

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY



SDG

REPORT 2023-2024



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  GOALS



Sri Tham Ma Ra Cha Wing

**“ WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
THE LAND OF LIBERTY AND GLORY
THE FASCINATION OF NATURE
THE TREASURE OF WISDOM
THE LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE
THE SPIRIT OF THE LIGOR EMPIRE ”**



Table of CONTENTS

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| Message from the President | 1 | WU Policies' Contribution to the SDGs | 19 |
| Message from Vice President | 3 | Integrating Sustainability in Teaching Curriculum | 21 |
| Message from CAS Director | 5 | Walailak University Climbs Global Rankings 2024 | 23 |
| About Walailak University | 7 | The WU's Maniq Museum: Protecting the World's Diversity | 24 |
| Sustainability Agenda at Walailak University | 9 | The 12th Regional Research Expo | 25 |
| Data Overview at a Glance | 10 | Sri Tham Ma Ra Cha Wing: The Medical Care Religious Figures | 26 |
| WU & THE Impact Rankings | 11 | WU's Actions to Tackle Climate Change | 27 |
| WU Happy Tree Model and the SDGs | 15 | | |
| WU's Sustainability Strategy Framework: The Happy Tree Model for Sustainable Development | 17 | | |

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY AND THE SDGs

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| SDG 1 : No Poverty | 29 | SDG 10 : Reduced Inequalities | 65 |
| SDG 2 : Zero Hunger | 33 | SDG 11 : Sustainable Cities and Communities | 69 |
| SDG 3 : Good Health and well-being | 37 | SDG 12 : Responsible Consumption and Production | 73 |
| SDG 4 : Quality Education | 41 | SDG 13 : Climate Action | 77 |
| SDG 5 : Gender Equality | 45 | SDG 14 : Life Below Water | 81 |
| SDG 6 : Clean Water and Sanitation | 49 | SDG 15 : Life on Land | 85 |
| SDG 7 : Affordable and Clean Energy | 53 | SDG 16 : Peace and Justice Strong Institutions | 89 |
| SDG 8 : Decent Work and Economic Growth | 57 | SDG 17 : Partnerships for the Goals | 93 |
| SDG 9 : Industry Innovation and Infrastructure | 61 | SDG Committee Structures | 98 |

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Prof. Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong
President of Walailak University

“ WE WILL BE CONSISTENTLY ENGAGING IN SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES TO LEAD CHANGE AND MAKE A REAL IMPACT TO ACHIEVING THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) ”

Walailak University (WU) has submitted SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 14: Life below Water, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals since 2021. These goals are prioritized as they align with Nakhon Si Thammarat Province’s agricultural economy, driven by farming and fisheries. To address food security, water management, and environmental protection, we promote sustainable farming and clean water access. Additionally, we collaborate with local and international partners to improve education, health, and responsible production. These efforts support local well-being and reinforce the university’s global commitment to sustainable development. To preserve the rich cultural heritage of Southern Thailand, we have launched several initiatives, with a special focus on the Menora Dance, a significant local tradition in Nakhon Si Thammarat. These efforts aim to safeguard and promote the province’s unique cultures and traditions for future generations.

The WU’s commitment to improving the health of the planet and communities continues to grow. We have increased awareness of environmentally and socially sustainable development and engagement among the people both at and beyond WU. We aim to develop a harmonious personality, knowledge, wisdom, goodness, and creativity and to contribute to the sustainable development of education, science, culture, and health for the benefit of society based on the SDGs

We are pleased to learn that WU has made great strides in its contribution to the SDGs, being ranked 101-200 worldwide according to the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2024. In addition, the university leads by example, ranking 3rd globally for stewardship and 4th for outreach, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2024 Report. These achievements highlight the university’s commitment to sustainability and its role in addressing global challenges.

This report proudly showcases WU’s strategic initiatives and achievements in advancing all 17 SDGs in 2023, underscoring our deep-seated commitment to planetary health and sustainability.



Prof. Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong
President of Walailak University

“ WE ARE STARTING ON NET-ZERO AND ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES TO TACKLE SDG 13 AND BUILDING MOMENTUM AROUND THE SHIFT TO DECARBONIZED THAI AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES ”

Our world in 2023 has encountered transformative changes unfolding at unprecedented speed. It has gone from global warming to global boiling, and climate change is causing more severe and frequent heatwaves, droughts, rainfall, and storms. We have also witnessed an acceleration in sea level rise due to climate change. Universities, governments, NGOs, and the private sector around the world are committing to cope with climate adaptation. It will not come as a surprise that acting on Climate Action (SDG13) is a core priority across the sector.

Thus, in 2023 was the beginning of Walailak University’s tackling climate change to meet the commitment of SDG 13. We have established partnerships with the Provincial Offices of Natural Resources and Environment in the southern provinces of Thailand, namely Nakhon Si Thammarat, Phatthalung, Trang, Ranong, and Chumphon. The collaboration aims to develop the provincial action plans on climate change. We also have set strategies to reach net zero emissions and assess the carbon footprint across the whole campus. In addition, we have provided outreach projects and educational opportunities to local, regional, national, and international communities to tackle disasters caused by climate change.

We will never stop training and enhancing our staff, researchers, and scientists, who will serve as one of the game-changers in global climate change efforts. We shall use our strong determination and smart innovation to deliver a greener future for the Walailak Community and Thailand’s society.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Warit Jawjit
Vice President of Walailak University

MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Warit Jawjit
Vice President of Walailak University

MESSAGE FROM CAS DIRECTOR



Asst. Prof. Dr. Amonsak Sawusdee
Director of the Center for Academic Services

**“ WE WILL NEVER STOP DRIVING POSITIVE
CHANGES AND CREATING SUSTAINABLE
IMPACTS TO COMMUNICATE TO THAILAND
AND THE WORLD ABOUT OUR EFFORTS TO
ACHIEVE THE SDGs BY 2030 ”**

We have always been proud of the Center for Academic Services' leadership in pushing the boundaries of sustainability into Thai society and international communities. Our academic service provision's ambition has evolved. We have firmly established partnerships with partners to deliver academic services to ensure we have a positive impact locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. All of our academic services are more linked to the SDGs for efforts in areas including occupation, education, health and well-being, environment and resources, and social cultural impacts.

2023 was another year in which the Center for Academic Services was tremendously successful. We were awarded "The Best Organization for Provincial Capacity Development in Science, Research and Innovation" by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation for two consecutive years. In addition, Ban Khao Wang Community, a community that has been engaged with WU to implement environmental activities, was awarded as one of the communities with outstanding environmental protection at the 21st Green Globe Institute Award. Besides the community, the Center for Academic Services and Chumchon Mai School successfully mobilized the school to be a model learning center for the sufficiency economy philosophy. Walailak University is one of the best frontier research universities, with excellence in academic services as well as a high impact on sustainability. We will always enhance our sustainability capacity by appointing our first SDG Committee. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, students, partners, and communities for their ongoing efforts and hard work on local, regional, national, and global sustainable development.



Asst. Prof. Dr. Amonsak Sawusdee
Director of the Center for Academic Services

ABOUT WALAILAK UNIVERSITY



March 29th, 2023 marked 31 years since Walailak University was established. For over 30 years, we have facilitated many progressive steps of development and advancement of aspects through the prism of research and innovation, stewardship, outreach, and teaching.

Walailak University has been adopting the United Kingdom Professional Standard Framework known as UKPSF from the United Kingdom to strengthen the analytical and synthesis skills of the students. All lecturers (100%) at Walailak University have been trained on the UKPSF framework at a variety of accredited levels, ranging from an Associate Fellow, Fellow, Senior Fellow, and Principal Fellow. Currently, Walailak University is the only university in Thailand asserting that declares that all subjects are instructed under the UKPSF framework. Walailak University also hosts the largest number of UKPSF-certified academic staff.

Vision

To be an institution of good governance, and a source of knowledge, to unfailingly address community needs, and to strive for international recognition for excellence.

Aspiration

We aspire to explore, search for, preserve, and transfer knowledge in order to generate and maintain our academic improvement and excellence. This aspiration aims to bring forth the citizens with knowledge and virtue for the never-ending benefit of the nation and mankind. We are strongly committed to building a graduate embedding the following qualifications: 1. To become a modern national and global citizen, that possesses democratic ideology, great knowledge, and broad perspectives, 2. To be an academic or vocational expert with knowledge, capacity, and skills in the interested fields and can efficiently apply those in their profession, 3. To be a graduate who has consciousness, morality, and work ethic.

In 2023, Walailak University was ranked 501+ among 605 universities across 78 territories worldwide by Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2023 for the first time. This achievement places Walailak University in joint 3rd in Thailand. Besides the Young University Rankings, the university also championed green campuses and the promotion of environmental sustainability in Thailand's Southern region for four consecutive years, according to UI Greenmetric World University Rankings.

2023 was also the first year that Walailak University was ranked at 601+ out of 669 universities across 31 territories in Asia, according to the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2023. This achievement positions Walailak University in joint 13th out of 18 universities ranked in Thailand.

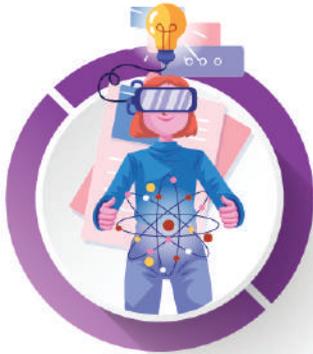
Mission

Walailak University has 4 main missions as the followings.

- To produce and develop the workforce to deliver the international standard and the needs in developing the national economy and society.
- To study, explore, research, and develop the new knowledge that will create quality graduates who are efficient in becoming self-reliant and also excellent in international competition.
- To provide academic services to the public and private sectors including giving consultancy, and suggestions for research, development, technology, and survey with training and development to cultivate the innovation for economic and social development of the nation and region.
- To conserve and restore the arts and cultural heritage including customs, traditions, pure art, and applied arts to set the example for the locals as a comprehensive learning institution. For more information, please visit the university website: www.wu.ac.th

SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA

Research and Innovation



Improving the Durability of Rubberwood by Boiling in Hot Water Under Pressure



AI-Powered Automatic Wood Core Detection System



Facial and Tongue Movement Controlled Electric Wheelchair



Herbal Mouthwash with Silver Nanoparticles



Krabi Model: Generating Sustainable Income for Farmers

Outreach and Engagement



WU Happy Tree Model



Resources: Blue Swimming Crab Restoration Project



Occupation: Trichoderma 5 Plus: Big-tech for Agriculture



Health: The Community-Based Rehabilitation Project for the Elderly and Refugees



Education: Early Childhood Education Equity Project



Culture: Online Nora Courses

Stewardship



The Plant Genetic Conservation Project Under the Royal Initiative of H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn



Walailak Park: Free Public Green Space for All



Green WU



Water Reuse Guidelines



Policy on Food Preparation and Sustainable Consumption

Teaching



UKPSF

The United Kingdom Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF)



Subjects and Course based on SDGs



Lifelong Learning : WU MOOC



Smart Classroom

DATA OVERVIEW AT A GLANCE

Use of electricity
15,101,881 kWh



Use of water supply
134,389 m³



The total amount of waste per day
2.31 metric ton



The number of recycle waste increased
0.65 metric ton/day (28.04%)



The number of waste sent to landfill reduced
0.57 metric ton/day (78.09%)



GHG emission in total
8,157 tCO₂ eq/year



The number of partners collaborating with WU to tackle SDG problems
183 Organizations



The number of sustainability integrated courses
2,192 courses (100%)

The number of national awards Successful communal engagement

4



The number of SDG projects
384



The amount of expenditure for social engagement based on SDGs
100,810,426 THB



SDGs among the Top 100 Worldwide





THE IMPACT RANKINGS

Walailak University (WU) has been participating in the THE Impact Rankings since 2021. The significant efforts and commitment of WU towards sustainable development have always been observed. The university aims to mobilize research, teaching, outreach, and stewardship as the most powering forces for advancing the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, the Center for Academic Services at Walailak University serves as the primary organization driving collaboration with local communities, stakeholders, and various local, regional, and national organizations to advance the SDGs. Through innovation development and community-centered initiatives, the Center fosters partnerships that address critical challenges such as environmental sustainability, health, and education. By actively engaging with diverse sectors, the Center plays a pivotal role in creating sustainable solutions that enhance the well-being of local populations and contribute to Thailand’s national development objectives.



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2024 REPORT

RANKED 3rd Globally for **STEWARDSHIP**

4th Globally for **OUTREACH**



2024

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS

Walailak University
Ranked joint **5th** in Thailand | **101-200th** Worldwide

55th Globally
1st in Thailand
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

31st Globally
2nd in Thailand
14 LIFE BELOW WATER

63rd Globally
2nd in Thailand
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

81st Globally
4th in Thailand
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

85th Globally
4th in Thailand
4 QUALITY EDUCATION

91st Globally
5th in Thailand
2 ZERO HUNGER

101th - **200th** Globally
3rd in Thailand
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

101th - **200th** Globally
4th in Thailand
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

WU HAPPY TREE MODEL AND THE SDGs

Social engagement is one of the primary missions of Walailak University through the work of the Center for Academic Services. The center is responsible for setting its main operational direction toward social engagement for sustainability with stakeholder participation to improve the livelihood of communities and people in the area. To pursue the mission, Walailak University has formed a model called the “WU Happy Tree” based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The model is a strategy for social services by developing research projects and innovations to make a positive social contribution, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, immigration status, or gender. The WU Happy Tree encompasses five significant branches that aim to provide expertise and technical services to Thai society, integrating with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that play a significant role in the development of social services in communities. Moreover, in order to be a truly global institution, Walailak University has a solid commitment to provide social services to international communities, not just Thai communities, with no racial, national, or religious boundaries.

These five areas are as follows:



1. Career Opportunity for Sustainable Local Economic Development

The university aims to develop sustainable jobs for the local community, enabling people to earn a living and live a better life based on their needs, religious beliefs, community context, and capability. In addition, the university has implemented its academic excellence to solve community problems and significantly created countless jobs for different communities. For instance, Siam Ruby pomelos were produced and processed, and Trichoderma was utilized

to enrich pomelo quality and reduce chemical usage, resulting in less budget expenditure. Moreover, sustainable model communities established under a Royal Initiative Project by the late His Majesty the King have obtained national prizes.

2. Happiness in Health: Building Community Power for the Nation

WU Hospital fundamentally focuses on community health services. Continuous progress is in health consultation, mobile medical service, studies of older people’s well-being, and a network of the elderly in Nakhon Si Thammarat and nearby provinces. Many health sciences schools at Walailak University have also conducted research studies and academic services, such as applying herbs as mosquito repellent. These activities have significantly changed the health of people in communities.





3. Access to Equal Education Opportunities



With the university's mission of teaching, Walailak University staff provide academic services to schools and communities in Nakhon Si Thammarat, such as Chumchonmai School located in Satit Walailak Pattana Community. The school is part of a prototype project for teaching and learning enhancement. Walailak University has assisted with the curriculum structure design and foreign language courses, such as English, Chinese, and Malay. Establishing the King's philosophy of the Sufficiency Economy Learning Center Project is also beneficial for students to learn living skills, plan farming based on business models, and earn money to help their families.

4. Resource and Environment: Protecting the World for Future Generations



The Sustainable Development Goals and National Economic and Social Development Plan relate to research directions for academic excellence. Concerning the environment, the blue swimming crab project produces crab banks in Nakhon Si Thammarat and Suratthani. Along the coast of the two provinces, over 60 crab banks can stimulate marine and coastal resource conservation and benefit more

than 60 communities. The research outcomes suggest policy planning of fishing zoning, an increase in the number of flower crab harvests, and more balanced coastal ecosystems and marine resources. Apart from this, the water management project tackles problems of flooding, drought, landslide, and sinkhole. Walailak University's academics continuously run the project to provide the provincial authority with information on water resource management in the area.

5. Social and Cultural Background: Keeping Traditions Alive and Peacebuilding towards Stable Society



Nakhon Si Thammarat is known for its ancient civilization. The university consistently implements and updates mechanisms of documentation to present the region's identity and publicize the community's uniqueness. For instance, the education media for the archeological sites of Tumpang, Khao Kha, and Mokhalan are designed based on research work. This modern data compilation employs virtual reality technology and 3D modeling to narrate stories to children, youth and adults alike. The inventions also promote cultural tourism in the region, resulting in context-bound social development. In addition, WU has launched initiatives aimed at preserving the Menora Dance. One notable example is the Nora Online Course, which offers accessible learning materials to the public, allowing individuals to study and practice the intricate movements of this traditional dance. The university ensures that the art form reaches a wider audience, helping to safeguard it from being forgotten.



WU'S SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY FRAMEWORK: THE HAPPY TREE MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Walailak University (WU) has developed a comprehensive sustainability strategy framework, seamlessly integrating it with the WU Happy Tree Model to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at various scales—local, regional, national, and international. This innovative model addresses five key dimensions of sustainable development: career development, health and well-being promotion, equal education provision, resource and environment protection, and art and culture preservation. The holistic approach embodied in the Happy Tree Model aims to foster sustainable communities through a well-rounded and multifaceted strategy that ensures long-term impact.

The Four Steps of the Happy Tree Model

The WU Happy Tree Model's sustainability strategy framework is structured around four critical dimensions: Diagnostics, Development, Engagement, and Measurement. Each dimension plays a vital role in guiding the university's sustainability initiatives, ensuring that they are data-driven, inclusive, and effective.

Diagnostics

In the Diagnostics phase, WU leverages data collected from extensive surveys, research outcomes, and existing databases to conduct a thorough evaluation of its sustainability efforts. This data-driven approach allows the university to create a comprehensive overview of its sustainability landscape, identifying strengths, gaps, opportunities, and potential strategic directions. By utilizing evidence-based assessments, WU ensures that its sustainability initiatives are grounded in real-world needs and are aligned with global sustainability standards.



Development

The Development phase is where strategic planning takes center stage. WU brings together faculty members from diverse disciplines—such as biology, physiotherapy, linguistics, marine science, and more—to collaboratively design strategies, action plans, and policies that promote sustainable development across all levels. This interdisciplinary collaboration ensures that the strategies are robust and consider multiple perspectives, making them more likely to succeed.



Furthermore, WU actively fosters partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, the private sector, and other educational institutions. These partnerships are essential for pooling resources, sharing knowledge, and driving collective action towards achieving the SDGs.



The university's commitment to collaboration ensures that its sustainability initiatives are not only comprehensive but also scalable, reaching broader communities and having a more significant impact.

Engagement

In the Engagement phase, WU and its partners actively involve stakeholders and communities in the implementation of sustainability strategies, policies, and action plans. This phase is crucial for translating strategic visions into tangible outcomes that benefit society. Through research projects, outreach programs, academic services, and other targeted support initiatives, WU works closely with communities to drive positive change.

By engaging with local communities, the university ensures that its sustainability efforts are tailored to the unique needs and challenges of the areas it serves. This localized approach helps to build trust and fosters a sense of ownership among community members, which is vital for the long-term success of any sustainability initiative.



Measurement

The final dimension, Measurement, focuses on assessing the impact and effectiveness of the implemented strategies and actions. WU employs various evaluation methods to determine the success of its sustainability initiatives, identifying which solutions and activities have the most significant positive impact on community development and sustainable growth. This ongoing assessment allows the university to refine its strategies continually, ensuring that they remain relevant and effective in a changing world.



Expanding the Reach of the Happy Tree Model

WU's commitment to sustainability extends beyond its immediate community. The university is actively involved in global networks and initiatives, sharing its Happy Tree Model as a best practice example for other institutions aiming to contribute to the SDGs. WU participates in international conferences, publishes research on its sustainability strategies, and engages in collaborative projects with universities around the world. This global engagement not only enhances the university's reputation but also amplifies the impact of its sustainability efforts.

WU's Sustainability Strategy Framework, anchored in the Happy Tree Model, represents a forward-thinking approach to addressing the complex challenges of sustainable development. By integrating diagnostics, development, engagement, and measurement, WU ensures that its sustainability initiatives are both effective and impactful. Through collaboration, innovation, and a deep commitment to community well-being, WU is paving the way for a more sustainable future, both locally and globally.



WU POLICIES' CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs

Walailak University is committed to demonstrating its leadership in sustainable development through proactive stewardship. In 2023, WU introduced new policies to promote gender equality and improve employment and labor management, reinforcing its dedication to creating a fair and inclusive work environment. The university also took significant steps to protect non-smokers by revising its policies and tackling marine pollution both on campus and in the surrounding areas. These updates reflect WU's ongoing effort to address environmental and health challenges, ensuring that sustainability remains at the core of its mission.



