WALAILAK UNIVERSITY

SDG REPORT 2024–2025

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sustainable Growth in Education and Green Environment

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY

"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"

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WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
SDGs MOVE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

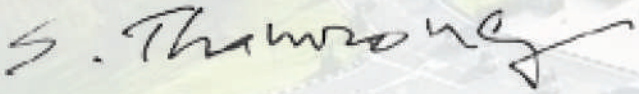
As we celebrate the 32nd anniversary of Walailak University (WU) in 2024, we reflect on a year marked by remarkable progress and achievements. Guided by our commitment to excellence, we have worked diligently to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovative research, education, outreach, and environmental stewardship.

Collaborating with partners from educational institutions, NGOs, private sectors, and government organizations in Thailand and beyond, we have addressed critical challenges such as food security, carbon footprint reduction, and cultural preservation. These partnerships have enabled us to make a lasting impact on society and the environment. We are committed to expanding our impact by strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new ones to drive sustainability initiatives through our teaching, learning, research, and global collaborations.

Among our achievements, we are honored to have received the 2023 Outstanding Award for Excellence in Internationally High-Caliber Research from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation (MHESI). We are particularly proud of our global recognition in sustainability. According to the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025, Walailak University ranked 93rd out of 2,526 institutions from 130 countries. Most notably, WU achieved the No. 1 global ranking for SDG 5: Gender Equality, affirming its leadership in promoting inclusivity and empowerment across all genders.

These accomplishments reflect our unwavering dedication to creating an inclusive, innovative, and sustainable academic environment. As we move forward, WU remains steadfast in its mission to foster global connections and deliver transformative opportunities for our students, staff, and communities. Together, we are building a brighter future for all.

Report unveils the university's journey toward sustainability, encapsulating the strides we have made in research, collaboration, education, and community engagement. We hope that this progress inspires continued efforts and collective action towards a more sustainable future



Prof. Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong

President of Walailak University

"WE BELIEVE THAT OUR SUSTAINABILITY-AIMED EFFORTS GO HAND IN HAND WITH OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE. TOGETHER WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITIES AND THE WORLD."

Prof. Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong
President of Walailak University

"WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING OUR CAMPUS GREENER AND TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES FOR BOTH THAI AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES"

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Warit Jawjit

Vice President of Walailak University

MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT

Climate change is an urgent challenge affecting Thailand and the world. Rising temperatures in Thailand are expected to bring heavier rainfall and more intense storms, exacerbating issues such as flooding, drought, shifting agricultural practices, migration due to flooding, shorter winter seasons, and damage to natural resources.

Addressing these challenges requires a collective effort from all sectors, including government, private industry, academia, and civil society. Collaborative initiatives, innovative solutions, and well-crafted policies are essential to mitigate the effects of climate change and strengthen community resilience.

At Walailak University (WU), we are committed to being a driving force for positive change in climate action. Partnering with communities, government agencies, and the private sector, our researchers have been dedicated to developing innovative solutions to tackle climate-related challenges. Through our comprehensive research, we aim to advance sustainable practices and technologies to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

In 2024, we continued to lead green campus initiatives and promote environmental sustainability in Southern Thailand, marking five consecutive years of impactful action. Our achievements have been recognized globally, as we ranked joint 81st worldwide and 6th in Thailand in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2024. Furthermore, we received the prestigious 3G Excellence Award for Green Campus 2024, a testament to our unwavering dedication to sustainability and environmental stewardship. Additionally, we received the prestigious Global Good Governance (3G) Awards for 2025: the 3G Excellence Award for Green Campus.

WU remains steadfast in its mission to combat climate change, inspire innovation, and foster a greener, more sustainable future for generations to come.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Warit Jawjit

Vice President of Walailak University

MESSAGE FROM CAS DIRECTOR

The Center for Academic Services (CAS) has continued to lead impactful initiatives and projects aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in areas, including career development, environmental conservation, and cultural preservation. In 2024, CAS successfully implemented numerous significant initiatives, one of which was the Development Plan for Coastal Areas and Low-Carbon Identity Tourism Aligned with the SDGs. This initiative brought together government organizations, local communities, and NGOs to strategize on restoring marine coastal resources, revitalizing ecosystems, and stimulating local economic growth. It also strengthened WU's collaborations with stakeholders to address SDG-related challenges effectively.

Throughout 2024, CAS implemented over 133 projects specifically designed to advance the SDGs, transferring 40 bodies of knowledge to the public. These efforts created tangible, positive impacts on sustainability both within Thailand and internationally. Additionally, CAS partnered with educational institutions to share and exchange knowledge through research and outreach activities, fostering broader engagement in addressing global SDG challenges.

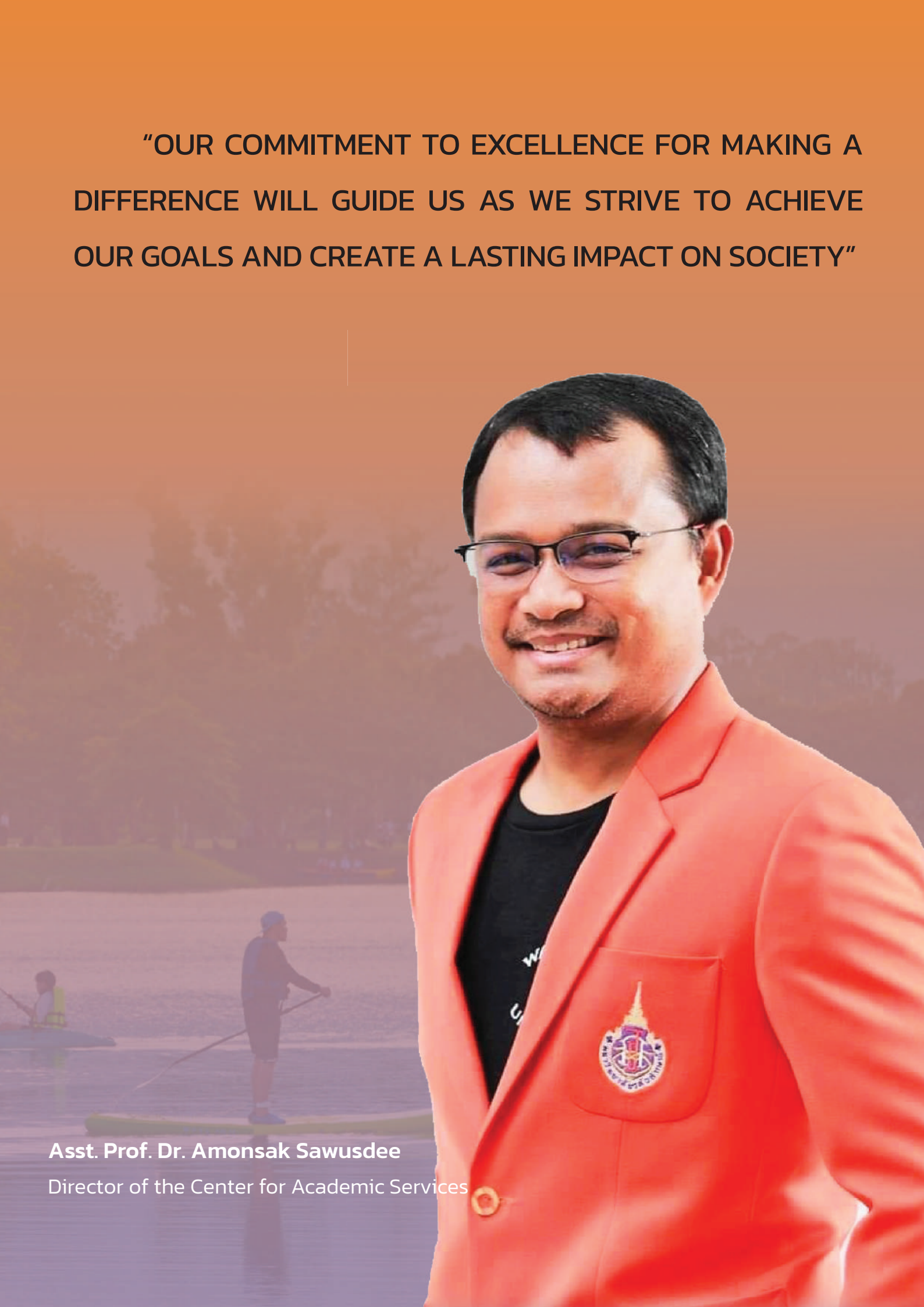
At the national level, CAS highlighted the success of the Blue Swimming Crab Bank Project at the Thailand Research Expo 2024. This project demonstrated significant contributions to conserving marine coastal resources, boosting local economies, and influencing policy for marine environmental conservation. Additionally, Walailak University was named a finalist among the top 8 universities in THE Awards Asia 2025 for Outstanding Contribution to Regional Development Through the Blue Swimming Crab Bank Project.

The achievements of CAS are the result of the dedication and hard work of our researchers and staff. We remain committed to continuously improving our academic services and strengthening our alignment with the SDGs to drive sustainable development on local, national, and international levels. The Center for Academic Services, on behalf of Walailak University, also received the prestigious Global Good Governance (3G) Award 2025: the 3G Championship Award for Sustainable Development.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Amonsak Sawusdee

Director of the Center for Academic Services

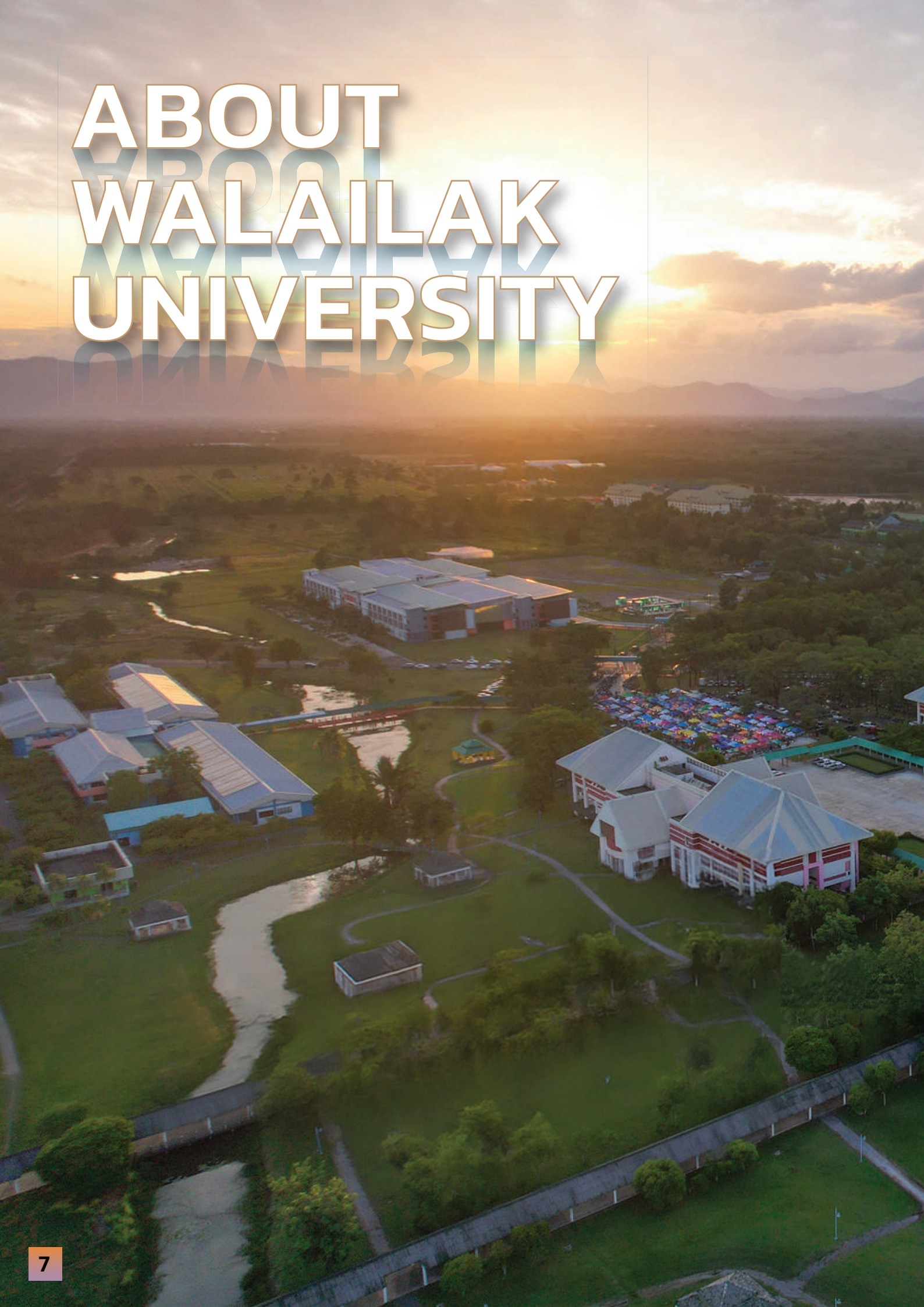
"OUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE WILL GUIDE US AS WE STRIVE TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS AND CREATE A LASTING IMPACT ON SOCIETY"



Asst. Prof. Dr. Amonsak Sawusdee

Director of the Center for Academic Services

ABOUT WALAILAK UNIVERSITY



March 29th, 2024 marked 32 years since Walailak University (WU) was established. For over 30 years, we have facilitated many progressive steps of development and advancement through aspects through the prism of research and innovation, stewardship, outreach, and teaching.

WU 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 levels, ranging from Associate Fellow, Fellow, Senior Fellow, and Principal Fellow. Currently, WU is the only university in Thailand that declares that all subjects are instructed under the UKPSF framework and integrated with the SDGs. Walailak University also hosts the largest number of UKPSF-certified academic staff.

Vision

To be an institution of good governance, to be a leading source of knowledge, the best local, and the excellent in the global.

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 an up-to-date citizen of national and global, that possesses democratic ideology, great knowledge, and wide 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.

Mission

WU has 4 main missions as the followings.

1. To produce and develop the labor to deliver the international standard and the needs in developing the national economy and society.

2. 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.

3. To provide academic services to the public and private sectors including giving consultancy, and suggestions for research, development, technology, and survey. We also offer training and development to cultivate the innovation for economic and social development of the nation and region.

4. 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

- Glow in the Dark Road Markings
- Activated Carbons from Sawdust Obtained Parawood
- Coi Du Lae Platform: Healthcare System for Elderly People
- Low-carbon Tourism Development of Tha Sala District

Stewardship

- Walailak Park: Free Public Green Space for All
- No Gift Policy
- Gender Equality Policy
- Free Meal Grants
- Alternative Power Used for Transportation on Campus

Outreach and Engagement

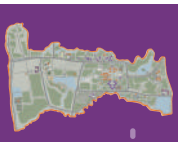
- Recognizing the Representation of Senior Female Staff
  1st Globally
- Trichoderma 5 Plus for Plant Disease Controll
  2nd Globally
- The 5th year of The Pre-elderly and Elderly Strengthen and Rehabilitation Project
  3rd Globally
- Blue Swimming Crab Bank
  38th Globally
- Dengue and Zika Prevention Campaign
  81st Globally
- The 5th Year Early Childhood Equity Education Project (ECEEP)
  50th Globally

Teaching

- The United Kingdom Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF)
- All Subjects and Courses based on SDGs
- Lifelong Learning: WU MOOC
- Smart Classroom

DATA OVERVIEW AT GLANCE

The total amount of the main campus's land



15,350,400 m^2

Forest area

3,992,637 m^2

The total water conservation area

1,672,217 m^2

Use of Electricity

14,520,500 kWh

The total amount of renewable energy used

3,776,565 kWh/year

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions

47.31 tons

The number of courses related to sustainability

2,867

(100%)

The number of SDG project

172

The number of national awards successful communal engagement

5

SDGs among the **Top 50 Worldwide**

WU THE IMPACT RANKINGS

Walailak University (WU) has actively participated in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings since 2021, reflecting its strong commitment to advancing sustainable development on both local and global scales. Over the years, the university's significant efforts have consistently been recognized through this platform, highlighting its dedication to embedding sustainability in every aspect of its operations. WU has positioned research, teaching, community outreach, and institutional stewardship as the core driving forces for fostering progress towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To strengthen these efforts, WU has established several Centers of Excellence that specifically address pressing global and local challenges connected to the SDGs. These centers span across multiple academic disciplines, including science, technology, engineering, health sciences, social sciences, and the arts, thereby enabling interdisciplinary approaches to sustainable development. Their work not only contributes to academic advancement but also generates tangible impacts through community engagement, innovation, and knowledge transfer.

In 2025, Times Higher Education rebranded the THE Impact Rankings into the THE Sustainability Impact Ratings, underscoring a stronger emphasis on sustainability as a central theme for higher education institutions worldwide. WU continued its active participation under the new framework, reaffirming its vision to enhance its campus contributions and global outreach in alignment with the UN SDGs. By doing so, WU demonstrates its resolve to serve as a transformative institution, where sustainability is not only a guiding principle but also a measurable outcome reflected in research, teaching, campus operations outreach activities, and partnerships with local and international communities.

REPORT THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2024

3rd GLOBALLY FOR **STEWARDSHIP**

4th GLOBALLY FOR **OUTREACH**

2025 TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS

5 GENDER EQUALITY

1st Globally

1st Thailand

2 ZERO HUNGER

32nd Globally

2nd Thailand

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

33rd Globally

3rd Thailand

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

38th Globally

3rd Thailand

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

39th Globally

4th Thailand

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

50th Globally

3rd Thailand

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

54th Globally

2nd Thailand

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

76th Globally

4th Thailand

WU HAPPY TREE MODEL AND THE SDGs

Social engagement is one of the primary missions of Walailak University (WU) 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, WU 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 citizen, WU has a solid commitment to providing social services to international communities, not just Thai communities, without considering 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 established WU Hospital under the principle of "No One is Left Behind" to serve as a key healthcare and rehabilitation center for people in the Upper Southern region of Thailand. In addition, university faculty members actively engage in social initiatives to provide healthcare services to displaced individuals, disadvantaged groups, and local communities, aligning with SDG 3. WU faculty members have launched projects aimed at prevention and rehabilitation. These initiatives include promoting physical exercise, proper nutrition, and overall well-being among communities.

3. Access to Equal Education Opportunities

WU is equipped with various organizations that support the Lifelong Learning Policy by providing free educational opportunities and access to educational facilities on campus for the public, local and national communities, and local

schools in rural areas including kindergartens, elementary schools, and secondary schools to promote lifelong learning and social equity to meet SDG 4. This aims to create educational opportunities to eliminate educational inequality. A predominant on education is the 4th Year Early Childhood Equity Education Project (ECEEP): enhancing capabilities and reducing educational disparities for local early childhood students.

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 aquaculture zoning, an increase in the number of blue 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. WU'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 3-D 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.

Another example of continual classroom-academic services integration on social and cultural aspects is the university's work on Wat Daeng's monastery hall in Chian Yai, Nakhon Si Thammarat. The project is in the process of World Heritage registration with UNESCO.

WU HAPPY TREE MODEL AND THE SDGs

Resource and Environment:
Protecting the World for Future Generations

Access to Equal Education Opportunities

Social and Cultural Background:
Keeping Traditions Alive and Peacebuilding Towards Stable Society

Career Opportunity for Sustainable Local Economic Development

Happiness in Health:
Building Community Power for the Nation

Bota Sky Tower @WU

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 steps: Diagnostics, Development, Engagement, and Measurement. Each steps 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 social and humanity, sciences, health care 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 phase, 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.

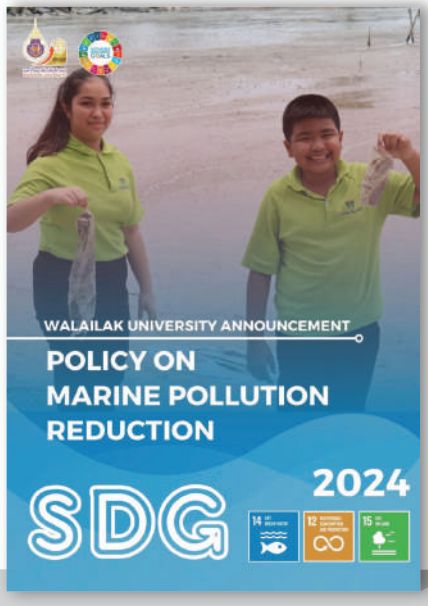
Expanding the Reach of the Happy Tree Model

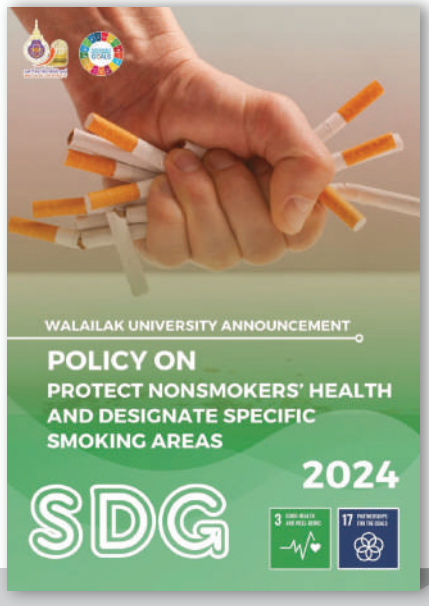
WU's commitment to sustainability extends beyond its immediate community. The university is actively involved in global networks and initiatives, sharing its Happy Tree Model as a best practice example for other institutions aiming to contribute to the SDGs. WU participates in international conferences, 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

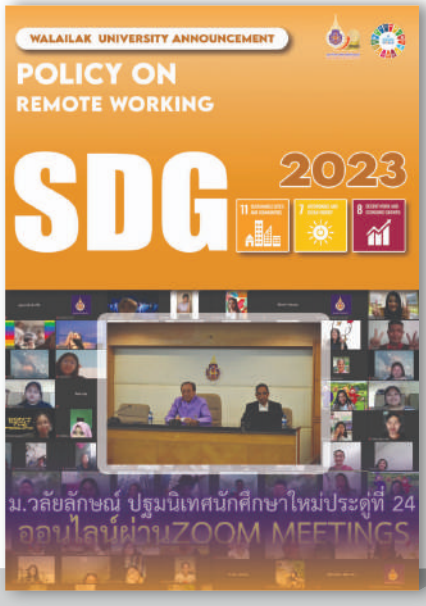
Walailak University (WU) is committed to upholding policies that align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring its role as a responsible steward for both people and the environment. WU has revised its Policy on Gender Equality, Non-discrimination, and Anti-harassment to strengthen protections for individuals, promote equal opportunities, and foster a safe and inclusive campus environment. This revision emphasizes the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination, harassment, and related misconduct. In addition, WU actively raises awareness and provides training programs to cultivate respect, fairness, and diversity across the academic community, reflecting its dedication to social responsibility and sustainable development.






WALAILAK UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENT
POLICY ON
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
AND STUDENT VEHICLE USAGE
2024
SDG


WU
NO PLASTIC BAGS
WALAILAK UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENT
2024
POLICY ON
PROHIBITING THE USE OF FOAM FOR FOOD
PACKAGING AND REDUCING OR
MINIMIZING PLASTIC USE ON CAMPUS
NO MORE PLASTIC BAGS.


WALAILAK UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENT
POLICY ON
REMOTE WORKING
SDG
2023
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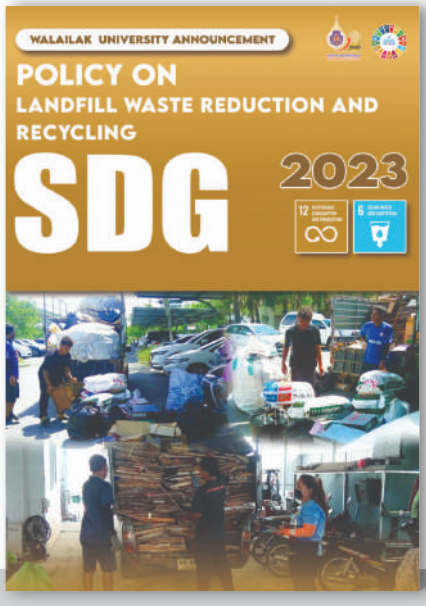
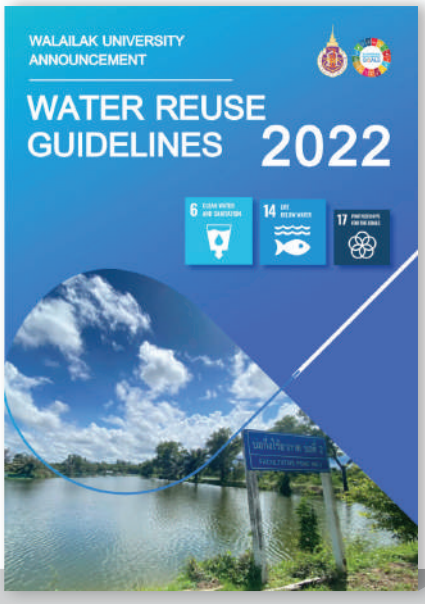
ออนไลน์ผ่านZOOM MEETINGS

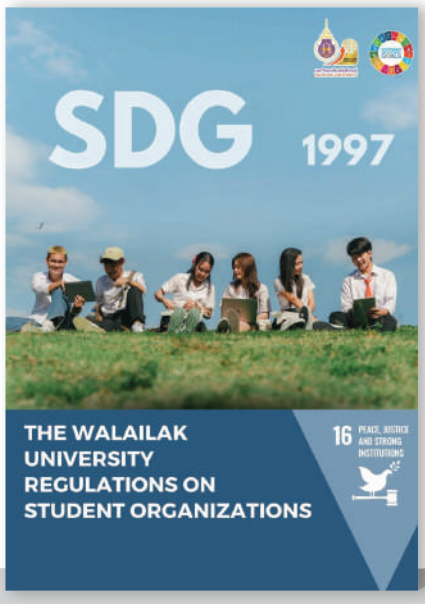

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENT
POLICY ON
LANDFILL WASTE REDUCTION AND
RECYCLING
SDG
2023


WALAILAK UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENT
POLICY ON
SINGLE-USE PLASTIC WASTE AND
DISPOSABLE ITEM REDUCTION
SDG
2023


WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
ANNOUNCEMENT
WATER REUSE
GUIDELINES
2022


WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
ANNOUNCEMENT
POLICY ON FOOD
PREPARATION AND
SUSTAINABLE
CONSUMPTION
2022


WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
ANNOUNCEMENT
WALAILAK UNIVERSITY
LIFELONG LEARNING
POLICY
2022
WUMOOC


SDG
1997
THE WALAILAK
UNIVERSITY
REGULATIONS ON
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY IN GENERAL EDUCATION

Walailak University (WU) believes that education for sustainable development can offer an inclusive approach to supporting students' sustainability competencies considered 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, WU updated its curriculum on General Education courses with Sustainable Development Goals to raise awareness among the students at WU 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 mitigation.

