

# GREATS

## Journal

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THAMMASAT  
UNIVERSITY



Professor Dr. Somkit Lertpaithoon

*A QS World Class exclusive interview with Dr. Somkit Lertpaithoon, Professor of Law and Rector of Thammasat University "As one of the oldest universities in Thailand, we're moving towards our TU's 2020 GOALS of training our graduates to have a Global mindset, Originality, Accountability, Leadership, and the Spirit of Thammasat."*

### THAMMASAT'S STANDPOINTS

Thammasat University has indeed been renowned for its dedication to the wellbeing of the people. Originally, the school started with a strong social science program and has made its name for taking a firm stand on promoting democracy and freedom. Its campus is a popular place for staging student movements for the betterment of society throughout the University's history. In fact, several prime ministers of Thai-

land were alumni of Thammasat University. Currently, Thammasat University has approximately 35,000 students studying in almost 300 degree-programs, which are organized into 4 clusters of disciplines: social science, humanity, technology, and health science. Among those, about 90 are international undergraduate and graduate programs; each with a good portion of full-time or international exchange students from all parts of the globe.

### CAMPUSES

Thammasat prides itself its dedicated Hospital, one of the best in the country; as well as a huge international-standard sports complex, the largest student residences in Thailand, and a brand new state-of-the-art learning center. Each of the 4 campuses of Thammasat University is unique and has its own special charm. Tha Prachan Campus, its first and original, is located on a former palace ground on the bank of Chao Praya River right beside the National Gallery, the National Theater, and the Grand Palace. Rangsit, the second site, boasts a wide green area and marks a progress towards becoming a sustainable campus with its green canteen, solar park, and environmental-friendly facilities and activities. Pattaya campus, located in the eastern part of Thailand, is very pleasant with its many green trees, ponds, and conference facilities. It is a home for the College of Innovation and the Department of Automotive Engineering. Lampang campus is up north and specializes in industrial craft designs, law, and interdisciplinary degrees.

### LEARNING

"We're transforming our university-wide pedagogy at every level to be one that encourages active learning. This means students must put new efforts into figuring out their subject of knowledge. They'll learn how to learn and this will become one of their great assets after they graduate. We want them to be able to continue a life-long learning journey on their own." Professor Lertpaithoon emphasized his view on the learning philosophy at Thammasat as he himself serves as a chair for Thammasat Active Learning Committee.

Besides active learning, the following are activities that characterize much of this institute known as Thammasat University Impacting Positive Changes in Society.

### RESEARCH

Thammasat allocates more than 8% of its annual budget to fund many research projects and inventions that help improve the quality of life in Thai society. These research outcomes generally receive much attention from the media in addition to their winning of excellence awards from both national and international events.

### PARTNERING WITH WORLD-CLASS INSTITUTES

Thammasat boasts the largest number of academic partners around the globe that offer exchange programs for students and faculty members, joint research, international internship, and double-degree programs. All professional degree programs are highly recognized by their respective professional associations. Thammasat Business School is already accredited by the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) and is now on its way to get accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

### ALWAYS FOR THE PEOPLE

All undergraduate students take a compulsory community-service-learning course of Civic Education upon entering the university and must complete at least one senior course of Professional Service to Society before graduation. Most graduate programs are connected with industry practices and real-world problems, creating practical learning environments for its students in all fields. Moreover, Thammasat has extended its outreach program, which typically included only students from low income families to include students with disabilities, and has been improving classrooms and facilities to accommodate these groups of students. "In order to plant socially responsible DNA in our students, Thammasat has to act and be a role model for that." Rector Lertpaithoon concluded.

# GLOBAL MINDSET



As a very international hub, having a global mindset is something very important for Thammasat University. Thammasat is one of the top 3 Universities in ASEAN in offering exchange programs between some of the best schools from around the world. These programs are available to both students and professors and serve an invaluable learning opportunity for those interested in foreign cultures, languages and traditions. This in turn creates graduates that have more world experience and are far more understanding of the peoples of other countries.

Thammasat University offers many scholarships for its exchange programs, in particular the Thammasat University Scholarship for ASEAN Community (TUSAC) which is given to students from developing countries in order to open up new opportunities for them. With ASEAN on the near horizon, and many



future possibilities of international work and travel, it becomes more and more imperative that Thammasat sets an example in developing global mindsets. This is accomplished by offering many accredited programs, as well as the most student residences of any University in Thailand. Thammasat University is currently ranked number 1 on the QS World University Ranking for its exchange programs.

Another way in which Thammasat strives to offer international opportunities to students is through its new state of the art digital library. Open 24 hours a day, every day, the library features World Share international loan services, an electronic book service, open source Koha system and MyCat automatic academic monitoring. With this new tool, students can look up whatever they need wherever they are in the world.