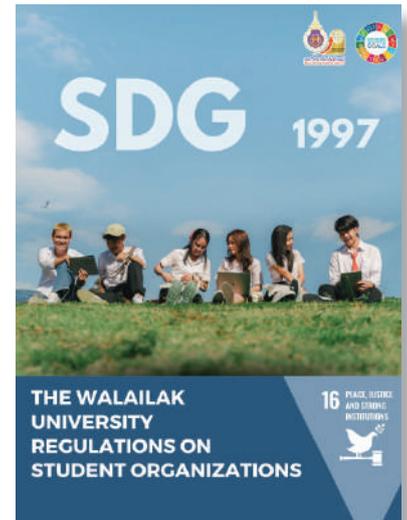
Policy on Maternity Leave (1992)

[Click](#)



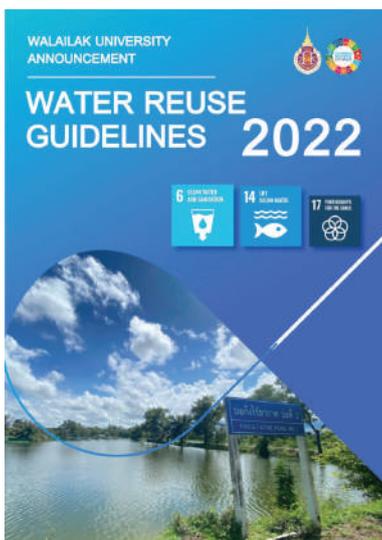
Policy on Paternity Leave (2012)

[Click](#)



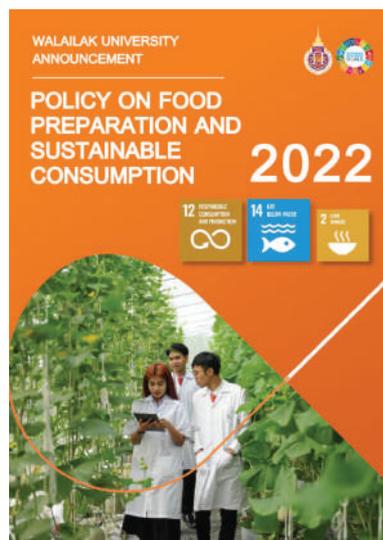
Policy on The Walailak University Regulations on Student Organizations (1997) (P.6-7 / P.14)

[Click](#)



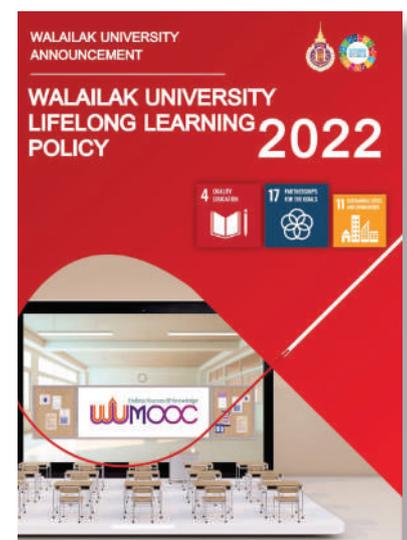
Policy on Water Reuse Guidelines (2022)

[Click](#)



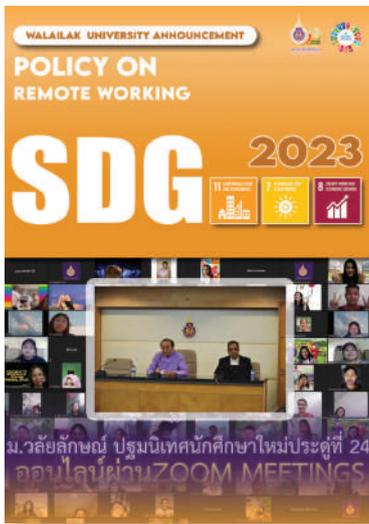
Policy on Food Preparation and Sustainable Consumption (2022)

[Click](#)



Policy on Walailak University Lifelong Learning Policy (1997)

[Click](#)



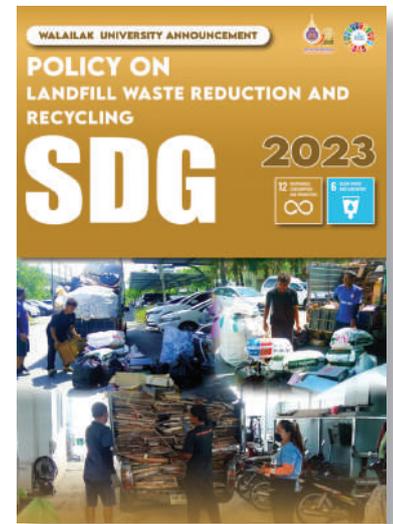
Policy on Remote Working (2023)

[Click](#)



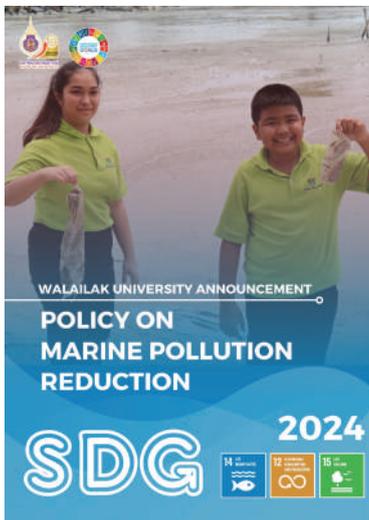
Policy on Single-Use Plastic Waste and Disposable Item Reduction (2023)

[Click](#)



Policy on Landfill Waste Reduction and Recycling (2023)

[Click](#)



Policy on Marine Pollution Reduction (2024)

[Click](#)



Policy on Employment (2024)

[Click](#)



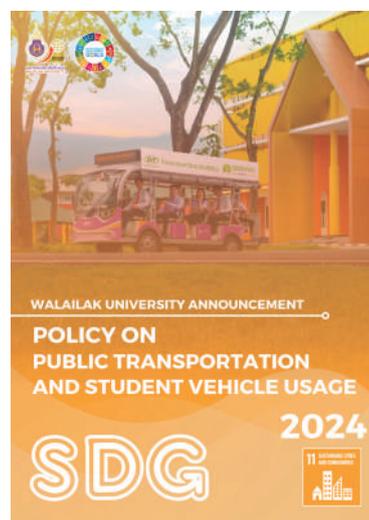
Policy on Protect Nonsmokers' Health and Designate Specific Smoking Areas (2024)

[Click](#)



Policy on Gender Equality (2024)

[Click](#)



Policy on Public Transportation and Student Vehicle Usage (2024)

[Click](#)

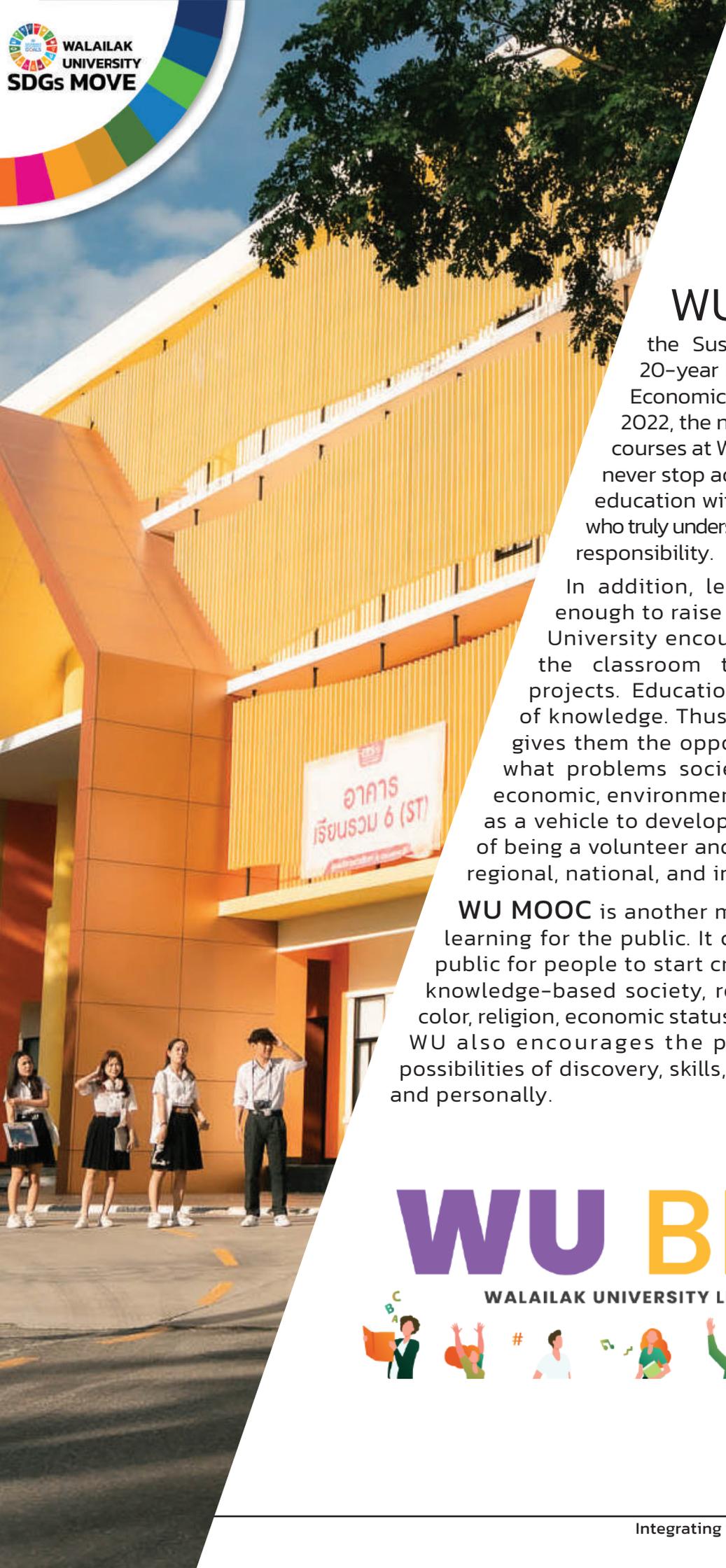
INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY IN TEACHING CURRICULUM

Walailak University believes that education for sustainable development can offer an inclusive approach to supporting students' sustainability competencies, a crucial matter for the 21st century. It also creates the atmosphere of a culture of sustainability which enables students to develop knowledge, skills, and motivation to give precedence to sustainability.



One of WU's main missions is to create a new strategy to support the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the curriculum. In the academic year 2021, Walailak University updated its curriculum on General Education courses with Sustainable Development Goals to raise awareness among the students at Walailak University to place importance on environmental conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and energy, waste and hazardous waste management, climate change, and international collaboration to address climate change.





WU aims to equip graduates with the ability to truly understand the Sustainable Development Goals, the 20-year National Strategy, and the National Economic and Social Development Plan. In 2022, the number of sustainability-integrated courses at WU was 2,192 courses (100%). WU will never stop adopting a more holistic approach to education with the aim of producing graduates who truly understand the immediacy of environmental responsibility.

In addition, learning in the classroom is not enough to raise awareness of the SDGs. Walailak University encourages students to learn outside the classroom through outreach engagement projects. Education is more than the acquisition of knowledge. Thus, learning outside the classroom gives them the opportunity to learn and experience what problems society is facing, whether they are economic, environmental, or social. Moreover, it serves as a vehicle to develop the capacity to raise awareness of being a volunteer and create greater impacts for local, regional, national, and international communities.

WU MOOC is another mission of WU to provide lifelong learning for the public. It can be accessible by the general public for people to start creating a strong foundation for a knowledge-based society, regardless of race, ethnicity, skin color, religion, economic status, or other kinds of social diversity. WU also encourages the public to explore the endless possibilities of discovery, skills, and rewards, both professionally and personally.

WU BLOGS

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY LEARNING COMMUNITY



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY CLIMBS GLOBAL RANKINGS 2024

RANKED
100-200
WORLDWIDE

RANKED JOINT
5th
IN THAILAND

Walailak University has heightened a significant world university ranking milestone in its 31-year history, rising from the band of 1501+ in 2023 Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2023 THE WUR) to the 2024 THE WUR band of 1201-1500 among 1,904 research-intensive universities worldwide. At the national level, Walailak University has made a quantum leap, moving up from the 11th place in 2023 THE WUR to her joint 6th place among the total of 19 Thai universities ranked by the 2024 Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

Walailak University performed particularly well this round in Research Quality, more than doubling from the last year's percentile of 14.5 to 35.5. Research quality includes citation impact, research strength, research excellence, and research influence.

Regarding its contributions to the SDGs, Walailak University was ranked in the 400-600 globally in the 2023 THE Impact Rankings. More importantly, the university made significant progress in 2024, achieving a global ranking of 101-200 in the THE Impact Rankings. Nationally, Walailak University secured a joint fifth place among the Thai 77 universities included in the rankings.





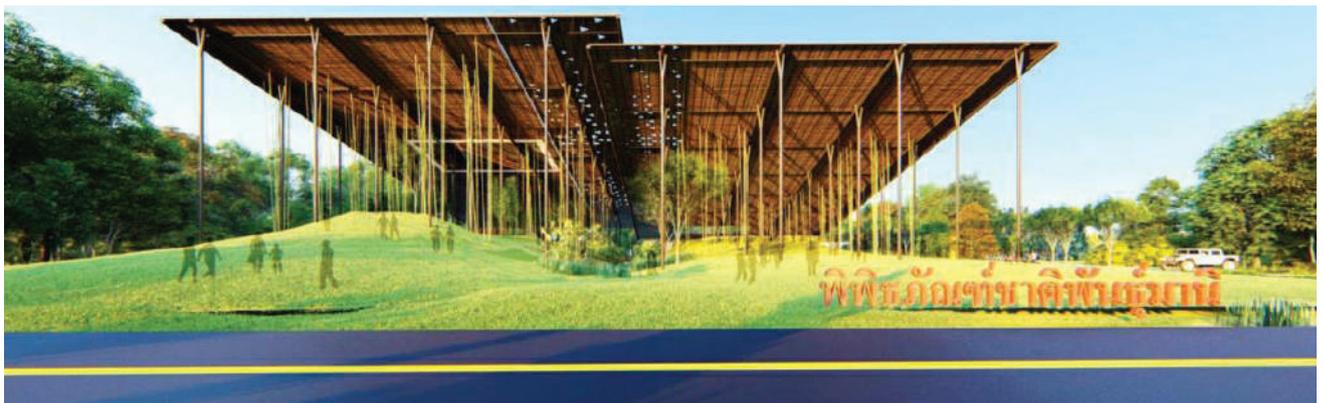
THE WU'S MANIQ MUSEUM: PROTECTING THE WORLD'S DIVERSITY



The Maniq people or sometimes called “Mani” were one of the first ethnic groups who lived in Thailand and Malay Peninsula long time ago. At present, they mostly live in the southern provinces of Thailand, including Phatthalung, Narathiwat, Trang, and Satun. In the past, they were called “Sakai” which is an offensive terminology meaning “barbarism”.

Walailak University aims to play a pivotal role in preserving and protecting the language and culture of indigenous people in the southern part of Thailand which are now enormously endangered. Now, Walailak University through Botanic Park is building the Maniq Museum as a learning center of the Maniq culture.

In 2023, a WU research team led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Siriporn Somboonboorana collaborated with Mr. Charun Tossakul to conduct a field study to gather data relating to Maniq cultures, such as language, norms, food, habitats, livelihoods, and others. The data collected from the study will be displayed through various platforms at the museum. The museum will serve as an important learning center for the public to raise awareness of preserving the indigenous knowledge culture, languages, heritage, and livelihoods of the Maniq people to show the diversity of Thai society



THE 12TH REGIONAL RESEARCH EXPO

Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation (MHESI), in collaboration with National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), Walailak University, and Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, organized the Regional Research Expo 2023 held under the theme “Research and Innovation for Sustainable Improvement of Quality of Life – Southern Model”, aimed to foster local research and innovation in the Southern region.

The event was inaugurated by Adjunct Professor Dr. Anek Laothamatas, the Minister of MHESI, who delivered a special lecture on “Studying the Cultural Heritage of Southeast Asia and Regional Development in the Digital Era”. Attendees included Professor Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong, Acting President of Walailak University; Dr. Wiparat De-ong, Director of NRCT; Mr. Sompong Makamnee, Deputy Governor of Nakhon Si Thammarat; along with distinguished guests, researchers, students, and media representatives.

The Regional Research Expo 2023 has a wide array of activities, including an exhibition showcasing projects that commemorate the benevolence of His Majesty, a display of research works and innovations supported by NRCT, presentations of research works and innovations by high school students, exhibitions by regional research network agencies, a showcase of the Southern Science Park, a community research center highlighting the distinct identity of the southern region, booths featuring community food products, an innovative business concept competition focusing on spatial development in the southern region, a highlight stage activity, and conferences and discussions covering 13 topics.





SRI THAM MA RA CHA WING: THE MEDICAL CARE RELIGIOUS FIGURES

The Walailak University Hospital has partnered with the Sri Thammaracha Foundation to construct the Sri Thammaracha Wing of Walailak University Hospital. Walailak University realizes that all groups of people in Thai society are equal. The Sri Thammaracha Wing is not only constructed to care for Buddhist monks but also other religious figures such as priests and imams. The wing will be equipped with modern medical equipment and technologies. In addition, the Walailak University Hospital will provide more social engagement projects to religious figures in Nakhon Si Thammarat to create awareness of diversity among religious practitioners in the province.

The population in Nakhon Si Thammarat is around 1.5 million, of which 90% practice Buddhism, 7% adhere to Islam, 0.9% adhere to Christianity, and 2% are others. Each year, many religious events are held at WU in which many religious figures participate, including offering food to monks, Eid al-Adha, and baptism. The Sri Thammaracha wing can symbolize WU's recognition of diversity.



WU'S ACTIONS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

▣ The Provincial Action Plans on Climate Change

Walailak University (WU) established partnerships with NGOs and the Provincial Offices of Natural Resources and Environment in 5 southern provinces of Thailand including Nakhon Si Thammarat, Trang, Phatthalung, Ranong, and Chumphon. The collaboration aimed to collaboratively develop the provincial action plans on climate change to meet the commitment of Thailand's National Adaptation Plan and the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference. The Offices of Natural Resources and Environment and WU collected the data of government and private organizations for carbon footprint assessment.



▣ Carbon Footprint Assessment at Walailak University

The Center for Academic Services (CAS) under supervision of Dr. Warit Jawjit, is responsible for assessing the carbon footprint of Walailak University across the campus. The assessment consists of 3 scopes including:

1. Scope 1: Direct Emissions
2. Scope 2: Indirect Emissions
3. Scope 3: Other Indirect GHG Emission

The record suggested that, in 2023, the scope 2 was the highest proportion of GHG emissions at WU, composing 85.06%, followed by the scope 1 making up 14.5%, and the scope 3 with 0.44%.





Green Spaces for All

At the moment, Walailak University has 3 main green spaces namely, Walailak Park, the Botanic Park, and WU Hospital Park. These parks have provided health, well-being, and ecological benefits to the Walailak Community and the public for several years. The vegetation planted in the parks absorbs carbon dioxide, helping to offset greenhouse gas emissions. Walailak University aims to prevent possible climate change problems, such as heatwaves, drought, rainfall and storms. Green spaces can help to combat the effects of climate change. In addition, Walailak University has planted landscapes with drought-tolerant plants including, coconut trees, palm trees, cactus, and others.



NO POVERTY

1

-  Financial Support for Low-income Thai and International Students
-  Local Start-up Assistance towards Sustainable Business
-  The 2023 Krabi Model Project: Free Supporting Local Business
-  Training Workshops in Fostering Financially and Socially Sustainable Pig Farming Start-Ups





Financial Support for Low-income Thai and International Students



Each year, Walailak University (WU) admits Thai and international students who fall into the bottom 20% of the household income group and who are from lower-middle-income countries to promote diversity, foster social mobility, and contribute to social justice. These students need support and services from the university to enable them to complete their studies. One of the critical problems facing students is the lack of money to pay for their tuition fees.

In 2023, Walailak University provided scholarships to Thai and international students worth up to 83,582,370 Baht. The number of Thai students receiving the scholarships was 1,686 while the number of international students was 159, mostly from Cambodia, Vietnam, China, and Europe, increasing by 28.11% compared to last year.

The scholarships for Thai students included:

- ❑ The 21st Century Graduate Development Scholarship
- ❑ Educational Potential Development towards Excellence Scholarships
- ❑ Development and Promotion Scholarships for Science and Technology Talents
- ❑ Sports Excellence Scholarship
- ❑ Nutrition Scholarships
- ❑ Scholarships for Students with Outstanding Academic Results
- ❑ Working Student Scholarship
- ❑ Emergency Loan
- ❑ Disaster Relief Scholarships

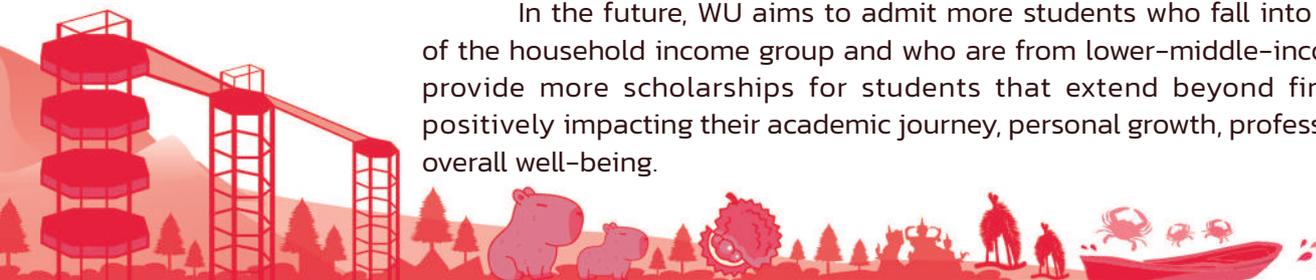
The scholarships for international students included:

- ❑ Undergraduate Excellence Scholarships for ASEAN or non-ASEAN Countries (Full Tuition Waiver)
- ❑ Partial Tuition Waiver Scholarships
- ❑ Undergraduate Excellence Scholarships and Partial Tuition Fee Waiver Scholarships
- ❑ International Undergraduate Excellence Scholarships (Full and Partial Tuition Fee Waiver)
- ❑ International Scholarships for Business Administration



The record suggests that, over the past five years, the graduation rate of students receiving scholarships has increased significantly. These scholarships can help them reduce their financial burdens, including their family's financial strain. Moreover, some scholarships include stipends for living expenses, allowing students to focus on their studies without worrying about day-to-day costs.

In the future, WU aims to admit more students who fall into the bottom 20% of the household income group and who are from lower-middle-income countries to provide more scholarships for students that extend beyond financial support, positively impacting their academic journey, personal growth, professional future, and overall well-being.





Local Start-up Assistance towards Sustainable Business

Walailak University (WU) is committed to supporting local community business startups by providing knowledge, technology, and funding for start-up groups in the local community, following sustainable development guidelines. The Walailak Business Incubation Center (WIC) is the main organization supporting sustainable local business startups. The missions of WUIC include:

- ❑ Conducting training and mentorship programs held by experts, and researchers from WU on various issues, including marketing, accounting and finance, business administration, etc.
- ❑ Introducing local sustainable startups to expand collaboration with government and private sectors.
- ❑ Providing free university facilities such as offices, meeting rooms, high-speed internet, equipment, online resources, laboratories, etc.



In 2023, the center organized a workshop on premium red palm oil production using microwave technology for local agriculturists and members of the local enterprise group of palm oil producers in Wang Wiset District, Trang Province. Before the start of the workshop, it was found that the agriculturists and the enterprise group did not have access to the knowledge, training workshops, education, resources, and technologies necessary to produce red palm oil. This lack of access limited their opportunities to generate income.

