds.), Manufacturing Civil Society: The Risks of Governance.

Poocharoen, O. (2012). Bureaucracy and the Policy Process. In E. Araral, S. Fritzen, M. Howlett, M. Ramesh, & X. Wu (Eds.), Routledge Handbook of Public Policy.

Poocharoen, O. (2010). A Personal Memo from a Woman Teaching Public Administration in Asia. In R. O'Leary, D. M. Van Slyke, & S. Kim (Eds.), The Future of Public Administration, Public Management, and Public Service Around the World: The Minnowbrook Perspective. Georgetown University Press.

Poocharoen, O. (2007). Integration of Management Areas. In P. Ingraham (Ed.), In Pursuit of Performance: Management Systems in State and Local Government (pp. 178–194). Johns Hopkins University Press.

CONSULTANCY AND POLICY REPORTS

Managing Change in Public-Sector Organizations. Asian Productivity Organization (February 2021). https://www.apo-tokyo.org/papers/managing-change-in-public-sector-organizations/

The Contested Corners of Asia: Subnational Conflict and International Assistance — The Case of Southern Thailand. Consultancy report. Bangkok: The Asia Foundation (2013). 88 pp. Co-author.

National Integrity Systems: Country Study 2006, Thailand. Transparency International (April–September 2006). Co-author.

Thailand Country Development Partnership: Governance and Public Sector Reform (CDP-G). World Bank and Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (December 2006). Research associate.

Evaluation and Impact of Training in the CGIAR. Science Council Secretariat, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (July 2006). Research associate.

Aid Tracking for Tsunami 2004 Related Aid and Grants: A Comparative Study between Public and Private Organizations in Delivering Public Services in Times of Crisis. Center for Social Development, Chulalongkorn University, and ActionAid Thailand (March 2005 – March 2006). Principal investigator.

Design of the Performance Assessment Rating Tool (PART) and training of public officials. Consultant to Thailand's Bureau of the Budget (March 2004 – September 2006). Research associate.

Assessing the Feasibility of Establishing a Ministry of Construction and Transportation in Thailand. Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (September – December 2004). Research associate.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Poocharoen, O., & Straussman, J. (2015). Interpreting the Case of Refugees: Is It a Wicked or a Complex Problem? International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP), Milan, 1–4 July.

Howlett, M., Kekez Kostro, A., & Poocharoen, O. (2015). Co-production as a Policy Tool: Merging Policy and Management Thinking to Advance Policy Theory. International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP), Milan, 1–4 July.

Poocharoen, O., Joo, Y., & Heng, Y. K. (2014). Branding Asia's Global Cities: Mayors and Networks. 23rd World Congress of Political Science, IPSA, Montreal, 19–24 July.

Obser, A., Ehritt, T., Ferguson, J., Poocharoen, O., & Wiederspahn, P. (2014). Scaling-up Knowledge Exchange and Measuring Learning Outcomes of PA Reforms in International Development Cooperation. EGPA Annual Conference, Speyer, 10–12 September.

Poocharoen, O. (2014). Management Capabilities and Policy Capacity: Where Are the Links? Research Workshop on Policy Capacity for Innovative Governance, LKY School of Public Policy and Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, 22–23 May.

Poocharoen, O., & Ting, B. (2012). Co-production, Collaboration, Networks – Convergence of Theory. Seminar on Co-production in Public Services: The State of the Art, Corvinus University, Budapest, 22–23 November.

Poocharoen, O. (2012). Is Western-style Public Participation Compatible with Asia? Specific Reference to Thailand. Knowledge-Building in Asian Public Administration, Seoul National University, 17–18 February.

Poocharoen, O., & Lee, C. K. P. (2011). Talent Management in the Civil Service: Cases of Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand. PMR Asia Symposium, City University of Hong Kong, 2–3 December.

Poocharoen, O. (2009). Collaborative Governance of Anti-Corruption Institutions. 13th IRSPM Conference, Copenhagen Business School, 6–8 April.

Poocharoen, O. (2008). A Personal Memo from a Woman Teaching Public Administration in Asia. Minnowbrook III Conference, Syracuse, NY.

Bowornwathana, B., & Poocharoen, O. (2006). Bureaucratic Politics and Administrative Reforms: Why Politics Matter? APSA Annual Conference, Philadelphia, August.

Poocharoen, O. (2006). Origins, Meanings and Space for Civil Society in Thailand: Case of the Drafting of the 1997 Constitution. Sixth Thai–Korean Political Scientists' Dialogue, Hankuk University, Korea, October.

Poocharoen, O. (2005). Public Management Reform and Policy Transfer: The Case of Thailand. Fifth Thai–Korean Political Scientists' Dialogue, Petchburi, Thailand, July.

Poocharoen, O. (2005). Men behind the Reform Curtains: Case Study of Thailand and Malaysia. 9th IRSPM Conference, Milan, April.

Bowornwathana, B., & Poocharoen, O. (2004). Managing Reforms: The Politics of Designing Agencies for Bureaucratic Reform. MPSA Conference, Chicago.

Poocharoen, O. (2002). Does Managing for Results Matter? An Empirical Study of Relationships between Managing for Results, Human Resource Management, and Financial Management. APPAM Conference, Dallas.

Schroeder, L., O'Leary, R., Jones, D., & Poocharoen, O. (2002). Routes to Scholarly Success in Public Administration: Is There a Right Path? ASPA Conference, Phoenix.

Ingraham, P., Jacobson, W., & Poocharoen, O. (2002). Simply Meritorious: Recruiting and Hiring Reforms in Government. ASPA Conference, Phoenix.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Annual Teaching Excellence Award, National University of Singapore (2014)
- Best Teaching Award, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (2014)
- Goekjian Scholarship Award, Syracuse University (2003)
- Graduate Student Award, Syracuse University (2001)
- Research Assistant Fellowship, Syracuse University (2001 – 2003)
- Royal Thai Government Scholarship (1999 – 2003)
- Japanese Government (Monbusho) Scholarship (1993 – 2000)
- United World Colleges (UWC) Scholarship (1990 – 1992)

LANGUAGES

Thai, English, Japanese (intermediate)