



Victoria Management School Seminar

**Garoon Pongsart
Victoria Management School**

**Theory of Constraints (TOC) and Appreciative Inquiry (AI):
A Comparative Study of Their Effectiveness for
Understanding and Improving Masters Thesis Students'
Performance**

Proposal presentation for full PhD registration

Monday 29 September 2008, 12.30 – 1.30pm
Boardroom, Level 12, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus,

ALL WELCOME

A Masters thesis requires a short time of study – one year. However, many students take a longer time to complete their theses. The success rate of Masters/Honours in NZ, according to NZ Ministry of Education research, is below 60%. How can we improve this performance? This research aims to explore the highs and lows of Masters thesis students' performance at Victoria University of Wellington (VUW). This research attempts to understand and improve the students' performance by applying Theory of Constraints (TOC) and Appreciative Inquiry (AI) to the issues found. TOC starts by addressing the lows – the weakest link, while AI focusses on the highs – the core strengths of the students' performance. In addition, a hybrid, a combination of TOC and AI, will be developed, addressing both the highs and the lows. The effectiveness of the three approaches: TOC, AI, and Hybrid will be compared and analyzed. The researcher hopes to come up with some guidelines to improve and enhance Masters thesis students' performance and success.

Garoon Pongsart: *Garoon is a PhD Candidate at Victoria Management School (VMS) and is from Thailand. He is employed as a full-time lecturer at Business and Administration School, Roi Et Rajabhat University (RERU), Roi Et, Thailand. Before joining RERU, he had been working in the business sector in Bangkok, Thailand and overseas, most recently as a Credit and Collection Manager at the Bangkok Post, leading English newspaper in Thailand. As a manager, problem-solving and decision making was his routine and never ending task. However, his passion is to be part of his hometown (Roi Et) educational reform. He has two Masters Degrees: MBA (from Thailand) and MMS (from VMS, VUW, New Zealand). When he goes back home, Garoon will be on one of the RERU postgraduate program committees and will supervise Masters thesis students.*