To address this, WU organized a workshop to transfer knowledge and provide assistance through education and resources to local agriculturists and the local enterprise group. The aim was to enhance efficiency and learning in producing premium-quality red palm oil. The training topics included the red palm oil production process and extraction process, the use of microwave ovens in the production process, the measurement and quality control of red palm oil, and the design of packaging for red palm oil and its derived products. The technologies and bodies of knowledge that the agriculturists and group received from WU included microwave technology, packaging design, red palm oil production process, financial administration, etc.



As a result of the workshop, the quality of palm oil produced by the enterprise improved significantly due to the microwave technology provided by WU. In addition to improving quality, the workshop also created a new marketing channel for participants to sell red palm oil to provincial business operators such as restaurants and hotels. This development has the potential to generate sustainable income, leading to socially and financially sustainable business practices for the local community.





WU Supporting Local Mangosteen Agriculturists for Sustainable Agricultural Practices



Mangosteen has been a significant source of income for local agriculturists in Cha-uat District, Nakhon Si Thammarat for many decades. However, these agriculturists have faced challenges from diseases and pests, particularly pestalotiopsis leaf blight, which has led to a decline in both quality and prices. Despite adopting some sustainable agricultural practices, they still lack the necessary resources and educational opportunities to improve their plant disease protection.



In 2023, Walailak University (WU), through the Clinic Technology, launched outreach programs to educate and provide mentoring programs to the local enterprise group of mangosteen agriculturists in the district on using Trichoderma, a biological product, to combat plant diseases caused by fungi. This product, designed as a user-friendly spore powder, is safe for all users and consumers and environmentally friendly.

The product proved highly effective in controlling plant diseases by destroying plant pathogens through mycoparasitism and antibiosis. It also reduced pesticide residues in the mangosteen. Additionally, it helped reduce farm production costs to 438,600 baht and generated an export value to Japan of 22,990,000 baht. These efforts have not only improved the quality and marketability of mangosteen but also provided a sustainable solution for local agriculturists. With continued support and education, the future looks promising for the mangosteen industry in Cha-uat District.



Training Workshops in Fostering Financially and Socially Sustainable Pig Farming Start-Ups

The Satit Walailak Pattana Community Enterprise Group of Pig Farmers has been practicing sustainable pig farming for over five years. Despite this, the group faced challenges such as low piglet production due to poor breeding stock and inadequate veterinary care.

In 2023, Dr. Krittika Kabploy, the School of Agricultural Technology and Food Industry, conducted a training program to provide mentoring support, technologies, and resources for the care management practices of sows covering various issues, such as heat detection, breeding practices of sows, and the care of sows during farrowing and lactation. Additionally, WU provided health check-ups for sows and piglets and disease prevention guidelines.

Following the 2023 training workshops, the local enterprise group has experienced notable improvements in productivity and animal health. The average number of live-born piglets has risen by 25% due to enhanced breeding and sow management practices. Sow mortality rates have dropped by 30% thanks to regular health check-ups and better veterinary care.





ZERO HUNGER

2

-  **The Free Access on Walailak Knowledge, Skills, and Technology for Local Farmers and Food Producers**
-  **WU Clinics Technology: Providing Free Sustainable Agriculture Knowledge and Technology to Local Farmers**
-  **The Local Restaurant: WU's Prioritization on Purchasing of Products from Local and Sustainable Sources**
-  **The Free Events for Local Farmers and Food Producers to Connect, Exchange and Transfer Knowledge**





The Free Access on Walailak Knowledge, Skills, and Technology for Local Farmers and Food Producers



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
SDGs MOVE



Food is one of the essential factors for human survival. However, many people still face challenges related to food scarcity and access to hygienic food. WU plays a crucial role in addressing these issues as an educational institution by providing free access to knowledge, skills, and relevant technologies to local farmers and food producers. Once the target groups acquire this free access, they can further develop and apply them to solve their food problems.

The university's knowledge, skills, and technologies are provided to local farmers and food producers through a variety of activities and projects that are tailored to meet the needs of the target groups and are conducted on a continuous basis.

For example, one such activity involves the dissemination of knowledge on pest management and biological control, which is the sustainable agriculture management. This activity was in response to local farmers facing pest problems that were damaging their crops. After acquiring this knowledge, farmers were able to reduce pest outbreaks. Additionally, the university provides free knowledge on food security, such as the development of swine production and management systems, that has been ongoing since 2020, and the results have improved, effectively, meeting the needs of the farmers. Another piece of knowledge that the university offers for free is the process of making kimchi and basic sanitation using local ingredients.



WU also gives free access to gain knowledge on sustainable agricultural business management skills, focusing on establishing businesses connected to blue swimming crab fisheries and promotes responsible crab fishing and business practices.

Additionally, there is the Safe Vegetables in Hydroponic Systems Project, which has been ongoing since 2020, aiming to enhance food security and open for free to local farmers and food producers to visit and study through various technologies and knowledge, including water conservation in hydroponic systems, conventional soil culture, and the cultivation of plants using NFT systems.

In summary, all the knowledge, skills, and technologies that the university makes available for local farmers and food producers are based on their specific problems and needs. As a result, these efforts have effectively addressed issues, leading to increased income, improved quality of life, and access to sufficient and hygienic food.





WU Clinics Technology: Providing Free Sustainable Agriculture Knowledge and Technology to Local Farmers

WU Clinic Technology, in partnership with MHESI, is working towards becoming a center for academic and consultancy services, aiming to strengthen networks and encourage collaboration among various organizations associated with MHESI. The project succeeded in promoting sustainable economic, agricultural, and livelihood development within the local community through the application of science, technology, and innovation.

The working process of the Clinic Technology begins with understanding and studying the issues in the area. It then involves establishing a collaborative system with relevant network partners, providing services, monitoring outcomes, evaluating results, and preparing operational reports using effective tools throughout the entire process. After surveying the issues, it was found that local mangosteen farmers in Cha-uat District were facing problems with plant diseases and pests, leading them to use costly chemical treatments, which resulted in chemical residues in their produce. Therefore, the Clinic Technology provides free access to food security, knowledge, and sustainable agricultural technologies by promoting the use of biocontrol agents, such as the cultivation of *Trichoderma*, *Metarhizium*, and *Beauveria* fungi to control plant diseases and pests, and the application of biocontrol agents in various forms for the care of mangosteen trees. This approach helps prevent plant diseases and pests and reduces the risk of chemical residues in the produce.



The results of providing free access to biocontrol agents to local farmers have been significant; farmers were able to eliminate plant diseases and pests while reducing the use of chemicals. This led to a decreased risk in the export products sent to Japan, China, Australia, and Europe. Additionally, the farmers were able to reduce costs by 438,600 baht and generated sales revenue of 22.99 million baht in 2023. The B/C Ratio was 102.42. Furthermore, the WU Clinic Technology received an excellence award from the Office of the Permanent Secretary of MHESI, meeting the outstanding evaluation criteria for the fiscal years 2021-2022, in the 2023 TechnoMart event.



The Local Restaurant: WU's Prioritization on Purchasing of Products from Local and Sustainable Sources

WU recognizes the importance of fostering a sense of local pride and is committed to supporting the local community economy, so the university places great emphasis on the value of local food and community products within its surrounding area, which is situated amidst a region rich in coastal food production and significant agricultural resources.

Therefore, to successfully support the local community economy surrounding the university, WU has been prioritizing the purchase of products from local and sustainable sources by establishing the criteria for selecting restaurants to operate within the area that use locally produced food. This approach not only supports the surrounding community but also helps reduce the environmental impact caused by transportation, which can release significant amounts of greenhouse gases during land or air transport.

Eventually, the food vendors and community product shops selected by the university are primarily local community businesses from a 1-2-kilometer radius surrounding the university, especially Satit Walailak Pattana Community. These vendors produce food using local ingredients and sell sustainable community products, including seasonal fruits and vegetables, and traditional snacks. Moreover, local community businesses account for 94% of the food vendors, while larger businesses from outside the community make up 6%.





The Free Events for Local Farmers and Food Producers to Connect, Exchange and Transfer Knowledge



Providing opportunities for local farmers and food producers to connect and transfer knowledge is one of the ways to end zero hunger because they can apply the knowledge to improve their products to good quality. Consequently, WU provided free events for local farmers and food producers to connect and transfer knowledge under the two major events: the 12th Regional Research Expo 2023 and the U2T for BCG Project.



The 12th Regional Research Expo 2023

The 12th Regional Research Expo 2023 is an event for communication and knowledge dissemination of research work to the general public, as well as an opportunity for meeting and exchanging learning through forums involving stakeholders in the value chain of blue swimming crab. These stakeholders include fishermen, food entrepreneurs, tourism and accommodation operators, consumers, as well as academia. The main focus is on sustainable blue swimming crab farming issues, and community blue swimming crab banks. The meeting has led fishermen, food entrepreneurs, as well as tourism and accommodation operators to connect and transfer knowledge between each other and to the general public

The U2T for BCG Project

The U2T for BCG project is an initiative that drives the grassroots economy and society, aiming to integrate support for the development, promotion, and advancement of U2T community's products and services to the market, totaling over 170 products/services. Additionally, the project provides free events to connect and transfer knowledge regarding food, agriculture, and marketing among local farmers and food producers. These events have been held in two provinces: Krabi and Nakhon Si Thammarat.

- The marketing promotion event to publicize and introduce U2T for BCG products at Krabi Province

- The "U2T to Market WU" product expo event at Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.





GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

3

-  The Outreach Project for Improving Health and Well-being to Local Community, Disadvantaged People, and Immigrant Community
-  Free Sport Facilities to Local School and General Public
-  The Unrestricted Mental Health Assistance to Students and Staff
-  WU Collaboration with Local, National and Global Health Institutions to Improve Health and Well-being Outcome





The Outreach Project for Improving Health and Well-being to Local Community, Disadvantaged People, and Immigrant Community



Walailak University (WU) prioritizes health services not only for its staff and students but also extends its focus to the surrounding communities by running projects, covering three main groups: local communities, disadvantaged people, and immigrant communities.

In the group of local communities and disadvantaged people, there is the project, titled "The 4th year of The Pre-elderly and Elderly Strengthen and Rehabilitation Project at Satit Walailak Pattana Community." Additionally, this project focuses on providing comprehensive care for subacute care patients and establishing an e-Health database system for easier access to patient information in the group of local community and disadvantaged people. Also, the health promotion and disease prevention are conducted for pre-elderly individuals and those at risk of diseases. Furthermore, this project collaborates with another project, The Thai Traditional Medicine Product Development Project to Promote Community Health, to care for these target groups: general people and bedridden patients, through herbal face steam and massage therapy. Focusing on NCDs patients and elderly bedridden individuals, there are the activities on exercise and herbal remedies to enhancing the effectiveness of physical activity, totaling 21 cases.

Moreover, there is a new formula of Phlai Massage Oil which is the product from The Enhancement of Herbal Products to Promote Well-being and Occupation Project, aimed at transferring technology to the key members of the Village Health Volunteer of Ban Thung Chon and surrounding local community areas. The project also provided education and utilization on massage oils to 50 individuals, including members of the local community, bedridden patients, those with NCDs, and the clients of the Thai Traditional Medicine Clinic at Ban Thung Chon Subdistrict Health Promotion Hospital.

For the target group of an immigrant community, the university provides basic health check-up services, including blood pressure measurement and screening for anemia. Additionally, consultations on health care are provided to employers and immigrant workers in The Sala Community, Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. A total of 32 individuals have been screened, with 20% identified as being at risk of anemia during the initial examination. Furthermore, educational activities on health care are organized to raise awareness among employers and workers about the importance of health care.



Immigrant Community





Free Sport Facilities to Local School and General Public

Walailak University (WU) is always concerned about health and well-being of every community; it is not only university's staff and students, but also in local school and general public. Therefore, it collaborates with various organizations both within and outside the university to organize various types of competitions and activities for local schools and general public to utilize the university's sports field free of charge.



Local School

WU actively engages with local schools by offering its sports facilities for events and activities by sharing its standard track for the balance bike training activities of Satit Walailak Pattana Community and Wat Koklek ECDCs. Additionally, the 3rd Annual PTT - Youth Lawn Tennis Competition was held, providing young athletes with a platform to develop their skills.

The university also shares its sports facilities to the general public. MH Nakhonsi City Football Club utilized WU football field to conduct the selection of young football players for the Thailand Amateur (TA) League 2023 Southern Region zone. This initiative not only supports local talent but also encourages community participation in sports.



The Unrestricted Mental Health Assistance to Students and Staff

Through these collaborations and open access to its sports facilities, WU fosters a stronger connection with the local community. By offering free access to its athletic resources, the university promotes an active lifestyle and nurtures a greater interest in sports among both local schools and the general public.

At WU, the mental well-being of students and staff is a top priority, evidenced by the comprehensive support systems in place. Through the Smile & Smart Center and Psychiatry Clinic, the university ensures that everyone in the WU community has access to professional mental health support services, emphasizing the promotion of good mental health and providing necessary care without barriers.

The Center and Clinic were established to provide dedicated resources for mental health support, catering to both students and staff. These facilities are staffed by skilled medical professionals and trained experts who offer prompt, free treatment and assistance, both online and onsite. Its mission is to address the psychiatric needs of the WU community, creating a compassionate environment for those seeking help.

Beyond direct clinical support, WU actively promotes mental health through a variety of activities integrated across different university sectors. In 2023, more than 20 activities were organized to support mental well-being, including: For students, there are the Strengthening Motivation to Move Forward and the Case Conference. In addition, the activities for staff are the Empowering CSE - Igniting Your Inner Power and the practical training workshop to enhance the skills of caring for employees (HELPER).

WU's commitment to mental health is reflected in its extensive provision of services and activities through the Center and Clinic. By ensuring access to professional care and actively promoting mental well-being, the university fosters a supportive environment where both students and staff can thrive.



General Public





The WU Collaboration with Local, National and Global Health Institutions to Improve Health and Well-being Outcome



Walailak University (WU) is dedicated to enhancing health and well-being outcomes through active collaborations with health institutions at the local, national, and global levels. These partnerships enable the university to implement a wide range of health initiatives, directly benefiting communities and advancing public health. Additionally, its commitment to health and well-being is demonstrated through its diverse and impactful collaborations.



Local Health Institution Collaboration

Subdistrict Health Promotion Hospitals: WU has partnered with the Nakhon Si Thammarat Provincial Administrative Organization, Satit Walailak Pattana Community, Ban Han, and Ban Thung Chon Subdistrict Health Promotion Hospitals to establish a robust primary health service network. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), this collaboration supports the well-being of people in the Hua Taphan and Thai Buri Subdistricts by improving access to essential health services.

National Health Institution Collaboration

National Health Security Office (NHSO): WU has received support from NHSO to provide support of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) of Thai citizens and to cooperate with WUH Networks and enable over 10,000 individuals benefiting from UHC in WU surrounding areas to improve health and well-being.

Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth): WU has cooperated with national health institutions in The Livable Community in the Upper South Region of Thailand Project with continuing fund support from ThaiHealth. It brings together community leaders and academic supporters from the seven provinces in the upper south. This project is further segmented into the Developing the Community Leadership Council Potential to Continuously and Sustainably Promote Livable Communities workshop, and there are more than 40 local health institutions of hospital networks and Subdistrict Health Promotion Hospitals, impacting on mental health and well-being of community members.

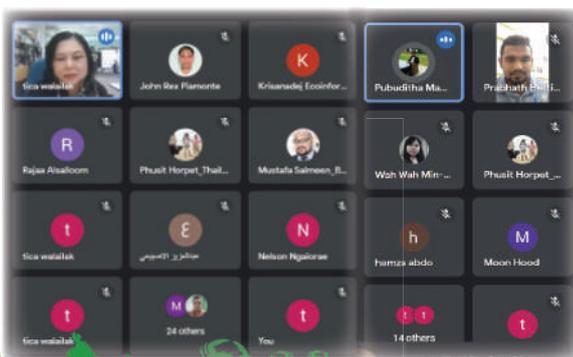


Global Health Institution Collaboration

The Ministry of Health, Cook Islands, and the Medical Research Institute, Sri Lanka: WU engages in activities in cooperation with global health institutions in the Annual International Training Course (AITC) on Dengue and Zika Prevention Campaign, aiming to stimulate participators to understand of Dengue and Zika prevention and control, as well as to enhance the effectiveness of disease control through the application of technology. Moreover, it advocates for the implementation of Dengue and Zika prevention and control activities in the participants' respective countries.

In conclusion, WU's extensive collaborations with health institutions at the local, national, and global levels highlight its dedication to improving health and well-being outcomes. Through these partnerships, WU addresses critical health issues, enhances the quality of life for various communities, and contributes to global health efforts. These initiatives demonstrate the university's commitment to fostering healthier, more resilient societies.

Dengue and Zika Prevention Campaign





WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
SDGs MOVE



QUALITY EDUCATION

4

-  **The Expansion of Free Educational Resources and Services for Lifelong Learning to Non-students of WU**
-  **The Free Public Resources through WU's Academic Service Projects**
-  **The ECEEP Project: The Educational Outreach Activities for Early Childhood**
-  **The Sufficient Economy Project: Educational Outreach Project for Primary School Students**





The Expansion of Free Educational Resources and Services for Lifelong Learning to Non-students of WU



To achieve lifelong learning and equal study, universities, as an educational institution, need to pay attention at all groups of people, not only its students and staff but also those not studying at the university. Consequently, WU implements various methods to complete the goals by expanding its commitment to provide free access to educational resources: free courses, free campus facilities and equipment, and free online resources through various channels, including:

Free Course Leading to Certificate or Award

- **Training Courses:** WU provides free access to short and long-term training courses to the general public to enhance knowledge and obtain certificates that can improve job opportunities. An outstanding course is the "Scientific and Technological Practicing Skills Activities," conducted by the Center for Scientific and Technological Equipment, where participants gain practical experience in both theoretical and practical laboratory settings.

- **Online Learning Courses:** WU collaborates with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI) to offer free online courses and resources leading to certificates that help create lifelong learning opportunities by opening free online classroom sessions (WUMOOC) with 24 courses and 1,319,870 of enrolled students, ensuring everyone has access to quality education.

Free Campus Facilities and Equipment

- **Free Library Services:** The Center for Library Resources and Educational Media allows the general public to access library services and facilities with no cost, promoting learning opportunities for external individuals. Moreover, the library facilities are designed to accommodate disadvantaged and disabled persons, with amenities such as wheelchair-accessible pathways, braille book services.

- **Computer Technology Services:** The Center for Digital Technology (CDT) provides free access to university equipment for local schools facing challenges in teaching and learning driven by technology, so local schools with limited resources can request IT support from the university, benefiting from computer hardware services and technical consulting to meet their educational needs.

Free Online Resource

- **Walailak Online Resource:** WU provides free access to knowledge in various academic fields through its website, available to the general public. There are three prominent programs: the television show "Walailak to Society," the radio program "Good Health Good Life at Walailak," and "Walailak Moving Forward." All three online resources can be viewed and studied for free.

- **WU Library Online Resources:** The Center for Library Resources and Educational Media provides a variety of online resources through its website, such as online databases, e-book databases, e-journals, e-theses (TDC), union catalog (UCTAL), and library tools.





The Free Public Resources through WU's Academic Service Projects

WU's Academic Service Project has provided academic services to various groups, not only to its students and personnel but also to the wider community to support lifelong learning by providing free access to free courses leading to certificates or awards, free access to campus facilities and equipment, and free access to online resources. Additionally, the two projects that meet these objectives are the Twenty-Fifth Young Scientist Competition (YSC 2023) and the 30th Marine Ecology Course.

Free Course Leading to Certificate or Award

The YSC 2023 and the 30th Marine Ecology Course are initiatives that provide students with free access to public educational resources by offering free courses led by experts from WU through online training. At the end of the program, certificates of recognition and awards will be given to participants. Additionally, 165 projects have advanced and received training for YSC Project and there are selected 60 participants to gain knowledge of 30th Marine Ecology Course through the online courses.



Free Access to Online Resources

After completing the online training, the video recordings will be uploaded to the website, which is part of the free online resources. This allows interested individuals to study the various training topics, without any cost.

Free Access to Campus Facilities and Equipment

Under the YSC 2023 and the 30th Marine Ecology Course, participants can access the facilities and equipment of the university for free, including scientific instruments, laboratories, life jackets, etc.

The ECEEP Project: The Educational Outreach Activities for Early Childhood



Over one million young children in Thailand have not received the developmental support they need. Children entering the education system or those from impoverished families tend to have lower academic achievement compared to those from more affluent families. Importantly, young children also lack essential EF skills. Addressing these issues, WU has been undertaking educational outreach activities beyond campus in local schools and communities through both programmatic and ad-hoc efforts under the project titled "The Early Childhood Education Equity Project: ECEEP" since 2021 until the present which responds to the needs of local governments and schools to enhance educational quality and reduce educational disparities among young children. The activities can be categorized into programmatic and ad-hoc efforts as detailed below.

Program

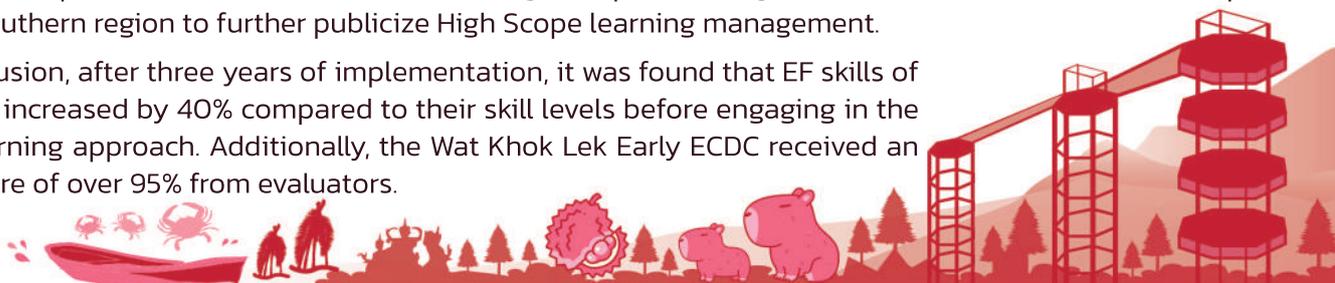
This project targets ECDCs under the SAO in Nakhon Si Thammarat, covering 392 centers. It focuses on children aged 3–6 years and is planned to be implemented over five years, divided into five phases. In 2023, the project is in its third phase: study visits and training on the High Scope teaching approach, and the fourth phase: regular mentoring and guidance.