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 2024, the number of sustainability-integrated courses at WU was 2,867 courses. 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 enough to raise awareness of the SDGs. WU 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 about 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 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 human 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 RESEARCH CONVENTION 2024

The Walailak Research Convention 2024 (WRC 2024), an annual international research conference hosted by Walailak University, marks the celebration of the university's 32nd anniversary. Under the theme "Roles of Higher Education in the Turbulent World," the event serves as a vital platform for academic discourse, knowledge sharing, and collaborative engagement.

WRC 2024 brings together a diverse audience, including researchers, local operational agencies, entrepreneurs, the general public, and students, with the shared goal of advancing research, driving innovation and technological progress, and fostering the development of research networks on both national and international scales.

Organized by the Research and Innovation Institute of Excellence (RIIE) in collaboration with various schools, colleges, research centers, and centers of excellence, the convention features dynamic parallel sessions. These sessions delve into both specialized and interdisciplinary discussions, addressing pressing challenges tied to the evolving roles of universities in shaping the future. Core themes include the Digital Economy, Carbon Neutrality, and Enhancing Quality of Life in the face of global uncertainties.

Renowned experts from around the globe enrich the event through keynote speeches and panel discussions, offering cutting-edge insights into pivotal issues. The convention also provides early-career researchers and graduate students with unparalleled opportunities to engage with groundbreaking scientific advancements and network with leading professionals in their fields.

Beyond academic discussions, WRC2024 promotes collaboration and mobility among international researchers, fostering connections that transcend borders. By creating an inclusive and innovative space, Walailak University underscores its commitment to addressing global challenges and driving meaningful change.

THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR COASTAL AREAS AND LOW-CARBON IDENTITY TOURISM ALIGNED WITH THE SDGS

The coastal areas of Nakhon Si Thammarat serve as vital economic and ecological zones, providing abundant resources for local communities to sustain their livelihoods. Marine and coastal resources in these areas have significantly boosted the local economy, with their value ranging from tens of thousands to millions of Thai Baht. Despite efforts by regional and local government organizations to develop strategies and policies for conserving these areas, challenges remain in balancing resource utilization with environmental preservation.

Recognizing its pivotal role as the largest university in the province, Walailak University (WU) has stepped forward as a key mechanism for driving sustainable development and conservation in the region. In 2024, through the Center for Academic Services, WU launched the Development Plan for Coastal Areas and Low-Carbon Identity Tourism, a comprehensive initiative aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG) model.

This plan was developed in collaboration with government organizations, local communities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). A key milestone in this initiative was a stakeholder meeting organized by WU, which served as a platform for brainstorming and cooperative strategy development. The meeting brought together diverse stakeholders to design actionable strategies aimed at restoring marine and coastal ecosystems while fostering economic growth.

Key Initiatives and Strategies

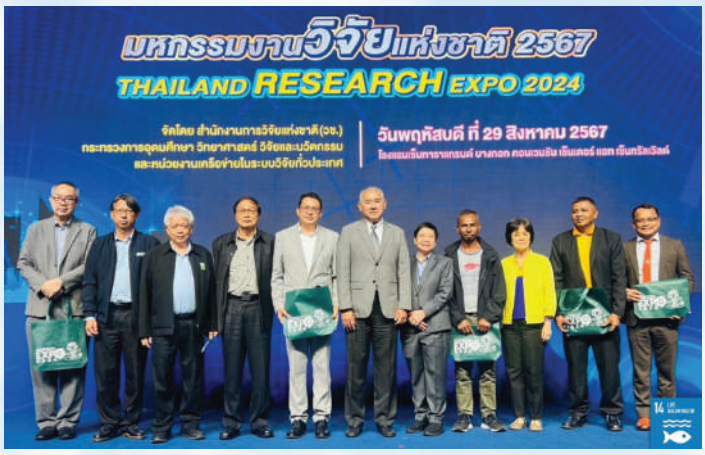
Blue Swimming Crab Banks: Establishing blue swimming crab banks to ensure sustainable fishery practices, allowing the crab population to recover and thrive. This initiative not only enhances biodiversity but also sustains the livelihoods of local fishers.

Marine Protected Area Zoning: Designating specific zones for juvenile marine animals to safeguard their habitats, ensuring the regeneration of fish stocks and supporting the broader marine ecosystem.

Enhancing Local Fishery Products: Introducing innovative techniques and training programs to improve the quality and marketability of local fishery products, thereby increasing their value in local and regional markets.

Eco-Friendly Tourism Development: Promoting low-carbon tourism models that highlight the natural and cultural heritage of coastal areas. This includes developing tourism activities that align with conservation goals, such as mangrove tours, birdwatching, and sustainable seafood experiences.

5-YEAR MILESTONE OF BLUE SWIMMING CRAB BANK INITIATIVE



Walailak University's (WU) Center for Academic Services (CAS), represented by Asst. Prof. Dr. Amonsak Sawusdee, Director of the Center for Academic Services, joined the seminar titled "The Success and Pride of the Blue Swimming Crab Bank Initiative" at the Thailand Research Expo 2024. The seminar was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Prapansak Srisapoome from Kasetsart University. Attendees included Director Amonsak, Mr. Charoen Toitae, President of the Ban Nai Thung Local Fishery Association, Mr. Kasem Manra, a leading member of the Ban Sungai Batu Local Enterprise Group, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Supamit Pitipat from the Thai-Canada Economic Cooperation Foundation.

Director Amonsak stated, "The Blue Swimming Crab Bank Initiative has been continually implemented for five years. It contributes significantly to addressing marine coastal challenges in local communities. Blue swimming crab banks have been regarded as tools for developing the local blue economy, environment, society, low-carbon tourism, and marine policy mobilization. Since the project's implementation, the blue swimming crab fishing rate has increased to 10-15 kilograms per boat per day, demonstrating significant success in both environmental sustainability and economic growth."

The Blue Swimming Crab Bank Initiative is widely recognized as one of the pioneering sustainable development projects for marine and coastal resource management and for restoring the diversity of marine ecosystems. Many blue crab banks under the project have received awards and are recognized as model local communities for their substantial contributions to increasing blue swimming crab populations in Thailand, aligning with SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 14: Life Below Water and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

WU BOTANIC PARK: BREEDING CENTER AND SANCTUARY FOR NATIVE WILDLIFE

Thailand is renowned for its rich biodiversity, home to numerous native wildlife species. To safeguard this invaluable natural heritage, government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) actively engage in conservation efforts. In alignment with these initiatives, Walailak University (WU) plays a crucial role in preserving wildlife, directly contributing to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15: Life on Land.

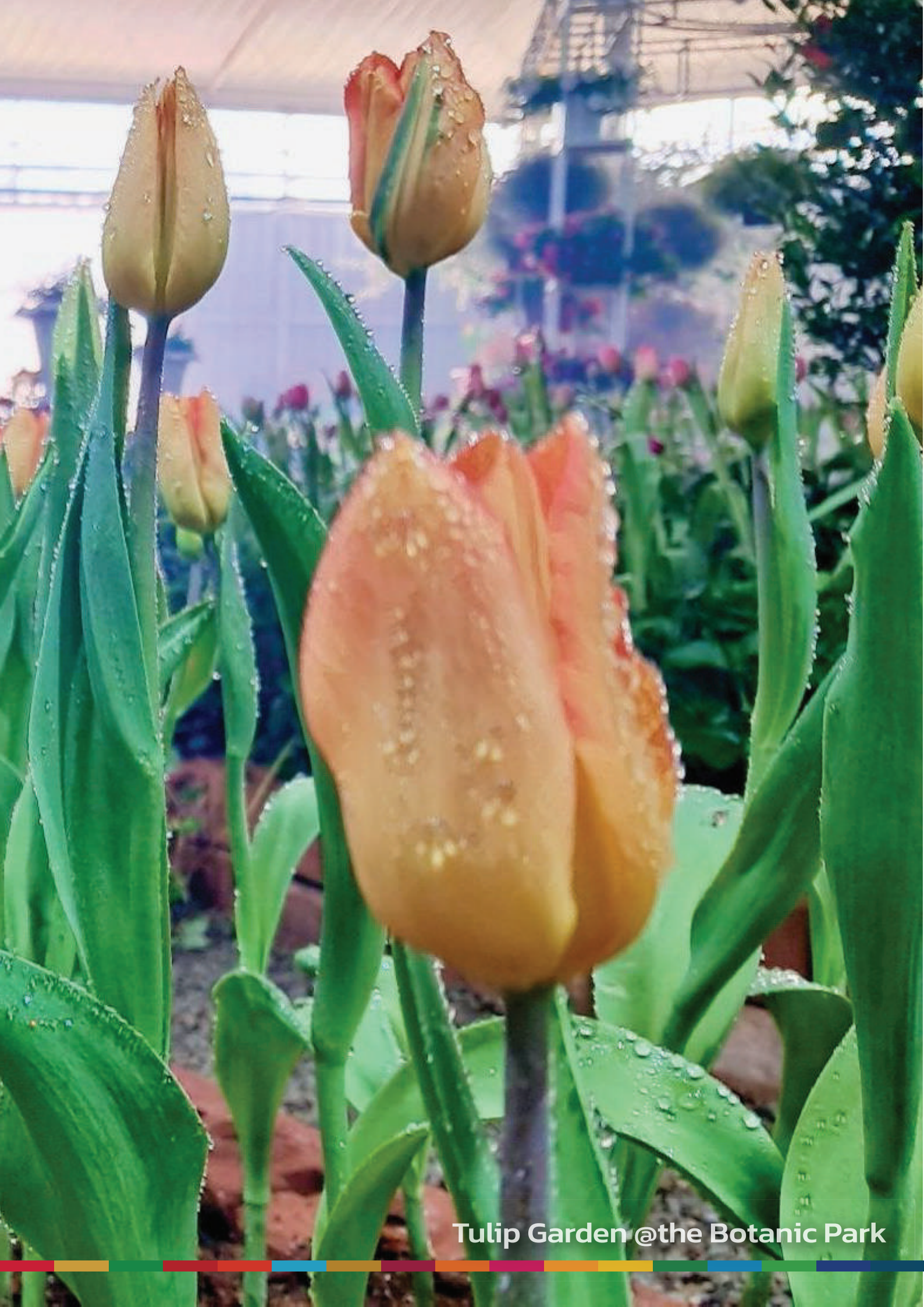
As part of its commitment to SDG 15, WU established the WU Breeding Center at Walailak Botanic Park, officially opened to the public in 2024. This state-of-the-art facility serves as a hub for breeding, research, and education, supported by specialized staff, researchers, and advanced facilities. The center is dedicated to conserving endangered and ecologically significant wildlife species.

During its initial phase in 2024, the center introduced 20 Indochinese hog deer, an endangered species native to Southeast Asia, into its care. It later expanded its conservation efforts to include six capybaras and two common barking deer, species selected for their ecological importance and vulnerability to habitat loss. WU researchers actively conduct breeding programs to increase their populations, supporting biodiversity restoration in Thailand.

Beyond conservation, the center provides an immersive learning environment for students from the Akkhraratchakumari Veterinary College, offering hands-on experience in wildlife management, breeding, and veterinary science. This initiative fosters the next generation of wildlife conservationists and veterinarians.

Walailak Botanic Park also plays a vital role in plant conservation. The Bota Orchids House serves as a preservation center for endangered orchid species, while the WU Cactus Dome safeguards various cactus species. Additionally, the park has established a banana conservation center, protecting over 100 banana species native to Thailand. These initiatives not only contribute to biodiversity conservation but also provide research opportunities for WU scholars working on SDG 15-related projects.

Through its integrated approach to wildlife and plant conservation, WU continues to advance sustainable biodiversity protection, ensuring a lasting impact on Thailand's ecological heritage.



Tulip Garden @the Botanic Park

SDG 1 NO POVERTY

1 INCLUSIVE SUPPORT FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

2 LOCAL START-UP ASSISTANCE ON RED PALM OIL

3 START-UP SUPPORT FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES

4 START-UP SUPPORT FOR A LOCAL MANGOSTEEN

1 NO POVERTY

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIPS

1,401

SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING OVER

80 MILLION BAHT

COSTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED BY WU

61,245,800 BAHT

TOP ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

MORE THAN **30** STUDENTS

FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RECEIVING FULL AND PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

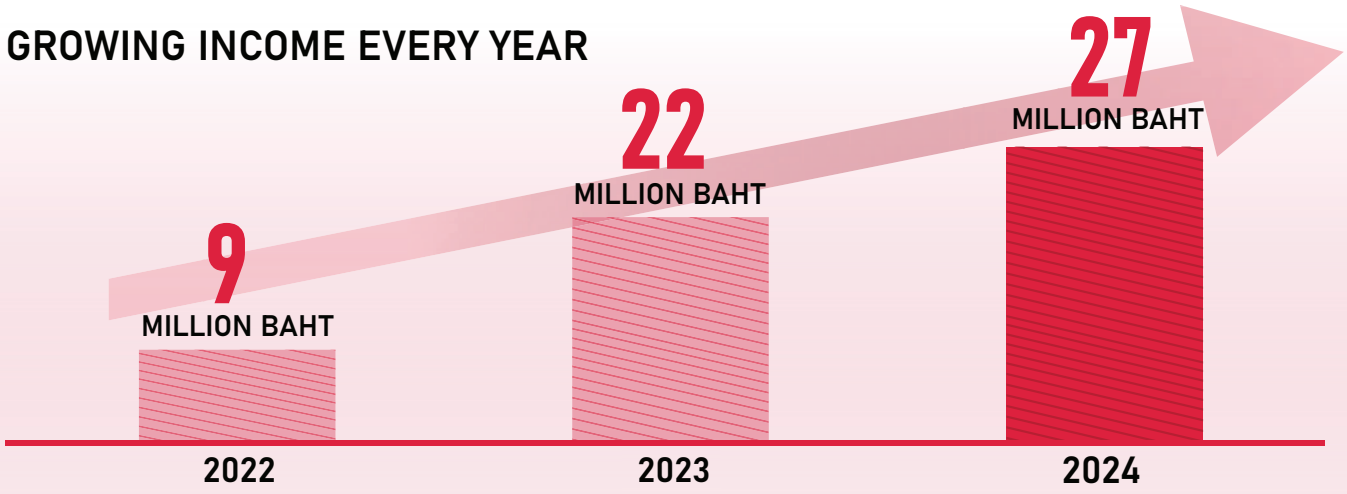
OVER **50** PROJECTS

SME

DEDICATED TO LOCAL START-UP BUSINESSES

THE INCOME FROM LOCAL MANGOSTEEN START-UP

GROWING INCOME EVERY YEAR



INCLUSIVE SUPPORT FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

Walailak University (WU) has been enrolling students who are from low-income families. WU has developed a comprehensive support system to ensure that low-income students can complete university without the burden of financial stress. Through scholarships, housing, food assistance, transportation, and legal services, WU continues to break barriers and pave the way for equal opportunities in higher education.

Establishing a Dedicated Support Center

WU has set up the Division of Student Support and Development (DSSD), which acts as a one-stop service hub for low-income students. The division provides scholarships, guidance, and other critical resources to meet the needs of these students, ensuring their academic journey is smooth and fulfilling.

Scholarships and Tuition Waivers

To alleviate financial pressures, WU offers various scholarships for Thai and international students from developing countries:

- **General Scholarships:** Open to all undergraduate students, providing financial assistance tailored to individual needs.

- **Tuition Waiver Scholarships:** First-year students in 2024 received detailed briefings on continuing their tuition-free education, alongside opportunities to contribute as tutors at the WU Tutor Center.

Work-Study Opportunities

Recognizing the importance of financial independence, the university has introduced work-study programs. Students can work up to 100 hours per semester, earning 30 baht per hour. This initiative helps cover living expenses while equipping students with essential workplace skills.

Awards for Excellence

WU encourages academic and extracurricular excellence through special awards:

- **Top Academic Achievers:** Students ranking in the top 5% of their courses receive recognition each semester.

- **Sports Scholarships:** Outstanding athletes representing the university are rewarded with fee waivers for tuition and housing.

Housing and Meals

For students with exceptional academic or athletic achievements, scholarships extend to housing and meal coverage. Additionally, the university's work-study grants allow students to meet daily living expenses without financial stress.

Additional Support for Low-Income Students

To further enhance support for students from low-income families, WU provides essential services, including:

- **Food Assistance:** Meal plans and food support programs help ensure students have access to nutritious meals.
- **Housing Assistance:** Affordable and subsidized housing options are available to students in need.
- **Transportation Assistance:** Free on-campus transportation and financial support for students.
- **Legal Services:** Free legal consultation and support to assist students with legal matters.

WU's 2024 initiatives show an inclusive approach to low-income student support, enabling equal opportunities for education and personal development. Through scholarships, work-study programs, and essential services, the university continues to empower students from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve their academic goals. By addressing financial barriers and fostering inclusivity, WU solidifies its role as a leader in educational equity.

LOCAL START-UP ASSISTANCE ON RED PALM OIL

WU continues to support local startups of financially and socially sustainable businesses through the Walailak Business Incubation Center (WIC), providing knowledge, technology, and resources to promote financially and socially sustainable enterprises.

Sustaining Momentum

Building on the ongoing projects from previous years, WU remains dedicated to empowering community-driven businesses and designed to meet Thai FDA/GMP standards by offering:

- **Training & Mentorship** – Expert-led programs in marketing, finance, and business sustainability.
- **Collaboration & Networking** – Expanding partnerships with government agencies and private stakeholders.
- **Access to University Resources** – Free use of office spaces, high-speed internet, lab equipment and online tools.

Expanding Impact

In 2024, The University extended its support to the red palm oil industry, focusing on improving production efficiency and market expansion. Collaborating with the Oil Fuel Fund Office (OFFO) and stakeholders, WU helps agribusinesses adapt to evolving biofuel subsidy policies.

A key initiative included a knowledge exchange program in Trang Province, where researchers and

policymakers engaged with local red palm oil producers to:

- Assess economic and technological readiness to reduce reliance on subsidies.
- Enhance value-added production with WU microwave technology, preserving nutrients and cutting costs.
- Expand business opportunities beyond biofuels into health products, cosmetics, and supplements.

Expanding Impact

The efforts in 2024 have been made to further diversify red palm oil applications, leading to the development of various new products, including soft gel capsules infused with herbal extracts, jellies for the elderly, children's vitamins, bio-based margarine, as well as applications in pet food, chicken feed, and cattle feed.

START-UP SUPPORT FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES

Many local start-ups producing fishery products do not have access to knowledge in developing packaging to increase more income. WU has undertaken an innovative initiative in 2024 to uplift the fishing communities of Nakhon Si Thammarat. This ambitious project focused on supporting the start-up of financially and socially sustainable businesses by equipping local groups with relevant education and resources, such as mentorship programs, training workshops, and access to university facilities.

Tailored Support for Fishing Communities

WU collaborated with 12 fishing groups to address specific needs, including branding, packaging design, and production improvements. The "LayKhon" online platform was introduced to help local businesses expand their reach.

- **Ban Koh Phet Seafood Processing Community Enterprise:** Developed a closed-system facility for Halal and FDA certification.
- **Muslimah Fishing Group:** Created culturally resonant branding and packaging for online markets.

Educational Training and Mentorship

Five educational workshops provided training in seafood processing, packaging, and FDA/Halal compliance, improving efficiency and cost reduction. Community-driven brands like "LayPoon" and "Nai Han" emerged, preserving cultural heritage through modern branding.

- **Kon Jab Pla Shop:** Adopted eco-friendly packaging to reduce plastic waste.
- **Phet Piya Blue Swimming Crab Raft:** Developed specialized transport boxes to ensure freshness.
- **TAYA Group:** Introduced premium glass jar packaging for chili paste.
- **Laem Talumphuk Processing Group:** Upgraded facilities to meet modern production standards.
- **Ban Ruea Pu (Aphiwan's Crab Raft):** Improved crab roll packaging to enhance transportation.
- **Ban Ko Loi Processed Seafood Group:** Integrated local culture into branding for stronger consumer appeal.

The start-ups gained mentorship, training, and access to university facilities to improve product quality, adopt sustainable packaging, and meet FDA/Halal standards. With enhanced branding and the "LayKhon" online platform, they expanded market reach, reduced costs, and built sustainable businesses that preserve cultural identity while boosting income.

START-UP SUPPORT FOR A LOCAL MANGOSTEEN

Mangosteen cultivation has long been a cornerstone of the economy in Cha-uat District, Nakhon Si Thammarat. Despite its significance, farmers have faced persistent challenges, notably from diseases like Pestalotiopsis leaf blight, which compromise fruit quality and market value. In response, WU has initiated support programs to assist local community start-ups in implementing sustainable and effective agricultural practices to be financially and socially sustainable businesses.

In 2024, WU's Clinic Technology expanded its outreach to empower mangosteen farmers with modern, eco-friendly farming techniques. Central to this initiative is the promotion of Trichoderma, a biological product renowned for its efficacy against fungal diseases. This spore-based powder is not only user-friendly but also safe for both humans and the environment, presenting a viable alternative to chemical pesticides.

The adoption of Trichoderma has yielded significant benefits. It combats plant diseases through mechanisms such as mycoparasitism and antibiosis, effectively eliminating harmful pathogens. Additionally, its use has led to a reduction in pesticide residues on mangosteens, thereby enhancing fruit quality and marketability both domestically and internationally. Farmers who have consistently applied Trichoderma have observed notable financial gains. Since the project's inception, incomes have risen from 9 million baht in the initial years to 22 million baht last year, culminating in an impressive 27 million baht in 2024.

Beyond improving crop health, WU is committed to fostering financial and social sustainability within the local community. The university offers start-up assistance to local farmers and emerging agricultural entrepreneurs by providing essential resources such as mentorship programs, training workshops, and access to university facilities. This holistic approach ensures that participants are well-equipped to develop and maintain sustainable businesses. By integrating educational programs with practical applications, the university empowers local farmers to independently manage and expand their agricultural enterprises.

SDG 2 ZERO HUNGER

1 FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM: ADDRESSING STUDENT HUNGER

2 SUSTAINABLE FOOD PURCHASES PRIORITIZATION: THE CREATION OF A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FOR PERSONNEL AND COMMUNITY

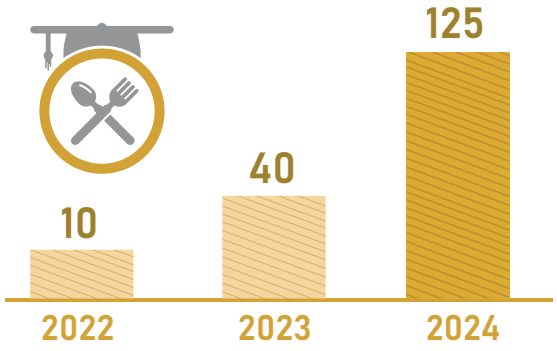
3 PROMOTING FREE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY: TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, AND AQUACULTURE

4 DEVELOPING FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: THE ROLE OF WALAILAK UNIVERSITY'S CLINIC TECHNOLOGY

2 ZERO HUNGER

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

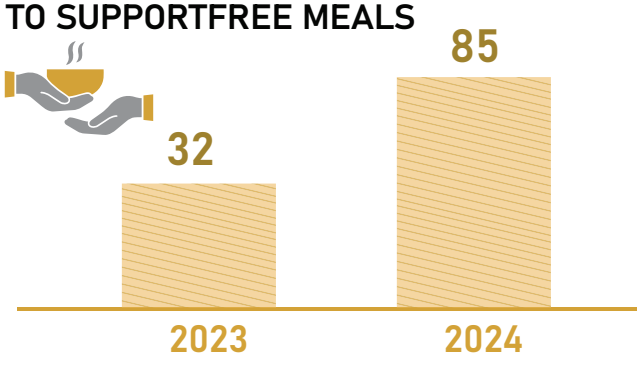
INCREASING NUMBER OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS RECEIVED FOOD ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS STUDENT HUNGER



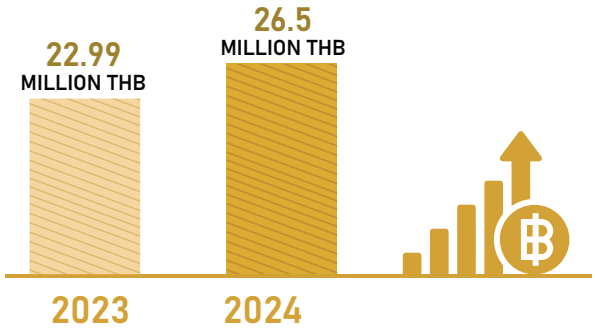
REDUCING PRODUCTION COSTS FROM ACCESS ON FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY

146,200 THB
ANNUALLY IN 2024

INCREASING NUMBER OF FOOD OUTLETS TO SUPPORTFREE MEALS



INCREASING INCOME FROM ACCESS ON FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY



WU SUSTAINABLE FOOD CHOICE

ALL FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS ON CAMPUS

>400
OPERATORS

LOCAL FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS

94.06%

TRUSTED SOURCES
NO OR LOW LEVEL OF PESTICIDES
LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND ENVIRONMENT
AVOIDING RESOURCE WASTE THAT CONTRIBUTES TO CLIMATE CHANGE
FAIR TRADING PRACTICES
LOW USE OF HERBICIDES AND ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS
FLORA AND FAUNA PROTECTION

FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM: ADDRESSING STUDENT HUNGER

WU recognizes the challenges faced by some students, particularly malnutrition caused by financial difficulties, which adversely affects academic performance and quality of life. To address this issue, the university has a food security program in place on student food insecurity, titled "Free-Meal Grants" program.

