

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY



SDG

REPORT 2023-2024



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

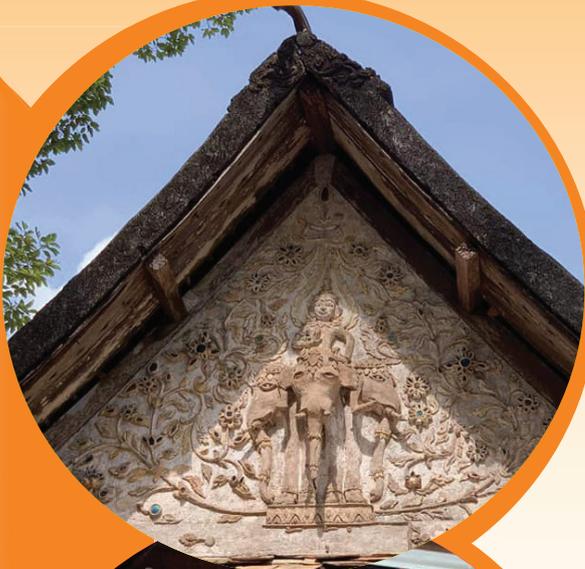
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## Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Southern Thai Temple



The Daeng Temple was established in 1257 during the Kingdom of Sukhothai.

It is one of the oldest southern

Thai temples in Nakhon Si Thammarat province. However, the temple had suffered significant wear and tear over the decades. Thus, in 2023, Walailak University (WU) collaborated with the 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Office of the Fine Arts Department and local people to develop a renovation project to restore and preserve the temple's structural integrity showing the intangible cultural heritage of the southern Thai temple's architectural patterns and local wisdom in Buddhist architecture. It also aimed to enhance its aesthetic appeal and improve facilities for cultural sustainability.



The survey conducted by WU and the department revealed significant damage to the temple's ordination hall. The architectural structure, including the walls and Buddhist ornaments, was affected by natural disasters like flooding and heat. Additionally, neglect and lack of maintenance contributed to the temple's deterioration, leading to cracks in the arches, doors, roofs, and damage to the Buddha statues. Interviews with local people suggested that heat was a primary factor causing cracks in the hall's interior and exterior walls.

For the processes of the temple's renovation, WU collaborated with the department and local people to set renovation strategies and build a predictive model of the ordination hall to submit permission letters to the department for renovation. Upon submitting the letters, WU

received permission to renovate the temple. The researchers and local people started to repair all the cracks in the walls, arches, statues of Buddha, and others. Meanwhile, the uneven settlement and cracks in the foundation of the ordination hall were repaired properly, as required by the department.

As a result, the temple regained its original architectural beauty and structural stability, serving as a place of worship among the Buddhists in the district and a learning center for Buddhist architecture. The project also preserved valuable cultural heritage for future generations. It fostered a deeper appreciation for traditional craftsmanship and cultural history within the community. Additionally, it provided a model for other restoration efforts, demonstrating the importance of preserving historical landmarks.





## Undertaking Actions for Mobilizing Sustainable Commuting on Campus

Universities should be role models in mobilizing sustainable transportation so that the government sectors can adopt and learn sustainable innovations from universities. If universities do not prioritize sustainable transportation, several negative consequences could arise, affecting the environment, the university community, and broader societal goals. The existing measures, practices, and policies on sustainable commuting at Walailak University have been in place for several years. WU has been developing and adopting sustainable practices of transportation, including prioritizing pedestrians, using electric shuttle buses and cars, supporting the use of bicycles, and using buspools and carpools.

### ▣ Pedestrians

In 2023, WU constructed new pedestrians and covered walkways for new buildings to encourage students and staff to communicate with pedestrians. These new pedestrians reduced motorized vehicle usage rates on campus.

### ▣ Shuttle Buses

Shuttle bus services have been in place throughout the campus since 2016 as one of the measures that has significantly reduced the number of motorized vehicle users on campus, especially students.

### ▣ Bicycles

WU aims to increase bicycle parking areas, especially in new buildings as the increased number of students and staff using bicycles can reduce GHG. To create a safe environment for bicycle users, WU keeps monitoring, developing, and adopting facilities such as LED lights and bike lanes.



### ▣ Bus Pooling

WU has provided bus pooling services for staff to reduce the number of vehicles on the road among staff. In 2023, the number of staff using the services increased 10.87% due to the expansion of bus routes and affordable prices.

### ▣ Electric Vehicles

Since 2018, WU has made a significant shift towards sustainability by incorporating electric vehicles into its transportation fleet including both electric cars and motorcycles. These vehicles are employed for a range of purposes, including communication and transport both on and off campus reflecting WU's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and promoting environmentally friendly practices.

WU's commitment to sustainable commuting through initiatives like pedestrian pathways, shuttle bus services, and expanded bicycle facilities yields significant benefits. These measures effectively reduce traffic congestion, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance the overall quality of campus life. By setting a strong example of environmental responsibility, the university not only improves its community but also offers a model for other institutions and sectors to adopt.





## Green Spaces at WU: Protecting Areas for Human and Animal Benefits



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY  
SDGs MOVE

As such, in 2017, WU constructed Walailak Park to meet the vision of being a green campus. The total area of the park is 408,000 square meters, with a water area of 208,000 square meters and a land area of 200,000 square meters. Besides Walailak Park, the WU Botanic Park is also another green space that has been improved and redesigned so that it follows sustainable approaches. The two green spaces are freely accessible for both the people in the Walailak community and the general public. Besides the green spaces, WU provides open spaces for students, staff, and the public to organize exhibitions and activities. Those open spaces include WU Square, Cactus Dome, Thai Herbal Garden, etc.



Educational green spaces newly constructed to welcome visitors include the tulip and bromeliad gardens. These gardens are designed to showcase promoting biodiversity and offering a serene environment for visitors. The tulip garden, in particular, has become a popular attraction during the blooming season, drawing visitors from all over. The bromeliad garden, with its unique and colorful plants, adds to the aesthetic appeal of the campus.



The green spaces have served as recreational areas for students, staff, and the public. Physical health benefits are also significant, as those green spaces encourage activities like walking, jogging, and sports. Engaging in regular physical activity can reduce the risk of chronic diseases and improve overall fitness.



## The Exhibition for Promoting and Preserving Menora Dance

Menora Dance is a local UNESCO-recognized art performance originating in southern Thailand that Walailak University has been contributing to record and preserve through research, education, and implementation of public performance. However, WU always realizes that there is a concern that the younger generation may not sufficiently engage in preserving this art due to perceptions of it being outdated. This attitude threatens the potential extinction of Menora in the future.



In 2023, WU organized an exhibition to promote the Menora Dance at the Tha Sala Walking Street Festival. The exhibition featured educational media titled "Motion Nora Walailak," which provided information about the Menora Dance, including the 12 basic movements. The media used 3D motion controller technology and Augmented Reality to help learners understand and practice the dance. Learners could scan QR codes to view the dance movements in 360-degree 3D pictures and dance along.

### 3D Motion Controller Technology



The exhibition significantly increased interest in the Menora Dance, leading to greater public understanding and appreciation of its cultural significance. Visitors learned the basic movements of the dance, which is crucial for its preservation. Meanwhile, the Menora Dance show performed by WU students from the Thai Traditional Dance Club demonstrated the university's commitment to preserving local cultural heritage. The event also featured Thai traditional foods and desserts.