Ad-hoc

WU organizes the ad-hoc event in collaboration with the Nakhon Si Thammarat Provincial Office for Local Administration to open the Wat Khok Lek ECDC as a High Scope Learning Demonstration Center in the first pilot ECDCs in the southern region to further publicize High Scope learning management.

In conclusion, after three years of implementation, it was found that EF skills of young children increased by 40% compared to their skill levels before engaging in the High Scope learning approach. Additionally, the Wat Khok Lek Early ECDC received an assessment score of over 95% from evaluators.





The Sufficiency Economy Project: Educational Outreach Project for Primary School Students



The Sufficiency Economy is a concept that emphasizes living with moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity, focusing on balanced development between the economy, society, and the environment. Although this concept has gained widespread popularity at the national level, some groups are only superficially aware of it, particularly among young children, who are the future resources of the country. Recognizing this, WU has undertaken educational outreach activities beyond the campus in local schools, enabling them to pass on this knowledge to their parents in the community. This is done through the project named "The Project for Developing Innovative Teaching and Learning Materials for the Curriculum Integrating the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in Chumchon Mai School and Surrounding Community Schools," involving both programmatic and ad-hoc activities.



From the previous years of operations, the working team designed online teaching materials in the form of 2D animations, consisting of 12 lessons. These lessons are accessible to students at Chumchon Mai School and its network schools that have adopted the project. Publishing the online materials on the website provides an opportunity for students, other learners, or anyone interested to study and learn from a new and engaging perspective. Based on the continuous efforts driven by the needs of the school and community, in 2023, 2D animation materials were created, involving designing, illustration, and voice recording to produce the 2D animations. This project received collaboration from staff and students of WU who contributed to the voice recording. Additionally, e-books and skill development games were created, along with the development of exams to assess knowledge of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

Moreover, there is an ad-hoc activity under this project, which is the evaluation of the Sufficiency Economy Learning Center in Education. The evaluation activity is divided into three parts: Part 1 involves presenting the performance results of the Learning Center. Part 2 includes organizing an exhibition featuring 14 learning bases of the school. Additionally, the event provides an opportunity for network schools to showcase their outstanding projects.

As a result of continuous efforts, the outcomes in 2023 show that the curriculum is well-suited for student learning. Additionally, there has been a noticeable change in students' attitudes and behaviors, with many choosing organic food over non-organic and junk food.





WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
SDGs MOVE

Social and Cultural Background :

Keeping Traditions Alive and Peacebuilding Towards



A WU Transgender Woman Student



A WU Transgender Woman Staff

GENDER EQUALITY

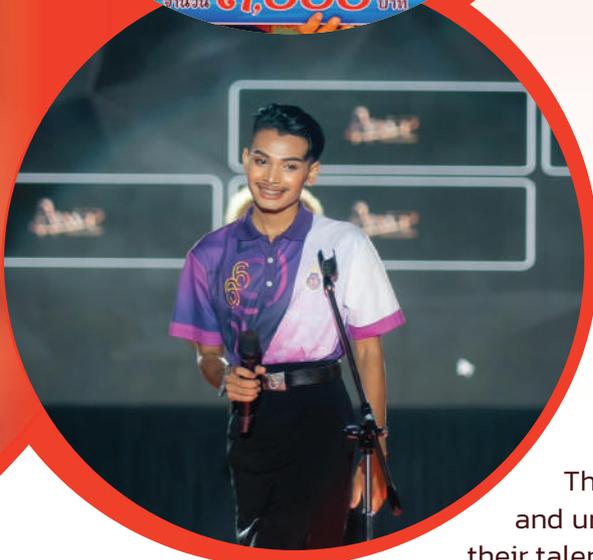
5

- Non-discrimination Commitment for Transgender People
- Promoting the Representation of Female Senior Academic Staff
- WU's Maternity and Paternity Policies





Non-discrimination Commitment for Transgender People



Walailak University (WU) is committed to fostering an inclusive environment for all, emphasizing equality and non-discrimination. WU ensures that transgender students, staff, and faculty are treated with respect and fairness, with no tolerance for discrimination based on gender identity or expression. Initiatives like the Miss Lady Boy Competition and a gender-inclusive dress code highlight the university's support for LGBT individuals, creating a welcoming atmosphere for everyone.

▣ The Miss Lady Boy Competition

The Miss Lady Boy Competition at WU is an annual event that underscores the university's commitment to supporting LGBTQ+ rights. It serves as a platform for the LGBTQ+ and transgender community to display their talents, including singing, dancing, and performing various artistic acts. The competition symbolized the presence and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community at WU.

In 2023, the event was attended by prominent university officials, such as President Prof. Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong and Vice President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Surin Maisrikrod, who is responsible for Global Engagement and Learning and Teaching Development. Their participation highlights the university's dedication to acknowledging and celebrating the rights and contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals.

The competition promotes inclusivity by fostering a culture of acceptance and understanding. It empowers participants by allowing them to showcase their talents, boosting their confidence, and encouraging personal growth. The event raises awareness about LGBTQ+ issues, contributing to a more informed society and encouraging open dialogue.

▣ WU's Gender Dress Code

WU has a policy for LGBT people in the Walailak community to dress in student uniforms, graduation gowns, and others according to their gender identities. The policy has shown the commitment of Walailak University to promote social justice and equity. Supporting students in expressing their gender identity aligns with broader societal movements toward acceptance and equality for LGBTQ+ individuals. The policy can be seen at <https://shorturl.at/m7kpO>

This progressive policy not only fosters a more inclusive environment at WU but also promotes a sense of belonging and acceptance among students. By allowing individuals to dress in accordance with their gender identities, the university reduces the stigma and discrimination that LGBTQ+ students might face, which can significantly enhance their overall well-being and academic performance.





Promoting the Representation of Female Senior Academic Staff

Walailak University (WU) has witnessed a notable increase in interest in gender diversity among female senior academic staff. No matter whether they are male or female, all academic staff members have equal chances of being promoted to senior academic positions if they are qualified. Both men and women can offer significant social and economic benefits. Since

Prof. Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong was appointed to be the President of WU in 2016, the number of female staff has increased significantly, ensuring that WU recognizes more of the leadership roles among female staff.

In 2023, 269 female academic staff members at WU were empowered into leadership positions. The number was higher than the previous year increasing by 36 positions or 15.44%. The positions included Vice-Chairman, Vice-President, Assistants to the President, Directors, Deputy Directors, Divisional Directors, Deans, Deputy Deans, Head of Programs, Head of Departments, Head of Excellence Centers, and professors.

The female senior academic staff at WU have the same rights as their male counterparts to express their opinions and thoughts on the university's decision-making and managerial leadership.

The strides made at WU towards gender diversity and empowerment among female academic staff are commendable. Under

the leadership of Prof. Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong since 2016, there has been a significant increase in female representation in senior academic positions. The rise of 269 female academic staff members into leadership roles in 2023 alone reflects a commitment to equality and inclusivity.

This shift not only enhances the university's reputation but also enriches its decision-making with diverse perspectives. Moving forward, these efforts ensure that Walailak University continues to foster an environment where meritocracy and gender equality thrive, benefiting both the institution and its community.





WU's Maternity and Paternity Policies



Walailak University (WU) recognizes that maternity and paternity leave are fundamental family-friendly rights that all employees should be granted, as the absence of these rights can negatively impact the health and well-being of pregnant women, infants, and fathers.



Since its foundation day (1992), WU has had its maternity and paternity policies to support women's participation and allow a male staff member who is a father to be away from his job for the arrival of a child. WU realizes that maternity and paternity leave are basic human rights. In addition, the policies can encourage an increase in the number of newborns in Thailand while the country is facing an increasing amount of elderly.

All pregnant employees are entitled to maternity leave not exceeding 90 days per pregnancy and get full pay during the leave. The pregnant employees must inform their supervisors before leaving and send the maternity leave form. After maternity leave, employees can apply for parental leave of up to 150 days. Regarding paternity leave, WU provides male employees with 15 days of paid leave. These policies shall apply to all employees, regardless of religion, ethnicity, economic status, and others.



The implementation of these policies can improve the quality of life and the health of infants and female staff giving birth to recover, both physically and mentally. In addition, the policies can provide a chance for mothers to bond with their babies and adjust to changing family dynamics.



<https://shorturl.at/a56mA>

<https://shorturl.at/VPjML>





CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

6

-  **Water Consumption Tracking Across the Whole Walailak University**
-  **Wastewater Treatment System of Walailak University**
-  **Free Clean Drinking Water within Walailak University for Students, Staff and Visitors**
-  **Off-Campus Water Conservation Support Through Collaboration**





Water Consumption Tracking Across the Whole Walailak University



Walailak University (WU) is located in an area with heavy rainfall, receiving an annual average of 2,544.53 millimeters, which often leads to flooding issues on campus. To address this challenge, the university has been implementing sustainable and continuous water management practices every year to mitigate this problem. To manage water effectively, the university needs to know the amount of water consumed by its staff and students to analyze this data in conjunction with the available water within the campus to ensure adequacy. Consequently, WU measures the total volume of water used across the whole university for its staff.

In 2023, WU had a total population of 15,183 individuals, consisting of 12,420 students and 2,763 staff members. The population within the university uses water for domestic purposes from two primary sources: tap water produced using raw water from stormwater or rainwater that is taken from main reservoir, and recycled water treated by the university's wastewater treatment plant.

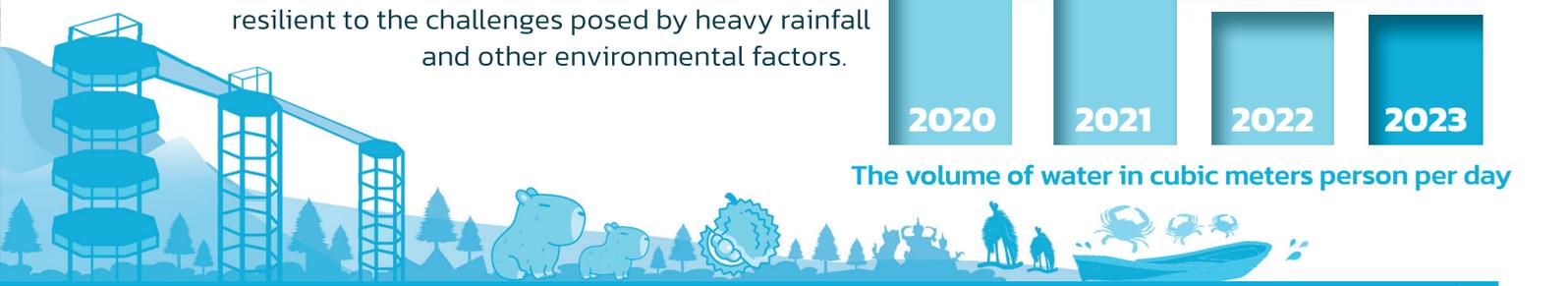
From the data monitoring water consumption across the whole university, it was found that in 2023, the total water usage for the year was 240,186 cubic meters, averaging 658.04 cubic meters per day. The water consumption ratio within the university per capita was 1.32 cubic meters per person per month or 0.04 cubic meters per person per day, which is sufficient for consumption. In 2023, the total water usage amounted to 134,389 cubic meters of raw water produced from stormwater or rainwater collected in the reservoir, accounting for 55.95% of the total water usage, and 105,797 cubic meters of recycled water used for watering plants, washing cars, or cleaning streets.

When comparing the data over the past three years, it was found that the water consumption ratio per capita within the university for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022 was 0.28, 0.22, and 0.05 cubic meters per person per day, respectively. This indicates that in 2023, the water consumption ratio per capita reduced from the previous year, even though the university's population has been increasing.

For the calculation of water savings, it was found that in 2023, the average water consumption showed a potential reduction of up to 85.71% when using the 2020 data as a baseline and the number of people as an index indicator. This demonstrates efficient water usage. As WU continues to grow, its ongoing efforts in water management will be crucial in ensuring that the campus remains resilient to the challenges posed by heavy rainfall and other environmental factors.



The volume of water in cubic meters person per day





Wastewater Treatment System of Walailak University

From water consumption within the university, Walailak University (WU) manages environmental issues sustainably, recognizing wastewater problems occurring within the university premises which originate from the usage by the university populations from activities such as washing, bathing, dishwashing, laundry, and restroom use. Thus, the university has process in place to treat and manage wastewater through a Wastewater Management System Development Project established since the year 2002 onwards. Continuous efforts have been made, especially in the year 2023, to treat wastewater in each building and reuse the treated water, considering environmental concerns and community well-being.



Wastewater treatment process



The wastewater treatment process begins with collecting wastewater from each building through a pipe system and utilizing grates to trap solid waste. Then, it is pumped into a wastewater pump station. Next, it goes directly to an aerated lagoon (AL) which can handle up to 4,000 cubic meters per day with a BOD value of 150 milligrams per liter. After, it is followed by two facultative ponds, an ultraviolet (UV) sterilization (changed monthly), and a wetland pond for water storage. Lastly, the treated wastewater discharged from the system has a BOD of 20 milligrams per liter. Importantly, this system relies on oxygenation from floating aerators to increase oxygen levels in the water sufficiently.

Focusing on the AL Water Treatment System, bacteria can decompose organic substances in the wastewater faster than natural decay, so the AL is highly efficient, reducing BOD levels by 80–95%. Additionally, the system has the program based on aerobic conditions, with aerators increasing oxygen levels in the water and inducing water agitation in the lagoon facilitating widespread decomposition of organic substances.

Water Microbiological Analysis

pH = 6.8*

BOD < STD
DO < STD
NO < STD
HN < STD

Not Detected
E.coli

The treated wastewater undergoes quality checks through Nile tilapia aquaculture trials in four ponds before release into natural water sources and reuse for various purposes with the scientific analysis process, and the treated wastewater meets the standards set by the Pollution Control Department of Thailand.

In conclusion, the university acknowledges the efficiency of reusing treated water and utilizes it in agriculture and various activities such as fish farming, cooling systems for incinerators, watering plants on campus, and street cleaning or animal husbandry.





Free Clean Drinking Water within Walailak University for Students, Staff and Visitors



Water is essential for every human being, especially clean water that is free from disease-causing pathogens. Walailak University (WU) places great importance on this matter by providing free drinking water for students, staff, and visitors. This is done through a water production system that supplies potable water from raw water within the university's reservoir, which is a clean and reliable water source.



In 2023, WU produced drinking water using raw water extracted from its waterworks, resulting in the provision of free clean drinking water dispensers for students, staff, and visitors in every building. The water dispensers use a reverse osmosis (RO) system and provide both 4 liters of hot water (70–85 °C) and 5 liters of cold water (4–12 °C), with a production capacity of 190 liters per day.

Additionally, it features a 4-stage RO system that filters water to 0.0001 microns, removing contaminants, sediment, heavy metals, viruses, and pathogens, ensuring that the drinking water is clean, safe, and suitable for consumption, according to the Thai Industrial Standards

Institute for Type 2 drinking water (non-packaged drinking water). The university replaces water filters every six months as scheduled, conducts monthly water quality inspections, and cleans drinking water dispensers monthly. These measures ensure public health for users by providing clean and safely managed drinking water.

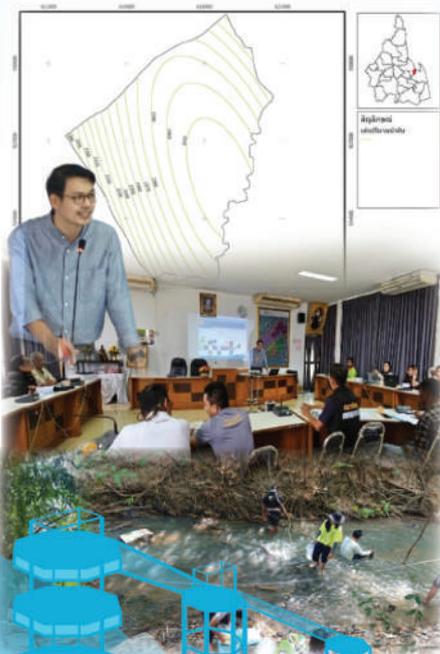


Off-Campus Water Conservation Support Through Collaboration

In addition to conserving water within the university, collaboration with external agencies is equally important. Therefore, the university has been implementing and supporting water conservation off-campus through cooperation with local, regional, national, and global governments on water security.

WU monitored the progress of the pilot project on monitoring and evaluating the impact and benefits of living weir project by collaboration with Na Mai Pai's local governments, Department of Provincial Administration and the German Cooperation Organization (GIZ) in water security to support water conservation off-campus that has been continuously work together to ensure sustainable development of community water management, enhancing biodiversity and serving as a source of consumption. This includes promoting the use of innovative technologies for the benefit of the community to develop society and communities. The goal is to empower farmers and villagers to efficiently manage water resources and cope with drought, while fostering a culture of safety through active community participation in disaster management, following CBDRM principles.

Additionally, Asst. Prof. Dr. Pakorn Ditthakit, a water resource management expert from WU, has been appointed to local and regional committees to help develop, integrate, and implement water resource management plans.





AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

7

-  A Smart & Green Campus: Sustainable Initiatives at Walailak University
-  Reducing Energy Consumption Plan
-  Application of Clean Energy for Local Community





A Smart & Green Campus: Sustainable Initiatives at Walailak University



Global warming refers to the increase in the Earth's average temperature due to the greenhouse effect. This phenomenon is primarily caused by human activities that increase the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through the burning of various fuels, transportation, and industrial production.

Consequently, Walailak University (WU) has a carbon management and reduction process to promote energy conservation and efficiency, focusing on the use of renewable energy, alternative energy, and clean energy, aiming towards becoming a Smart & Green University and reducing carbon dioxide emissions through diverse operational initiatives, such as:

Waste Management

Efficient waste management processes contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emission. This can be achieved through various technologies such as: Methane capture from anaerobic digestion of food waste for beneficial use; using organic food waste as animal feed. and producing biogas from organic waste, including food scraps, animal waste and agricultural residues.

Transportation

the university utilizes electric shuttle buses for on-campus transportation, serving students and staff while reducing the need for personal vehicles and cutting carbon dioxide emissions. Additionally, bus/carpooling systems are employed to transport employees to and from work, further lowering personal vehicle use and emissions.



Agriculture/Forestry

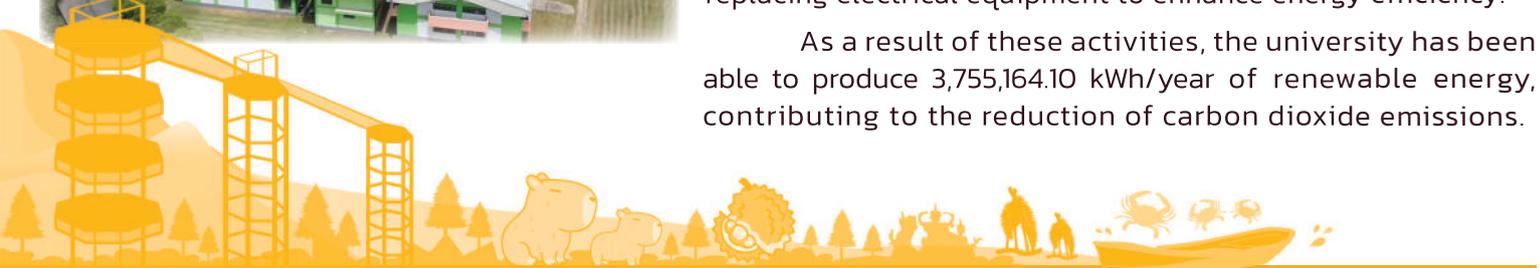
the university enhances carbon dioxide absorption by increasing the number of trees around the campus and buildings, as trees absorb more CO₂ through photosynthesis than they emit. Additionally, agricultural waste is repurposed as mulch to reduce burning and further decrease carbon emissions.



Energy

The university produces renewable energy from solar, hydropower, and wind, for internal use. It has installed a 2,000 kWh solar rooftop system on several campus buildings and is replacing electrical equipment to enhance energy efficiency.

As a result of these activities, the university has been able to produce 3,755,164.10 kWh/year of renewable energy, contributing to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.





Reducing Energy Consumption Plan

Energy is essential for humans in the modern era. Currently, the world's energy consumption primarily comes from fossil fuels, accounting for as much as 95% of total usage. Since fossil fuel energy is a non-renewable resource, WU has recognized this problem and developed an energy efficiency plan in place

to reduce overall energy consumption through the Green University Project. This initiative aligns with the government's Energy Efficiency Development Plan (EEDP), with the goal of reducing the university's total energy consumption by 10% per year.

To ensure the effectiveness of WU's plan and the government's energy policy, efficient energy use, energy saving, and waste reduction have been seriously and continuously implemented. The university has announced energy-saving plan to instill a shared culture among students and staff across all departments, leading to the achievement of 10% energy consumption reduction plan through various implementations, such as:

Air Conditioning Control System: WU employs computerized technology to automatically control the opening and closing of air conditioning units based on room reservation data imported from the network management system that manages room usage schedules.