This program suggests a continuous, targeted and coordinated approach since 2004 to addressing student hunger and alleviating food insecurity, ensuring that students have access to nutritious and appropriate meals until they complete their studies. As the issue is diagnosed, the university continuously develops approach for screening students in need and coordinates with food vendors within the Cho Pradu Food Center and the Student Activity Cafeteria to engage in this program, which is supported by donations and partnerships.

Students can access the program through the following channels:

1. Division of Student Support and Development, WU
2. Information provided by advisors to the Division of Student Support and Development
3. Dormitory advisors under the supervision of the Walailak Property Management Center

Based on the 2024 measurement, 125 low-income students received food assistance, representing a significant increase compared to 2023. More than 30 food vendors prepared halal meals and other nutritious options tailored to students' needs. Each student received two meals per day, along with additional desserts, at a cost of 50 baht per meal, amounting to a total value of 4,562,500 baht per year.

Throughout 2024, the program provided over 36,500 meals, enabling students to save an average of 4,562,500 baht per year and significantly improving their quality of life.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PURCHASES PRIORITIZATION: THE CREATION OF A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FOR PERSONNEL AND COMMUNITY

Today, purchasing a product is no longer merely a transaction, but an active contribution to both the food system and the environment. WU recognizes this and applies diagnostics in the development of sustainable food purchasing practices, focusing on prioritizing purchase of products from local, sustainable sources and services. By leveraging the region's rich agricultural and coastal food resources, these efforts reduce environmental impacts, boost the local economy, and strengthen engagement with surrounding communities.

Supporting Local Food Sources

WU continuously prioritizes the purchase of products from local sources. The selection criteria for restaurants and vendors within the campus highlight businesses located within 1–2 kilometers, particularly those from Satit Walailak Pattana Community. This community supplies seasonal fruits, native vegetables, traditional desserts, and other products made from local ingredients. Currently, 94.17% of food vendors on campus are local community businesses, with only 5.83% being large-scale businesses from outside the community.

Promoting Sustainable Food Sources

The existence of prioritization purchase products from sustainable sources can encourage local vendors to adopt environmentally friendly production methods. These methods not only help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ingredient transportation but also drives the community economy based on environmental conservation. The university also supports on-campus shops in using ingredients from reliable, certified sustainable agriculture sources, with consistent quality measurement and monitoring to ensure the effective implementation.

Commitment to Communities and Environmental Conservation

WU shows its dedication to supporting the community and conserving the environment by promoting local, sustainable practices. By prioritizing local businesses and encouraging sustainable operations, the university reflects its role as a responsible institution that supports communities and embraces true sustainability.

PROMOTING FREE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY: TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, AND AQUACULTURE

Through a deep diagnostic, WU engaging with local communities recognized a lack of knowledge in food security and sustainable production. In response, the university developed a free program to provide free access on food security and sustainable agriculture and aquaculture knowledge, skills, and technology, fostering a sustainable development system and a better quality of life.

Food Security: Adding Value and Creating Access Opportunities

The university conducted a deep diagnostic of the community, discovering that farmers lacked the knowledge and skills to add value to their produce, which directly impacted food security. Consequently, WU developed hands-on training program engaging with communities, such as processing native rice into various desserts, and making crispy pork jerky and shredded pork. They also taught villagers how to turn wild lotus seeds into snacks and beverages, and how to apply design thinking to create new, marketable food products. WU also uses a clear measurement system to ensure these approaches empower the community and lead to long-term food security.

Sustainable Agriculture: Balanced Resource Utilization

Sustainable agriculture is a key tool for reducing environmental impacts and enhancing production efficiency. However, WU found that local farmers and food producers lacked this knowledge. Therefore, WU provides local farmers and food producers with access to knowledge, skills, and technologies in sustainable agriculture through activities such as "Grow Your Own Vegetables: Safe and Chemical-Free" and "Kimchi Making." These initiatives add value to agricultural products and foster a system of agriculture that can be maintained in the long term, supported by clear measurement, ensures the university's efforts lead to a self-reliant and sustainable agricultural system.

Sustainable Aquaculture: Conservation and Resource Development

By committing to sustainable aquaculture, WU aims to share knowledge and technology with coastal communities, including local fishers and food producers. Key activities involve restoring aquatic resources, such as oriental hard clams and blue swimming crabs, establishing aquatic animal shelters to conserve resources in the Ban Laem area, and providing training on aquatic resource management. These initiatives encourage community participation in restoring and maintaining ecological balance, which is a core principle of sustainable aquaculture.

WU has demonstrated its commitment to being a key driver of community development by providing knowledge and technology in food security, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable aquaculture to the community. This creates positive change and serves as a model for balanced and sustainable development.

DEVELOPING FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: THE ROLE OF WALAILAK UNIVERSITY'S CLINIC TECHNOLOGY

The use of chemicals in agriculture has caused severe health and environmental problems, impacting both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. To address this, WU Technology Clinic plays a vital role by providing consultation and knowledge on biopesticides, a safer alternative with free access to knowledge, skills, and technology for sustainable agriculture and aquaculture, including biopesticides, namely Trichoderma, Metarhizium, and Beauveria.

Transferring Technology to Agricultural Communities

The clinic plays a vital role in promoting bio-based agricultural technology. By engagement with the Learning Center for the Royal Development Projects in Cha-uat District, it helps local farmers and food producers access sustainable agriculture and aquaculture. This technology reduces the use of chemicals in agricultural areas, ensuring that the soil and water sources remain free from contamination. This benefits aquatic animal farmers and enhances the safety of produce for both consumption and export, which create long-term sustainability for food security.

Promoting Food Security for Export

In 2024, the project has also delivered significant economic benefits for farmers in the region, such as 146,200 THB annually reducing production costs for mangosteen farmers, 26.5 million THB increasing income from high-quality, chemical-free mangosteens that were able toexported to Japan, China and Australia. Moreover, the use of bio-based technologies minimizes risks from chemical residues, building trust among domestic and international consumers.

Adding Value to Food Products

Beyond producing safe food ingredients, the Clinic emphasizes knowledge transfer and skill development in food processing to add value to products, such as developing ready-to-eat products from local agricultural produce, training on food safety standards and certification processes, such as GMP and HACCP, creating unique community product identities, such as herbal-based foods and using local ingredients to design specialty menus catering to tourism markets.

Positive Impacts on Communities

The food-related initiatives of the Clinic have generated benefits across multiple dimensions, including food security, as communities can sustainably produce their own safe food; health promotion, with reduced chemical usage lowering health risks for both farmers and consumers; and strengthening the local economy through food processing and value-added initiatives that create new income streams and enhance competitiveness.

The Future of Food Security

With a clear role in supporting communities, the clinic remains advancing food and agricultural innovations for sustainability while providing free access to technology for local farmers and food producers. Free access to knowledge, skills, and technologies is a key driver of economic progress and improved quality of life for a brighter future of all communities.

SDG 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

1. THE POLICY TOWARDS A SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS
2. SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR STUDENTS
3. PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING THROUGH WU SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM AND PROJECT
4. THE COLLABORATION IN HEALTH INSTITUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE WELL-BEING

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

MENTAL HEALTH MENTORING ORGANIZATIONS

STUDENTS

SMILE & SMART Center

Walailak University

STAFF

MENTAL HEALTH MENTORING CLINIC (RAKJAI CLINIC)

THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH-CARE SERVICES ON WORLD AIDS DAY SEMINAR

THE WORLD AIDS DAY SEMINAR WITH

1,070

VISITORS

THE FREE HPV VACCINATIONS (FIRST AND SECOND DOSES) FOR

HPV

3,874

FEMALE STUDENTS

THE NUMBER OF HEALTH INSTITUTIONS COLLABORATING WITH WU

LOCAL HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

>100

NATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

>10

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

>10

THE POLICY TOWARDS A SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS

Smoking is one of the biggest health problems in the world. Millions of people suffer from poor health due to smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke. Researchers estimate that approximately 8 million people die prematurely each year from smoking-related illnesses. Consequently, WU recognizes the impact of smoking on health and the environment. However, prohibiting addicted smokers on campus without a clear regulation or policy makes it difficult to achieve. Therefore, the university recognizes the importance of the existence of a smoking-free campus policy, so it has implemented a smoke-free policy covering all areas of the campus since 2022.

This policy aims to create a safe environment and promote a healthier quality of life for students and staff. It was further revised in 2024 to include the regulation of e-cigarettes and cannabis-related products, along with clear penalties for violations, such as behavioral point deductions and close monitoring.

Activities to Promote the Policy

WU has extended activities related to the smoke-free policy prohibiting the use of tobacco products at all indoor and outdoor campus locations. One such activity is the workshop "E-Cigarettes & Health: Empowering Young Leaders", which aims to enhance the leadership skills with "Think-Pair-Share" learning technique for 20 student representatives in the upper southern region to communicate the e-cigarette use risks and prevent its adoption among youth.

Impact and Monitoring

WU has evaluated the impact of smoking on health and the environment within its campus and has committed to regularly updating the university community on its progress. This policy has not only reduced the smoking rate within the university but also encouraged the creation of smoke-free zones in surrounding communities. It reflects the university's dedication to fostering a healthier environment and improving the well-being of all.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Sexual and reproductive health issues, particularly unintended pregnancies among adolescents, are critical concerns that require urgent and comprehensive solutions in Thai society, especially among university students. Educational institutions play a crucial role in fostering an environment conducive to providing knowledge and services that sustainably prevent these issues. WU provides students free access to sexual and reproductive health-care services including information and education services which are about sexual health services and safe pregnancy guidance, offering direct services to students to enhance their quality of life and reduce associated risks.

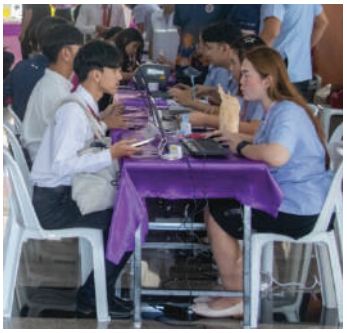
Free Information

WU has established the Smile & Smart Center and Psychiatry Clinic to promote access to free information and services related to sexual and reproductive health for students. This includes information on preventing sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and safe pregnancy planning with online and on-site access.

Additionally, the WUH has organized awareness campaigns, including a World AIDS Day seminar and public awareness activities focusing on HIV prevention. These initiatives aim to enhance awareness of the importance of HIV prevention, receiving positive engagement from over 1,070 students, faculty members, and the general public.

Free Education Services

For educational services related to sexual and reproductive health, the WUH has organized an AIDS awareness exhibition as part of World AIDS Day activities. This exhibition serves to educate students on HIV/AIDS prevention, symptoms, and treatment options, reinforcing the importance of proactive health care.



Other Related Services

The WUH also provides free HPV vaccinations (first and second doses) for 3,874 female students. This initiative aims to prevent HPV-related diseases and promote student health in alignment with the university's health promotion policies. Additionally, the hospital offers free HIV screening services on World AIDS Day, ensuring accessible healthcare for students.

To sum up, WU is committed to promoting students' sexual and reproductive health through accurate information dissemination (Free Information), educational programs (Free Education Services), and related healthcare services (Other Related Services) to ensure students receive quality healthcare.

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING THROUGH WU SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM AND PROJECT

Health is a fundamental priority for all individuals. However, access to health knowledge and services remains limited for certain groups due to geographical and socio-economic constraints. Consequently, WU delivers outreach programs and projects in various health disciplines, including physical therapy, traditional Thai medicine, pharmacy, and other medical sciences, to implement integrated programs aimed at enhancing the well-being of local communities, disadvantaged people, and immigrant communities. These initiatives not only improve public health in the short term but also ensure long-term sustainability through problem diagnosis, project development, community engagement, and impact assessment.

Projects for Local Communities

For local communities, WU delivers outreach projects with various activities: basic health screenings, NCDs screenings for hypertension, diabetes, and obesity, as well as educational programs programs on self-care and nutrition. Also, there was a health database system development for better monitoring and follow-up. Additionally, the activities under the project were aimed to promote healthier lifestyle choices by encouraging reduced consumption of salt, sugar, and fats while promoting regular exercise.

Projects for Disadvantaged People

The target group of this issue is focusing on bedridden patients. As their restrict conditions, regular home visits and annual health assessments are conducted by university staff in collaboration with VHVs and local public health personnel. These efforts include screening for chronic diseases, providing nutritional guidance, and training VHVs to properly care for them. Moreover, rehabilitation programs using physical therapy and traditional Thai medicine, such as basic exercise and therapeutic massage, have been introduced to help alleviate complications resulting from prolonged immobility.

Projects for Refugee and Immigrant Communities

Given the significant number of immigrant workers, particularly Cambodians and Laotians, residing in areas near WU, the institution has extended its healthcare projects to this group by conducting health screening for anemia, blood pressure monitoring, and urinalysis, revealing that some immigrant workers suffer from anemia and hypertension. To address these issues, nutritional counseling and health behavior modification programs have been introduced. Additionally, they have received training on musculoskeletal injury prevention related to their physically demanding jobs. Workshops on basic self-care and first aid have also been conducted to empower them to take better care of their health.

WU's social engagement projects in 2024 reflect a strong commitment to improving health and well-being across all target groups—local communities, disadvantaged people, and immigrant communities. Through a comprehensive approach that includes diagnosis, development, community engagement, and impact assessment, WU has effectively contributed to sustainable health improvements. By fostering long-term health awareness and self-care capabilities, these projects play a crucial role in building healthier communities and enhancing overall well-being in the region.

THE COLLABORATION IN HEALTH INSTITUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE WELL-BEING

WU plays a crucial role in improving health and well-being outcomes. Conversely, all the successful outcomes would not achieve without collaborations. The collaborations with local, national, and global health institutions are developed. These collaborations not only enhance the capabilities of medical professionals and students but also elevate healthcare standards and create a positive impact on healthcare services at a broader scale.

Local Collaborations

WU has established collaborations with at least 18 local health institutions to enhance knowledge and develop the capacities of medical personnel, students, and communities. Focusing on professional training of students, WU collaborates with 14 hospitals across southern, eastern, and northeastern regions, allowing senior Thai Traditional Medicine students to integrate their knowledge with real-world clinical experience in diverse settings. Two more hospitals that have current collaboration with WU are the Trang Medical Education Center and Vachira Phuket Medical Education Center to develop and train medical students, focusing on educational management. Also, the "Cross-Island Welcoming Event was hosted to strengthen relationships between WU's medical students and Vachira Phuket Hospital. Furthermore, WU works closely with Thung Song Hospital and Maharaj Nakhon Si Thammarat Hospital by conducting graduate physician visits to collect feedback and recommendations for refining and enhancing the Doctor of medicine program of WU to meet the needs of the health institutions

National Collaborations

WU has ongoing collaborations with the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth). A formal agreement was signed to develop health promotion programs, focusing on preventing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and strengthening healthcare systems. ThaiHealth also provides funding for the School of Nursing to support projects such as "Provincial-Level Management Units for Expanding Small-Scale Health Promotion Programs in Nakhon Si Thammarat" and "Developing Community-Based Elderly Care Systems and Innovations" to advance community health knowledge and promote sustainable well-being. Additionally, WU, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and ThaiHealth, supports the Healthy Living Program, which promotes workplace wellness by improving the quality of life for employees and reducing health risks in occupational settings .

International Collaborations

WU has expanded its healthcare collaborations internationally, focusing on exchanging expertise, medical technologies, and innovative healthcare solutions. WU collaborations with Changhua Christian Hospital in Taiwan to study Medical Technology Innovations for developing WU Hospital into a Smart Hospital. Also, WU has an ongoing collaboration with Nuvance Health, a healthcare network in the United States, through the Global Health Academy Program to facilitates the exchange of medical students and healthcare professionals between the two countries. WU actively participates in global health conferences such as the 3rd Global Health Conference and the 2nd Global Summit on Public Health, where international partnerships and healthcare research collaborations are discussed

SDG 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

1. THE COMMITMENT TO LIFELONG LEARNING FOR ALL THROUGH FREE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
2. A FREE EDUCATIONAL EVENT AT WU FOR ALL: "REGINAL MHESI FAIR"
3. EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FOR COMMUNITY: NURTURING WISDOM IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH
4. EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH LIFELONG LEARNING AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

RESOURCES FROM THE CENTER FOR LIBRARY RESOURCES AND EDUCATIONAL MEDIA

E-BOOK

WU BLOGS
WALAILAK UNIVERSITY LEARNING COMMUNITY

WIDE VARIETY OF VIDEO LECTURES

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

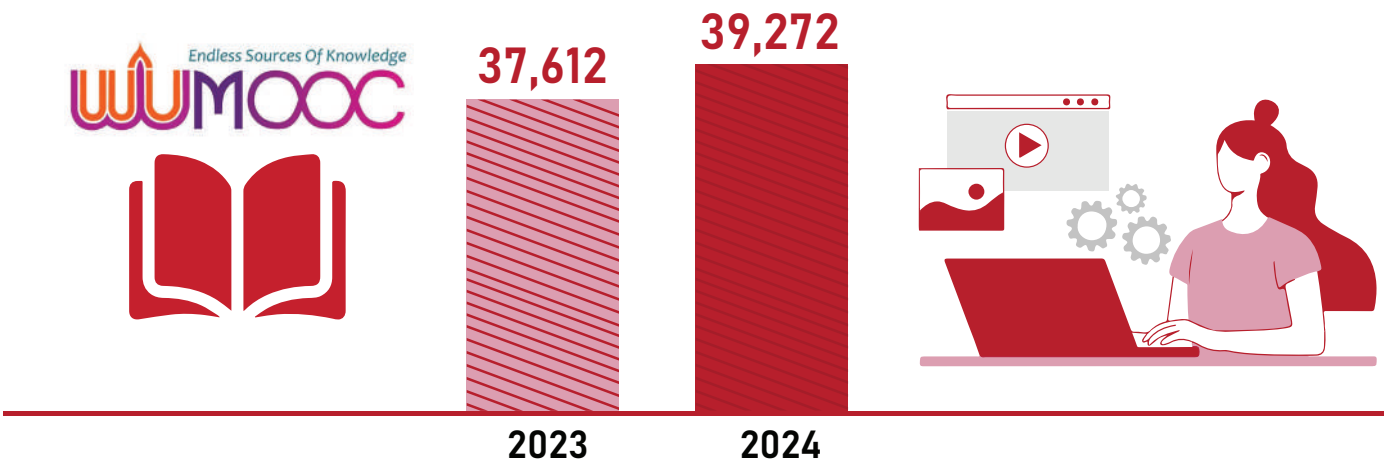
OVER
500,000
ITEMS

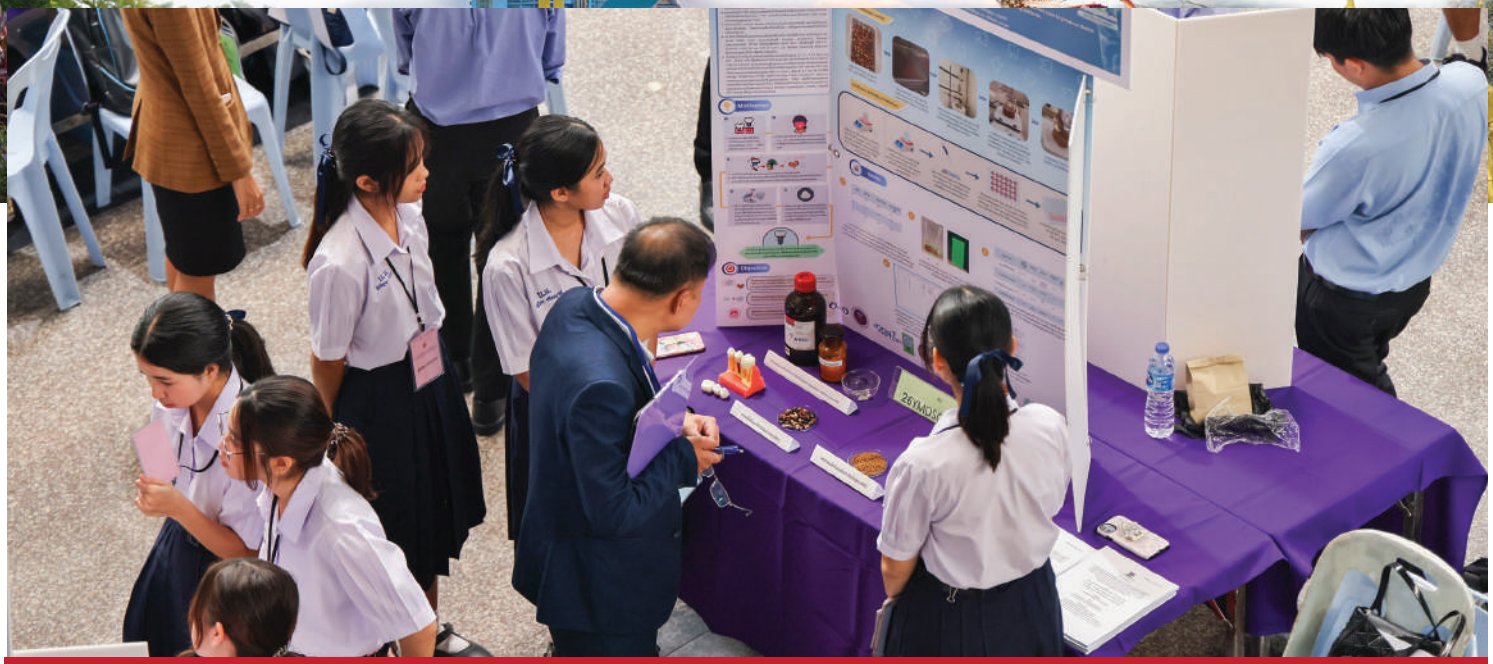
THE NUMBER OF WU MOOC COURSES

24 FREE COURSES

STATISTICS ON WU MOOC USAGE

Endless Sources Of Knowledge
WUMOOC





THE COMMITMENT TO LIFELONG LEARNING FOR ALL THROUGH FREE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Being a center for lifelong learning for the community with the goal of enhancing quality of life and promoting sustainable education for everyone, WU develops programs and services that provide access to educational public resources for non-university students free of charge, encompassing free courses, facilities, and online platforms.

Free Courses Offering Opportunities and Skill Development

The university provides free courses that enhance skills and lead to certification, including the Young Scientist Competition (YSC) and hands-on science programs that foster creativity, interest in science, and logical thinking among youth. It also operates WU MOOC, an online learning platform with 24 free courses and 39,272 access statistics, accessible all anytime and anywhere.

Facilities Open to All

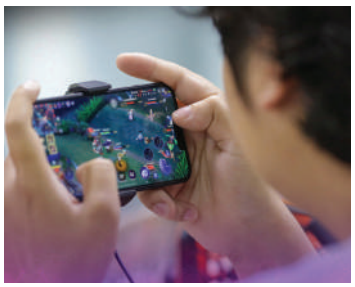
WU actively reduces educational inequality by providing free access to IT equipment and modern learning facilities. These initiatives enhance teaching quality and inspire youth through workshops such as "Digital and Media: Creative Short Clips," which provide hands-on experience with advanced digital tools and media production. In addition, the university offers free access to its facilities and resources, including more than 500,000 items from library resources, as well as educational tours and innovation spaces that stimulate lifelong learning for both schoolchildren and community members.

Access to Online Resources for Borderless Learning

In the digital era, WU promotes lifelong learning by providing free online resources through its website, including research repositories, e-books, WU BLOGS, and video lectures across diverse fields. Also, it offers public access to valuable databases such as e-journals and the Thai Digital Collection. In addition, the university shares academic knowledge with society through platforms like Good Health Good Life at Walailak and Walailak Moving Forward, covering health, education, and social development.

A FREE EDUCATIONAL EVENT AT WU FOR ALL: "REGINAL MHESI FAIR"

Educational events are one of the important gateways to lifelong learning opportunities for everyone. Consequently, WU is proud to host the educational free event at university, namely, "Regional MHESI Fair: Harnessing the Power of Interdisciplinary Approaches for Sustainable Economic Development in Thailand." This free event for the general public aims to provide opportunities for learning, foster creativity, lifelong learning, and inspire participants of all ages.



The event highlights the capabilities of Thailand's MHESI sectors in driving sustainable economic development, featuring six main zones, including "Inspiration by Science," which sparks imagination and inspires the younger generation, and "Science for Lifelong Learning," where booths offer Upskilling, Reskilling, and Building new skills to prepare for the future workforce. The "Startup Launchpad" showcases innovative ideas from emerging entrepreneurs specializing in deep tech, while "Science for Exponential Growth" presents support services and tools to empower technology-based entrepreneurs. "Science for All Well-being" displays innovations in products and services aimed at enhancing quality of life, and "Science for Future Thailand" exhibits cutting-edge research ready to advance into innovative development.

In addition to these zones, the event offers diverse activities for all age groups. Highlights include an exhibition honoring Thailand's royal contributions to science and education, a robotics competition called the SCI ROV Tournament, the Innovation Award 2024 competition, as well as art and music contests. The event also includes engaging workshops and a marketplace featuring innovative products.

This event provides an excellent platform for entrepreneurs and Southern Regional Science Parks to showcase advancements in their projects and products developed through scientific and technological knowledge, underlining their role in regional economic growth.

The "MHESI Fair" Southern Regional Event blends learning, innovation, and entertainment in one venue. This educational event seeks to raise awareness of the importance of science, research, and innovation while inspiring the next generation to apply knowledge for the sustainable development of communities and the economy.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FOR COMMUNITY: NURTURING WISDOM IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A university, with its wealth of knowledge, resources, and personnel, cannot achieve sustainable community development by keeping that knowledge within its walls. Therefore, the WU prioritizes undertaking educational outreach activities beyond campus through social engagement projects, including the Early Childhood Equity Education Project (ECEEP) and the Innovative Teaching Development Project on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, focusing on continuous program activities and ad-hoc activities.

Continuous Programs

To ensure equal access to quality education for young children in the surrounding community, the university supports local childcare centers in adapting the High Scope Curriculum. The university has been continuously involved in this initiative for several years through various activities, such as teacher training workshops on game-based learning and instructional planning. These activities have led to a consistent improvement in children's development, with a notable 40% increase in Executive Function (EF) and motor skills for both children needing extra support and those with high potential.

