

Call for Papers (Second Circular)

The 1st International Conference on Kra-Dai Languages and Linguistics (ICKD-1 2026)

We are pleased to share the Second Circular for the 1st International Conference on Kra-Dai Languages and Linguistics (ICKD-1 2026).

We warmly invite scholars and students working on Kra-Dai languages and linguistics, as well as related fields, to submit abstracts and join us for the conference. As the abstract submission deadline is approaching, we particularly encourage those interested in presenting their research at ICKD-1 2026 to submit their abstracts by **August 31, 2026**.

This Second Circular provides the following updates:

1. Keynote speakers and their abstracts
2. Tentative conference fees

1. Keynote Speakers

Weera Ostapirat

Mahidol University, Thailand

Kra-Dai Rimes: System and Development

In this talk, I outline a system of Proto-Kra-Dai rimes and discuss the mechanisms of vowel development including the raising, lowering, centralizing and diphthongization of the vowels. I will focus on how the basic system of four reconstructed vowels **a, *ə, *i, *u*, with length distinction, has been shuffled in various Kra-Dai languages through the influence of codas and penultimate vowels. Comparative notes on the corresponding forms in Austronesian will be made.

Pittayawat Pittayaporn

Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Diachrony of Tones in Tai Languages

This talk provides a state-of-the-art review of research on the diachrony of lexical tones in Tai languages. First, we examine the reconstruction of Proto-Tai (PT) tones, focusing on the "three-plus-one" system and competing proposals for their origins. Second, we discuss etymological tone notation systems that facilitate cross-linguistic comparison by referencing PT tonal categories and the conditioning environments for splits. Third, we survey splits and mergers of proto-tonal categories across Tai languages, including the basic binary register split conditioned by onset voicing, as well as subsequent splits and mergers that have created diverse modern tonal systems. Fourth, we address phonetic changes in tonal contours, demonstrating that tonal developments result from both phonetically motivated internal factors and language contact.

2. Tentative Conference Fees

- **Non-students (in person):** approximately JPY 8,000
- **Students (in person):** approximately JPY 5,000

Please note that the conference fees are tentative and subject to change due to exchange-rate fluctuations and other circumstances.

Important Dates

- **Abstract Submission Deadline: August 31, 2026**
- **Notification of Acceptance:** September 15, 2026

The abstract submission deadline is approaching. We warmly welcome submissions on all aspects of Kra-Dai languages and linguistics and look forward to bringing together researchers working on Kra-Dai languages from around the world.

For further information, including submission guidelines, please visit the conference website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/ickd2026/home>

We look forward to receiving your submissions and welcoming you to ICKD-1 2026 in Kobe.

Convenor

The 1st International Conference on Kra-Dai Languages and Linguistics (ICKD-1 2026)

August 10, 2026

ADDENDA (Same as First Circular)

The **1st International Conference on Kra-Dai Languages and Linguistics** will be held at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies from **November 21 to 23, 2026**.

The main conference will take place on **November 21–22**, followed by a **Post-Conference Workshop** on **November 23**.

The conference will be held in a **hybrid format**, combining in-person participation with online participation via Zoom.

This conference provides an international forum for the presentation and discussion of research on the Kra-Dai languages. We invite submissions addressing, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Phonetics and Phonology
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Historical Linguistics
- (and related fields)

The post-conference workshop will deal with the linguistic contact between Kra-Dai languages and the neighboring languages, such as Sino-Tibetan, Hmong-Mien, Austro-asiatic languages and so on. If you would prefer to present a paper in the workshop, please notify it in the submission.

Important Dates

- **Abstract Submission Deadline: August 31, 2026**
 - **Notification of Acceptance:** September 15, 2026
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Submission Guidelines

- Abstracts should be **no more than 700 words** (approximately one A4 page in Word format).
 - All submissions must be written in **English**.
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Submission Method

Abstracts should be submitted via the Google Form available on the conference website. If you are unable to access Google services due to your environment, submissions by email will also be accepted. Please email us for your further inquiry.

Presentation Format

- Each presentation will be **20 minutes**, followed by **10 minutes of discussion**.
 - The working language of the conference is **English only**.
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Conference Events and Fees

Keynote Speakers:

Pittayawat Pittayaporn (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)

Weera Ostapirat (Mahidol University, Thailand)

A **conference banquet** is planned for the evening of **Day 1**.

For in-person participants, a registration fee will be charged to cover refreshments at the venue and the banquet. Details of the fee will be announced at a later date.

Additional Information

Up-to-date information will be available on the conference website.

<https://sites.google.com/view/ickd2026/home>

Contact

kradaiconference2026[at]gmail.com

(Please replace [at] with @.)