Automatically Air Control System



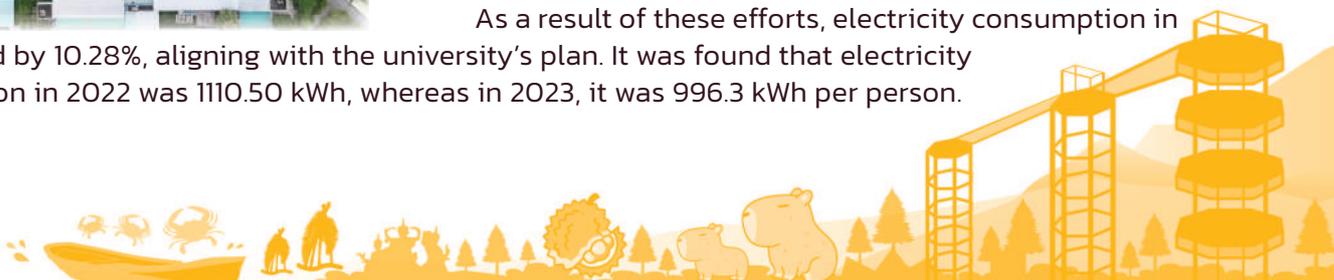
Building Design and Renovation: WU has a policy of continuously improving organizational resource efficiency in line with operational needs, technology utilization, and best practices, for example, designing buildings with automatic sensor lighting systems in bathrooms, heat-reducing windows, and translucent roofs.

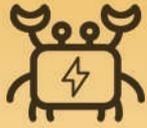
Renewable Energy from Waste: WU produces Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) from waste through various processes to convert it into solid fuel with suitable properties such as heating value, moisture content, and density, suitable for use as fuel for generating electricity or producing thermal energy. This is utilized to supply electricity to units and the university.



Renewable Energy in the Organization: Support is provided for several units to install solar panels, converting solar energy into electricity as a renewable energy source. Solar energy is clean, low-impact, and supports the university's sustainability and carbon neutrality goals. Moreover, there are wind energy and biomass energy for converting it to energy used in organization

As a result of these efforts, electricity consumption in 2023 decreased by 10.28%, aligning with the university's plan. It was found that electricity usage per person in 2022 was 1110.50 kWh, whereas in 2023, it was 996.3 kWh per person.





Application of Clean Energy for Local Community



Walailak University (WU) directly outreach to help the community adapting to use renewable energy sources and to reduce environmental impacts by providing program for local community to learn about importance of energy efficiency and clean energy under the “Return the Blue Swimming Crab to the Thai Sea” project.

The Map Showing the Location of Blue Swimming Crab Restoration Project



This initiative aims to reduce costs and expenses for the fishing community, particularly electricity bills, while also enhancing the community’s ability to sustain operations continuously. By consolidating data on the efficiency of solar and wind energy and conducting cost surveys, it was found that the alternative energy system of the project can generate sufficient power to meet the community’s needs, resulting in monthly electricity savings ranging from 400 to 500 baht.

Additionally, this project aimed at transitioning towards an alternative energy blue swimming crab station. This involves training and knowledge transfer sessions on clean energy usage for the local community blue swimming crab bank, coupled with the installation of solar panels to utilize natural energy sources, including wind and solar power. Solar panels have also been installed on boats to facilitate nighttime fishing trips and tours for fishers. This is another interesting way to utilize renewable energy in areas where connecting to the electricity grid is not feasible. It also helps to save costs. Using these solar panels ensures that the boat has sufficient energy to power various equipment such as bright lights.





DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

8

-  **Championing Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace**
-  **Appeal Process for WU Staff**
-  **Collaboration for Increasing Work Placement Chances**





Championing Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace



Walailak University (WU) recognizes that discrimination in the workplace can hinder the development of a diverse workforce, thereby limiting the variety of perspectives and ideas necessary for fostering innovation and creativity. Discrimination can also lead to unequal access to resources, opportunities, and services, exacerbating social and economic disparities. These issues can perpetuate cycles of poverty and restrict social mobility for marginalized groups. As part of its commitment to inclusivity, WU strives to maintain a diverse environment.



In its hiring and recruitment processes for both Thai and international staff, WU, through its Division of Human Resources and Organization, adheres to strict non-discrimination policies. The university recognizes that it is illegal to discriminate against any applicant or employee based on race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability, refugee status, or genetic information.

As of 2023, WU proudly employed over 49 international lecturers as permanent staff members. These individuals hail from 19 different countries, highlighting the diverse makeup of the Walailak community. The university's international staff includes people from Africa, Southeast Asia, Europe, and East Asia, among other regions.

WU actively supports religious freedom and expression among both its Thai and international staff. The institution has established Muslim and Christian clubs to foster community and organize religious activities. Additionally, during the Vegetarian Festival, restaurants on campus offer vegetarian food options to accommodate Thai-Chinese staff who are followers of the Goodness of Mercy (Kuan Yin Ma).

The university's workforce is composed of staff from various backgrounds, including Muslims, Christians, and individuals from lower-middle-income households. Notably, there has been a significant increase in the number of senior female academic staff, as well as international staff members. WU has also become a place of refuge for war immigrants, particularly from Burma, providing them with equal opportunities for career development.

In addition to these efforts, The university has implemented training programs and workshops aimed at promoting cultural competency and inclusivity among its staff and reviewed its policies and practices to ensure they remain aligned with global standards for diversity and inclusion.

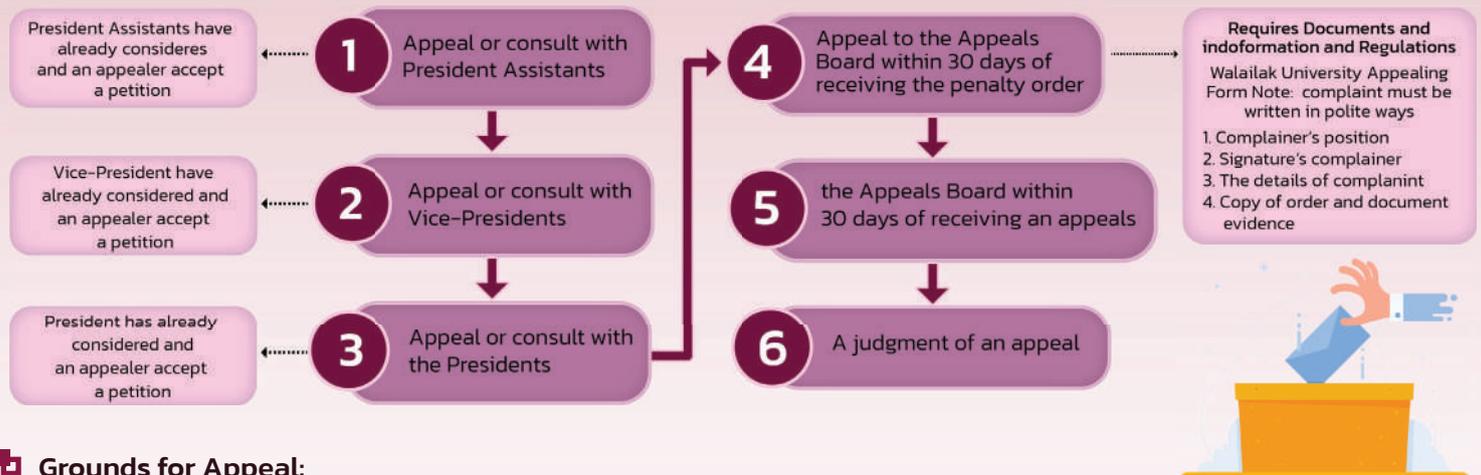




Appeal Process for WU Staff

Walailak University (WU) recognizes that the existence of an appeal process can ensure that staff members have a fair and transparent process to challenge decisions they believe are unjust or incorrect. This helps to maintain a sense of justice within the university. For the appeal process, WU issued the University Regulations on Appeals, Complaints, and Consideration of Appeals and Complaints B.E. 2015 which has been active until the present.

WU Appeal Process



Grounds for Appeal:

If a WU staff is treated unfairly, discriminated against by gender, religion, age, refugee status, or political views, not assigned any work, and confronted by the dilatory tactics of his/her supervisors, the staff has grounds for appeal.

Initial Practice:

A staff who wants to appeal should discuss the potential appeal with higher-level supervisors before taking formal action. The higher-level supervisors include Assistants to the President, Vice-presidents, and President.

Duration of Appeal:

The appeal letter must be submitted within 30 days of the staff member becoming aware of the grounds for the appeal.

Essence in an Appeal Letter:

A staff must state the situation or event and why she/he thinks it was wrong or unjust.

Oral Declaration:

A staff must express his/her desire to make an oral declaration to the appeal committee.

Objecting against a Decision:

A staff has the right to object against an appeal committee's decision but it must comply with the WU Regulations on Appeals, Complaints and Consideration of Appeals and Complaints B.E. 2015.

The appeal process ensures fairness by providing staff with a structured way to challenge decisions they believe are unjust or discriminatory. The WU's policy on the process for employees to appeal can be accessed at <https://shorturl.at/LElNK>



Collaboration for Increasing Work Placement Chances



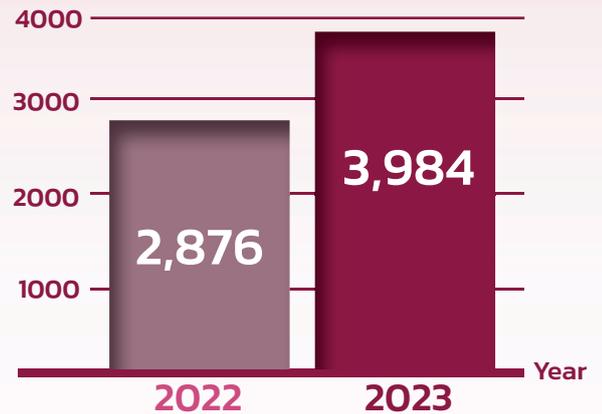
Being aware that limited choices of workplace for student internship could hinder students' progress in developing their readiness and skills, Walailak University (WU) operates the internship program for all students under the Center for Cooperative Education and Career Development. Through the internship, students will not only manage the basic tasks, but also develop towards mastering their role in deeper aspects.



This work placement program provided by WU allows students to gain real-world experience and extend their learning at workplace of their choice. As it was reflected that the 4-month internship previously conducted might not have led to mastering the skills and thorough application of knowledge, WU then has reformulated it to the 8-month work placement. This extended period earns benefits to students' learning, and promotes chances for employability as the practical experience equips them as qualified for employment.

Upon signing the MOU, the students gained experience and developed skills in matters in the world of work, including teamwork, time management, learning different cultures, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and others. In addition, those students had chances to accumulate significant practical experience, making them more attractive to organizations and increasing their employability rate. This collaboration also increased the number of students with work placements from 2,876 in 2022 to 3,984 in 2023, accounting for 38.53%. In the future, WU will establish more partnerships with organizations to increase work placement chances for students both domestically and internationally.

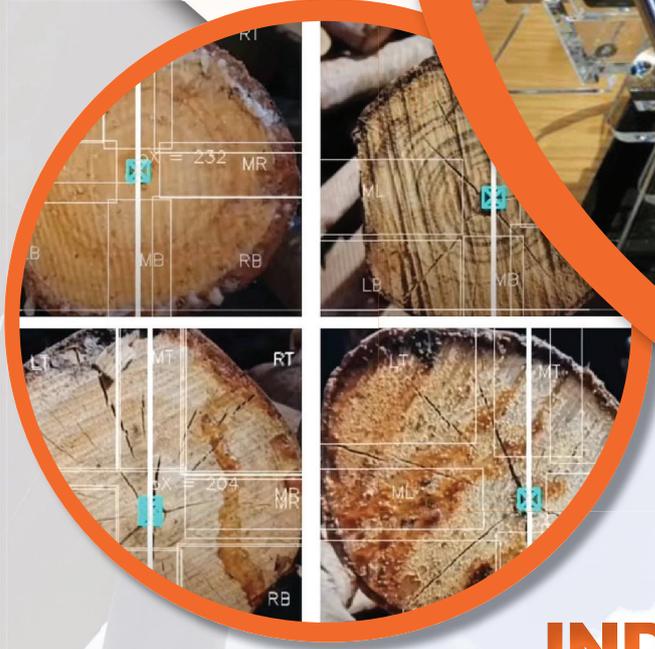
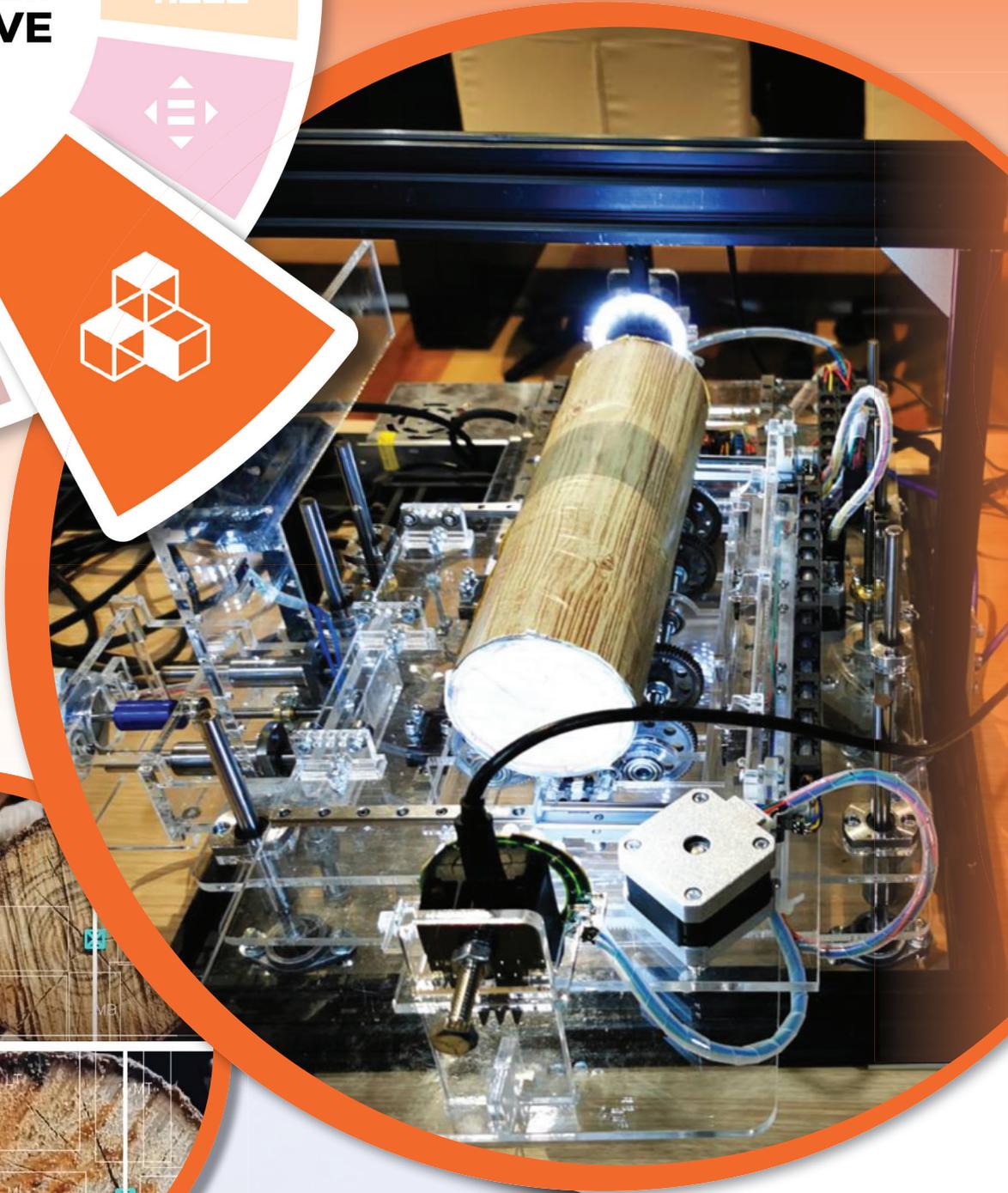
The number of 4th year WU students with work placement



WU has a work placement program for students in which they can gain experience and learn in the real world. In the past, WU students were provided with 4 months of work placement. However, WU found that shorter work placements do not allow students to develop deeper and more comprehensive skills. They had limited time to understand and master various aspects of their roles, which can be more beneficial than shorter stints. In addition, shorter work placements can loss of chances for employability because it does not enable students to accumulate significant practical experience, making them more attractive to potential employers.

Thus, WU has changed the work placement period from 4 months to 8 months. The main organization that is specifically tasked with administering the work placement program is the Center for Cooperative Education and Career Development.





INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

9

-  **Walailak Patent and Petty Patent Citing University Research**
-  **Spin-offs from WU: The Businesses from University Knowledge**
-  **The revenue from the industrial sector of Walailak University**





Walailak's Patent and Petty Patent Citing University Research



The Science and Technology Park of Walailak University (WU) has been advancing to promote startups and innovative entrepreneurs, especially those using advanced technology or Deep Tech, to access patent registration processes and legal knowledge through project activities and funding, as well as to create collaborative networks with the Department of Intellectual Property.

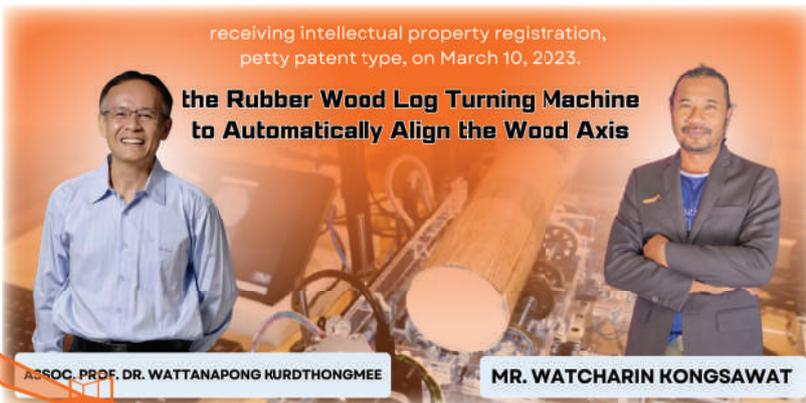
The achievements and successes of the university have promoted university personnel, resulting in the registration of intellectual property rights and their utilization for commercial innovation development. As a result, from the year 2021 to 2023, a total of 51 intellectual property registrations were made by university personnel.

Focusing on 2023, WU had the number of patents that cite research conducted by the university, totaling 13 patents citing university research to society and industry, consisting of 2 design patents and 11 petty patents, covering 5 groups of research areas from 16 Schools of the university, including:

- ▣ The food group: food processing, food innovation
- ▣ The pharmaceutical group: cosmeceuticals and herbs
- ▣ The science group: medical science, biotechnology
- ▣ The architecture group: design
- ▣ The agricultural technology: agricultural technology and fishery

Therefore, a key mechanism that helps drive the utilization of research for commercial innovation development is accelerating the value of Thai innovations through patent registration.

An example of a petty patent ready for technology transfer to benefit commercial use in the year 2023 is the Rubber Wood Log Turning Machine to Automatically Align the Wood Axis (Petty Patent No.21137), invented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wattanapong Kurdthongmee (The School of Engineering and Technology) and Mr. Watcharin Kongsawat.



ASSOC. PROF. DR. WATTANAPONG KURDTHONGMEE

MR. WATCHARIN KONGSAWAT

The architecture group: design



An Example of Petty Patent Certificate





Spin-offs from WU: The Businesses from University Knowledge

Being a Frontier Research University, Walailak University (WU), by the highly qualified faculty members, produces a large number of quality research studies and projects that give tangible results. Many research projects have high impact and achieve an outstanding success, enabling them to be established as spin-offs of the university, such as Walaibiocontrol Co., Ltd.

Walaibiocontrol Co., Ltd. is a subsidiary company of WU, which is a spin-off company of the School of Agricultural Technology and Food Industry, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Warin Intana serves as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO). It was registered and established to benefit from the intellectual property of Walailak University for more than 3 years (since the year 2020), and it continues to operate its agricultural bioproduct manufacturing and distribution business for farmers.



WALAIBIOCONTROL CO., LTD.



Under the drive of the Walailak Business Incubation Center (WIC) has actively supported the creation of businesses by leveraging the university's strong technology to address community and societal challenges. This has led to generating income for the organization. The company had an income of 6,094,940 baht in 2021, 4,893,553 baht in 2022, and the highest of 6,563,040.20 baht in 2023.

Moreover, the company has been awarded the international AABI Torch Entrepreneur Awards for its "TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER" model by the Asia Association of Business Incubation. Prior to this, the company had also received the TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER award from the Thailand Business Incubation Association.



In 2023, a total of 4 new companies were established to benefit from intellectual property of the university, including:

- ▣ PLANKTONWU CO., LTD. (Plankton Cultivation Technology)
- ▣ LAKWALAI BIOTIC CO., LTD. (Probiotics for Marine Shrimp Feed)
- ▣ OXAKIN INNOTECH CO., LTD. (An Emulsion Formula Containing Red Palm Oil that Can Reduce Rashes and Provide Moisturization)
- ▣ CHANCHOHERB LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (Skin-nourishing hydrogel technology derived from gac fruit extract)

2
Companies

2021-2022

2
Companies

2022-2023

6
Companies

2023-2024

Therefore, creating businesses based on institutional knowledge in university by leveraging technology generated from research and development into commercial processes is a way to capitalize on intellectual property to generate income and economic value-added, leading to sustainable development, creating revenue cycles, and returning benefits to the educational institution.





The revenue from the industrial sector of Walailak University



Walailak University (WU), classified as a Frontier Research University, has enhanced the quality of research output and significantly increased the number of groundbreaking research works. This has been achieved through the mission of its Science and Technology Park, an organization within the university that promotes and develops knowledge in science, technology, and innovation to strengthen the country. It supports private entities in research and development by bringing together researchers and experts from both the public and private sectors to collaborate with businesses in need of expertise in various fields.

From the operational results in fiscal year 2022, revenue generated from utilizing research innovations in the industrial sector through the Science and Technology Park amounted to a total of 8,988,422.53 baht. For fiscal year 2023, revenue from utilizing research innovations in the industrial sector totaled 11,005,646 baht, representing an increase of 2,017,223.47 baht or 22.44 % compared to the previous year.

In addition, the revenue generated is from the private sector utilizing innovative research outcomes. In fiscal year 2023, the revenue from research is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Business and Economics : | 3,012,225.00 baht, (Social Science) |
| Life Sciences : | 2,147,312.00 baht, (Medicine) |
| Clinical and Health : | 2,085,196.75 baht, (Medicine) |
| Computer Science : | 350,000.00 baht, (STEM) |
| Engineering : | 3,410,913.06 baht, (STEM) |

The university has a team of 764 experts which can be separated into 3 groups:

- ▣ STEM: 178 Experts
- ▣ Medicine: 373 Experts
- ▣ Arts & Humanities / Social sciences : 213 Experts

Furthermore, there has been continuous progress in bringing ideas to competition stages, where students have received awards totaling 877,000 baht from competitions.