In addition, the university prioritizes instilling sustainable principles through the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy Learning Media Development Project. Applying the Sufficiency Economy philosophy brings significant benefits to individuals, communities, and the nation by improving well-being and stability. To make this philosophy more accessible, the university developed a curriculum for eight local schools, creating engaging online resources like 12-lesson 2D animated series, E-books, and games. Students can access these materials for self-study, receive a certificate upon completion, and, most importantly, apply their knowledge in real-world projects like growing vegetables and raising animals at school. Executive Function (EF) and motor skills for both children needing extra support and those with high potential.

Ad-hoc Activities

For ad-hoc activities, the project includes home visits with teachers to introduce the knowledge offered by the university and to extend opportunities to the children's parents. This also serves to follow up on the children's progress and the project's development at home. The project also supports the external quality assurance process for childcare centers, helping them achieve "excellent" ratings. Furthermore, it showcases its results through exhibitions and public forums to raise awareness of its role within the community.

EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH LIFELONG LEARNING AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Self-development is a part of lifelong learning, which is why WU places great importance on vocational training as a key component of its community development by hosting events at university that are open to the general public in the continuous programs and ad-hoc activities to help address unemployment and improve the quality of them.

Training Programs

These short-term vocational training programs aim to develop skills and abilities, enabling participants to secure stable jobs. Key examples include:

- **Pharmacist Training:** Online seminars covering three courses: geriatric drug therapy, pharmacogenomics in cancer patients, and parenteral nutrition in hospitals. These programs enhance professional knowledge and efficiency, awarding three CPE credits per course.

- **English Language Training:** For primary and secondary school teachers and general participants, focusing on the CEFR B2 exam with all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing). For restaurant staff under the "Tha Sala – The Global Neighbour" initiative, enhancing communication skills for restaurant services to boost local economies and prepare for welcoming international visitors.

- **Culinary Skills Training:** Training in food processing for local farmers, including traditional desserts, crab dumplings, fish curry sauce, and pork processing (fermented pork and sun-dried pork). These sessions focus on knowledge transfer to create jobs, increase income, and add value to local ingredients while promoting sustainable community development.

Ad-Hoc Activities

Access to modern, continuous knowledge is critical for community development. The university organizes specialized training for entrepreneurs to enhance product quality and value, particularly during market downturns. Notable activities include training on food regulations and product registration based on advanced technology and innovation.

Outcomes and Sustainability

WU's training activities have received excellent feedback, with participants applying their knowledge to develop skills and create career opportunities. Post-training evaluations, problem analysis, and feedback collection guide future program improvements to better address community needs. The university remains committed to lifelong learning, empowering communities, and fostering sustainability in all dimensions.

SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY

1 MENTORING PROGRAM FOR SUPPORTING WOMEN'S INTERNAL HEALTH

2 SUPPORTING NON-DISCRIMINATION FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

3 PROMOTING WOMEN'S APPLICATION IN UNDERREPRESENTED SUBJECTS

5 GENDER EQUALITY

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

2,339 WOMEN STARTING A DEGREE

1,518 FIRST-GENERATION WOMEN STARTING A DEGREE

NUMBER OF FEMALE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN UNDERREPRESENTED FIELDS

516 ENGINEERING

206 ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

440 SCIENCE

31 AGRICULTURE, FOOD SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

THE POLICY ON

GENDER EQUALITY, NON-DISCRIMINATION, AND ANTI-HARASSMENT

WOMEN' ACCESSING AND MENTORING SCHEMES

HPV VACCINATION SCHEME

1,937

SANITARY NAPKIN DISTRIBUTION SCHEME

OVER **1,000**

FEMALE STUDENTS RECEIVING SANITARY NAPKINS

FEMALE STUDENT MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION

SMILE & SMART Center
Walailak University

THE SMILE AND SMART CENTER

WU LADY BOY COMPETITION

PROMOTING LGBT RECOGNITION

MENTORING PROGRAM FOR SUPPORTING WOMEN'S INTERNAL HEALTH

Walailak University (WU) acknowledges the importance of women's internal health, recognizing that a significant number of its students are women. The university is committed to ensuring their needs are never overlooked. To address this, the university has launched several mentoring programs aimed at improving women's health, ensuring that over 80% of female students at WU participate.

In 2024, WU introduced a Sanitary Napkin Distribution Scheme to support female students and staff by providing free access to sanitary napkins. This initiative was designed to reduce the stigma surrounding menstrual health and promote equal opportunities for women. To ensure accessibility, WU installed sanitary napkin dispensers in female student dormitories, allowing students to freely access the supplies whenever needed.

Additionally, a central distribution point was established at WU Bota Market, where a team of university staff organized an engaging awareness activity. During the event, sanitary napkins were distributed to female students and staff, while the team highlighted the importance of menstrual health as part of gender equality efforts. Over 1,000 sanitary napkins were distributed across the campus, demonstrating WU's commitment to supporting the well-being of its community.

In addition to the sanitary napkin distribution scheme, WU, through the Walailak University Hospital, launched a comprehensive HPV Vaccination Program aimed at further safeguarding the internal health of female students and staff. The program provided free HPV vaccinations to female students and staff, ensuring equitable access tothis life-saving intervention. Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a leading cause of cervical cancer, genital warts, and other HPV-related cancers. By offering this vaccination, WU aimed to significantly reduce the risk of these diseases within its community and contribute to long-term health outcomes for women.

To enhance the program's impact, WU incorporated mentoring services alongside the vaccination campaign. Female students and staff received personalized guidance and information on preventing diseases caused by HPV, including cervical cancer and genital warts. These sessions also emphasized the importance of regular health check-ups, early detection, and other preventive measures to maintain reproductive and overall health.

Through these efforts, WU continues to champion women's health and well-being, reinforcing its position as a leader in promoting gender equality and public health. This initiative, combined with other programs such as the sanitary napkin distribution scheme and gynecological mentoring services, highlights the university's holistic approach to supporting its female community in all aspects of their lives.

SUPPORTING NON-DISCRIMINATION FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

WU reaffirmed its dedication to promoting inclusivity and respect for all genders by issuing its Policy on Gender Equality, Non-Discrimination, and Anti-Harassment. This policy highlights WU's unwavering commitment to eradicating discrimination and harassment against all genders, including transgender people.

In 2024, LGBT students accounted for 7.22% of the student population at WU, identifying as transgender, gay, lesbian, or other gender identities. These students were represented across all schools and played an active role in driving positive changes both within the university and in the wider community. Many LGBT students have taken on leadership roles in student organizations, including the Student Council of WU and the Student Administration Board, where they advocate for gender equality and other important issues that benefit the student body.

Meanwhile, LGBT staff made up 1.24% of the university's workforce. All LGBT staff members are treated fairly and have equal opportunities in

career advancement. They can hold leadership positions on the same basis as male and female staff, reflecting WU's commitment to inclusivity and equal treatment for all employees.

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In 2024, WU took a significant step towards creating an inclusive and safe environment for LGBT individuals by introducing the Policy on Gender Equality, Non-discrimination, and Anti-harassment. This policy aims to protect LGBT people from any form of discrimination and harassment, promoting a culture of respect and equality within the university community.

Another longstanding initiative promoting gender diversity is the Miss Lady Boy Competition, a vibrant tradition that has been an integral part of university life for years. The competition provides a platform for transgender students and staff to showcase their talents, creativity, and confidence. More than just a beauty pageant, the event symbolizes WU's embrace of diversity and its dedication to creating a supportive and inclusive campus culture.

The 2024 Miss Lady Boy Competition was held at Thai Buri Hall, drawing a large and enthusiastic audience, including Professor Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong, President of WU, as well as vice presidents, faculty members, staff, students, and members of the public. The event was a resounding success, not only celebrating gender diversity but also highlighting the university's unwavering commitment to fostering a campus environment where transgender individuals can express their identity freely and without fear of discrimination. The festive atmosphere of the competition encouraged self-expression and empowerment, reinforcing WU's reputation as a progressive institution that values inclusivity.

Beyond competitions and public events, The University actively promotes LGBT rights through institutional policies aimed at ensuring gender equality, non-discrimination, and equal opportunities for all students and staff. These policies support transgender and gender-diverse individuals in areas such as access to education, healthcare, and student services. By integrating inclusivity into its governance and student activities, the university ensures that LGBT individuals receive the respect, affirmation, and recognition they deserve.

Through these ongoing efforts, WU provides LGBT students-especially transgender individuals-with greater visibility, affirmation, and opportunities for self-expression. These initiatives not only empower students but also foster a deep sense of belonging and pride, strengthening the university's position as an advocate for diversity and inclusion in higher education.

PROMOTING WOMEN'S APPLICATION IN UNDERREPRESENTED SUBJECTS

The University has been actively encouraging applications by women in subjects where they are underrepresented through university outreach and collaboration with other universities, community groups, government, and NGOs. The university places special emphasis on subjects that have historically seen lower female enrollment in Thai higher education, such as engineering, science, and architecture.

In 2024, WU's School of Engineering and Technology, School of Science, and School of Architecture and Design launched a series of outreach programs in collaboration with secondary schools to boost female enrollment in these vital fields. These initiatives align with the university's commitment to promoting gender equality in higher education and supporting Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5): Gender Equality.

The outreach efforts targeted secondary schools where the majority of students were female, including Petcharik Demonstration School and Yan Ta Khao Rattachanupatham. Through interactive workshops, career talks, and hands-on demonstrations, WU introduced young female students to the vast opportunities available in engineering, science, and architecture. Faculty members and industry experts provided insights into career prospects, emphasizing the importance of female representation in these fields to drive innovation and societal progress.

During these programs, WU assured students that they could pursue these subjects with the same support and encouragement as male students. WU showcased its state-of-the-art laboratories, research centers, smart classrooms, organizations supporting women on campus, and learning facilities designed to foster an inclusive academic environment. Additionally, The University highlighted various support structures, including scholarships, financial aid, mentorship programs, and dedicated services tailored to empower female students. Special initiatives, such as leadership development workshops and networking events, were also promoted to help young women build confidence and professional connections.

Moreover, female students from WU played a vital role in these outreach efforts, serving as role models and sources of inspiration. They shared personal experiences, successes, and challenges, demonstrating that women can thrive in traditionally male-dominated fields. Their stories helped break down stereotypes and encourage more young women to pursue careers in STEM and architecture.

By fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, WU remains committed to bridging the gender gap in higher education. Through continuous outreach, partnerships with schools, and engagement with industry professionals, WU ensures that female students have the resources, mentorship, and encouragement needed to excel in engineering, science, architecture, and beyond.

SDG 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

1 SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR PROVIDING FREE DRINKING WATER

2 SUSTAINABLE WATER EXTRACTION ON CAMPUS WITH APPLICABLE TECHNOLOGIES

3 A GREEN CAMPUS LEADING INNOVATIONS IN WATER CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

4 SUSTAINABLE WATER EXTRACTION ON CAMPUS WITH APPLICABLE TECHNOLOGIES

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

WU'S RESERVOIRS

- PRUK SACHON RESERVOIR
- MON TARA RESERVOIR
- CHALA NUSORN RESERVOIR

RAINWATER AND STORMWATER UTILIZATION

9,600 CUBIC METERS

OF TAP WATER PER DAY

SOURCED FROM RAINWATER AND STORMWATER COLLECTED IN CHALA NUSORN RESERVOIR

CAMPUS DRINKING WATER ACCESSIBILITY

OVER

140 FREE DRINKING WATER STATIONS

ACROSS THE CAMPUS

EXPANSION OF WATER-SAVING LANDSCAPES

AN ADDITIONAL

40,000

SQURE METERS

PERCENTAGE OF RECYCLED WATER UTILIZATION

100%

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS COMPLIANCE

WATER QUALITY TESTING

MEETS THE THAI INDYSTRIAL STANDARD (TIS) FOR TYPE 2 DRINKING WATER

WATER CONSCIOUS PLANTING

DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS

CACTUS PALM COCONUT SALA

HYDROPONIC CROPS

SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR PROVIDING FREE DRINKING WATER

Walailak University (WU) operates a water supply system to provide clean and safe tap water for consumption within the campus. In 2024, this system sources raw water from Chala Nusorn Reservoir to produce tap water for consumption. This reservoir serves as a key resource for sustainable water management on campus with an area of 329,385 square meters and has a storage capacity of 4,940,775 cubic meters. Additionally, the raw water in this reservoir was sustainably collected from stormwater and rainwater.

The Chala Nusorn Water Supply Station treats this water with a capacity of 400 cubic meters per hour, using processes like pumping, treatment, and proper chemical dosing. Water quality is checked before distribution to ensure it is safe and clean for campus use.

From safe production, WU has installed over 140 free drinking water stations across campus for students, staff, and visitors. These stations use a 4-stage Reverse Osmosis (RO) filtration system with a precision of 0.0001 microns. This process removes contaminants, heavy metals, viruses, and other pathogens, providing clean and safe hot and cold drinking water.

Each dispenser has a capacity of 5 liters for cold water and 4 liters for hot water, with a daily production capacity of 190 liters. The cold-water temperature ranges from 4 to 12 degrees Celsius, while the hot water temperature ranges from 70 to 85 degrees Celsius. The energy consumption is 100W for cold water and 600W for hot water. Moreover, these water stations are monthly tested water quality to meet the Thai Industrial Standard (TIS) for Type 2 drinking water (non-packaged drinking water).

Many of these free water stations have been installed and are maintained frequently; the filters in the water dispensers are replaced every six months as per the schedule. Regular cleaning of the water dispensers is also carried out. These efforts are aimed at maintaining public health standards and ensuring that users can access clean, safe, and well-managed drinking water.

SUSTAINABLE WATER EXTRACTION ON CAMPUS WITH APPLICABLE TECHNOLOGIES

WU implements a sustainable water management system using applicable technologies to extract water from reservoirs for tap water production. It also operates an irrigation system and water gates designed to meet local community needs sustainably. Also, the university's water conservation areas play a crucial role in irrigation, flood mitigation, and providing raw water for tap water production, ensuring a stable year-round water supply. The main reservoirs include Pruk Sachon Reservoir, Mon Tara Reservoir, and Chala Nusorn Reservoir.


Mon Tara Reservoir


Pruk Sachon Reservoir


Chala Nusorn Reservoir

In 2024, the university produces 9,600 cubic meters of tap water per day from rainwater and stormwater collected in Chala Nusorn Reservoir. This amount is sufficient to meet campus needs without relying on natural water sources such as aquifers, lakes or rivers. The tap water production system employs a raw water pump with 400 mm pipes, a size that minimizes ecological impact, ensuring the production of clean and standard quality tap water for campus use

WU operates a comprehensive wastewater treatment facility that recycles treated water for various purposes. The process begins with a motorized mechanical screen to remove solid waste, followed by collecting in a pumping station and transferring to an aerated lagoon, where aerobic bacteria decompose organic matter. The water then undergoes further treatment in two facultative ponds with a retention time of about 11 days. After disinfection with ultraviolet (UV) light, it is stored in a wetland for at least 1.2 days before being released into natural water sources. To ensure safety and quality of treated water, Nile tilapias are raised in the water treated as a final quality check before reuse.

WU's sustainable water management technology extends to the use of the BOT CDT application, a mobile platform that enables real-time monitoring of water conditions such as reservoir levels, weather, and temperature. This information is crucial for effective water-use planning and decision-making, and also serves as a database for sustainable water extraction. By applying this technology, WU ensures sufficient water availability for all activities without disrupting the balance of the ecosystem.

Additionally, it has enhanced its water management infrastructure by installing three new water gates, constructing pumping stations, and implementing flood prevention projects. These initiatives help mitigate floods during the rainy season, store water for the dry season, and provide raw water for tap water production and drinking water supply, ensuring compliance with consumption standards.

A GREEN CAMPUS LEADING INNOVATIONS IN WATER CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Water is an essential resource for humans, and with the current changes in climate, some areas are facing drought issues. For this reason, WU recognizes the importance of water conservation and has planted landscapes to minimize water usage. One such landscape is the Botanical Park, which spans 2,160,000 square meters where there is the Bota Cactus Dome, the largest cactus dome in southern Thailand. The dome houses a collection of cacti, drought-tolerant plants, and various succulents. Its primary objective is to serve as a repository and showcase for over 80 species of cacti, drought-resistant plants, and succulents. In addition to minimizing water usage landscapes, the dome, currently, remains a key educational resource, attracting numerous students, researchers and plant enthusiasts interested in drought-tolerant species.

In 2024, the university expanded its water-saving landscapes by an additional 448,000 square meters to cultivate aromatic coconut and cream coconut varieties, both drought-tolerant fruit crops, within the agricultural plots of the Center for Smart Farm. With this expansion, the total minimized water usage landscapes for drought-resistant fruit crop cultivation now stands at 1,844,800 square meters. These crops, including coconuts, salak, and oil palm, are easy to maintain and thrive in various soil types. The primary objectives of this initiative are to produce high-yield drought-resistant fruit crops, generate income for the university, provide hands-on agricultural training for students, serve as a learning center for farmers, and support faculty research activities.

Additionally, the university has designated areas for implementing soilless cultivation technologies and other water-saving techniques in plant production. This includes the hydroponic cultivation of approximately 2,000 vegetable plants per month. Hydroponic farming uses significantly less water compared to traditional soil-based agriculture, reducing irrigation water usage by 70% to 90%.

THE COLLABORATION ON WATER SECURITY TO SUPPORT OFF-CAMPUS WATER CONSERVATION

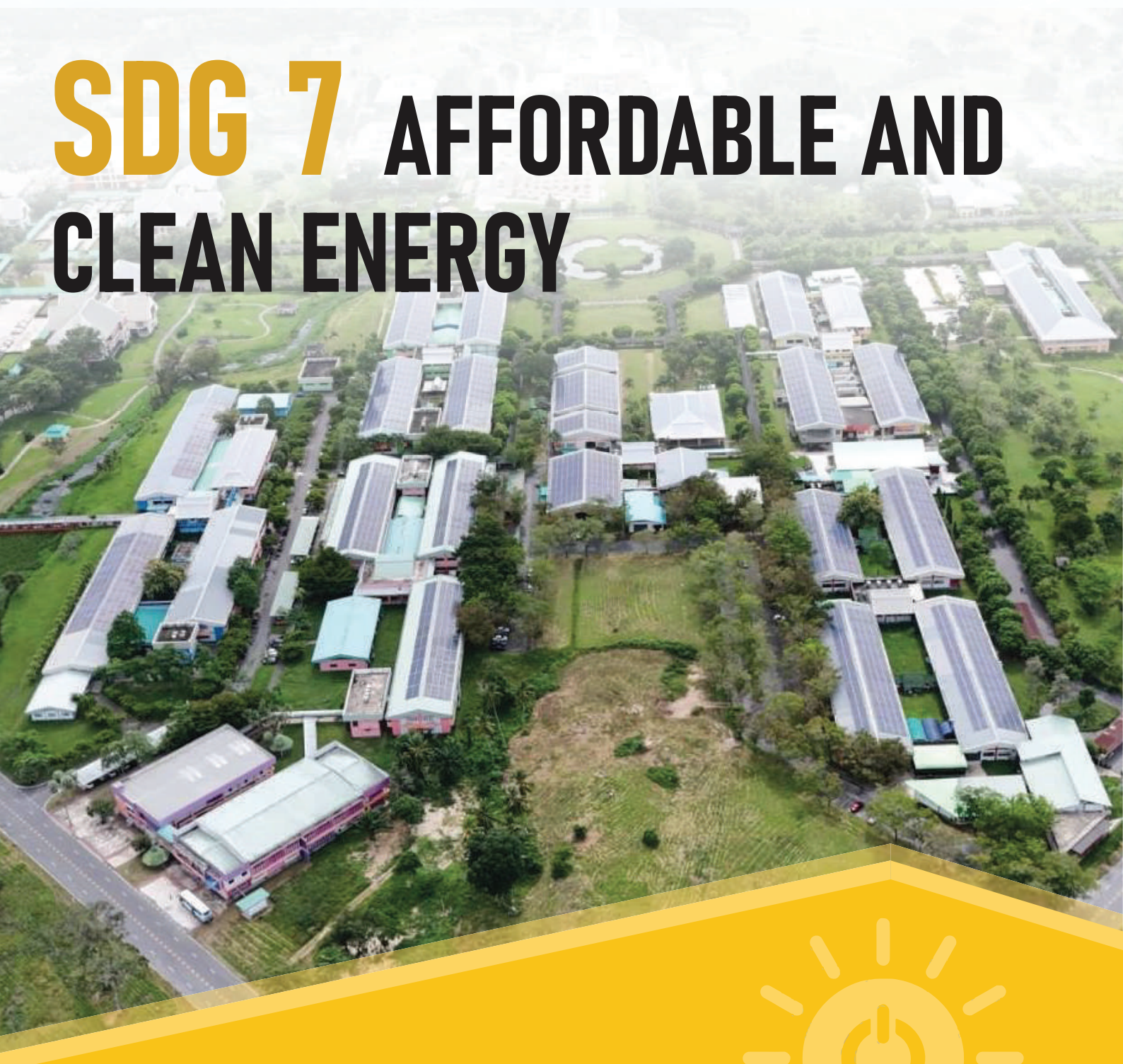
WU is actively collaborating on water security with external agencies at the local, regional, national, and global governments, and has been driving the development and enhancement of decision-support tools for the Subcommittee on Regional Water Resource Management in Southern Thailand. Partnerships have been established with networks to jointly formulate, integrate, and implement water resource management plans tailored to specific regions.

In 2024, the university supported practical water conservation initiatives off-campus by promoting decision-making tools for sub-district-level water resource management (agricultural water systems) in Southern Thailand. Using mobile applications and cloud computing technologies, the university provided modern water management tools for agricultural purposes to farmers and local communities. These tools aim to empower individuals to adapt to global and climate changes, monitor and address water shortages throughout the year, and ensure sufficient water allocation for agricultural use.

The objectives include conserving water, implementing sustainable water management, and increasing agricultural productivity through efficient water management practices tailored to local weather, soil conditions, crop types, and available resources. Proper irrigation management is emphasized to improve agricultural productivity per unit area while mitigating potential damages. The management process involves planning, operations, monitoring, evaluation, and plan adjustments to maximize water utilization, minimize costs, reduce conflicts among water users, and minimize environmental impacts.

Additionally, the university has continued its work on the "Living Weir Conservation Project" in the Na Mai Phai community of Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. This initiative is conducted in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), focusing on water security. The project involves cooperation with local communities, as well as local, regional, national, and global governments on water security. Ongoing efforts include improving and constructing additional living weirs to expand water conservation areas. These efforts have led to sustainable development in community water management, environmental conservation, and climate protection. The living weirs aid in water storage, reducing soil erosion and the intensity of water currents in streams. They also enhance biodiversity and serve as water sources for consumption and domestic use.

SDG 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



1 THE PLANS FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT UPGRADES

2 THE CARBON EMISSION REDUCTION PROCESS

3 ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

4 COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLEAN ENERGY LEARNING

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

ENDSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

ENERGY-EFFICIENT RENOVATION AND BUILDINGS

ALL BUILDINGS ARE EQUIPPED WITH ENERGY-EFFICIENT ELECTRICAL MACHINES

ALL BUILDINGS' STRUCTURE IS DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

ALL BUILDINGS ARE EQUIPPED WITH GREEN MATERIALS

CARBON REDUCTION AND EMISSION REDUCTION PROCESS

CLEAN ENERGY

SOLAR ENERGY

WIND POWER

REFUSE DERIVED FUEL

TRANSPORTATION

PEDESTRIANS

BUSPOOL

ELECTRIC VEHICLE

E-SERVICE SYSTEMS FOR CAMPUS MANAGEMENT

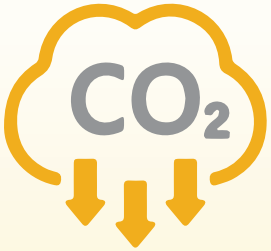
WU-DOMS, E-MEETING, E-BOOKING, E-SERVICE, etc.

WU TOTAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION

Letter of Recognition: LOR
Low Emission Support Scheme: LESS
Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (Public Organization)
by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Walailak University
Energy Efficiency Improvement by replacing old lighting system to LED
Replace existing air conditioners with high efficiency air
7,926.252 tonCO2eq

7,926.252

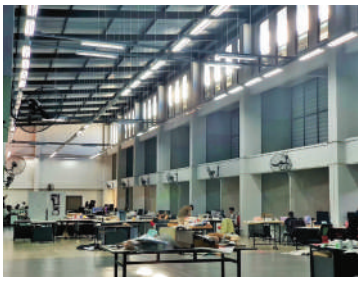
tonCO$_2$eq

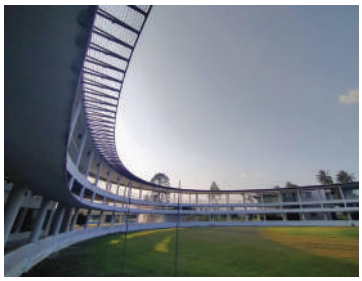


THE PLANS FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT UPGRADES

Inefficient energy use is a key barrier to achieving Green University status, which represents environmental responsibility and sustainable innovation. WU, however, leads this shift with 80.80% of its infrastructure now classified as Smart Buildings. By integrating advanced technologies to boost efficiency, cut carbon emissions, and optimize operations, WU has plans to upgrade existing buildings to higher energy efficiency and sets a model for sustainability in higher education.

Smart Buildings & Energy Efficiency Enhancements





The university has implemented various energy-saving plans, including automated lighting and climate control systems that adjust based on real-time occupancy, significantly cutting energy waste. Real-time energy monitoring ensures continuous optimization, while fire suppression and security systems operate efficiently without compromising safety. Additionally, the adoption of LED lighting, motion sensors, and natural light utilization further reduces overall energy demand.

Strategic Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Air Control System @Walailak University

To advance sustainability, The university is upgrading its infrastructure with Wi-Fi-controlled air conditioning that adjusts to real-time conditions, supported by regular maintenance and expanded automated climate control. The Smart Campus System is also being strengthened through digital correspondence (DOMs), the E-Car System for green transportation, and HRMS to streamline processes and reduce energy use.

Renewable Energy Integration & ICT-Driven Sustainability

WU is planning on the use of renewable energy through real-time solar power monitoring and AI-driven energy management system, while new solar projects further reduce reliance on non-renewable sources.

The integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is central to the university's energy and climate initiatives. The Carbon Neutrality Steering Committee leverages ICT tools for data-driven decision-making to cut emissions. Additionally, Wi-Fi-based air conditioning scheduling and smart energy management platforms ensure optimal energy efficiency through real-time tracking and control. This helps reduce electricity wastage on campus, contributing to the fight against climate change.

THE CARBON EMISSION REDUCTION PROCESS

Excessive carbon emissions present a major challenge for many educational institutions, impeding their progress toward sustainable development and environmental responsibility. To address this issue, WU has an effective carbon management process to reduce carbon dioxide emissions across the three scopes of greenhouse gas emissions. This approach integrates renewable energy adoption, emission control measures, and sustainable practices to align with the university's long-term environmental goals.

Direct Emissions

To manage direct emissions, WU maintains efficient combustion systems and has transitioned its fleet to electric vehicles, reducing emissions by 47.31 tons of CO_2 equivalent in 2024. Regular inspections of refrigerant systems minimized fugitive emissions, achieving a reduction of 855.05 tons of CO_2 equivalent.

Indirect Emissions

The university has significantly reduced reliance on grid electricity by adopting renewable energy, such as solar power, which cut emissions by 2,027 tons of CO_2 equivalent in 2024. Energy-efficient practices, including LED lighting upgrades and appliance optimization, reduced emissions by an additional 347.76 tons of CO_2 equivalent.

Other Indirect Emissions

WU addresses other indirect emissions through waste management, digital transformation, and sustainable transport initiatives. Waste reduction and e-services saved 32.05 tons of CO_2 equivalent, while online meetings reduced air travel emissions by 42.08 tons of CO_2 equivalent. Promoting bicycles, walking, and carpooling, alongside EV infrastructure, contributed to further emission reductions.

WU's renewable energy mix includes solar power, biomass, and combined heat and power systems, which enhance energy efficiency and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Plans to incorporate wind energy will further diversify its clean energy sources.

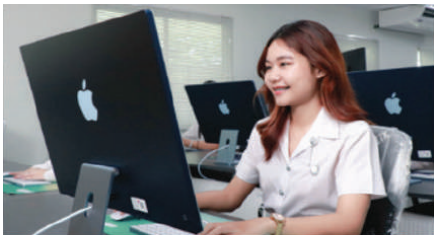
In 2024, WU successfully reduced more than 3,300 tons of CO_2 equivalent across all three GHG scopes through renewable energy adoption, emission control, and sustainable practices. These results demonstrate the university's strong commitment to long-term carbon management and emission reduction through a systematic process.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Despite WU's advancements in energy-efficient infrastructure, these efforts alone are insufficient to achieve the institution's ambitious energy consumption targets. Thus, WU continually has an energy efficiency plan in place to reduce overall energy consumption, aiming to lower energy usage of the campus annually and foster a culture of conservation across campus by combining appliance upgrades, renewable energy adoption, and smart energy management systems in the year 2024. WU remains steadfast to sustainability and reducing energy consumption in alignment with the Energy Efficiency Development Plan.

Upgrading to Energy-Efficient Appliances

A key component of WU's plan involves replacing outdated equipment with energy-efficient models. The university has completed a full transition to LED lighting, reducing energy consumption for lighting by 80%. Additionally, 100% of WU's air conditioning units have been replaced with high-efficiency inverter models that cut electricity usage by 40% while offering advanced temperature control. To further enhance efficiency, all university computers are now Energy Star-certified, ensuring 20-30% energy savings compared to conventional devices.



Renewable Energy Integration

WU has embraced renewable energy to diversify its energy sources and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Solar panels have been installed across the campus to harness clean and sustainable energy. Waste management practices have been enhanced by converting refuse into Refuse Derived Fuel, which is used to generate electricity and thermal energy. The university also utilizes wind and biomass energy, aligning with its goals of carbon neutrality and sustainability.

Renewable Energy (Biogas)

Smart Energy Management Systems

Advanced energy management technologies play a critical role in reducing consumption. Automated air conditioning controls ensure units operate only when rooms are in use, optimizing energy usage. Building designs have been updated to include features such as heat-reducing windows, translucent roofs, and sensor-operated lighting, improving overall energy efficiency across the campus.

Impact on Overall Energy Consumption

According to energy efficiency plan, the implementation of these energy efficiency measures has resulted in a significant reduction in WU's electricity usage compared to its baseline year (2016). The university successfully decreased its electricit consumption by approximately 3,127 gigajoules (GJ), representing a 5.64% reduction. In 2016, WU's total electricity consumption was 55,401 GJ, which has now decreased to 52,274 GJ in 2024.

WU's energy efficiency plan has already yielded substantial results. In 2024, the university's appliance and lighting upgrades are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 7,926.252 tons of CO_2 equivalent, marking significant progress toward the university's sustainability target.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLEAN ENERGY LEARNING

Within both the campus grounds under WU's surveillance and the local communities under the university's stewardship, the institution actively fosters the adoption of clean energy while promoting awareness of energy efficiency.

In 2024, WU continues to advance sustainability through impactful community outreach programs, equipping local communities with the knowledge and resources to embrace energy-efficient practices. These programs align with global sustainability framework, including the Sustainable Development Goals, reinforcing the university's commitment to environmental responsibility and collective progress.

Establishing the Model Clean Energy Fish Holding Center

Led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Kamon Thinsurat and the Center for Academic Services, WU partnered with the Banleam Homestay Community in Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat, to establish a Model Clean Energy Fish Holding Center. This program integrates solar energy systems into the community's aquatic farms, reducing energy costs and environmental impact. By adopting renewable energy, the community decreases reliance on traditional energy sources and enhances operational efficiency. Training sessions further equip local fishery communities with knowledge about clean energy technologies, supporting both sustainability and economic stability.

Climate Change Awareness and Energy Efficiency Training

In 2024, the WU team, alongside faculty and students from the School of Engineering and Technology, conducted a workshop in Banleam Community. The program focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation of climate change, and clean energy promotion. The program highlighted the community's critical role in sustainable development by teaching practical environmental management and clean energy practices to reduce emissions and improve daily living.

By introducing solar energy systems and educational programs, The university ensures that local communities actively contribute to global sustainability. WU's outreach programs empower communities to adopt energy efficiency and clean energy practices. By fostering engagement and sustainable solutions, WU establishes a foundation for growth, positioning the campus and its partner communities as leaders in the transition to a greener future.

SDG 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

1. POLICY ON ENDING DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE
2. LIVING WAGE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES
3. EXPANDING STUDENT WORK PLACEMENTS IN TOURISM

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

THE POLICY ON

EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR MANAGEMENT

COMMITMENT ON ENDING DISCRIMINATION

RACE

RELIGION

GENDER

AGE

REFUGEE STATUS

STAFF APPEAL PROCESS

WU STAFF MAY FILE AN APPEAL WHEN CONFRONTED WITH INAPPROPRIATE ACTIONS.

THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH WORK PLACEMENTS FOR MORE THAN A MONTH

1,297

THE UNIVERSITY PROVIDES WAGES ABOVE THE GOVERNMENT-DEFINED LIVING WAGE FOR VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL LEVELS AS FOLLOWS

HIGHER

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

18.23%

VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

15.11%

HIGH VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

12.96%

BACHELOR'S DEGREE HOLDERS

16%

MASTER,S DEGREE HOLDERS

31.43%

DOCTORAL DEGREE HOLDERS

31.43%

POLICY ON ENDING DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE

Walailak University (WU) should serve as a model of a discrimination-free workplace, fostering an environment that prepares students for real-world professional experiences. Since its establishment, WU has upheld a strong commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that no staff member faces discrimination in the workplace. The university values human diversity in all its forms, including religion, race, and immigrant status, and actively promotes a culture of respect and equal opportunities.

In 2024, WU issued its Policy on Employment and Labor Management, B.E. 2567 (2024), to ensure that all staff members are safeguarded against discrimination of any kind. This policy underscores the university's commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable workplace.

To reinforce this commitment, WU implements the policy that supports workplace fairness, diversity, and inclusion. WU provides training programs to foster cultural awareness and respect among staff and students, ensuring a welcoming and supportive environment. Additionally, it upholds a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination and harassment, creating a safe space where all employees can thrive professionally.

The recruitment process at WU is designed to welcome individuals from diverse backgrounds, including women, LGBT individuals, non-Buddhists, middle-aged candidates, and others. All employees are entitled to fair treatment and equal benefits, irrespective of their religion, sexual orientation, gender, age, or refugee status.

In 2024, the university hosted more than 40 international staff members, comprising researchers and lecturers from various countries, including Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Ghana, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, the United States, England, South Africa, Turkey, Canada, Myanmar, and the Netherlands. Special support is extended to Burmese staff members who have refugee status to facilitate their employment and integration at WU.

The university values religious diversity, with Muslim and Christian staff playing a significant role in driving its success. Both groups are supported through unions that organize and facilitate their religious activities. Furthermore, women and LGBT staff are fully integrated into the workforce, with appropriate facilities provided to ensure their comfort and productivity. Women occupy several senior leadership roles within the university, including positions as vice presidents, deans, vice deans, and directors, reflecting WU's dedication to promoting gender equity and empowering women in academia and administration.

WU's Policy on Employment and Labor Management, B.E. 2567 (2024), affirms its commitment to an inclusive and equitable workplace, ensuring all staff are free from discrimination. The university fosters diversity by welcoming individuals from various backgrounds and supporting their integration.

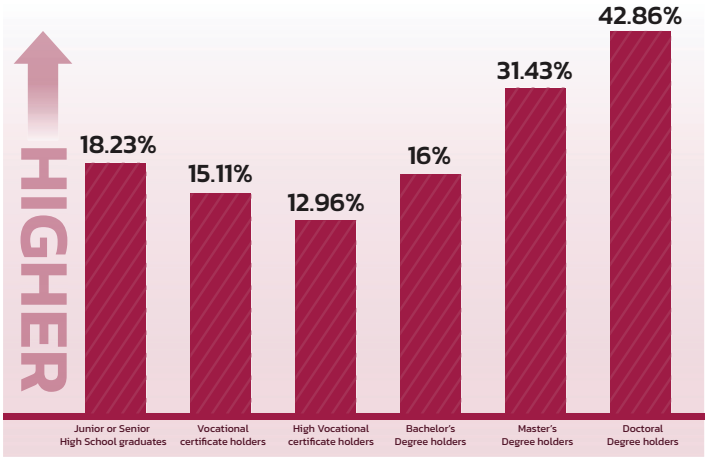
LIVING WAGE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

WU acknowledges the significance of providing a living wage to its staff as part of its commitment to social responsibility and employee well-being. A living wage at WU is defined based on the local financial poverty indicator for a family of four and the local living wage determined by the Thai government. Demonstrating strong leadership and vision, the university has consistently paid salaries above the government-defined living wage since 2014, making it one of the higher education institutions in Thailand that upholds this commitment. This initiative ensures that all staff and faculty members receive fair compensation that enhances their quality of life and financial stability.

In 2014, WU revised its policy on salary and living wages for all staff and faculty members, setting their compensation above the national living wage standard. The policy, which remains in effect today, guarantees that all employees, regardless of their position, receive a wage that aligns with economic conditions, enabling them to maintain a stable livelihood. This commitment is not only a financial strategy but also an ethical one, reinforcing the university's dedication to fair

employment practices. The official policy can be accessed at: https://shorturl.at/lpfKO

At WU, staff members are classified into three categories: academic staff, supporting staff, and academic administrative staff. Salaries and living wages are determined based on their educational qualifications, ensuring that each group is compensated fairly according to their level of expertise and contribution. The university provides wages above the government-defined living wage for various educational levels as follows:



These figures reflect WU's proactive approach in ensuring its staff members receive salaries that not only meet but also exceed the local living wage standards. By maintaining a competitive salary structure based on educational qualifications, the university fosters a work environment that values talent, encourages professional growth, and promotes long-term career development.

In addition to offering competitive salaries, WU invests in employee development programs, professional training, and career advancement opportunities implemented by the Division of Human Resources and Organization, the Center for Digital Technology, and others. Examples of the initiatives include:

- Generative AI for New Lecturers: Revolutionizing Teaching and Research with ChatGPT
- The Preparation of Work for the Determination of Professional Academic Rank for General Administrative Staff, Batch 1
- Data Visualization with Google Looker Studio

These initiatives complement the university's fair wage policy by providing staff members with the resources they need to enhance their skills, advance in their careers, and contribute effectively to the institution's success. Furthermore, by prioritizing fair wages and employee well-being, The university strengthens its ability to attract and retain top talent, thereby enhancing its academic and research capabilities.

Through its steadfast commitment to equitable pay and comprehensive employee support, WU sets a high standard for higher education institutions in Thailand, demonstrating that fair compensation and institutional success go hand in hand.

EXPANDING STUDENT WORK PLACEMENTS IN TOURISM

Samui Island, a renowned tourist destination in southern Thailand, continues to captivate visitors from around the globe with its pristine beaches, luxury resorts, and vibrant cultural scene. Recognized as one of the best islands in Asia by the DestinAsian Readers' Choice Awards 2024, this accolade underscores the island's thriving tourism industry and its critical role in bolstering the local economy.

In 2024, WU reinforced its commitment to workforce development and industry-academia collaboration by signing the 2024 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperative and Work Integrated Education (CWIE), a mandatory of work placement program at WU, with 33 leading hotels, enterprises, and agencies on Samui Island. This landmark agreement aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and professional practice by equipping students with essential practical skills, fostering career readiness, and aligning their education with the evolving demands of the tourism and hospitality sectors. By integrating real-world experiences into academic curricula, WU seeks to prepare its students to become highly competent professionals who can contribute effectively to Thailand's tourism industry and beyond.

The CWIE initiative extends its benefits to students across multiple disciplines, including Hospitality Industry, Professional Culinary Arts, Accountancy, English, Chinese, Digital Marketing and Branding, Occupational Health and Safety, Environmental Health, and Architecture and Design. Through hands-on training in industry settings, students gain invaluable experience, allowing them to refine their skills, adapt to workplace dynamics, and build professional networks. The program also enhances their ability to tackle real-world challenges, ensuring they are well-prepared for employment upon graduation. Future plans include broadening the program's scope to incorporate additional academic disciplines and increase the number of student participants, further strengthening the university's role in workforce development.

A key feature of WU's cooperative education program is its 8-month duration, a period designed to immerse students in experiential learning while promoting mutual growth among students, enterprises, and faculty. During their placements, students engage in diverse job functions, work on industry projects, and receive mentorship from experienced professionals. This structured approach not only refines their technical competencies but also cultivates essential soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

The growing success of WU's cooperative education initiatives is reflected in the rising number of student participants. In 2024, a total of 1,297 students took part in work placements across various industries, demonstrating the program's increasing impact and popularity. Looking ahead, WU's Center for Cooperative Education and Career Development aims to further expand its network of partner organizations, offering even more students the opportunity to gain hands-on work experience for extended periods.

SDG 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1 THE NUMBER OF PATENTS CITING RESEARCH

2 THE SPIN-OFF COMPANIES LEVERAGING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

3 WALAILAK UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH INCOME DRIVING INNOVATION

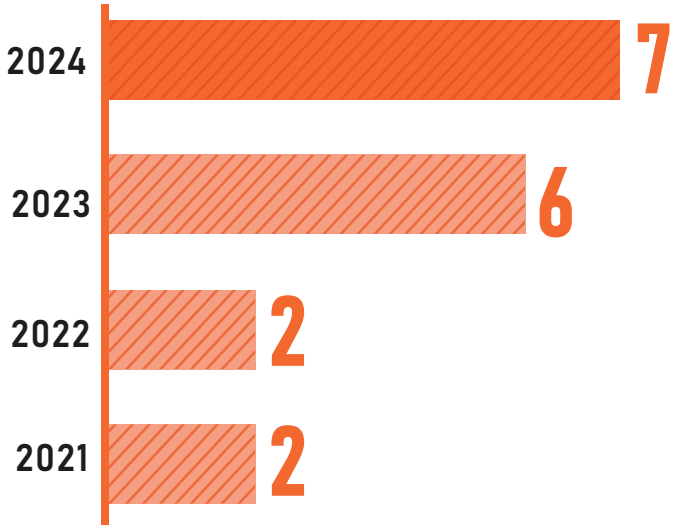
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDRUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

WU PATENT CITING RESEARCH

60 PATENTS AND PETTY PATENTS FROM 2021-2024

SPIN-OFF COMPANIES OVERVIEW



NEW WU SPIN-OFF IN 2024

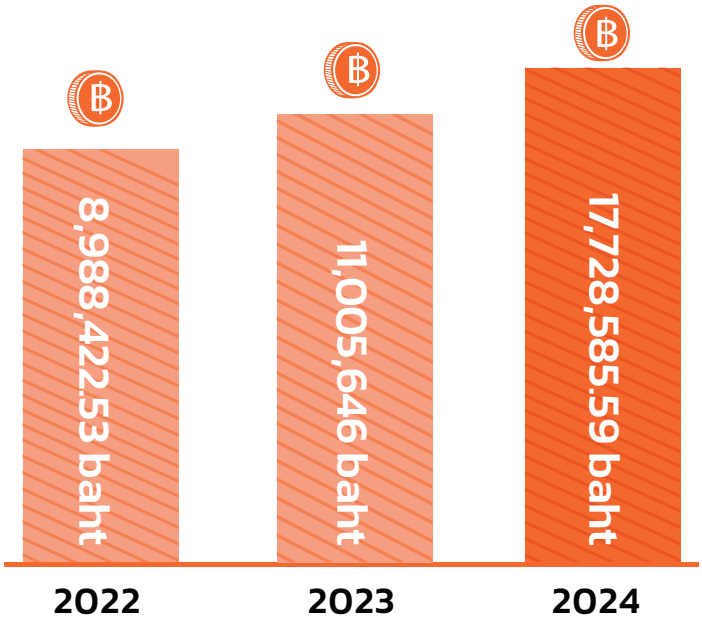
2021-2023

- PLANKTON WU CO., LTD.
- LAKWALAI BIOTIC CO.,LTD
- OXAKIN INNOTECH CO., LTD.
- CHANCHAO HERB AND BEAUTY
- WALAIBIOCOTROL CO.,LTD.
- MANGUSTO CO.,LTD.

2024

- WALAI TRICHO PLUS CO.,LTD.

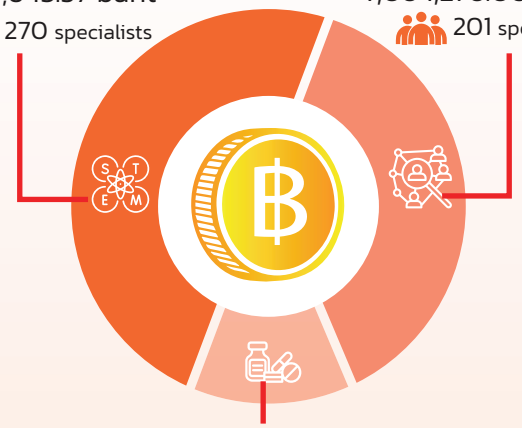
INCOME GROWTH FROM RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS



INCOME BREAKDOWN BY FIELD IN 2024

STEM:
9,138,643.57 baht
270 specialists

Arts & Humanities / Social Sciences
7,064,276.00 baht
201 specialists



Medicine:
1,525,666.02 baht
331 specialists

THE NUMBER OF PATENTS CITING RESEARCH

Patents are vital indicator of how university research benefits society and industry. WU has demonstrated significant success in linking its research to practical applications, evidenced by the numerous patent and petty patents cited research conducted by the university. These achievements highlight WU's commitment to fostering sustainable innovation and promoting real-world impact.

Promoting Research and Patents

Through its Science and Technology Park, WU supports research commercialization and innovation, particularly in advanced technology sectors like Deep Tech. The university provides guidance on patent registration, legal knowledge, funding, and partnerships with the Department of Intellectual Property.

Between 2021 and 2024, WU staff registered 60 intellectual property works, including 9 patents and petty patents in 2024. These cover diverse fields such as food innovation, biotechnology, medical sciences, agriculture, architecture, and fisheries, showcasing contributions from 16 academic schools within the university.

Examples of Notable Patents

Two notable patents highlight innovative contributions in sustainable development and practical Rubberwood Durability by Boiling Under Pressure" (Patent No. 96063, October 2, 2024) presents a sustainable solution to improve rubberwood durability, offering both environmental and economic benefits. Meanwhile, the Petty Patent titled "Microwaveable Packaging for Spinach Grain" (Patent No. 24014, July 1, 2024) showcases innovation in food packaging, for convenience and sustainability.

WU's success in generating patents reflects the dedication to integrating research into industry, driving innovation that addresses societal needs. By encouraging patent development and ensuring tangible applications for research, WU supports economic growth and sustainability.

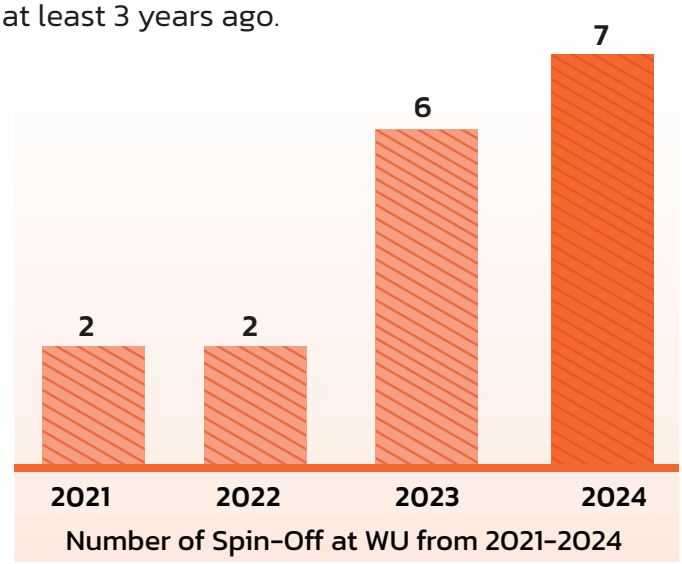
THE SPIN-OFF COMPANIES LEVERAGING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

WU, through the Business Incubation Center under the Science and Technology Park, actively fosters the creation of spin-off companies that leverage university-developed technologies to address societal challenges and generate income. By fiscal year 2024, WU had established seven such spin-off companies, including notable ventures like Walai Biocontrol Co., Ltd., which secured significant funding from the National Innovation Agency for its bioproduct services. These initiatives not only contribute to sustainable economic growth but also reinforce WU's role as an innovation hub, bridging the gap between academia and industry.

Walai Biocontrol Co.,Ltd.

Spin-Off Companies Overview

By fiscal year, WU has established a total of seven active spin-off companies, with one new addition being Walai Trichoplus Co., Ltd. launched in the most recent year. In 2023, four companies were additionally founded: Plankton WU Co., Ltd., Lakwalai Biotic Co., Ltd., Oxakin Innotech Co., Ltd., and Chanchao Herb and Beauty Limited Partnership. Meanwhile, in 2022, two companies were estabished: Walai Biocontrol Co., Ltd. and Mangusto Co., Ltd. These are defined as registered companies, set-up to exploit intellectual property that has originated from within the institution. Also, they still be active and have been established at least 3 years ago.



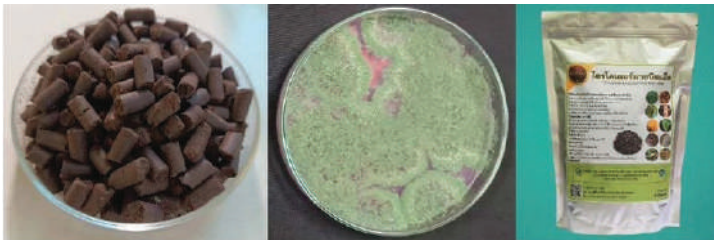
Number of Spin-Off at WU from 2021-2024

Notable Spin-Off: Walai Biocontrol Co., Ltd.

A standout example is Walai Biocontrol Co., Ltd., a venture from the School of Agricultural Technology and Food Industry, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Warin Intana. Since its establishment in 2020, the company has produced and distributed agricultural bioproducts, earning the prestigious AABI Torch Entrepreneur Award for Technology Transfer in 2022 from the Asian Association of Business Incubation.

In 2024, Walaibiocontrol co., ltd. secured 1,460,000 baht from the National Agency under the Market Expansion Project in the Southern Economic Corridor. This funding supports the

project Bioproduct Services for Pest Control 'Walai Tricho-009' in Safe Agriculture Systems, driving innovative business growth.



Driving Economic and Sustainable Development

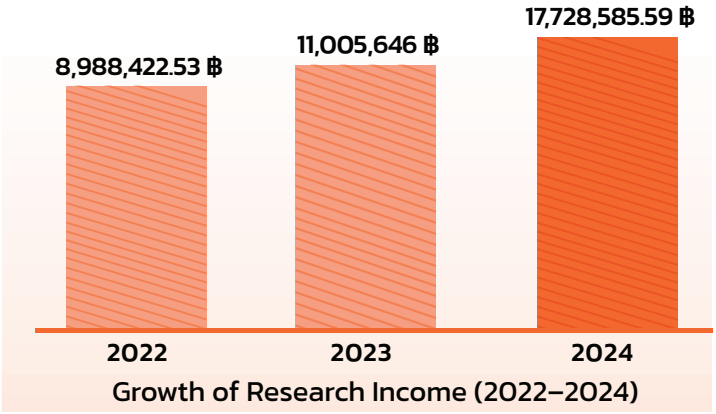
By transforming research-derived technologies into commercial venture, WU not only generates income but also fosters sustainable development. These spin-offs effectively leverage intellectual property, enhancing the university's economic value while addressing societal needs and creating lasting benefits for the higher education ecosystem.

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH INCOME DRIVING INNOVATION

WU, a globally recognized Frontier Research University, has become a key player in advancing innovation and economic growth through impactful industry collaborations. WU's Science and Technology Park serves as a hub connecting researchers and entrepreneurs, fostering innovation to address industrial challenges and drive sustainable development.

Income Growth from Research Collaborations

WU's research income across all disciplines demonstrated continuous growth from 2022 to 2024. In 2024, it achieved a growth rate of 61.08%, representing an increase of 6,722,939.59 baht.



