



Ambassadorial Insights Lecture  
Fall 2006

# Thailand–U.S. Relations

His Excellency  
**Virasakdi Futrakul**

Thai ambassador to the U.S.

**Thursday, 16 November**  
**11:00 A.M.**  
**238 HRCB**

His Excellency Virasakdi Futrakul became ambassador in February 2006. Futrakul had served previously as ambassador to France, permanent representative to the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and a member of the Governing Board at the Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (2004–06). In addition, he held posts as deputy permanent secretary (2002–04), permanent representative to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva (2000–02), director-general of the Department of East Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1997–2000), ambassador to Canada (1994–97), and ambassador to Myanmar (1991–94). A career diplomat, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1974 and also served as assistant permanent secretary in the Office of the Permanent Secretary (1990–91), deputy director-general of the Department of Political Affairs (1989–90), director of the Americas Division at the Department of Political Affairs (1987–89), counselor in the Office of the Secretary to the Minister (1986–87), and first secretary at the Thai Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York (1984–86). Futrakul received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Washington and a master's degree in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia, and he also studied at the National Defense College in Thailand. He is married to Aumaporn Futrakul.