An outstanding innovation example in the year 2023 is the GreenSupercap Innovation: carbon charcoal from rubber wood sawdust residue through a surface improvement process that was invented to have a high surface area and porosity to store electrical charges for energy storage devices. This innovation won The Championship of Startup Thailand League 2023, earning a prize of 50,000 baht along with a trophy. Also, this award contributed to WU receiving the "University of the Year" award, recognizing its outstanding achievements in fostering entrepreneurial innovation among students.



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)





REDUCED INEQUALITIES

10

-  **Commitment to Non-discriminatory Admission**
-  **Eliminating Gender Discrimination on Campus**
-  **Inclusive Facilities for Disabled People at Walailak University**





Commitment to Non-discriminatory Admission



Walailak University (WU) is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive academic community and believes that diversity enriches the educational experience, promotes personal growth, and enhances WU's mission of excellence in teaching, research, and academic services. Everyone can access WU, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, beliefs, political views, etc. No one will be discriminated against for accessing higher education at the university.

Female Students

Even though women are the majority group among WU students, there are some educational fields in which women are underrepresented, such as engineering. The Center for Educational Services has been launching initiatives to encourage applications by women in subjects where they are underrepresented. In addition, the Division of Student Support and Development provides grants and funds to ensure female students' graduation.

Disabled Students

Since WU signed the MOU on the enhancement of the quality of life of disabled people with 86 institutions, WU has launched initiatives and projects to admit more disabled students and provide facilities and support needed for their quality living with other students. The facilities and support include accessible infrastructure, scholarships, health services, consulting services, etc.

Refugee Students

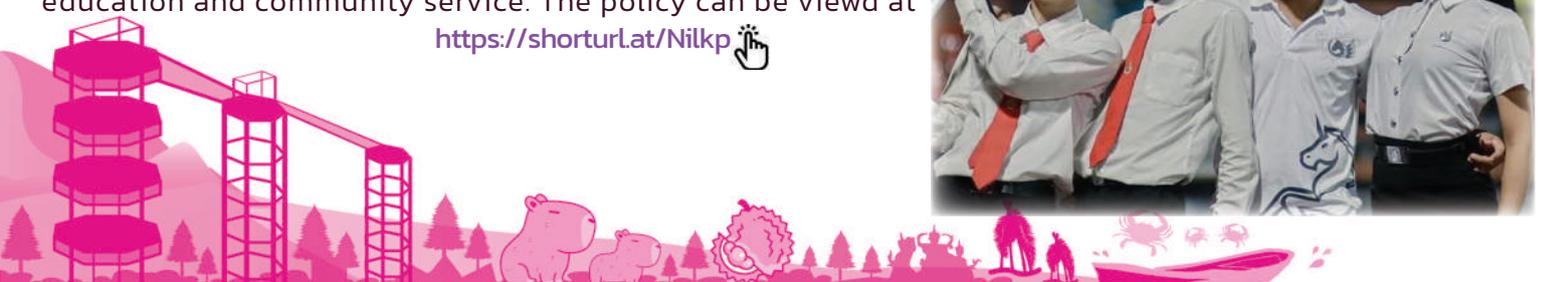
WU aims to increase the admissions of Burmese students who emigrate from their motherland and provide them with educational opportunities. Besides, those Burmese students will get funds and scholarships, as most of them are from low-income households.

LGBT People

WU recognizes the rights and existence of LGBT people. All LGBT students are welcome to be part of the WU community as they have been contributing to the university's success. In addition, WU has policies to improve and value LGBT students such as a policy for freedom in dressing.

WU's commitment to non-discriminatory admission promotes a diverse and inclusive community, enhancing educational experiences and personal growth. By supporting underrepresented groups such as women in certain fields, disabled students, refugees, and LGBT individuals, WU ensures equitable opportunities for all and strengthens its mission of excellence in education and community service. The policy can be viewed at

<https://shorturl.at/Nilkp>





Eliminating Gender Discrimination on Campus

Raising awareness about gender discrimination on campus is essential for ensuring the safety and well-being of all community members. By educating students and staff, universities can prevent violence and bias, and create a supportive environment on campus, breaking the silence and stigma that often surrounds these issues as gender

discrimination always occurs in higher educational institutions.

In 2023, WU organized a webinar titled “The Patriarchal State: Women Speaking Out for Justice” through Zoom Meeting and Facebook. The event aimed to bring together researchers and activists to discuss their experiences, address issues of gender discrimination, and explore solutions. It also sought to raise awareness about gender violence among students and staff.

The event was honored by speakers who specialized in women’s studies and were activists for women’s rights, including Dr. Chutima Sidasathian, a civil rights activist; Miss Chusri Olakit, a women’s land rights defender; Asst. Prof. Dr. Amporn Marddent, Thammasat University; and Asst. Prof. Dr. Taweeluck Pollachom, Walailak University, among others. The topics discussed mainly included patriarchy in Thai society, women’s rights, harassment and intimidation of women, career development for women, the lack of women in leadership roles, and violence against women.

By bringing together prominent researchers and activists, the event facilitated a rich exchange of knowledge and experiences regarding gender discrimination and violence. Participants gained insights into the systemic nature of patriarchy in the WU society and were introduced to effective strategies for developing policies and regulations to combat discrimination against women on campus. The full video of the dialogue can be accessed at <https://shorturl.at/gz2VJ>

ศูนย์ความเป็นเลิศด้านผู้หญิงและความมั่นคงทางสังคม มหาวิทยาลัยวลัยลักษณ์

ขอเชิญร่วมเสวนาออนไลน์เนื่องในเดือนสตรีสากล
รัฐปิตาธิปไตย:
เมื่อผู้หญิง 'เปล่งเสียง' เพื่อความยุติธรรม
"The Patriarchal State: Women Speaking out for Justice"

วิทยากรร่วมเสวนา โดย

- ชุตินา สิดาเสถียร นักต่อสู้เพื่อสิทธิพลเมือง
- ชูศรี โอฬารกิจ สหพันธ์เกษตรกรภาคใต้
- ริยา เต็ดชาด คณะนิติรัฐศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยราชภัฏร้อยเอ็ด
- ดำเนินรายการ โดย อัมพร ขนาดเต็ม คณะสังคมวิทยาและมานุษยวิทยา มหาวิทยาลัยธรรมศาสตร์
- เทรนนิ่งเสวนา โดย ทวีลักษณ์ พรราชม ศูนย์ความเป็นเลิศด้านผู้หญิงและความมั่นคงทางสังคม มหาวิทยาลัยวลัยลักษณ์

วันอาทิตย์ที่ 26 มีนาคม 2566 เวลา 10.00-12.00 น.
MEETING ID: 966 6054 1926
PASSCODE: 678241





Inclusive Facilities for Disabled People at Walailak University



Disabled people always face obstacles to accessing higher education due to their physical disadvantages. The lack of facilities for disabled people can make it difficult to access resources and academic infrastructure, such as libraries, laboratories, and classrooms, that can hinder their academic participation and success. Thus, providing facilities for disabled people is a basic human right that universities should implement on campus.



Accessible Toilet



Wheelchair Ramp



Parking Areas



Elevator for Disabled



Braille Block

Providing facilities for disabled people is what Walailak University (WU) has done until the present. In 2023, WU improved and developed new facilities for disabled people, including students, staff, and visitors. Various facilities are available at WU, including accessible toilets, wheelchair ramps, braille blocks, disability signs, and parking areas. These ensure that all students and staff, regardless of physical or cognitive disabilities, have equal access to educational resources, classes, and job opportunities. The disabled students at WU can access scholarships and health services as regular students. The disabled staff are also equally paid as regular staff, both academic and non-academic staff.

In addition to these improvements, WU regularly conducts training for staff and students to raise awareness and foster an inclusive environment. The university also collaborates with external organizations to ensure that its facilities and services meet the latest accessibility standards. By continuously enhancing these provisions, WU demonstrates its commitment to creating an equitable and supportive educational community for everyone.

In 2023, WU established partnerships with the Center for Empowerment and Vocational Development for Persons with Disabilities, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Prince of Songkla University to organize a project on the improvement of quality of life among local people with disabilities. The project aimed to develop the capacity and skills of disabled people to have solid careers. All disabled people participating in the project had learned to produce mixed dried fish and fish kidneys with herbs. The knowledge and skills can lead to a side job for the disable to earn extra income, resulting in financial sustainability.





SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

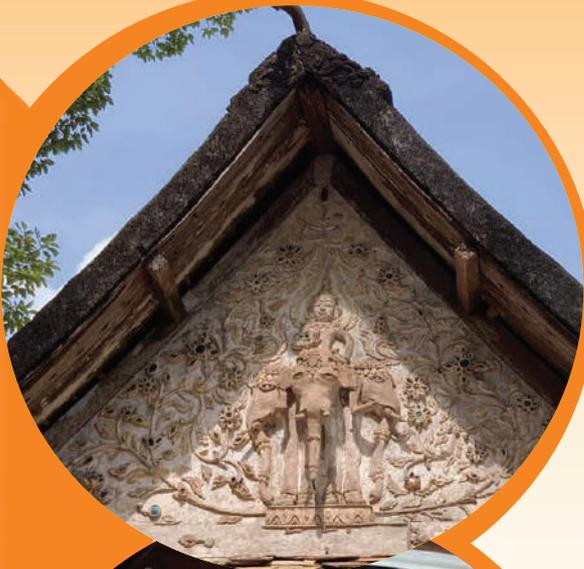
11

-  Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Southern Thai Temple
-  Undertaking Actions for Mobilizing Sustainable Commuting on Campus
-  Green Spaces at WU: Protecting Areas for Human and Animal Benefits
-  The Exhibition for Promoting and Preserving Menora Dance





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 14th 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.

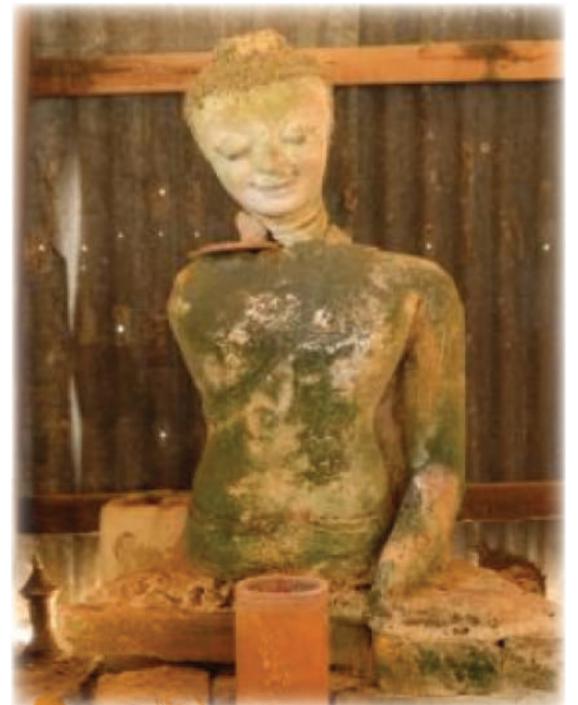


The survey conducted by WU and the department revealed significant damage to the temple's ordination hall. The architectural structure, including the walls and Buddhist ornaments, was affected by natural disasters like flooding and heat. Additionally, neglect and lack of maintenance contributed to the 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.





RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

12

- Implementing Waste Tracking Systems for Waste Reduction at Walailak University
- Sustainable Waste Management Practices at WU
- WU's Sustainable Initiatives: Reducing Plastic Waste and the Use of Single-use Items





Implementing Waste Tracking Systems for Waste Reduction at Walailak University



To achieve sustainable waste management practice, in 2023, Walailak University (WU) implemented guidelines to drive and execute waste tracking systems to reduce waste volume generated within the whole university. Several processes were involved.

The process of tracking and measuring waste at its source is a method to foster understanding and awareness among students, staff, and personnel within the university. It underscores the importance of waste reduction and promotes categorized waste disposal. Currently, WU employs various colored bins, totaling 4 types, for segregating different types of waste as follows:

Green bins for biodegradable waste that naturally decomposes over a short period of time,

Dark Blue bins for general waste that is difficult to decompose, not cost-effective to recycle, and non-toxic,

Yellow bins for recyclable waste that can be recycled and reused, even if it's a material that is difficult to decompose.

Red bins for hazardous waste contaminated with chemicals or pathogens that pose risks to health and the environment.

The process of tracking and measuring waste at middle points involves collecting and arranging each type of waste appropriately at designated waste collection points equipped with tightly sealed lids for efficiency. Waste collection vehicles operate to collect and record the weight of waste at each point, with different time intervals and routes for optimal collection efficiency.



The process of tracking and measuring waste at final disposal points involves waste sorting at waste disposal facilities. This includes tracking waste quantity and assessing the types of waste, namely (1) Recyclable waste, which comprises organic waste for animal feed and composting, while the remaining portion is sold for income generation for the university, and (2) Disposal waste, which encompasses waste that cannot be further utilized and is disposed of through landfilling.





Sustainable Waste Management Practices at Walailak University

The action of Walailak University (WU) towards responsible consumption and production has various way, especially, waste management. WU adheres to the principle of continuous integrated waste management, with the goal of managing waste sustainably, considering economic, social, and environmental aspects. Additionally, the university has a waste management program responsible for handling all waste on campus, except for hazardous waste generated from laboratories due to their high toxicity, heavy metal contamination, and infection, so it is stored by The Center for Scientific and Technological Equipment (CSE) and exported for disposal by external companies.

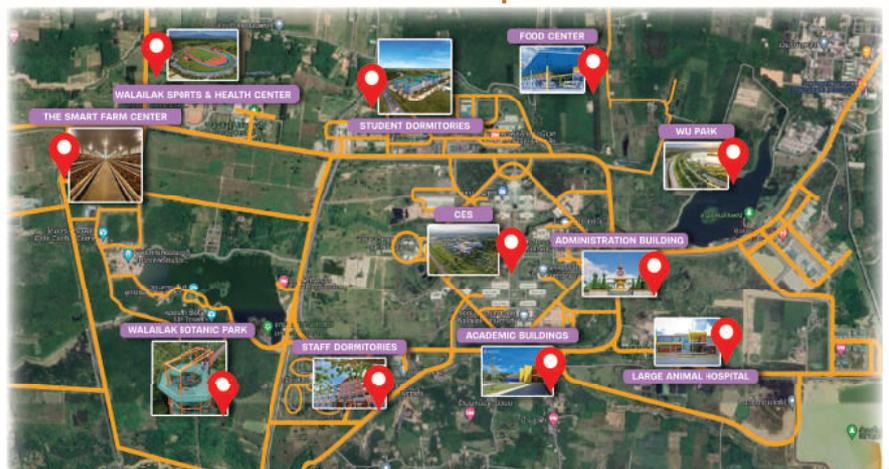
Currently, WU has a process of sorting, tracking, and measuring waste from its source, starting from consumers by using various colored bins for separating different types of waste. Then, each type of waste is managed differently to ensure proper suitability according to health and environmental standards, thus preventing environmental problems; the university categorizes waste into two types: recycled waste (organic and inorganic waste) and landfill waste.



The sorting and tracking of waste mentioned above not only facilitate convenient disposal but also aid in waste reduction. Separating recyclable waste from other types reduces the remaining waste for disposal, resulting in reduced waste disposal budgets. This helps preserve the environment, reducing pollution globally. Additionally, it aids in energy and resource conservation. Furthermore, certain recyclable waste types can be sold, generating income for the university.

According to the amount of waste monitoring data from the whole university for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023, it is found that the quantity of each type of waste varies. Throughout the year 2023, the university had a total waste quantity of 841.73 tons, or 2.31 tons per day. This included recyclable waste, amounting to 774.12 tons per year, which accounts for 91.97% of the total waste, and landfill waste, amounting to 67.61 tons per year, which accounts for 8.03% of the total waste. The total waste quantity per university population (15,158 individuals) is calculated to be 0.06 kilograms per person per day. This quantity trended downwards from the years 2021 and 2022.

THE WASTE TRACKING SYSTEM for the amount of waste from all sources on campus 2023



waste collection route

waste collection point



WU's Sustainable Initiatives: Reducing Plastic Waste and the Use of Single-use Items



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENT



POLICY ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC WASTE AND DISPOSABLE ITEM REDUCTION

SDG 2023



<https://shorturl.at/HvAcl>

Furthermore, WU prioritizes waste management by emphasizing waste reduction at the source as the foremost approach. When waste is inevitably generated, the university seeks to find ways to reuse or repurpose it, ensuring that disposal remains a last resort. The ongoing campaigns, such as "Reject Plastic Bags" and "Bring a Cloth Bag for Your Medicine," extend this commitment to the entire university community, including staff and patients at WU Hospital, reinforcing the message to reduce plastic usage.

In conclusion, the activities driven by WU's policy not only raise awareness but also instill the principles of zero-waste living, advocating the 7Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Refill, Repair, and Return. These initiatives aim to minimize waste production within the university and extend these practices to the wider community, fostering a waste-free society. Through these collective efforts, WU is actively working to preserve the environment and build a more sustainable future for all.

The excessive use of plastic and disposable items has become a significant environmental crisis, prompting an urgent need for action. Walailak University (WU) is committed to addressing this issue through its policy aimed at reducing plastic waste and single-use disposables on campus. Originally drafted as a guideline in 2019, this policy has been continually revised to meet current needs and challenges. By implementing strategic activities and engaging all stakeholders—including students, staff, and the broader community—the university strives to create a more sustainable and environmentally responsible future.

To achieve these goals, WU has initiated several campaigns targeting students, staff, and food and beverage operators on the campus grounds. These initiatives encourage the reduction of waste generation through practical measures, such as using refillable water bottles instead of single-use plastic bottles, and opting for cloth bags or baskets over plastic bags. The university has also requested stores to cease providing single-use plastic bags, with exceptions made for ready-to-eat food, where recyclable materials, bioplastic bags, or paper bags are preferred. Additionally, the university urges the discontinuation of foam containers and breakable plastic bags with handles. These collective efforts have already led to a significant reduction in plastic bag usage on campus.

LET'S SAY NO PLASTIC AND FOAM





CLIMATE ACTION

13

-  The Collaboration to Inform and Support Local Government About Climate Change
-  Working with NGOs and Governments on Climate Adaptation
-  WU Commitment to Carbon Neutral University by 2030
-  The Platform Monitoring and Predicting Droughts Caused by Climate Change





The Collaboration to Inform and Support Local Government About Climate Change



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
SDGs MOVE



Climate action is a key focus for Walailak University (WU), given its critical importance in addressing climate change.

Recognizing the magnitude of this issue, WU is not only implementing climate-related initiatives within its own campus but is also collaborating with local and regional governments. In line with government missions, the university is playing a crucial role in the Project for Enhancing the Capacity of the Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment to Develop Climate Change Plans at the Provincial Level, which aims to inform and support five provinces in the upper southern region of Thailand.



As a consultant for this project, WU is working closely with the Provincial Offices of Natural Resources and Environment in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Trang, Phatthalung, Chumphon, and Ranong. The primary objective is to inform and support local government in collecting and reporting greenhouse gas data, establishing a robust database for these provinces. Additionally, the project involves analyzing potential measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring that the strategies align with the specific contexts of each province. These efforts are guided by the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC) and are aligned with Thailand's national commitments, as announced by the Prime Minister at the COP26 meeting, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2065, in line with Thailand's Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy, targeting a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

In the fiscal year 2023, WU facilitated meetings with various provincial-level government agencies responsible for climate change in the upper southern region, including the Provincial Energy Offices, Provincial Public Health Offices, Provincial Land Transport Offices, and Provincial Industrial Offices, and others. These meetings aimed to gather information on greenhouse gas emissions and discuss existing plans, projects, and measures for reducing these emissions. The insights gained from these discussions are being used to develop a framework for future activities that will lead to the creation of effective provincial greenhouse gas reduction plans.

WU's involvement in this collaborative project underscores its commitment to climate action and sustainable development. By supporting the development of provincial-level

climate change plans and working closely with regional governments, WU is contributing to Thailand's broader efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve long-term climate goals. Through these initiatives, the university is helping to pave the way for a more sustainable and environmentally-responsible future for the region.





Working with NGOs and Governments on Climate Adaptation

Addressing climate change effectively requires collaboration between multiple stakeholders, including universities, government agencies, and NGOs. In 2023, Walailak University (WU) recognized this need and collaborated with NGOs like the Save Andaman Network Foundation (Trang) to enhance climate adaptation efforts. This collaboration is part of WU's broader commitment to environmental education and sustainable development.



WU, in collaboration with the Save Andaman Network Foundation and government agencies, held meetings at the Division of Public Health and Environment to gather feedback on climate change risk assessments in Trang Province. WU researchers presented key data on natural disasters from 2016 to 2020, based on the Trang Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan (2021-2027), including statistical analyses and future risk predictions from the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning. Representatives from the Trang Provincial Climate Change Working Group and NGOs assessed climate change risks using Impact Chain Analysis, prioritizing six key areas based on the National Adaptation Plan. Feedback from these sessions helped develop a comprehensive Risk Profile report to guide the climate adaptation action plan for Trang Province.

The collaboration between WU, government agencies and NGOs underscore the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement in tackling climate change. By leveraging the expertise of various agencies and incorporating public feedback, WU is contributing to a well-rounded approach to climate adaptation in Trang Province.



WU Commitment to Carbon Neutral University by 2030

WU is dedicated to advancing climate action and enhancing its reputation as a Sustainable Green University for Well-being. Aligned with the university's development strategy (2023-2027), WU has a target date to become a carbon-neutral university by 2030, according to with Thailand's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Framework. This commitment is a central focus of the university's strategic plan, emphasizing the importance of internal climate action management to achieve sustainability goals.

WU conducted a carbon footprint evaluation with the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO), covering three key emission scopes: Scope 1 (direct emissions), Scope 2 (indirect emissions from electricity), and Scope 3 (other indirect emissions). The findings showed that WU emitted about 10,436 tonneCO₂eq, with 85.06% of Scope 2 activities related to electricity use.