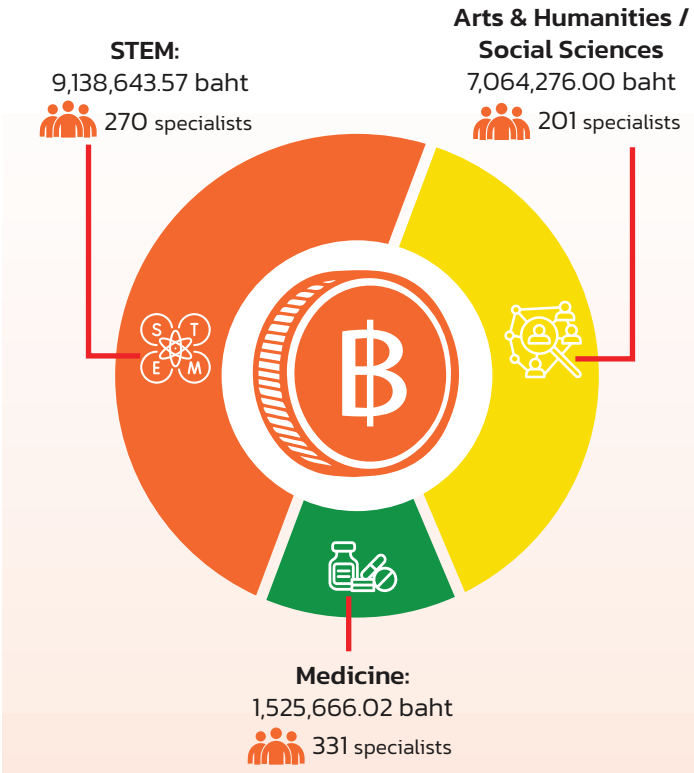
Growth of Research Income (2022–2024)

All income in 2024 came from private-sector collaborations, leveraging university-driven innovations to address industrial needs.

Income Breakdown by Field in 2024

Research income at WU is categorized into four main fields: STEM, Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, and Medicine. Within each field, various teaching schools contribute by undertaking diverse research projects, reflecting WU's commitment to advancing knowledge and addressing both local and global challenges.

- **STEM:** 9,138,643.57 baht
- **Medicine:** 1,525,666.02 baht
- **Arts & Humanities / Social Sciences:** 7,064,276.00 baht



This success was supported by 802 faculty members specializing in diverse disciplines including 270 people in STEM, 331 people in Medicine, and 201 people in Arts & Humanities / Social Sciences.

Highlighted Innovation of 2024

A standout success is the Structural Strengthening System for Concrete Columns Using Prestressed Metal Strapping innovation, developed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thanongsak Imjai. This innovation, used in building repairs without demolition, saved industries over 9 million baht and illustrates practical applications of university research.

The "Structural Strengthening System for Concrete Columns Using Prestressed Metal Strapping Innovation" has significant impacts in several areas:

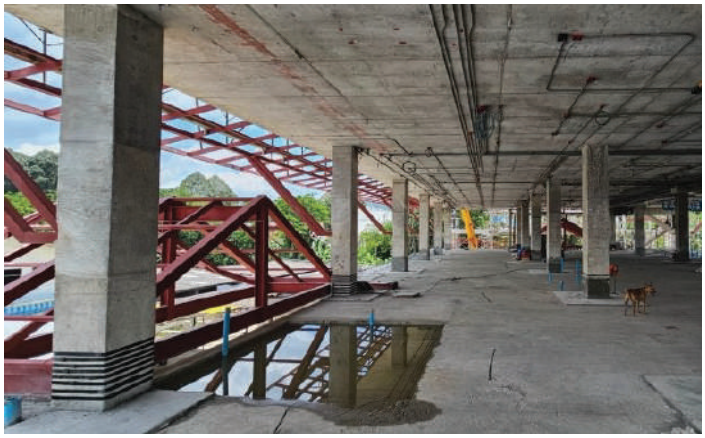
1. **Enhancing Structural Strength and Durability:** Utilizing prestressed metal straps to encircle concrete columns increases their compressive strength and ductility, making structures more robust and durable, especially in earthquake-prone or harsh environmental regions.

2. **Time and Cost Efficiency:** This method eliminates the need for demolishing or reconstructing existing structures, thereby reducing repair and reinforcement time and costs compared to traditional strengthening techniques.

3. **Versatile Applications:** The technique can be applied to various concrete structures, such as columns, beams, and other building components, offering flexibility in upgrading and reinforcing existing structures.

4. **Promoting Domestic Research and Development:** Developed by Thai researchers, this innovation fosters local technological research and development, enhancing international competitiveness.

5. **Environmental Impact Reduction:** Strengthening structures without dismantling the original framework reduces construction waste and conserves natural resources, supporting and enhancing sustainable building development.



WU's commitment to integrating academic research with industrial needs has cemented the campus position as a leader in innovation. By fostering partnerships and driving sustainable development, WU continues to transform research into real-world solutions, contributing to economic growth and societal advancement.

SDG 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

1 PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL ACCESS FOR STUDENTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

2 ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT POLICY

3 FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

POLICY ON ANTI DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

DISABILITY TYPES ON CAMPUS

MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT

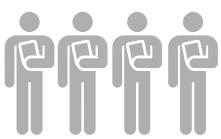
VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

HEARING IMPAIRMENT

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO ARE DISPLACED PEOPLE

18

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



30

ALL BUILDINGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DISABLE FACILITY

DISABLED FACILITIES

ACCESSIBLE TOILET

ALL 43 BUILDINGS

PARKING AREAS

ALL 43 BUILDINGS

WHEELCHAIR RAMP

ALL 43 BUILDINGS

ACCESSIBLE ELEVATOR

ALL 3 BUILDINGS
WITH ACCESSIBLE ELEVATOR ON CAMPUS

TRANSPORTATION

ALL 12 BUSES
AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS

PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL ACCESS FOR STUDENTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Walailak University (WU) deeply recognizes the importance of equality in educational access among international students to foster a diverse and inclusive academic environment. Ensuring that students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to pursue higher education is fundamental to our mission. The WU International College is one of the organizations that is responsible for assisting undergraduate international students to complete their education while the College of Graduate Studies is responsible for graduate students.

In 2024, more than 170 international students studied at WU across all levels, including some of them were from low or lower-middle-income and developing countries, including Myanmar, Vietnam, China, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, Uganda, Nigeria, Pakistan, Bhutan, and Egypt. They had equal rights and access to all facilities at WU as Thai students, including scholarships, mentoring schemes, health schemes, prayer facilities, and more. They received financial aid that significantly supports their studies, including fees, housing and living costs, and study materials directly provided by the university.

The university treated international students with the same fairness and respect as Thai students, ensuring no discrimination. WU honored the diverse backgrounds of all students, including their religions, cultures, and other differences, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for everyone. They had an International Student Club that served as a vibrant hub for cultural exchange and community support. This club organized various events, including cultural festivals, social gatherings, and educational workshops, aimed at fostering a sense of belonging and promoting cross-cultural understanding among students from diverse backgrounds.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT POLICY

WU is dedicated to ensuring a campus free from discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), and human rights violations to promote equal treatment and opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their differences. Discrimination or harassment based on race, nationality, ethnicity, skin color, family background, belief, religion, social status, sexual orientation, gender, age, physical stature, disability, spoken language, political belief, or marital and parental status is strictly prohibited. WU strives to foster an inclusive environment where LGBT individuals, women, displaced people or refugees, people with disabilities, and others are treated with respect and equity.

In 2024, WU issued the Policy on Gender Equality, Non-discrimination, and Anti-harassment, B.E. 2567 (2024), reaffirming its commitment to inclusivity by addressing harassment and banning discrimination while promoting gender equality covering the institution and its operations.

Empowerment of Women

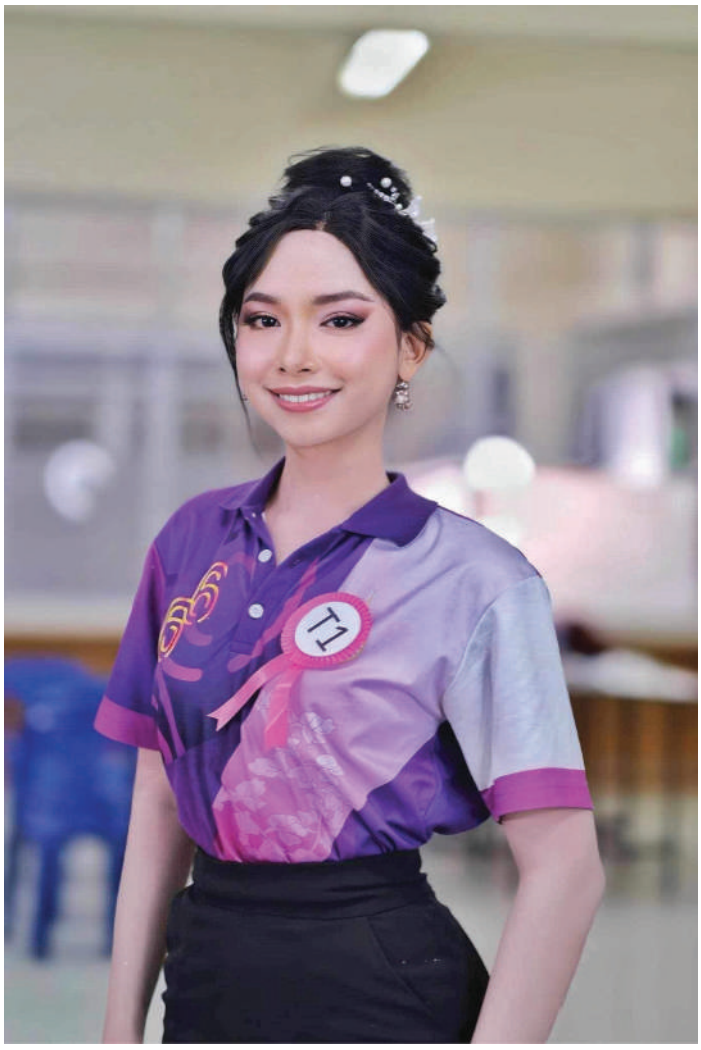
Women at WU are safeguarded against discrimination and harassment and have equal access to education and leadership opportunities. Female students are supported equally with their male counterparts, while female staff are encouraged to pursue senior and leadership roles. The Center of Excellence on Women and Social Security (CEWSS) plays a pivotal role in advancing women's rights and organizing activities to promote gender equality both on and off campus. In 2024, CEWSS organized a program to promote women's roles in fostering peace in Pattani Province, an area affected by civil unrest. The initiative mobilized women to serve as intermediaries, fostering dialogue and understanding in a multicultural society where Buddhists and Muslims coexist peacefully.

Additionally, CEWSS hosted an online conference featuring a presentation by Mr. Krisada Kantichol, a CEWSS researcher, on gendered language in media coverage. The presentation explored how language can perpetuate gender bias, often devaluing women, and sought to raise awareness about gender equality both on and off campus.

Support for LGBT Individuals

WU actively promotes the rights and inclusion of LGBT individuals on campus, ensuring they are protected from harassment and discrimination while being treated equally alongside their peers. To celebrate diversity and foster acceptance, the university organizes initiatives such as the Miss Lady Boy competition, which provides a platform

for LGBT individuals to showcase their talents and contribute to a more inclusive community. Additionally, a delegation of LGBT students from WU participated in the Transgender Nakhon Si Thammarat University 2023 event, held in 2024, highlighting the achievements and contributions of transgender individuals in higher education.



Support for Displaced People

WU has long welcomed displaced individuals, particularly Burmese students and staff, emphasizing racial equality and fair treatment. The University offers scholarships annually to reduce educational inequality and provide displaced individuals with the support needed to complete their education. In 2024, WU received more than 15 Burmese students who became displaced people.

WU provided them with scholarships both fully and partially. Additionally, the Center for International Affairs and WU International College are responsible for assisting all international students, including students who become displaced people on various issues, such as coordinating with embassies and visa procedures, ensuring they can complete their education.

Accessibility for People with Disabilities

WU is committed to providing accessible facilities to ensure that individuals with disabilities can lead normal daily lives on campus. These include wheelchair ramps, accessible toilets, braille blocks, disability signage, and designated parking areas. The university strictly prohibits any form of harassment against people with disabilities, particularly physical harassment, and ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to scholarships and other opportunities.

Through these initiatives and policies, WU underscores its unwavering commitment to building an inclusive, equitable, and respectful community for all.

FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Since signing an academic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance the livelihoods of disabled individuals, WU has continuously improved its facilities and support services to promote inclusivity. The university mandates the inclusion of facilities for disabled individuals in all newly constructed buildings, ensuring accessibility for everyone.

All buildings on campus are equipped with physical facilities made to enable people with disabilities to participate in university life in all forms, including physical, emotional, mental, academic, and employment. Office buildings feature wheelchair ramps for students and staff accessing the offices, as well as accessible toilets, disability signage, and designated parking areas. The Center for Library Resources and Educational Media, a key learning hub for students, staff, and the public, is equipped with wheelchair ramps, accessible toilets, braille blocks, disability signage, and designated parking areas.

WU Hospital, envisioned as a fully inclusive institution, incorporates comprehensive facilities for disabled individuals. These include wheelchair ramps at all entrances, accessible toilets, disability signage, designated parking areas, accessible elevators, and emergency call systems, ensuring ease of access for patients and visitors alike.

The Division of Landscaping and Building plays a critical role in maintaining these facilities. It conducts regular inspections and promptly addresses any necessary repairs to ensure their functionality and usability.

Beyond infrastructure, WU has also expanded its support services for disabled students through the Division of Student Support and Development. This division offers tailored assistance, including mentoring programs, scholarships, and other support mechanisms. In 2024, the division launched a comprehensive five-step approach to help disabled students successfully complete their education. The steps include: surveying disabled students to identify their needs, planning targeted support services, reporting on service performance, providing scholarships, and tracking progress and summarizing outcomes.

Through these initiatives, WU reaffirms its commitment to fostering an inclusive academic and social environment, ensuring that disabled individuals can thrive and succeed

SDG 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

1 FREE PUBLIC ACCESS TO GREEN AND OPEN SPACES

2 SAFEGUARDING THAI AND DISPLACED PEOPLE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

3 ACTION PLAN ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUTING

4 COLLABORATION FOR ADDRESSING AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

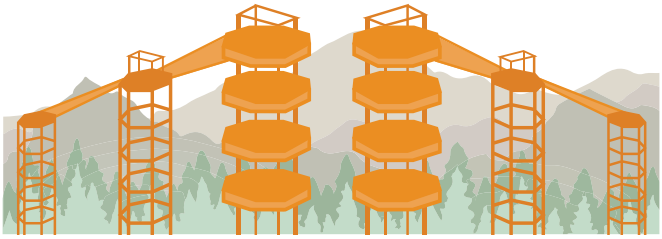
MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILENT AND SUSTAINABLE

FREE PUBLIC ACCESS TO BUILDINGS AND MUSEUMS

HERITAGE LANDSCAPE

TOOMPANG ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

GREEN SPACES



WALAILAK BOTANIC PARK

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNICATION AT WU

BICYCLE ROUTES
57

PEDESTRIANS
58

ELECTRIC VEHICLES USED ON CAMPUS
364

BUS POOLING SERVICES
2

ELECTRIC SHUTTLE BUS
12

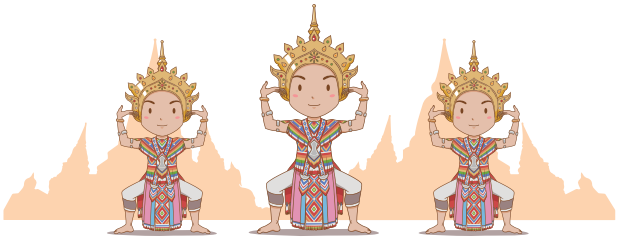
AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL

7,253
STUDENTS

1,161
STAFF

15
LOCAL COMMUNITIES

THE NORA 12-POSTURE LEARNING PROGRAM



WU AWARDED AS A DEDICATED ORGANIZATION FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Toompang Archaeological Site

FREE PUBLIC ACCESS TO GREEN AND OPEN SPACES

Characterizing the devotion to sustainability and community well-being, Walailak University (WU) provides free public access to the open spaces and green spaces. These areas are thoughtfully designed to promote recreation, education, and environmental stewardship while fostering harmony between people and nature.

Open Spaces for Community and Recreation

BOTA Market Open Space serves as a free-for-all venue for events, performances, and social gatherings, uniting students, staff, and the public. The Tent Area provides camping opportunities in serene, natural surroundings, while BOTA Home & Camp supports seminars and training with SHA-certified facilities. The Aerobic Area encourages health and fitness activities in a beautiful setting.

Green Spaces for Exploration and Relaxation

Walailak Park, spanning 408,000 square meters, is Thailand's largest university park. It includes cycling and jogging tracks, yoga spaces, and scenic areas for relaxation. Walailak Botanic Park, at 853,760 square meters, offers attractions like the Canopy Walkway and Bota Sky Tower, creating a vibrant hub for leisure and education. The French-style garden adds elegance and biodiversity to the campus.

Bota Sky Tower

Seasonal Events and Attractions

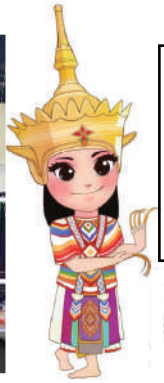
In 2024, Walailak Botanic Park hosted the "Tulip Festival Botanic Park" at the Temperate House. Visitors experienced a cool, air-conditioned environment showcasing a variety of temperate plants, including vibrant tulips in five colors: purple, red, white, pink, and yellow. The festival also featured other ornamental plants such as butterfly flowers, dwarf zinnias, impatiens, and orchids. The WBP included access to five additional greenhouses: Bromeliad House, Calathea and Canna House, Fern House, Foliage and Anthurium House, and Cactus Dome.

SAFEGUARDING THAI AND DISPLACED PEOPLE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

Preserving local, regional, and national cultures, as well as the cultures of displaced communities, has long been a priority for WU. Situated in southern Thailand, a region rich in cultural heritage, the university recognizes its responsibility to safeguard these traditions as part of its role in cultural stewardship.

Nora, a traditional dance-drama from southern Thailand, represents the region's lifestyle, beliefs, and wisdom. To ensure its preservation in the digital age, WU has introduced the innovative Nora 12-Posture Learning Program, blending tradition with technology, Nora Walailak.

Using Motion Capture technology, the program digitally records the foundational 12 postures of Nora as passed down by National Artist Yok Chubua. These movements are transformed into an interactive learning system, allowing learners to practice in real time with corrective feedback.



SCAN QR CODE
AR NORA WALAILAK

WU has also established Nora Youth Training Centers in Chumphon and Phatthalung provinces to nurture a new generation of performers. These centers act as cultural hubs, promoting Nora as both an art form and a living heritage.

Moreover, The University was honored with the "Dedicated Organization for Preserving Culture" award from the Ministry of Culture of Thailand in recognition of its efforts to preserve the Menora Dance.

Preserving Local and Regional Cultural Heritage

Beyond Nora, WU organizes various activities to celebrate local cultures, including traditional performances by students from the WU Dance Club and the Faculty of Education and Liberal Arts. These performances include:

"Aryachamoklan" Performance: Showcasing the ancient Moklan civilization through artistic dance and traditional choreography.

"Lai Thom Muang Nakhon" Performance: Highlighting the craftsmanship of Nakhon Si Thammarat's traditional nielloware, a hallmark of regional identity.

"Natthaya Bucha Nora Songkrueng" Performance: A creative portrayal of the origins of Nora, integrating poetry, music, and choreography to represent Southern identity.

These efforts inspire pride in regional traditions and culture and reinforce WU's commitment to cultural preservation.

Promoting National Cultural Heritage

At the national level, WU actively upholds key Thai traditions through events such as:

- **Walailak Songkran Festival:** Celebrating the Thai New Year with traditional practices like pouring water to honor elders and cultural activities that strengthen community ties.
- **Loy Krathong Festival:** Engaging participants in the traditional floating of krathongs, emphasizing the connection between communities and nature while celebrating Thai cultural beauty.

Preserving Heritage of Displaced Communities

WU also works to preserve the heritage of displaced or minority communities, such as the Mani ethnic group, an indigenous people in southern Thailand. WU established the Mani Ethnographic Museum, documenting their lifestyle, knowledge,

and natural resource management. This initiative is part of the Royal Project on Plant Genetic Conservation, which raises awareness about cultural and ecological preservation.

WU's multifaceted efforts–from safeguarding the Nora dance through cutting-edge technology, nurturing youth performers, and celebrating regional artistry, to honoring national traditions and preserving the heritage of displaced communities–demonstrate its unwavering commitment to cultural stewardship. By integrating innovation with tradition and fostering community engagement, The university ensures that diverse cultural heritages continue to thrive for future generations. These initiatives safeguard intangible cultural heritage as a hub for cultural research, collaboration, and sustainable community development.

ACTION PLAN ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUTING

WU is a leader in sustainable commuting, implementing innovative policies and environmental initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint. WU promotes eco-friendly commuting for students, staff, and the wider community.

Promoting National Cultural Heritage

In 2024, WU undertook key actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility:

- **Electric Shuttle Services:** A fleet of 12 electric shuttles and golf carts operates on five major routes, connecting academic buildings, dormitories, sports facilities, the university hospital, and Walailak Botanic Park. These shuttles, which accommodate around 7,000 passengers daily, provide 330 zero-emission trips per day and feature a real-time tracking system for efficiency.

- **Pedestrian Pathways:** The expansion and enhancement of covered walkways facilitate seamless connections between key campus areas, encouraging walking as a sustainable and healthy commuting alternative.

Bicycle Lanes: Dedicated bike lanes have been established to promote cycling as a safe, eco-friendly commuting option.

Electric Vehicles (EVs): WU has significantly expanded its fleet of electric cars, buses, motorcycles, scooters, and mopeds to reduce on-campus emissions and dependence on fossil fuels.

Carpooling and Vanpooling Programs: Shared transit options have been introduced to alleviate traffic congestion, minimize fuel consumption, and foster community interaction among students and faculty.

Major Actions in 2024

- **Expansion of Pedestrian Walkways:** Additional walkways, especially around Walailak Botanic Park, have improved accessibility and encouraged walking and outdoor activities.
- **Increased Adoption of Electric Scooters:** The growing use of electric scooters and mopeds has

further reduced emissions and contributed to a cleaner campus environment.

- **Restricted Vehicle Access:** The university has designated certain areas as low-traffic zones to promote pedestrian-friendly spaces and reduce congestion.

Through its comprehensive actions in 2024, including electric shuttles, expanded pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, EV adoption, and shared transit programs-WU has strengthened its role as a leader in sustainable commuting. These initiatives not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion but also promote healthier lifestyles and foster a greener, more connected campus community. They also show the WU's sustainable communication on campus.

COLLABORATION FOR ADDRESSING AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS

The University continues to demonstrate its commitment to social responsibility and community development by collaborating with local authorities to plan to ensure that local residents are able to access affordable housing. Since its establishment in 1992, the university has utilized its vast 20,800,000-square-meter campus for academic purposes while supporting communities through initiatives like the Satit Walailak Pattana Community Project.

Collaborative Housing Solutions

In 2024, WU partnered with the Agricultural Land Reform Office, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, and local officials from Tha Sala District and Nakhon Si Thammarat Province to develop housing solutions for low-income residents. Together, they allocated land and constructed affordable homes for 15 disadvantaged individuals in the Satit Walailak Community.

WU actively supported the initiative by clearing land and providing financial assistance for building materials, ensuring residents could access safe and affordable housing while addressing a vital regional need.

Enhancing Community Development

Beyond housing, WU collaborates with local authorities on broader community development initiatives, guided by the principle of "Increasing income, creating jobs, and developing people." These programs include:

- **Education and Training:** Expanding educational opportunities for local residents.
- **Health and Wellness:** Improving public health services and infrastructure.
- **Resource and Environmental Management:** Promoting sustainable land use and environmental stewardship.
- **Cultural Enrichment:** Celebrating and preserving local traditions and heritage.

Commitment to Sustainable Development

WU's collaboration with local authorities ensures that development aligns with sustainable land use and long-term planning goals. By addressing housing needs and promoting socio-economic growth, the university fosters a thriving, inclusive community where residents enjoy an improved quality of life.

This ongoing partnership underscores the power of working together to tackle critical planning and development challenges, securing a brighter future for the region.

SDG 12 REPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

1 INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT: ADVANCING TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

2 THE GREEN ALLIES: JUST SAY NO TO PLASTIC BAG– UNDER WU POLICIES

3 THE ACTIVITIES TO DRIVE ITS PLASTIC REDUCTION POLICY, EXTENDING TO EXTERNAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

POLICY FOR RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND REDUCTION

WASTE TRACKING PROCESS

BEGINNING STAGE

1. CAMPAIGN AND PUBLIC RELATION DEVELOPMENT
2. WASTE SORTING
3. TRASH FULL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

WASTE TRUCKS DELIVER THE WASTE TO THE WU WASTE BANK FOR FINAL-STAGE DISPOSAL.

FINAL STAGE

RECYCLE

ORGANIC

PIG FEED

FERTILIZERS

BIO-GAS

INORGANIC

PAPER

PLASTIC

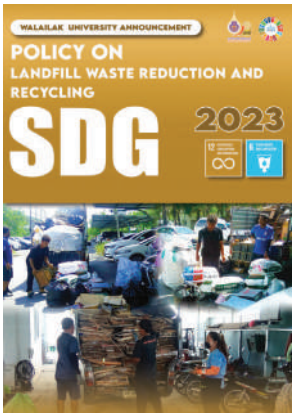
WASTE BANK

RDF

WASTE SEND TO LANDFILL

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT: ADVANCING TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

Walailak University (WU) has always applied an integrated waste management approach in support of its Green University Initiative which goal is to attain zero waste management with economic, social, and environmental sustainability considerations in mind. At present, WU has policies, guidelines, and activities to measure the amount of waste generated across the university. The processes of existence of measurement at the whole university throughout its different stages are as follows:



Waste Monitoring and Measurement at the Source

This stage focuses on educating WU students and staff about the significance of reducing waste and properly sorting it by implementing a system of four color-coded bins to help categorize waste: Green Bins for organic waste; Blue Bins for general waste; Yellow Bins for recyclable materials; Red Bins for hazardous waste.

In 2024, the university introduced several activities to bolster this initiative, including "Let's Sort Waste"; this activity aims to encourage waste segregation at the source to lessen the challenges of managing waste at the end of its lifecycle.

The next activity is "Waste Protection Sorting Station." This activity invites students, staff, and external participants to sort their waste before disposal, highlighting the importance of cleanliness and resource reuse.

Waste Monitoring and Measurement at the Intermediate Stage

During this stage, various types of waste from whole university are gathered and organized in designated collection areas that have secure and efficient lids. Then, each type of waste is measured accurately when the Waste Collection Vehicles go to the areas at the specific schedules and routes, which helps ensure that waste is collected efficiently and that the weights are documented at each location.

Waste Monitoring and Measurement at the Final Stage

The university has a waste separation system at its waste plant, with methods to track the amount and assess the types of waste. In 2024, the university implemented a Solid Waste Treatment Plant consisting of recycling and sanitary landfill.

For recycling, it can be separated into two types of waste: inorganic waste: materials such as paper, glass, and plastic are sold to industrial factories for further recycling; and organic waste: items like vegetable scraps, food waste, leaves, and branches are repurposed as animal feed or compost. This organic waste is used to feed pigs and create compost for ornamental and fruit-bearing plants on campus. Any surplus compost is sold to generate additional revenue for the university.

WU Waste Bank – an initiative for sustainable waste disposal on campus

Waste processed through composting produce fertilizer

Next is the sanitary landfill, including non-hazardous waste and items that cannot be recycled or reused are disposed of using sanitary landfill methods, ensuring environmental safety.

To sum up, these efforts highlight WU's dedication to sustainable waste management by decreasing waste production, promoting the reuse and recycling of materials, and reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfills.

THE GREEN ALLIES: JUST SAY NO TO PLASTIC BAG– UNDER WU POLICIES

Plastic waste and single-use items have become a critical global issue, causing severe environmental degradation and harming ecosystems. These materials, often non-biodegradable, contribute to pollution in land and marine environments, impacting both wildlife and human health. Addressing this problem requires collective efforts to reduce usage, promote sustainable alternatives, and manage waste effectively. Consequently, the university has the policies around use minimization of plastic and disposable items on campus.

According to these policies, the university organized various activities in 2024, promoting and campaigning among students, staff, and employees, as well as food and beverage vendors operating within the university, to reduce waste through various approaches. These include awareness campaigns, workshops, and training sessions, such as the "8R Waste Management Seminar" and workshops on crafting items from everyday recyclable waste. These initiatives, aligned with the university's policies on proper waste and hazardous waste management, aim to encourage waste segregation and proper waste management among students and staff through hands-on training, demonstrations, and practical implementation.

These activities are designed to reduce waste generation, improve environmental quality, and foster sustainable waste management practices for the future. They also contribute to strengthening the community and promoting sustainable development. As a result, the use of plastic bags on campus has significantly decreased.

Additionally, the university has launched campaigns encouraging students, staff, and employees to reduce or eliminate the use of plastics. Examples include using cloth bags and baskets instead of plastic bags, avoiding single-use disposable items, and requiring vendors to discontinue providing free plastic bags (except for ready-to-eat cooked food, which must be packed in bags made from recycled materials, biodegradable plastics, or paper). Vendors are also encouraged to eliminate the use of foam containers and degradable plastic bags with handles. Students and staff are urged to use refillable water bottles instead of purchasing single-use plastic bottled water.

These efforts help reduce global warming and address the plastic waste problem. The university aims to instill a Zero Waste mindset by promoting the 8R principles, which include: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Refill, Repair, Recover, and Return. These principles encourage minimizing waste on campus as much as possible and passing on this knowledge and practices to family members, coworkers, and others to build a waste-free society. By doing so, WU contributes to creating a cleaner, more sustainable world for current and future generations.

THE ACTIVITIES TO DRIVE ITS PLASTIC REDUCTION POLICY, EXTENDING TO EXTERNAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Currently, the university has established disposable policies, regulations, and measures to reduce plastic usage, ensuring these policies extend to outsourced services and the supply chain. This includes those involved in the delivery of goods, equipment, tools, and materials, as well as vendors or external individuals operating food services within the university. It also encompasses suppliers of office equipment and contractors tasked with constructing buildings on campus. The policy, developed as a practical guideline, has been consistently implemented in 2024.

The policy mandates that suppliers and vendors delivering goods, equipment, and materials prioritize environmentally friendly practices and reusable or recyclable materials. Online sellers acting as delivery partners are encouraged and required to use environmentally friendly or reusable packaging to reduce packaging waste from the production process, ensuring safety and sustainability.

WU emphasizes fostering knowledge and understanding of food hygiene principles (as the Department of Health's standards), food outlet management, service quality control, and compliance with relevant regulations and guidelines, ensuring the confidence of consumers for safety and quality food.

Additionally, the university has measures in place to require vendors to discontinue providing free plastic bags with handle, except for ready-to-eat cooked food, which must be packaged in bags made from recycled materials, biodegradable plastic, or paper. The use of foam containers and degradable plastic bags with handles has also been discontinued. Vendors are further required to replace single-use plastic cups with bio-plastic coated paper cups or washable and reusable ones. Discounts are offered to customers who bring their own cups for beverages. Vendors are also encouraged to reduce the use and distribution of single-use plastic utensils, such as spoons, forks, and straws, except upon customer request.

These policies and campaigns have raised awareness among campus vendors, leading to the rejection of single-use plastics and foam products. Instead, vendors now use biodegradable alternatives like banana leaves, sugarcane pulp containers, and paper straws. This initiative aims to minimize waste, promote a waste-free society, and support a sustainable future.

SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION

1 LOW-CARBON ENERGY TRACKING AT WU

2 LOCAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

3 THE COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON CLIMATE RISK MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING

4 THE COLLABORATIONS WITH NGOs ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION ON CAMPUS

52,274 GJ

LOW-CARBON ENERGY UTILIZATION

13,596 GJ

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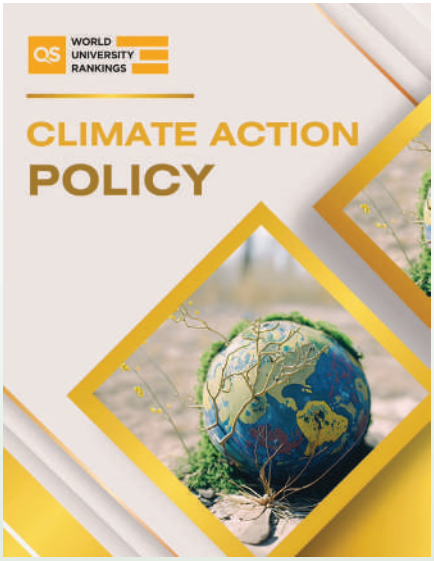
CLIMATE ACTION POLICY



EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

PRIVATE SECTORS

LOW-CARBON ENERGY TRACKING AT WU

Walailak University (WU) has long been at the forefront of sustainability, aligning its energy policies with national frameworks like the Energy Efficiency Development Plan. In 2024, WU reinforced its commitment to reducing its environmental impact by implementing its Climate Action Policy, which emphasizes the measurement and adoption of low-carbon energy for whole university. By tracking energy use across the campus, the university aims to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and promote renewable energy solutions, fostering a more sustainable future.

Assessing carbon footprint reduction through trees

In 2024, WU consumed 52,274 gigajoules of electrical energy, resulting in 12,433 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. Energy-intensive areas included:

- **Shops and campus-charged facilities (canteens, gardens):** 19.93% of total energy consumption.
- **Integrated Academic Buildings:** 13.57% of total energy consumption.
- **Student Dormitories:** 12.33% of total energy consumption.

To counteract these emissions, WU prioritized integrating low-carbon energy sources. In the same year, the university utilized 13,596 gigajoules of low-carbon energy, derived from solar power, clean biomass, combined heat and power systems, and wind energy. This accounted for 20.64% of the university's total energy consumption, a significant milestone in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

WU's efforts to measure and integrate low-carbon energy highlight its dedication to sustainability and climate action. By actively tracking energy use and promoting renewable solutions, WU has set an example for educational institutions nationwide. As the university continues to enhance its energy efficiency and renewable energy use, it moves closer to its goal of a greener, more sustainable campus, contributing meaningfully to global efforts against climate change.

LOCAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is a pressing global challenge that requires both awareness and actionable knowledge to effectively address its consequences. WU, aware of the impacts of global warming, undertook significant programs to educate local communities aimed at addressing climate change, focusing on risks, impacts, mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning. These efforts in the year 2024 aim to empower communities to build resilience and contribute to a sustainable future.

Community Training in Environmental Management

In 2024, a dedicated team from WU team, along with engineering and technology students, collaborated with the Center for Academic Services (CAS) conducting a training session program in Ban Laem Community, Tha Sala District. The program focused on environmental management strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. The training is aimed at:

1. Promoting community involvement in sustainable development, emphasizing activities that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change.

2. Encouraging climate change adaptation and waste segregation at the source within Ban Laem Community.

3. Fostering community participation and risk awareness among residents and entrepreneurs regarding environmental management to reduce emissions impacting climate change.

School Meet & Greet: Carbon Sequestration Learning

CAS participated in the School Meet & Greet event organized by the School of Public Health at WU in 2024. The program targeted high school students from both local and provincial academies including Tessaban 1 School (Eng Siang Samakkhi) and Hatyaiwittayalai Somboonkulkanya School. The event featured five educational stations:

- Testing for food contaminants
- Basic life support techniques
- Industrial hygiene measurements and fire extinguishing equipment
- Forensic science applications
- Assessing carbon footprint reduction through trees

CAS led the station to evaluate carbon sequestration in trees, providing knowledge and demonstrations on assessing carbon storage. Students engaged in hands-on practice, enhancing their understanding of environmental science and its practical applications.

Ban Laem Homestay Community Waste Segregation Initiative

WU's School of Public Health, along with the CAS, visited the Ban Laem Homestay Community in Tha Sala District. They provided mesh-type waste segregation bins and conducted training program on recycling practices and data recording for the Low Emission Support Scheme (LESS) certification. The training is aimed at:

- Supporting the development of greenhouse gas reduction activities in the community for LESS certification.
- Preparing the community to develop greenhouse gas reduction projects capable of trading carbon credits.

THE COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON CLIMATE RISK MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING

Providing information and supporting government agencies in early warning systems and climate-related disaster monitoring strengthens disaster response capabilities and reduces potential risks to communities. In 2024, WU supports local governments in climate risk monitoring and disaster preparation through the Community Water Management Platform for Agriculture. This informative platform uses mobile cloud computing to enhance water resource management and climate adaptation efforts in agricultural communities.

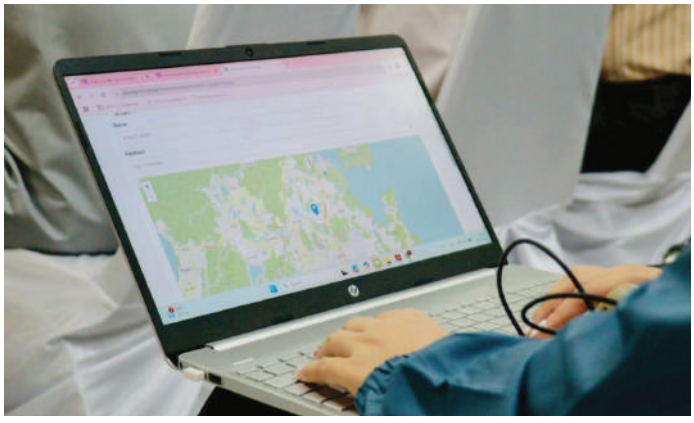
Community Water Management Platform

The platform enables real-time data collection, monitoring, and decision-making for irrigation scheduling and water allocation. By leveraging the Easy-Agri Web Application, it provides designed solutions for sustainable water management, ensuring efficient resource use and climate resilience.

Collaboration with Local Authorities

WU partnered with the Office of the National Water Resources, Regional Office 4 (ONWR Region 4), and local administrations in Bang Chak and Don Tako Subdistricts of Nakhon Si Thammarat. Key efforts included:

- **Real-Time Solutions:** Developing a web application for water demand and supply management.
- **Local Engagement:** Conducting on-site assessments with local governments to align solutions with community needs.
- **Capacity Building:** Training officials and farmers to utilize the platform effectively.



Pilot Areas and Achievements

- **Bang Chak Subdistrict:** WU collaborated with the Bang Chak Administrative Organization to manage natural canals and reservoirs, optimizing irrigation for rice paddies and oil palm plantations.
- **Don Tako Subdistrict:** Partnering with the Nakhon Si Thammarat Irrigation Project, WU

developed plans for rubber, fruit orchards, and rice crops using mapped water systems.

First-year achievements included the creation of a web application, accuracy-tested tools, and an MOU with ONWR Region 4. Goals for the second year include mobile applications for demand and supply management and broader implementation.

THE COLLABORATIONS WITH NGOs ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Collaboration between academic institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) plays a crucial role in enhancing knowledge, raising awareness, and strengthening climate adaptation capacity, key factors in mitigating impacts and promoting community sustainability. WU, as a green university, has been the proactive force in climate adaptation and environmental education through partnerships with NGOs and local stakeholders. By fostering collaborations, WU delivers impactful programs addressing climate change risks, adaptation strategies, and sustainable development.

Trang Province Climate Change Collaboration

Led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Warit Jawjit and the faculty, WU, collaborated with the Trang Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment to enhance local climate adaptation plans. WU participated in the fifth meeting of the Trang Province Climate Change Working Group and the opening ceremony of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Coordination Center at Thumrin Thana Hotel, Trang Province. This center serves as a hub for disseminating knowledge of climate change, coordinating efforts with the Save Andaman Network Foundation, Trang, and offering critical data to support provincia adaptation measures.

Promoting Low Carbon Tourism

In collaboration with the Baan Naitung Fisherfolk Association, WU implemented a Low Carbon Tourism project in Nakhon Si Thammarat coastal communities. Led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Amonsak Sawusdee and team, this initiative develops eco-friendly tourism routes, combining community-based tourism with low-carbon activities. The program promotes using solar-powered boats and bicycles while encouraging sustainable practices in local fisheries and aquaculture.

Data Collection for Climate Action in Phatthalung

WU extended the collaboration to Phatthalung Province, gathering data on climate change impacts in the Ban Chong Fuen Community and Lan Yor, Koh Mak Sub-district. Collaborated with the Pak Phayun Lake Conservation Fishermen's Association, Asst. Prof. Jenjira Kaewrat continued the project, contributing to draft provincial climate adaptation strategies. These efforts align with Thailand's commitment to Carbon Neutrality by 2050 and Net Zero Emissions by 2065, as pledged at COP26.

SDG 14 LIFE BELOW WATER

1. FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON WEIR CONSTRUCTION
2. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON GOLDEN SNAPPER FISH's AQUACULTURE
3. LOW-CARBON TOURISM ROUTE DEVELOPMENT
4. RESEARCH COLLABORATION ON BLUE CRAB RESOURCES UNDER FISHERY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (FIP)

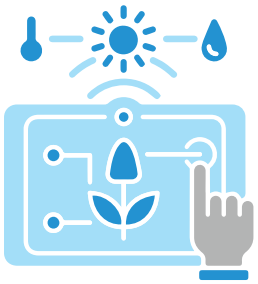
14 LIFE BELOW WATER

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEA AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTING MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

MAINTAINING FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY

LIVING WEIR SUSTAINABLE FRESH WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



IRRIGATION EDUCATION
THE REMS-TOOLKIT PROGRAM

COASTAL AREA RESOURCES CONSERVATION

LOW-CARBON IDENTITY TOURISM

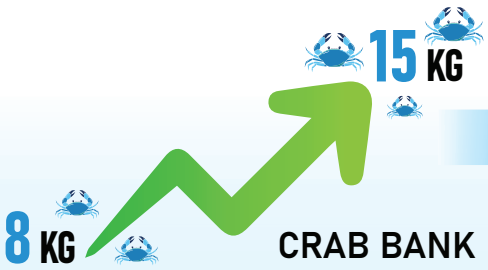
ARTIFICIAL FISH HABITAT

BLUE SWIMMING CRAB BANK

MARINE RESOURCES PROTECTION

RUBBISH COLLECTION
RISK REDUCTION TO MARINE POLLUTION

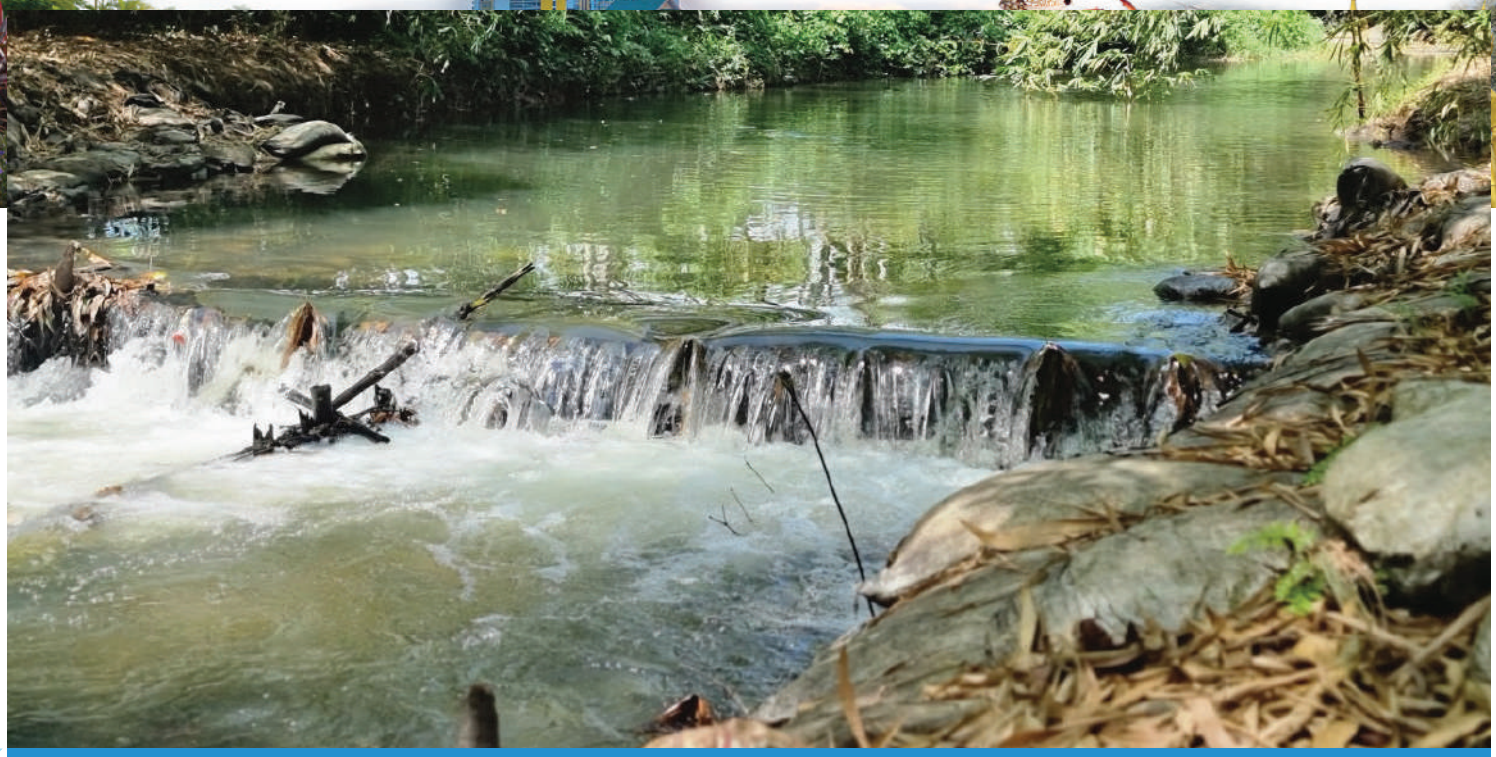
THE CATCH RATE INCREASED FROM 8 KG TO 15 KG.



INCOME IMPROVEMENT FOR LOCAL FISHERMEN

13 MILLION BAHT

FISHERY IMPROVE PROJECT (FIP) SCORE ON BLUE SWIMMING CRAB



FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON WEIR CONSTRUCTION

Walailak University (WU) organized an educational program focused on freshwater ecosystems, providing local communities, local and regional government organizations in Na Mai Phai Subdistrict, Thung Song District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, and national government organizations with knowledge and insights on constructing a weir. The initiative successfully contributed to restoring and preserving local water resources, improving agricultural irrigation, and enhancing biodiversity, benefiting local communities, agriculturists, and other stakeholders.

In 2024, the weir sustained damage due to insufficient maintenance and a lack of restoration knowledge among local communities. WU discovered that these communities lacked both the expertise and access to technology necessary for effective weir restoration.

In response, WU launched an educational program aimed at teaching proper restoration techniques to ensure the continued improvement of the area's freshwater ecosystems. This program was implemented in collaboration with local communities and local and regional government organizations. The event provided training on weir restoration, conservation practices, and sustainable water management strategies.

Following the restoration, WU monitored the weir's condition by assessing the local aquatic life. The findings showed a gradual increase in populations of tiny freshwater shrimp, minnows, and freshwater snails, indicating a significant recovery and the abundance of freshwater organisms in the ecosystem.

LOW-CARBON TOURISM ROUTE DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the potential of Nakhon Si Thammarat's coastal areas as local tourism destinations, WU is spearheading efforts to promote sustainable, low-carbon tourism. These initiatives align with broader climate change mitigation strategies while enhancing local livelihoods and fostering environmental awareness. WU researchers have identified that these coastal regions possess significant potential for eco-tourism, attracting both domestic and international visitors while bolstering the local economy through community-driven tourism.

In 2024, WU conducted extensive assessments and identified four coastal communities capable of being transformed into model low-carbon tourism destinations: Pak Phaya, Pak Phun, Ban Leam Homestay, and Ban Nai Thung. These communities have been strategically developed as demonstration sites for sustainable tourism, emphasizing environmentally friendly travel, carbon footprint reduction, and cultural preservation.

Developing Sustainable Low-Carbon Tourism Models

In collaboration with local communities, WU has implemented comprehensive educational programs aimed at shaping these locations into a one-day low-carbon tourism model. These programs integrate hands-on activities that promote the sustainable management of fisheries, responsible aquaculture practices, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction. Key activities include:

- **Culinary experiences** – Tourists sample traditional local food made from sustainably sourced seafood, highlighting the region's culinary heritage.
- **Marine conservation** – Participants release juvenile blue swimming crabs to help replenish marine populations.
- **Mangrove restoration** – Visitors plant mangrove trees, enhancing coastal resilience against erosion and providing habitats for marine life.
- **Eco-friendly transportation** – Cycling tours through the communities and solar-powered boat rides offer sustainable travel options while reducing carbon emissions.
- **Waste management and clean-ups** – Tourists and locals work together to collect waste from coastal areas, raising awareness of marine pollution and its impact.
- **Educational trails and workshops** – Guided eco-tours educate visitors on local biodiversity, sustainable fishing methods, and the importance of mangrove forests in carbon sequestration.
- **Traditional aquaculture learning** – Guests explore local aquaculture practices that integrate indigenous knowledge with modern sustainability principles.
- **Fishermen's lifestyle immersion** – Visitors engage with local fishermen, learning about their traditional ways of life and how they are adapting to sustainable fisheries management.

These initiatives are designed to offer tourists an immersive experience that deepens their appreciation of marine conservation and sustainable tourism. By actively participating in hands-on activities, visitors gain firsthand knowledge of environmental stewardship and the importance of preserving fragile coastal ecosystems.

Economic and Environmental Impact

WU's low-carbon tourism model not only promotes eco-conscious travel but also drives economic growth in coastal communities. By attracting sustainability-minded tourists, local businesses, homestays, and community-led enterprises experience increased income opportunities. Furthermore, the initiatives empower residents by providing training in sustainable resource management, eco-tourism entrepreneurship, and climate-resilient livelihoods.

By pioneering this initiative, WU demonstrates how academia, local communities, and tourism stakeholders can work together to create a replicable model of low-carbon tourism that supports environmental conservation while enhancing economic resilience.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON GOLDEN SNAPPER FISH'S AQUACULTURE

The monsoon season can impact the nutritional quality of golden snapper fish due to seasonal changes, such as fluctuations in water temperature, salinity, and food availability. These environmental shifts during the monsoon can cause variations in essential nutrient levels, including proteins, lipids, and fatty acids in golden snapper fish.

Ban Khao Thong Aquaculturist Local Enterprise Group, a local business farming golden snapper fish in cages in Krabi Province, faced these environmental challenges, leading to reduced fish productivity. Additionally, there were concerns that the group's fishing practices could harm marine and coastal resources during the monsoon season.

To address these issues, the Science and Technology Park at WU organized an educational outreach program on sustainable golden snapper fish management for the local enterprise group. WU provided valuable insights on appropriate feeding practices, including food formulas and correct portion sizes, to minimize uneaten feed accumulation beneath the cages. This helped prevent nutrient build-up and eutrophication, which can harm marine life and degrade water quality. Furthermore, WU offered guidelines on cage installation to minimize habitat damage for marine animals.

By participating in this local educational program, the enterprise group was able to implement sustainable fishing practices that significantly preserved coastal resources. The adoption of improved feeding techniques and precise cage installation not only mitigated environmental impacts but also enhanced the overall health and yield of the golden snapper fish.

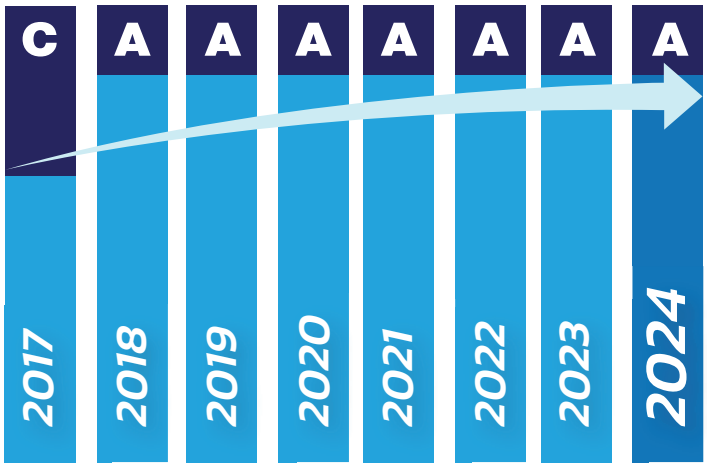
RESEARCH COLLABORATION ON BLUE CRAB RESOURCES UNDER FISHERY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (FIP)

The university continued establishing research collaboration with the Thai Frozen Foods Association, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Marine Resources Assessment Group (MREG), the NFI Crab Council (United States), the Department of Fisheries, and partners to work directly on maintaining and extending blue swimming crab populations and related biodiversity in Ban Don Bay, Surat Thani. This research collaboration is implemented under the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP), which has been active for more than five years as the bay has been facing significant ecological challenges.