To achieve carbon neutrality by 2027, WU launched projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the Low Emission Support Scheme (LESS) in the stationary energy sector. Upgrading to energy-efficient lighting reduced emissions by 2,038,622 kgCO₂eq, and installing high-efficiency air conditioning units cut an additional 5,887,630 kgCO₂eq, totaling a reduction of 7,926,252 kgCO₂eq. WU is also measuring carbon sequestration in plant biomass as part of the T-VER forest sector project. In a 1,600 sq. m. sample plot at Walailak Botanic Park, the project found that 84 trees sequestered 38.21 tonneCO₂eq.

Through its strategic initiatives, WU is making significant strides toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2027, as outlined in its development strategy. By meticulously evaluating its carbon footprint and implementing targeted emission reduction projects, WU is not only addressing its current environmental impact but also laying the groundwork for a sustainable future. These efforts underscore WU's commitment to fulfilling its role as a leader in climate action, contributing to global sustainability goals, and achieving carbon neutrality in alignment with the Greenhouse Gas Protocols.





The Mobile App for Monitoring and Predicting Droughts Caused by Climate Change



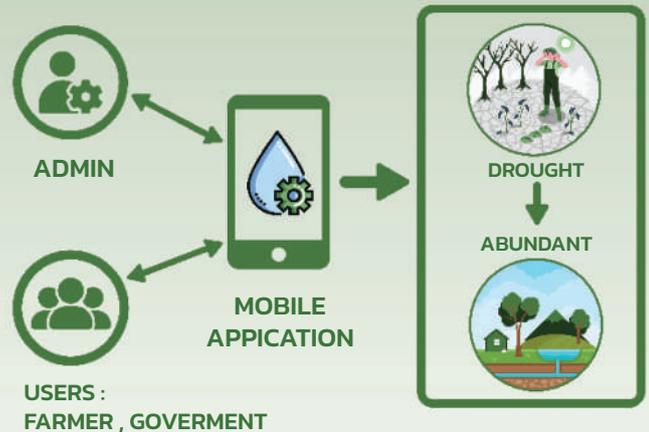
In 2023, Walailak University (WU), through its Center of Excellence for Sustainable Disaster Management, played a pivotal role in informing and supporting local and regional government agencies in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province on matters of climate change disaster risk, early warning, and monitoring.

Recognizing the challenges posed by climate-induced droughts, particularly in agricultural regions, WU collaborated with key government agencies such as the Agricultural Research Development Agency (Public Organization) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Royal Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, and the Department of Provincial Administration

under the Ministry of Interior, including village headmen and village chiefs from Don Tako Subdistrict, Tha Sala District, and In Khiri Subdistrict, Phrom Khiri District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Provinceto develop a comprehensive water management mobile app.

This mobile app was specifically designed to aid farmers and government officials in Don Tako Subdistrict, Tha Sala District, and In Khiri Subdistrict, Phrom Khiri District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, by providing real-time data and tools for monitoring and predicting water availability. Through the mobile app, WU facilitated monthly water balance analyses based on the specific water demands of farmers and the available water resources. By inputting farm coordinates, crop types, and planting schedules into a mobile application, users received tailored guidance on water management.

Water Management Mobile App.



regional governments are better prepared to handle the challenges of climate change, particularly in the realm of disaster risk management.

In conclusion, WU has made significant strides in enhancing climate change resilience in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province through its Center of Excellence for Sustainable Disaster Management. These efforts have not only strengthened the capacity of local and regional governments to manage disaster risks but have also set a strong foundation for ongoing climate adaptation and resilience-building in theregion.





LIFE BELOW WATER

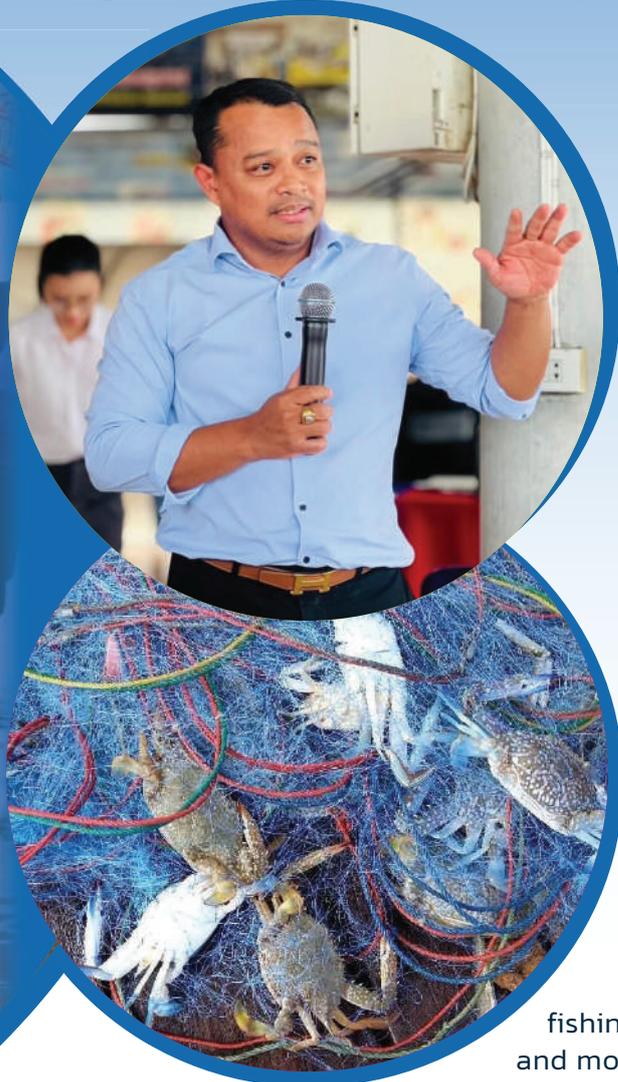
14

-  Sustaining Blue Crab Fishery through Educational & Outreach Programs
-  Collaboration on Shared Aquatic Ecosystem Management in Pak Phanang District
-  Protecting the Complexity of Coastal Resources through Artificial Fish Habitat Construction
-  Blue Crab Restoration Program: The Best Aquatic Stewardship Practice





Sustaining Blue Crab Fishery through Educational & Outreach Programs



Economically, blue swimming crab fishery is a significant source of livelihood providing jobs and income for the local fishermen in the south of Thailand as a valuable export product, contributing to Thailand's seafood industry in global markets. However, the blue crab population in the Gulf of Thailand gradually decreased due to unsustainable fishing practices. Walailak University (WU) realizes that this problem must be tackled to enhance environmental sustainability and demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development for local communities.

Thus, the Blue Swimming Crab Bank Establishment Project, a WU project by Asst. Prof. Dr. Amonsak Sawusdee, has been working to provide educational outreach to local fishermen on sustainable fishing practices. The project has been implemented for over 5 years, contributing to various economically and environmentally sustainable impacts. It has fostered a collaborative approach with local communities, enhancing their capacity to manage marine resources effectively. The project meaningfully increases the number of blue crab populations, especially in the Gulf of Thailand. This momentous project has provided educational programs for local fishermen on blue crab breeding, aquaculture, and management to increase its population in the gulf, sustainable fishing practices, blue swimming crab-based local cuisine development, and more.

The project succeeds in multiplying blue crab resources, 10–15 kilograms caught in one day, in the addressed maritime zones in Nakhon Si Thammarat and Surat Thani. In addition, in 2023, the Banhaadsomboon Blue Swimming Crab Bank, established by WU in Wang Subdistrict, Tha Chana District, Surat Thani, received an award as one of the best five SDG Model Communities for the First Generation in Thailand. The Bank has been implementing sustainable operations on the recovery of the blue swimming crab population, rehabilitation, prevention of illegal fishing, designation of marine protected areas, and others relating to tackling SDG 14: Life Below Water. Furthermore, the success of this project has inspired similar initiatives in other regions, amplifying the impact on regional marine conservation. Moreover, the bank has become an ecotourism destination where visitors can engage in eco-friendly activities such as the release of baby blue crabs, further promoting environmental awareness and community involvement.





Collaboration on Shared Aquatic Ecosystem Management in Pak Phanang District

The Pak Phanang River Basin in Pak Phanang District has long served as a vital foundation for local livelihoods, supporting farming, fishing, and tourism for decades. However, the basin has faced challenges in recent years, with deterioration and sediment build-up affecting both the livelihoods of local residents and the health of aquatic ecosystems. The water level has been decreasing steadily over the past three years, leading to a scarcity of water resources for agriculturists in some areas, which threatens the district's economy and food security.

In response, Walailak University (WU), in collaboration with local authorities and community members, organized a strategic meeting in 2023 to tackle these issues through comprehensive river basin management. The meeting focused on shared water resource management, erosion control, biodiversity enhancement, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Experts from various fields worked with local stakeholders to develop actionable strategies to restore the river basin's health and sustainability.

A significant outcome was the agreement on fair water distribution among farmers and the introduction of regulations to reduce chemical use in farming. These measures aimed to resolve local conflicts over water resources and address broader environmental concerns. As a result, there has been a noticeable increase in biodiversity, with a growing population of Nile tilapia, indicating improved ecological health. The reduction in chemical inputs has led to cleaner water and a more balanced ecosystem, benefiting both aquatic life and surrounding wildlife. Furthermore, these efforts have strengthened community bonds and fostered a sense of shared responsibility for the river basin's future. Local farmers have adopted sustainable practices, and eco-tourism has begun to flourish, attracting visitors interested in the area's natural beauty and successful conservation efforts.



Protecting the Complexity of Coastal Resources through Artificial Fish Habitat Construction

Some coastal areas of Nakhon Si Thammarat and Surat Thani provinces have been facing the deterioration of the complexity of marine ecosystems resulting in the loss of natural fish habitats and the decline in marine species. The complexity of marine ecosystems supports diverse fish populations and other marine resources. If this complexity is not maintained, fish populations could decline or collapse. The Artificial Fish Habitat Construction Project was launched by Walailak University and has been continually operating for over five years to tackle those problems.

In 2023, WU partnered with local governments, NGOs, private sectors, and communities in Hua Sai District, Tha Sala District of Nakhon Si Thammarat, and Tha Chana District of Surat Thani to organize the project. Key activities within the project included the design and construction of the habitats using eco-friendly materials that provide habitats for diverse marine life. The deployment of these habitats was strategically planned to maximize ecological benefits and connectivity with existing marine ecosystems, with efforts to expand existing habitats to accommodate more species and increase habitat complexity.



The project yielded significant positive outcomes for marine ecosystems in the target regions. The design and construction of eco-friendly habitats effectively supported a diverse range of marine species. The strategically planned deployment of these habitats enhanced their ecological benefits, improving connectivity with existing marine ecosystems. This integration facilitated greater movement and interaction between the new habitats and natural environments. The project also achieved a notable increase in habitat complexity, which supported a richer and more balanced marine ecosystem. By expanding existing habitats, the project accommodated a greater variety of species and improved overall biodiversity.





Blue Crab Restoration Program: The Best Aquatic Stewardship Practice



In Surat Thani, the blue Swimming crab fishing industry is grappling with several critical issues, including the overexploitation of crab populations, and the unsustainable practice of harvesting undersized crabs and gravid females, resulting in the reduction of blue swimming crab stock in the sea. Additionally, there is a significant lack of effective management plans or harvest strategies, coupled with inadequate enforcement capacity to regulate fishing activities.



The Blue Crab Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) is a research collaboration that Walailak University has been working directly to extend the ecosystems of blue swimming crabs in the Gulf of Thailand under collaboration with NGOs, government organizations, and marine industries, such as the Department of Fisheries, the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, the Thai Frozen Food Association, and the Thai Crab Product Group



In 2023, this research collaboration has been creating impacts on the conservation of blue swimming crab ecosystems and biodiversity.

Conservation Efforts: The collaboration with organizations such as the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources has led to improved conservation strategies. These efforts ensure that the crab population remains sustainable and healthy, reducing the risk of overfishing and ecological imbalance.



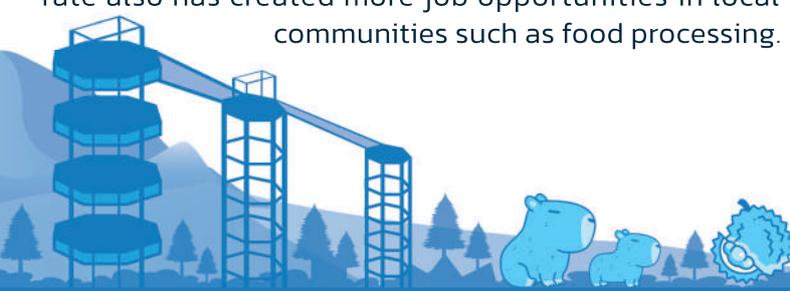
Habitat Restoration: This research focuses on restoring and preserving habitats vital to the life cycle of blue swimming crabs. This includes the local-preserved areas, 300-500 meters from the shore, serving as aquatic nurseries in protecting breeding grounds and nurturing juvenile crabs to maturity, further supporting population growth.

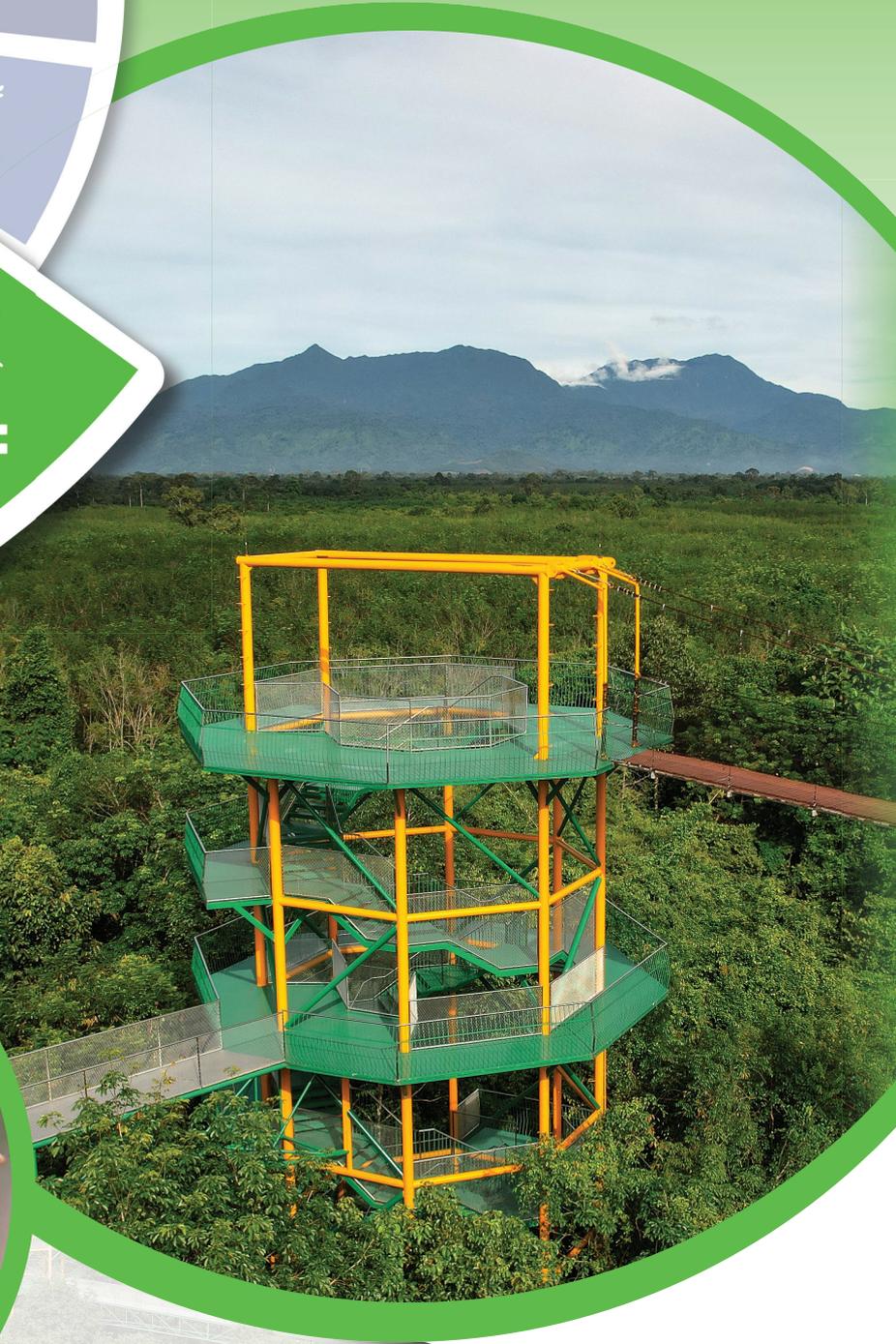
Ecosystem Balance: By fostering a healthy crab population, the project contributes to the overall balance of marine ecosystems. Blue swimming crabs play a crucial role in the food chain, and their increased numbers help maintain the ecological equilibrium.

The project has contributed to the increase in the catch rate of blue swimming crabs as it maintains and extends the biodiversity of the crabs. The increase has allowed local fishermen to catch blue swimming crabs at 15 – 20 kilograms per day, leading to increased income. This is particularly beneficial for those who rely on fishing as their primary source of livelihood. The increased catch rate also has created more job opportunities in local communities such as food processing.



The Best Research Award





LIFE ON LAND

15

-  **The Maintaining and Extending Biodiversity of Plants and Animals at Walailak University**
-  **The Events for Sustainable Land Use and Conservation**
-  **Ecosystem Education and Conservation Initiatives at Walailak Botanic Park for Local and National Communities**





The Maintaining and Extending Biodiversity of Plants and Animals at Walailak University



Walailak University (WU) is not only the largest university in terms of land area but also a key player in the conservation and restoration of ecosystems. With a vast expanse of 14,400,000 m², the university is home to a rich diversity of ecosystems, including original forests and wetlands. The establishment of the Walailak Botanic Park (WBP) over 2,160,000 m² serves as a critical hub for both maintaining and extending the biodiversity of these ecosystems, particularly those under threat.

■ Maintaining Ecosystems and Biodiversity

WU is working directly to maintain the integrity and biodiversity of its ecosystems through the WBP. The university has designated conservation zones to prevent land-use changes in the original forest areas, ensuring their preservation as protected and conservation forests. Additionally, the WBP focuses on the natural restoration of previously disturbed lands, such as those once used for rubber plantations and settlements, by allowing these areas to regenerate without human intervention. Also, WBP eliminates giant snake-head fish in the reservoir to reduce their population so that other local fish species can proliferate. This approach supports the natural recovery of plant and animal populations, thereby maintaining the ecological balance.

■ Extending Ecosystems and Biodiversity

In addition to maintaining existing ecosystems, WU directly works to extend and enhance the biodiversity within its grounds. The WBP undertakes initiatives to propagate and reintroduce native plant species, particularly those that are rare or under threat. For example, the university has engaged in the propagation of local orchids through tissue culture, with the goal of reintroducing these plants into the forest within the conservation areas. The WBP also encourages community involvement in ecosystem restoration efforts. Faculty, staff, students, and visitors are invited to participate in tree planting activities during the rainy season, helping to restore native plant populations.

Through the efforts of the WBP, WU has successfully implemented programs that both maintain and extend the biodiversity of local ecosystems. By preserving original forests, supporting natural regeneration, and actively involving the community in conservation efforts, the university plays a crucial role in safeguarding and enhancing the biodiversity of southern Thailand. These initiatives not only protect ecosystems under threat but also contribute to the broader goal of sustainable natural resource management.





Ecosystem Education and Conservation Initiatives at Walailak Botanic Park for Local and National Communities

Walailak University (WU) has implemented educational programs on ecosystems, encompassing both flora and fauna, for local and national communities through its Walailak Botanic Park (WBP). The WBP serves as a key learning center for ecosystems in the Upper Southern region of Thailand.

These programs focus on both the conservation and expansion of knowledge regarding ecosystems, enabling learners to apply this knowledge to the conservation and development of natural resources in their own communities.

Education on Flora: WBP has been actively involved in the conservation of plant genetics and biodiversity since 2014 through the Plant Genetic Conservation Project Under the Royal Initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (RSPG). This project emphasizes the preservation of plant diversity through supporting research, providing training for local communities and schools, and establishing educational resources such as the Banana Genetic Collection Garden, the Herbal Garden, Orchid and Fern Houses, and the Bota Sky Tower. These initiatives are designed to promote sustainable conservation and development of plant resources.

Education on Fauna: In addition to plant-related education, WBP also offers programs on wildlife and bird conservation, focusing on small wildlife and bird species in the protected forest areas. These programs include nature trails, bird watching, and youth camps aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of wildlife conservation. Practical activities such as taxidermy and microscopy are also offered to enhance participants' comprehension of ecosystems and wildlife conservation at both the local and national levels.



WU has successfully implemented educational programs on ecosystems, covering both flora and fauna, for local and national communities. These programs emphasize both conservation and the expansion of knowledge through various activities and projects that encompass plant and wildlife education, promoting sustainable natural resource conservation.



The Events for Sustainable Land Use and Conservation

WU is committed to promoting the conservation and sustainable use of land, focusing on preserving biodiversity and revitalizing traditional practices. By organizing events that engage the community, WU ensures that natural resources are used responsibly and that indigenous knowledge is preserved.



One of WU's key initiatives is the RSPG program focused on conserving and sustainably using the native mangrove fan palm. The event aimed to revive traditional uses of the plant by collaborating with local communities to document and preserve knowledge on making mats, hand fans, and local desserts. It also encouraged community participation in learning and teaching these practices to future generations.

Another notable initiative is the Children's Forest Conservation Project, which educates youth about local ecosystems and sustainability. Through guided treks, participants learn about the local watershed and native plants, fostering a deeper understanding of the environment. The project also teaches sustainable practices, emphasizing the responsible use of natural materials in daily life. Additionally, it involves the propagation of native species, contributing to the restoration and preservation of local forests, thereby supporting biodiversity.

Through these events, WU plays a vital role in conserving local ecosystems and promoting sustainable land use. These initiatives ensure the preservation of natural resources and traditional knowledge, fostering a sustainable future for the community.





Collaborative Efforts in Maintaining Shared Land Ecosystems: Walailak University and Baan Khao Wang Community Partnership



Shared land ecosystems are vital for the well-being of entire communities, as they provide resources and benefits that extend beyond individual ownership. Recognizing this, Walailak University (WU) collaborates with local communities to maintain and conserve these shared ecosystems. A key example of this collaboration is the partnership with the Baan Khao Wang Conservation Group and Ban Khao Wang Border Patrol Police School, focused on the Khao Wang community watershed area in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.



One of the major initiatives under this collaboration is the Children's Forest Conservation Project: Inheriting the Wisdom of the Ban Khao Wang Community. This project aims to instill a sense of environmental responsibility in the youth while passing down indigenous knowledge about local plant species and sustainable practices. Key activities include:

Forest Exploration:

Youth from the community, along with students from WU, explore the forest to learn about watershed ecosystems and native plant species. This hands-on experience helps them understand the importance of conserving these ecosystems.



Training on Natural Material Use:

Youth from the community, along with students from WU, explore the forest to learn about watershed ecosystems and native plant species. This hands-on experience helps them understand the importance of conserving these ecosystems.

Plant Propagation:

The project emphasizes the propagation of local plants, teaching youth and students methods to expand plant populations. This activity supports the long-term sustainability of the shared land ecosystems.



Through these collaborative efforts, students and community members alike gain a deeper appreciation for the shared land and its resources. They learn about traditional agricultural practices, such as multilayer cropping systems, which help conserve water and maintain the health of the ecosystem. The Baan Khao Wang community's efforts in these areas have not only preserved their environment but also turned their community into a model for sustainable living, recognized by the Green Globe Award in 2017 and 2023.

WU's collaboration with the Baan Khao Wang community highlights the importance of maintaining shared land ecosystems. By working together, they ensure that these ecosystems remain healthy and productive, benefiting the entire community for generations to come. This partnership serves as a powerful example of how collaborative conservation efforts can lead to sustainable resource use and strengthen community resilience.





PEACH, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

16

-  WU's Principles on Organized Crime, Anti-Corruption and Bribery
-  Commitment to Transparent Communication and Stakeholder Engagement
-  Walailak University's Financial Data Publishing in 2023
-  WU's Independent Student Union Recognition





WU's Principles on Organized Crime, Anti-Corruption and Bribery



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
SDGs MOVE



In 2023, Walailak University (WU) launched its Anti-Corruption Action Plan to enhance transparency and accountability. It includes restructuring the Internal Audit Division and involves the State Audit Office of Thailand for financial reviews. The plan outlines WU's commitment to combating corruption, emphasizing disciplinary actions. The President's Declaration of Intent affirms dedication to good governance. The "No Gift Policy" mandates that all staff refuse gifts, fostering a culture of honesty and integrity.

The 2023 WU Anti-Corruption Action Plan

In 2023, WU published an anti-corruption action plan in which the university's council implemented strategies to enhance transparency in internal and external audits. The WU Internal Audit Division's operational structure was changed to ensure greater independence in auditing all university organizations. For external audits, the State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand is responsible for reviewing WU's financial status. The plan also disclosed WU's expenditure on preventing corruption, crime, and bribery, including disciplinary investigations. The action plan can be accessed at <https://shorturl.at/GIsMs> 

The Declaration of Intent on Integrity and Transparency

The WU President declared the intent on integrity and transparency to eliminate corruption, crimes and bribery, by firstly holding

public interests, honestly leading the administration in accordance with the principles of good governance, impartially serving the public, professionally managing budgetary affairs, along with all other duties under the transparency and accountability principles.

No Gift Policy

WU is dedicated to maintaining high ethical standards in its operations. All executives and employees are committed to refusing gifts and rewards of any kind in relation to their duties, to prevent corruption and misconduct both now and in the future. WU is also firmly committed to combating all forms of corruption, bribery, and crime, fostering a culture of honesty. The goal is to build an organization rooted in integrity that is robust and sustainable. The policy can be reached at <https://shorturl.at/FuVQy> 

WU 2023 Anti-Corruption Action Plan has strengthened transparency and accountability by restructuring audits and involving the



State Audit Office of Thailand. The "No Gift Policy" has promoted a culture of honesty, setting high ethical standards and reinforcing WU's commitment to preventing corruption. These initiatives demonstrate WU's dedication to good governance and position it as a leader in ethical education.





Commitment to Transparent Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

Walailak University (WU) recognizes the critical role that effective communication and collaboration play in building and maintaining strong relationships with its diverse stakeholders. These stakeholders include students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, community partners, and governing bodies, all of whom are integral to the university's success and growth. Meaningful engagement is key to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, WU is dedicated to ensuring that the voices of its stakeholders are heard, valued, and reflected in the university's decision-making processes.



A Framework for Accountability and Inclusivity

In its commitment to transparent governance, WU has implemented the Regulations on Administrative Investigation and Consideration to uphold the principles of accountability and inclusivity, establishing a clear framework for stakeholders to voice their concerns against WU's decisions. The policy can be reached at <https://dla.wu.ac.th/elaw/273/> 



Opportunities for Dialogue and Constructive Engagement

The regulations provide not only a mechanism for addressing grievances but also create opportunities for ongoing dialogue between the university and its stakeholders. WU encourages open communication through regular forums, town hall meetings, and feedback sessions to facilitate these conversations. In 2023, WU reported on its implementations, such as the construction progress of the new building of WU Hospital, classroom renovations, academic services, and new policies on sustainability, ensuring that all stakeholders are not adversely affected.

Fostering a Collaborative University Experience

Through these efforts, WU aims to create a vibrant academic community where collaboration thrives. By listening attentively to stakeholder concerns, the university can make informed decisions that enhance the overall university experience.



Walailak University's Financial Data Publishing in 2023

Publishing financial data is what WU has been implementing every year, as it can help people in the WU community understand decisions regarding their involvement with the university. For instance, prospective students and their families can better understand tuition costs and financial aid availability, while donors can see how their contributions are being used.

WU published the financial data for the fiscal year 2023 on the website of WU's Division of Finance and Accounting. The data included income, outcome, assets, and others. Besides showing transparency within the organization, the aim of publishing financial data was to demonstrate the financial probity and viability of WU. The financial data auditing of WU was implemented by the State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand. Publishing financial data is one of WU's missions to build transparency and accountability among internal and external stakeholders to help them understand the reasoning behind the university's actions on spending and expenditure in various matters. The financial report can be accessed at https://finance.wu.ac.th/?page_id=325&lang=th 



A DFA Meeting on Financial Data Publishing

Publishing financial data at WU promotes transparency and accountability, building trust among students, faculty, and donors. It aids in informed decision-making and strategic planning, demonstrating fiscal responsibility. Additionally, it provides valuable real-world data for academic research and practical learning for students. Overall, it reinforces the university's commitment to openness and integrity.





WU's Independent Student Union Recognition



Walailak University (WU) is dedicated to fostering an environment where independent student unions play a vital role in upholding the rights and freedoms of students. These unions ensure that all student groups can freely express their ideas, beliefs, political interests, and opinions without fear of censorship, discrimination, or interference. At WU, two main student unions have been integral to the university's framework: the Student Administrative Board (SAB) and the Student Council of WU. Both unions were established in accordance with the WU Regulation, B.E. 2540. The policy can be viewed at <https://shorturl.at/xnj4!>

The Student Administrative Board (SAB)

The Student Administrative Board (SAB) is responsible for setting policies, planning, and conducting projects that enhance student life. The SAB's mission is to create a supportive environment for students by overseeing the establishment and administration of student clubs and organizations. In addition, the SAB is a member of the Sustainable Development Mobilization Committee.

The appointment order can be accessed at <https://shorturl.at/8wLOC>



In 2023, the SAB implemented several notable initiatives, including:

- **Exhibition of Student Clubs:** The SAB organized an exhibition showcasing various student clubs to encourage participation and foster a sense of community among students.
- **Meeting with the University President:** The SAB facilitated meetings with the President of WU to share and report student concerns, ensuring that the administration remains attentive to student needs.

- **Remembrance Event for Mr. Seub Nakhasathien:** The SAB held a commemorative event honoring Mr. Seub Nakhasathien, a renowned Thai environmental activist, to raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire students to become proactive in conservation efforts.



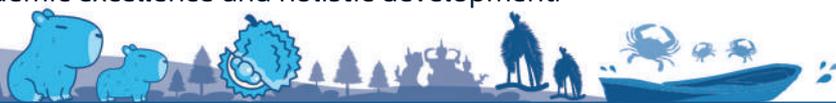
The Student Council of Walailak University

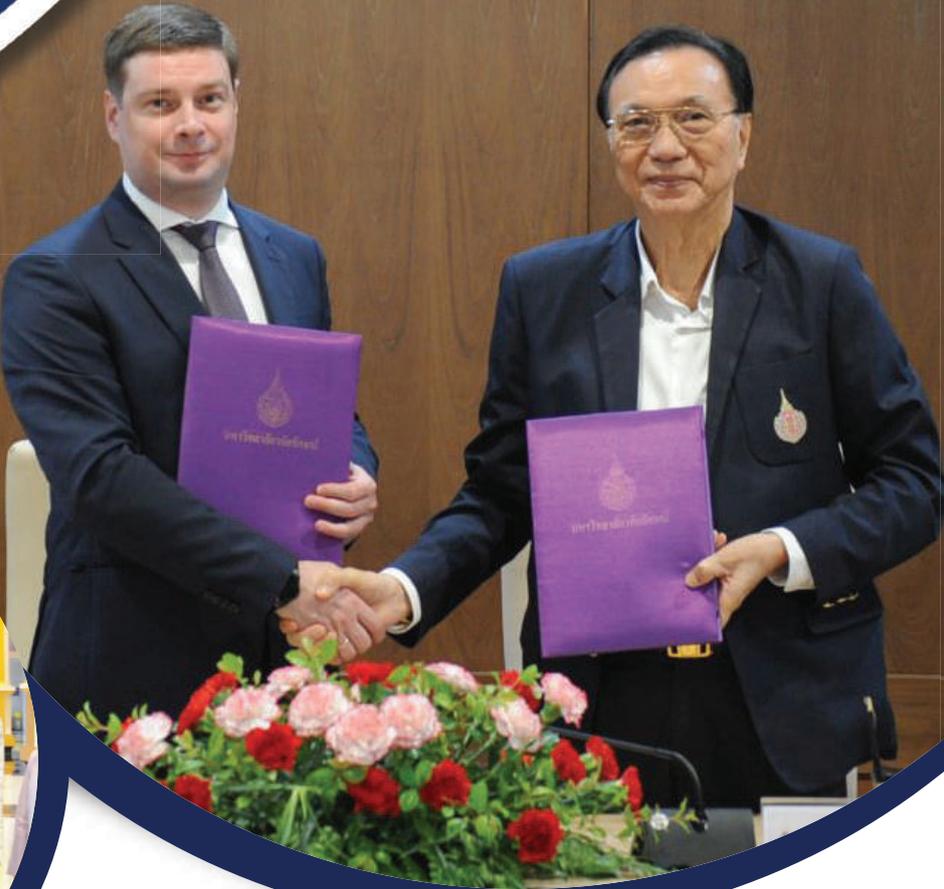
The Student Council of WU acts as a check on the SAB's activities, offering opinions and suggestions on projects and initiatives undertaken by the SAB. The council plays a crucial role in providing feedback to address student concerns and improve the university's policies and actions. In 2023, the Student Council was actively involved in several important endeavors:

- **Opposition to the Student Representatives Council of Thailand Act:** The council joined other college student councils across Thailand in opposing the Student Representatives Council of Thailand Act, which posed a threat of government intervention in student activities.
- **Safe Driving Course for Motorcycle Users:** The council organized a safe driving course to promote road safety among motorcycle users, addressing a critical concern for many students.
- **Monthly Meetings for Student Feedback:** The council conducted monthly meetings to gather complaints and feedback from students, ensuring that their voices were heard and that their concerns were addressed promptly.

The student unions play an essential role in fostering a dynamic and inclusive student community.

Through their efforts, the SAB and council ensure that students have the freedom to express themselves and engage in meaningful dialogue. By supporting student clubs, these unions contribute significantly to the university's mission of promoting academic excellence and holistic development.





PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

17

-  **WU Establishing Local and Regional Collaborations to Promote SDG 3**
-  **Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on UNESCO-Recognized Nora's Preservation**
-  **The Dengue and Zika Prevention Campaign 2023: International Collaboration for Data Gathering of Mosquito Larvae**
-  **WU Establishing International Academic Partnerships with SPbU**





WU Establishing Local and Regional Collaborations to Promote SDG 3



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
SDGs MOVE



In 2023, Walailak University (WU) signed a significant Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Nakhon Si Thammarat Provincial Administrative Organization and three Subdistrict Health Promotion Hospitals in Tha Sala District. This collaboration is a crucial step toward enhancing public health services, particularly in the area surrounding the university. The primary objective of the MOA is to foster cooperation that enables local residents to access a high-quality health service system more conveniently.



Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) – which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages – this initiative represents a proactive effort to establish a prototype of the primary health care network, known as the CUP Model, in Thailand. The model is designed to integrate services across different levels of healthcare, ensuring that the local population benefits from comprehensive and continuous care. This network, managed collaboratively by the Nakhon Si Thammarat Provincial Administrative Organization, Walailak University Hospital, and sub-district health promotion hospitals, aspires to create a sustainable and strong foundation for public health services.

Under this MOA, more than 10,000 residents utilizing the universal health insurance scheme in the Thai Buri and Hua Taphan Subdistricts have gained enhanced access to medical services. The collaboration has not

only improved the accessibility of healthcare but also elevated the quality of medical treatments provided in the region. This initiative is a testament to WU’s commitment to academic service with a strong community identity, striving to contribute meaningfully to the well-being of the people in a sustainable manner.

By addressing local health challenges and contributing to the global agenda of SDG 3, this partnership exemplifies how academic institutions can play a pivotal role in advancing public health and ensuring equitable access to healthcare services. Through such initiatives, WU continues to cement its reputation as a leader in academic service, with a focus on the betterment of society.





Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on UNESCO-Recognized Nora's Preservation

Walailak University (WU), in collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, recently hosted a significant international cross-sectoral dialogue centered on the preservation of Nora Dance and the broader Intangible Cultural Heritage in Southeast Asia. This event was organized to celebrate UNESCO's recognition of Nora Dance as a vital component of cultural heritage and to stimulate discussions on its conservation and future research opportunities.

The conference attracted a diverse group of experts and enthusiasts dedicated to cultural preservation. Among the distinguished speakers were Mr. Anant Narkkong, a lecturer from the Faculty of Music at Silpakorn University, Thailand; Dr. Patricia Hardwick from the Department of Music and Performing Arts at Sultan Idris Education University, Malaysia; Dr. Kanit Sripaoraya from the Faculty of Creative Technology and Heritage at Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Malaysia; and Mr. Kriangdej Khamnarong, the head of the Nora Kriangdej Naon Rahong Group. These experts provided in-depth analyses of Nora Dance through a series of engaging talks and discussions.



The dialogue explored Nora Dance's cultural significance, the challenges faced in its preservation, and its evolving role in contemporary society. The participants discussed various cross-disciplinary studies, shedding light on the intricate dynamics of Nora Dance and its place within the larger context of Southeast Asian cultural traditions.

One of the key highlights of the event was a dedicated session aimed at promoting the conservation of Nora Dance among younger generations. This session emphasized the importance of cultural sustainability and outlined strategies to engage youth in preserving this traditional art form. The focus was on ensuring that Nora Dance remains a vibrant and integral part of cultural heritage for future generations.

Additionally, the conference provided a valuable platform for exploring potential research collaborations. Participants engaged in discussions about collaborative projects that could further contribute to the preservation of Nora Dance and other intangible cultural heritages in the region. The event underscored the necessity of cross-sectoral cooperation, involving academia, cultural institutions, and local communities, to safeguard these invaluable cultural treasures.

Overall, the international dialogue was a resounding success, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts in the ongoing preservation and celebration of Southeast Asia's rich cultural heritage.





The Dengue and Zika Prevention Campaign 2023: International Collaboration for Data Gathering of Mosquito Larvae



Addressing dengue and Zika is crucial due to their severe health risks and economic impacts. Dengue can be fatal, and Zika causes birth defects and neurological issues. Both strain healthcare systems and economies, requiring vector control, public education, and vaccine research.

Controlling these diseases is also essential for global health security, as international travel increases the risk of spread. Collaborative efforts are vital to enhance surveillance and implement effective strategies, protecting vulnerable populations and promoting a healthier world.

Thus, Walailak University (WU) led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krisanadej Jaroensutasinee, Head of the Center of Excellence for Ecoinformatics, and his team established an international collaboration to organize a workshop on dengue and zika prevention campaign. This workshop focused on training and pushing the communities in developing countries to be the driving forces of dengue and zika control and prevention in their own countries. There were 61 participants from 11 countries attending this workshop: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cook Islands, Ecuador, India, Moldova, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uzbekistan who were trained to utilize the GLOBE Observer App: Mosquito Habitat Mapper (MHM) App to gather data on mosquito larvae in their countries.

This App allows participants to identify disease-carrying mosquitoes, eliminate their breeding sites, and prevent future dengue and Zika outbreaks. Their mosquito data can be visualized in real-time online with an overlaid mapping function of other relevant parameters such as the GPS location of mosquito breeding sites, the amount of rainfall, air temperature, and relative humidity. This real-time visualization system would help participants to fully understand when and where their dengue and Zika control and prevention should take place.

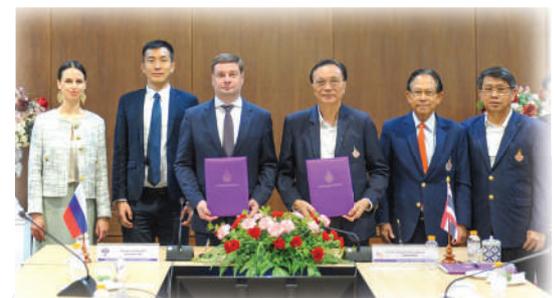


WU Establishing International Academic Partnerships with SPbU

In 2023, WU and Saint Petersburg State University (SPbU) established a strategic partnership to advance academic collaboration and support the UN's SDGs. This alliance was marked by the opening of an SPbU representative office at WU, highlighting their mutual dedication to sustainable development through global partnerships.

The collaboration seeks to strengthen the means of implementation and rejuvenate global partnerships for sustainable development. By pooling their academic and cultural resources, WU and SPbU aim to tackle global challenges more effectively. The initiative includes organizing joint academic events such as conferences, seminars, and public lectures, providing platforms for scholars, students, and practitioners to exchange ideas on critical global issues. Beyond academics, the partnership also emphasizes cultural and intercultural activities, fostering mutual understanding and respect between diverse cultures. By promoting language learning and cultural exchanges, WU and SPbU contribute to building inclusive and peaceful societies. These activities also enhance awareness of the educational programs and research at both institutions, extending their global influence.

Aligned with SDG 17's focus on multi-stakeholder partnerships, the WU-SPbU collaboration underscores the importance of international cooperation and capacity building. Through this partnership, WU and SPbU make significant progress toward achieving the SDGs by fostering academic collaboration, cultural exchange, and global engagement.





Walailak University Hospital

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY SDG REPORT 2023-2024

SDG COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Advisory Board: | Prof. Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong Assoc. Prof. Dr. Warit Jawjit Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sarawoot Palipoch Assoc. Prof. Dr. Surin Maisrikrod Assoc. Prof. Dr. Charun Bunyakan Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siwarit Pongsakornrungsilp Assoc. Prof. Dr. Urai Jaraeprapal Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suwit Wuthisuthimethavee Asst. Prof. Dr. Padungsak Suksa-Ard Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mullica Jaroensutasinee | President Vice-President Vice-President Vice-President Vice-President Vice-President Vice-President Vice-President Vice-President Vice-President |
| Editor-in-Chief: | Asst. Prof. Dr. Amonsak Sawusdee | Director of the Center for Academic Services |
| SDG Manager: | Dr. Jindarha Prampramote | |
| SDG Team: | The Center for Academic Services Ms. Kanatawan Uengsakul Ms. Sarunya Thongyoo Ms. Kanyarat Ngamcharoen Ms. Kanittha Eardmak Ms. Sunanta Muangtrup Ms. Rachada Kotchasaengsan Mrs. Pinpetch Pakdeenarong Ms. Sanita Jitturat | Mrs. Preeyarat Thorarit Daungkaew Mr. Grissada Srisavang Ms. Puttaporn Chumkaew Tharapornsakulwong Ms. Ruedee Kriwong Mrs. Galhong Rakkapan Ms. Fadia Choenthanomwong Ms. Sawinee Nakkwan Ms. Thatsaniya Tangtung |
| Contributors: | The Center for Academic Services The Center for Cultural and Sports Promotion The Center for International Affairs The Center for Educational Services The Center for Library Resources and Educational Media The Center for Smart Farm The Center for Scientific and Technological Equipment The Center of Property Management Science and Technology Park The Botanic Park The Center for Cultural and Sports Promotion | Walailak University Hospital The Division of Legal Affairs The Division of Corporate Communication The Division of Architecture and Environment The Division of Human Resources and Organization The Division of Student Support and Development The Division of Central Service The Division of Landscaping and Building The Division of Planning and Strategy All Teaching Schools within Walailak University |
| Layout and Design: | Ms. Suphanida Duangchinda Mr. Nattawit Pakawansakul Mr. Panuwit Jarungjit | |
| English Proofreaders: | Dr. Kamontip Klaibanmai Ms. Thassanee Thasrabiab | Asst. Prof. Dr. Wararat Whanchit Ms. Kanyanat Sakkanayok |
| Translation and Editing : | Mr. Yari Nukul Mr. Kittipong Bunlear Mr. Supadit Chochan | |
| SDG office: | The Center for Academic Services Walailak University 222 Thaiburi, Thasala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat 80160 Thailand | |



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY



222 Thaiburi, Thasala District
Nakhon Si Thammarat 80161 Thailand



Tel. +66-7567-3000, +66-7538-4000



Fax. +667567-3708



Email : wu@wu.ac.th