In 2024, several issues were discussed and initiatives were launched as part of the research to maintain and extend the blue swimming crab populations and related ecosystems under threat. The LB-SPR (Length-Based Spawning Potential Ratio) in Ban Don Bay in 2023 was recorded at 0.47, which showed a slight decrease compared to previous years. This decline might have been caused by the monsoon season with heavy rainfall, resulting in a significant amount of freshwater flowing into the sea.

Additionally, a blue swimming crab bank was established by Viya Crab Products Co., Ltd., serving as a blue swimming crab spawning and learning center in Surat Thani. All partners agreed to conduct more research on marine protected areas to study vulnerable marine animals living within those areas and related issues. Furthermore, all partners deemed it appropriate to request CPUE (Catch Per Unit Effort) values from the Department of Fisheries for the period from 2020 to 2024 to assess the blue swimming crab stock restoration.

All the operations in 2024 could significantly enhance the research project's success by responding to key indicators aimed at improving the crab population in the bay. These collaborative efforts ensure that both immediate and long-term goals are addressed, fostering a comprehensive approach to ecosystem management. The continuous monitoring and adaptive strategies based on scientific data will contribute to the resilience of blue crab populations and their habitats.



SDG 15 LIFE ON LAND

1 PRESERVING NATURE, EXTENDING LIFE: THE KEY ROLE IN ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

2 ADVANCING ECOSYSTEM EDUCATION: FLORA AND FAUNA CONSERVATION

3 THE EVENTS FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE ORIGINAL FOREST AREA

4 SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT FOR LOW-CARBON TOURISM IN NIPA PALM FOREST

15 LIFE ON LAND

PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE ORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

THE TOTAL FORESTED AREA ON CAMPUS

COVERS **3,992,637.05** SQUARE METERS,

SERVING AS A VITAL HABITAT FOR THE PROTECTION OF FLORA AND FAUNA

LAND BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION PLANT

PLANT

CONSERVING MORE THAN

>550 SPECIES


CACTUS


BANANA


PITCHER PLANT

ANIMAL PRESERVATION

WILDLIFE: PRESERVING MORE THAN

>6 SPECIES


CAPYBARA


DEER

BIRD: PRESERVING MORE THAN

>150 SPECIES

FREE ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

TRAINING AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

>30

PROGRAMS

PROVIDED TO OVER

>50,000

PARTICIPANTS


Bota Sky Tower

PRESERVING NATURE, EXTENDING LIFE: THE KEY ROLE IN ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

In an era where ecosystems worldwide are facing severe threats, Walailak University (WU) has emerged as a leader in maintaining and extending natural ecosystems and their biodiversity. With a vast campus of over 14,400,000 m², WU has implemented comprehensive and sustainable natural resource management practices. Central to this effort is the Walailak Botanic Park, a pivotal hub for preserving and enhancing biodiversity in ecologically significant areas under threat. These direct works reflect the university's commitment to balancing development with conservation.

Maintaining Existing Ecosystems and their Biodiversity

The university strengthened its commitment to maintaining existing ecosystems and safeguarding biodiversity. The 79,456 m² of original forest was designated as a protected area, ensuring the preservation of native species and preventing further degradation. Also, disturbed lands were left to regenerate naturally, allowing ecological succession to restore soil health and native vegetation. Additionally, WU actively managed campus reservoirs by controlling invasive snakehead fish populations, thereby restoring the ecological balance of aquatic habitats and supporting the recovery of indigenous species.

Extending Ecosystems and Biodiversity

WU contributes to the extension of existing ecosystems by propagating rare and endangered plant species, such as orchids and nepenthes, for reintroduction into conservation forests. In addition, the university promotes tree-planting activities during the rainy season, helping to expand green areas, enrich biodiversity, and strengthen ecosystem resilience.

Achievements and Sustainable Future

Through these integrated efforts, WU has achieved tangible results in conserving forests, restoring aquatic ecosystems, and expanding

biodiversity. By combining protection, regeneration, and community engagement, the university not only safeguards southern Thailand's natural heritage but also sets a strong foundation for a sustainable future where development and conservation thrive together.

ADVANCING ECOSYSTEM EDUCATION: FLORA AND FAUNA CONSERVATION

In an era where environmental conservation and natural resource management are of paramount importance, The University plays a significant role in advancing ecosystem knowledge through its comprehensive educational programs on ecosystems (looking at wild flora and fauna) for local and national communities. A central figure in these efforts is the Walailak Botanic Park (WBP), a key learning hub for ecosystems in Upper Southern Thailand. It focuses on conservation, knowledge expansion, and the promotion of community-level applications to support sustainable natural resource management.

Educational Programmes on Ecosystems: Flora Education

In 2024, WBP continued its long-term involvement in the RSPG project, which has been active since 2014. This initiative focuses on preserving plant biodiversity through research support and the delivery of educational programmes for local and national communities, as well as schools. To enhance learning, WBP has developed diverse educational resources such as the Banana Species Collection Garden, Herbal Garden, and specialized Orchid and Fern Greenhouses. These facilities not only serve as living classrooms but also promote awareness, sustainable development, and the conservation of plant resources.

Educational Programmes on Ecosystems: Fauna Education

Beyond flora, WBP also plays a vital role in studying and conserving wildlife, particularly small animals and bird species within its protected forest areas. To raise awareness and provide experiential learning, WBP organizes a variety of educational activities such as Nature Trails, Birdwatching Programs, and Youth Camps that promote wildlife conservation knowledge among students and the broader community. In addition, the park offers hands-on learning experiences-including animal taxidermy workshops and the study of animal structures under microscopes-which enhance scientific understanding of ecosystems and fauna.

Commitment to Ecosystem Education in 2024

In 2024, The University reaffirms its dedication to ecosystem education initiatives covering both flora and fauna. These efforts aim to promote conservation and expand knowledge within local and national communities. The activities and projects not only raise awareness about conservation but also support the sustainable development of natural resources.

THE EVENTS FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE ORIGINAL FOREST AREA

The rapid expansion of urban areas, agriculture, and industrial zones has led to a significant decline in Thailand's forest areas. This phenomenon not only reduces biodiversity but also threatens the survival of unique plant species and the ecosystems they support. Recognizing the urgency of conservation, the Digital Communication Program at WU, in collaboration with the WBP, organized events aimed at promoting both the conservation and sustainable utilization of land, including forest and wild land resources. These events employ innovative communication strategies to foster awareness and understanding about the importance of preserving natural habitats, particularly among local youth.

Event to Promote Conservation of the Land

This initiative focused on conserving flora in the original forest through a detailed survey of key plant species, conducted with botanists. Researchers identified five significant species representing the forest's biodiversity and used them to develop educational materials that promote conservation awareness.

To effectively communicate the importance of conservation, the project created a website, an E-Book, an audio series, an interactive card game, an exhibition, and cartoon characters. These materials were distributed to schools and youth groups in Nakhon Si Thammarat, inspiring students to appreciate plant diversity and integrate the conservation efforts into their communities.

Event to Promote Sustainable Utilization of the Land

The project emphasized the sustainable use of the original forest as an educational resource, organizing guided learning activities for local youth. Participants explored the forest, identified plant species, and learned from expert botanists about their ecological roles. These hands-on experiences showcased the forest as a living classroom, promoting sustainability while preserving its ecological integrity.

WU's Digital Communication Program integrated innovative strategies to raise awareness and encourage sustainable practices. By engaging local youths in conservation efforts, the project transformed the forest into a platform for education and community involvement, demonstrating how conservation and sustainable use can coexist for long-term environmental stewardship.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT FOR LOW-CARBON TOURISM IN NIPA PALM FOREST

In today's world, tourism has rapidly expanded and become a major driver of the global economy. However, this growth has also brought critical challenges, particularly in terms of sustainable land management to accommodate tourism. In response to this issue, WU offered an educational outreach program in Kanabnak Community, offering free access to knowledge and practices that support sustainable land use for local or national communities on sustainable management of land for tourism.

Educational Outreach Activities

The program integrated academic lectures, hands-on workshops, and expert–community collaborations to raise awareness and provide practical solutions for sustainable land management through low-carbon tourism. With a strong focus on preserving natural resources, especially the mangrove forest, the initiative empowered the local community to balance economic development with environmental conservation.

Outcomes and Dissemination

The program empowered the community to adopt sustainable land management practices, such as reducing environmental impacts from tourism activities and balancing economic development with natural conservation. Additionally, promotional materials, including videos and online media, were produced to communicate the project's concepts and outcomes to a broader audience.

In conclusion, this educational outreach program demonstrates the university's commitment to sustainable land management through low-carbon tourism. By combining academic knowledge with community-led conservation, it raised awareness, provided practical solutions, and fostered long-term collaboration. Its impact extends beyond the local community through multimedia dissemination, serving as a model for balancing tourism and environmental preservation while highlighting education's role in sustainable development.

SDG 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

1 WALAILAK UNIVERSITY'S ELECTED REPRESENTATION

2 INDEPENDENT STUDENTS' UNION RECOGNITION

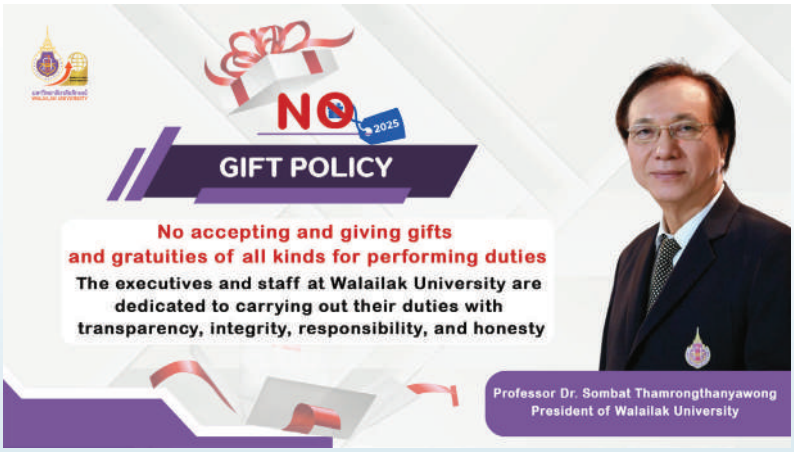
3 PRINCIPLES ON CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY IN 2024

4 WU'S FINANCIAL DATA PUBLICATION IN 2024

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

WU NO GIFT POLICY



THE INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY ASSESSMENT (ITA)

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024, ACHIEVING *"A LEVEL"* WITH A SCORE OF **92.33**

PASS

WU STUDENT COUNCIL RECOGNITION

THE STUDENT COUNCIL

STUDENT ADMINSTRATIVE BOARD

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY DECISION-MAKING

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY'S ELECTED REPRESENTATION

Fair and transparent elected representation is a hallmark of high-quality governance, ensuring accountability and inclusiveness in decision-making. Walailak University (WU) constantly upholds inclusive and transparent governance by ensuring elected representation from students, faculty, and staff in its highest governing body, the University Council. In 2024, this approach actively reflects the university's commitment to participatory leadership, fostering diverse perspectives in decision-making.

Student Representation

Students actively participate in governance through structured organizations:

- **Student Administrative Board:** Elected representatives manage student affairs and bridge communication with leadership, driving the sustainability activities in the campus. click as :https://eservice-cas.wu.ac.th/QS/topic8/item8.html

- **Student Council:** Ensures transparency and accountability in student activities while addressing collective concerns.

- **Student Clubs and Dormitory Committees:** Smaller groups elect leaders to advocate for specific interests and foster community.

Annual elections provide students with practical experience in democracy and leadership, preparing them for societal roles.

Faculty Representation

- **Eligibility and Elections:** Full-time faculty nominate and elect peers, ensuring diverse academic representation.
- **Contributions:** Faculty representatives influence key decisions on academics, research, and resource allocation, promoting shared governance.

Staff Representation

Non-faculty employees contribute to governance by electing representatives to advocate for operational and administrative needs. This inclusion ensures their voices are integral to institutional strategies.

Transparent Elections

WU's election processes are transparent and inclusive, enabling eligible participants to engage meaningfully and fostering accountability across all sectors.

WU's elected representation model shows dedication to inclusive and participatory governance. By empowering students, faculty, and staff, the university strengthens collaboration, enhances decision-making, and nurtures a community rooted in democratic values. This approach ensures sustainable growth and positions WU as a leader in inclusive governance for higher education. It also promotes democratic values among students.

INDEPENDENT STUDENTS' UNION RECOGNITION

The Students' Union at WU plays a vital role in fostering student participation in governance, providing support, and creating an alive campus atmosphere. Through WU's independent students' union ideas which are always in the university's recognition, the actions empower students, faculties, and staff to contribute to university policies, support peers, and build a cohesive community.

Governance Input

The union ensures students have a voice in decision-making. Key highlights from 2024 include:

- **Workshop on Student Development Strategies:** A collaboration between student representatives and university officials to align the development activities with WU student needs while avoiding redundancies.
- **Student Leadership Seminar:** Aimed at fully equipping student leaders with governance skills, the seminar fostered collaboration among representatives from the Student Council and academic clubs.

Student Support

Creating a supportive environment is central to the union's mission. Notable initiatives include:

- **New Student Orientation:** Introduced students to campus facilities and resources, setting them up for a successful university journey.
- **Parent Meeting for New Students:** University administrators engaged with parents to highlight available support systems, fostering trust and transparency.

Social Activities

The union excels in organizing activities that promote unity and camaraderie, such as:

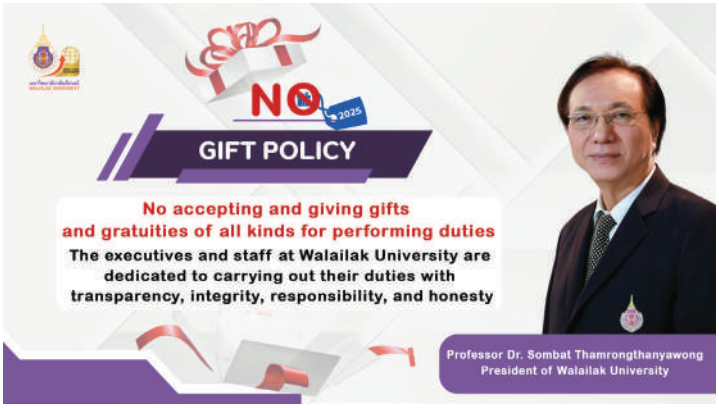
- **WU Freshy Award 2024:** Celebrating creativity and teamwork, this event recognizes students who embody the university's values and foster peer connections.
- **"Pradu Games" Sports Festival:** A campus-wide sports event promoting teamwork and a lively atmosphere.

Students' Union of WU personifies the power of student engagement in governance, support, and social activities. By fostering leadership, offering essential services, and enriching campus life, the union ensures a holistic and fulfilling university experience. The campus stands as a model for empowering students to meaningfully contribute to their academic and social environments.

PRINCIPLES ON CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY IN 2024

WU has published principles and commitments to combat organized crime, corruption, and bribery in 2024 to ensure transparent administration on campus. Through the implementation of policies and initiatives that promote transparency and integrity, the university continues to set an example of ethical governance in higher education.

No Gift Policy



The university's "No Gift Policy" prohibits personnel from accepting gifts related to their duties, preventing conflicts of interest and fostering impartiality. This published policy underscores WU's dedication to accountability and public trust.

Integrity and Transparency Assessment (ITA)

On July 30, 2024, WU received the results of the Integrity and Transparency Assessment (ITA) for the fiscal year 2024, achieving "A Level" with a score of 92.33. This score surpasses the average ITA assessment score of 91.28 for educational institutions in the same fiscal year. The ITA evaluation consists of three components:

1. Internal Integrity and Transparency Assessment (IIT): This survey gathers feedback from university personnel with at least one year of service regarding the institution's ethics and transparency. resulting in a score of 94.87.

2. External Integrity and Transparency Assessment (EIT): This survey gathers feedback from external stakeholders, including service recipients and individuals who interacted with the university during fiscal year 2024. The overall score is divided into two parts: one from university service recipients and one from other external stakeholders. The score from university service recipients was 78.78, while the score from external stakeholders was 80.35.

3. Open Data Integrity and Transparency Assessment (OIT): This assessment evaluates the extent of public information disclosure on the university's main website. WU attained a perfect score of 100 in this component.

The ITA aims to foster continuous and sustainable improvements in ethics and transparency within the university. WU remains committed to enhancing its operations in line with the publication of virtuous governance principles.

WU's firm stance against corruption and bribery, reinforced by its No Gift Policy and strong ITA performance in 2024, highlights its commitment to ethical governance and transparency. By fostering accountability, promoting integrity, and engaging both internal and external stakeholders, WU continues to build trust while setting a standard for virtuous governance in higher education.

WU'S FINANCIAL DATA PUBLICATION IN 2024

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING WU

Transparency and accountability are cornerstones of modern institutional governance, and publishing university financial data has become a crucial practice. WU shows this commitment, ensuring public access to its financial information annually. Such initiatives are not only regulatory requirements but also vital for fostering trust and engagement among students, faculty, donors, and the community.

Publishing financial data enhances transparency, enabling stakeholders to understand the university's financial decisions. It fosters trust by demonstrating ethical resource allocation and fiscal responsibility. For prospective students and families, financial transparency aids in evaluating tuition costs, financial aid, and affordability. Donors also benefit by gaining insight into how their contributions support educational goals.

WU's Financial Data Publication for 2024

In 2024, WU reaffirmed its transparency mission by publishing financial data on WU's Division of Finance and Accounting website. This publication included income, expenses, assets, and other critical financial metrics. Rigorous auditing by the State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand ensured the accuracy and reliability of this data, further building public trust.

The financial report provides clarity on academic expenditures, research investments, and infrastructure developments. Beyond transparency, it serves as a valuable resource for academic research, offering infallible data for practical learning and theoretical exploration. The 2024 financial report can be accessed at https://shorturl.at/JDUAO

A Model for Transparency

WU's 2024 financial publication is a model of how universities can balance accountability, transparency, and stakeholder engagement. By making financial reports accessible, WU strengthens internal and external relationships, underlining its commitment to ethical governance. This initiative offers valuable insights for other universities aiming to adopt similar practices, highlighting the pivotal role of financial transparency in fostering an informed and engaged academic community.

By openly publishing audited financial data in 2024, The university has strengthened its culture of transparency, accountability, and ethical governance. This practice not only builds trust among stakeholders but also supports informed decision-making, enhances institutional credibility, and reinforces WU's commitment to responsible financial

SDG 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

1. COLLABORATION FOR THE SOUTHERN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT
2. CROSS-SECTORAL DIALOGUE ON THE ROLES OF UNIVERSITIES IN ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE
3. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE
4. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION WITH CENTRAL ASIAN UNIVERSITIES ON SDGs

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NUMBER OF COURSES FULLY ALIGNED WITH THE SDGs

NUMBER OF COURSES RELATED TO SDGs

2,867
(100%)

NUMBER OF SPECIFIC COURSES ON SUSTAINABILITY

29

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

130

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS WORKING ON SDGs

115

NUMBER OF NEW MOUs AND MOAs

NUMBER OF NEW MOUs AND MOAs

36

PERCENTAGE GROWTH IN MOU PARTNERS

56.77%

OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

SMART FARMING PRACTICES

SDG EDUCATION TO DISPLACED PEOPLE

DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MEDIA ON THE SDGS

COLLABORATION FOR THE SOUTHERN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT

Walailak University (WU) has established a collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation to develop the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC), a special economic zone located in the upper south of Thailand. The corridor encompasses four provinces: Chumphon, Ranong, Surat Thani, and Nakhon Si Thammarat.

In this partnership, WU researchers will work closely with the ministry and national government organizations to develop strategies and policies, identify key issues, and address challenges associated with the development of the Southern Economic Corridor. This includes modeling likely futures with or without interventions across various aspects such as the economy, environment, society, and others. The aim is to create comprehensive and sustainable development plans that will drive economic growth while preserving the region's natural resources and cultural heritage.

Furthermore, WU researchers are encouraged to undertake additional studies focused on the corridor's development. These studies will provide valuable insights and data to support informed decision-making and policy formulation.

Additionally, WU is set to become the Regional Science Park in the upper south region, serving as a hub for research and innovation. This facility will support cutting-edge research across multiple disciplines and foster collaboration between academia, industry, and government. The Science Park will offer state-of-the-art laboratories, incubation centers for startups, and resources for technology transfer and commercialization. It aims to attract talent and investment, driving regional development and contributing to Thailand's broader economic and scientific advancements.

CROSS-SECTORAL DIALOGUE ON THE ROLES OF UNIVERSITIES IN ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE

In 2024, WU hosted a cross-sectoral dialogue as part of the annual Walailak Research Convention, celebrating the university's 32nd anniversary. Held under the theme "Roles of Higher Education in a Turbulent World,". The convention, WRC2024, was dedicated to serving as a public forum for the presentation of academic research and the facilitation of knowledge exchange among a diverse array of participants, including researchers, local operational agencies, entrepreneurs, the general public, and students. The objective was to foster the advancement of research, catalyze innovation and technological development, and encourage the establishment of research networks both nationally and internationally.

The convention attracted participants from academia, government, NGOs, and the private sector, representing Thailand, the USA, Japan, New Zealand, Finland, Poland, Russia, Palestine, Malaysia, and South Korea. Conducted in a hybrid format, attendees had the flexibility to join either in person or online.

Distinguished keynote speakers included:

- Professor Chris Rudd OBE, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Head of Campus, James Cook University Singapore.
- Associate Professor Dr. Patamawadee Pochanukul, Director of Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI).
- Associate Professor Dr. Pongpan Kaewtatip, Vice Director of TSRI.
- Mr. Sarin KC, Technical Advisor at the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP).
- Dr. Surachai Sathitkunarat, Vice President of the National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO).

During the discussions, Associate Professor Dr. Patamawadee Pochanukul highlighted the vital role of transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research in advancing knowledge and equipping universities to develop a highly skilled workforce. She also emphasized the importance of lifelong learning in tackling societal challenges, including an aging population, declining youth enrollment, evolving educational attitudes, and the rise of digital and online learning.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Developing countries always face various obstacles in tackling agriculture due to the lack of access to modern technology, limited financial resources, unpredictable climate conditions, and insufficient infrastructure. These challenges hinder productivity, reduce crop yields, and perpetuate cycles of poverty among farming communities.

The University, in partnership with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), organized a training workshop titled "Climate Smart Agriculture: Smart Farming Practices." This workshop aimed to establish a robust platform for international collaboration by gathering or measuring data for best practices and comparative approaches, and enhancing data gathering methods in climate-smart agriculture to tackle SDGs, especially SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 13: Climate Action. The primary objective was to strengthen agricultural training programs to address the pressing challenges of climate change while promoting sustainable agricultural development globally.

The workshop brought together representatives from 20 diverse countries: Zambia, Kenya, Laos, Nigeria, Niger, Indonesia, Nepal, Qatar, Bhutan, Uganda, Mongolia, China, Zimbabwe, Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Fiji, Serbia, Vietnam, Panama, and Kenya. This diverse representation highlighted the global commitment to developing resilient agricultural systems capable of withstanding the impacts of climate change. WU played a pivotal role by sharing its extensive expertise and insights into climate-smart agricultural practices implemented in southern Thailand, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of effective strategies used in the region.

Each international partner was tasked with gathering detailed data specific to their countries, covering key areas such as:

- The general agricultural landscape and climatic conditions,
- Historical development and adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices,
- Existing laws, policies, and related regulatory frameworks,
- Current sector-specific challenges, obstacles and limitations and
- Future plans, projects, and programs aimed at advancing climate-smart agriculture.

The workshop sessions facilitated in-depth discussions and knowledge sharing, enabling participants to collectively identify and analyze best practices. These collaborative exchanges aimed to ensure that proven methodologies and innovative strategies could be adapted and implemented in various national contexts, fostering agricultural resilience and sustainability.

Following the workshop, participants left with a deeper understanding of climate-smart agriculture and practical solutions tailored to their respective countries. These insights are expected to form the basis for future research initiatives, policy development, and the implementation of improved agricultural practices, contributing to global efforts in combating climate change and ensuring food security.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION WITH CENTRAL ASIAN UNIVERSITIES ON SDGs

WU expands its international collaborations with leading higher education institutions in Central Asia, including those in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan. Partner institutions from the region include M. Auezov South Kazakhstan State University, Kyrgyz State Technical University, and Tajik National University.

The collaboration will focus on several key areas:

- **Joint Research Initiatives:** Concentrating on projects and research that align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to review comparative approaches and develop international best practices for tackling the SDGs,

Student and Staff Mobility Programs: Facilitating the exchange of students and academic staff to enhance cross-cultural understanding, share knowledge, and improve academic and research skills. This will involve semester-long exchanges, dual degree programs, internships, and collaborative teaching initiatives,

- **Capacity Building:** Offering training and development programs to build the capacities of faculty and administrative staff of WU and those Central Asian universities,
- **Cultural Exchange Programs:** Promoting cultural exchange initiatives to foster mutual understanding and appreciation of diverse cultural heritage. This includes exchange programs focused on cultural immersion, arts and crafts, language learning, and traditional practices, enhancing the cultural ties between the regions.

WU expands its educational collaborations with leading higher education institutions in Central Asia, including those in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan. Partner institutions from the region include M. Auezov South Kazakhstan State University, Kyrgyz State Technical University, and Tajik National University.

This collaboration marks the beginning of a fruitful and constructive partnership aimed at addressing SDGs through innovative research, knowledge exchange, and cultural understanding. By leveraging the strengths of both regions, this initiative will foster sustainable development, drive global solutions, and create lasting academic and societal impacts.

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY SDG REPORT 2024-2025
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