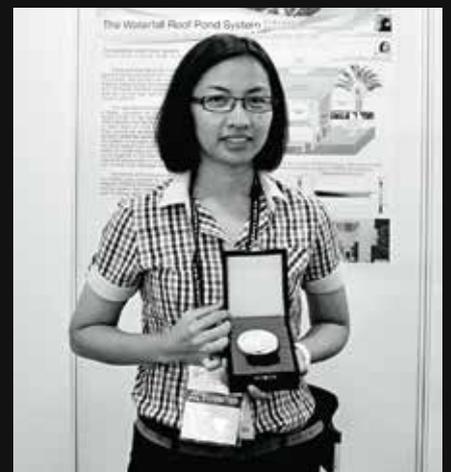


# RESPONSIBILITY



In this day and age, it is imperative that people try to understand the consequences of global warming and climate change. Thammasat University encourages its students to take that one step further and actually design projects that will work towards sustainable solutions that actually mitigate the causes of global warming. This is illustrated very well in the following two award winning designs:

When water evaporates it cools down the temperature of the air around it as it changes from a liquid to a gas. Throughout the history of Thailand it has always been extremely hot and humid. At many times, during the middle of the day, staying indoors becomes nearly unbearable in the tropical heat. In older times, the Thais traditionally incorporated a water feature beside their house (the Chinese consider this Feng Shui). The Waterfall Roof Pond System utilizes the property of evaporating water to cool a building as well but puts a modern twist on it. Using a passive system, water falls down the outside of large windows, pulling heat away from the inside of the house, or building as it evaporates. This solution is simple, effective, and yet exhibits a responsibility to the planet as it has minimal impact. This project won first place at the 2014 Taipei International Invention Show and Technomart.



Another project that showcases this responsibility to the planet, and to the people, is the Anywhere Retreat. This exciting project makes use of renewable solar and wind energy to quickly build a housing unit in any location with immediate access to electricity. It is a fantastic solution to building emergency shelters, moveable resorts, and even tree houses. The project won the Special Award from the Taiwan Prominent Inventor Association.



## ELOQUENCE

Eloquence is a quality that Thammasat University likes to instill in its students. It is a quality that often allows for more professional, academic presentations, which in turn may lead to better opportunities for careers. Perhaps nowhere is this better seen than in the McGill Management International Case Competition 2014 (MMICC) where students from Thammasat University Commerce and Economics programs took home first and second place.

The students traveled to McGill University in Montreal, Canada where the case competition is held. The MMICC 2014 competition allows schools to enter teams of 4 students who must analyze a business case study provided to them by the organizers of the event. The students are then given just 22 hours in which they must come up with a set of findings, and organize them into a power point presentation. This in turn will be presented to a panel of judges made up of some of the top business men in Canada. 10 teams from around the world competed in the event, 1 of which is a special international team made up of members from the previous year's winners. Thammasat University had a representative on this international team that ended up taking home first place, as well as a full team who came in second.

This is testimony to the quality of Thammasat students, the power of eloquence, and proof, that Thammasat can compete toe to toe with top Universities from around the world on the international stage.



## AESTHETIC APPRECIATION

Thammasat University is committed to continually improving the aesthetics of its many campuses. One of the best recent examples of this is the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Solar Park. The park will primarily be used for recreational purposes, although there is an outdoor stage to organize various events as well. The park features an 800m bicycle track, its exclusively by 60 watt, low impact LED lights. Additionally, the outdoor stage is also lit by 2,600 watt LED lights. LED lights tend to last far longer, and use far less energy than conventional bulbs. The park uses renewable solar energy to power its many LED lights, its water pumps, and even some of the surrounding infrastructure. The solar cells are located on the roof of the nearby Environmental Studies Building. The park was designed by the Health Policy Foundation in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Renewable Energy Development Institute.

Professor Somkit Lertphaitoon, president of the University has stated that this park is a benchmark, not only for future projects at Thammasat University, but also for the use of renewable energy within the city limits. The bicycle track offers an excellent means of exercise to park goers, and additionally furthers the goal of making Thammasat a University with plenty of green spaces. The park will also serve as a venue for many presentations and events pertaining to sustainable development, and building the city of tomorrow. It is his hope the park offer educational possibilities to the students, as well as the general public, about green energy and sustainability.

# TEAM LEADER



In today's fast paced world of business, working as a part of a team is essential in many different types of jobs. Therefore, being a team player is a very important skill for Thammasat students. Furthermore, with ASEAN coming up in the near future it will become even more important to understand what it means to be a part of a team. The future Thai economy will be closely tied in to that of its ASEAN neighbors. Working as a part of the ASEAN team, Thailand can promote development, trade, tourism, import, export, and business. On an even larger scale, it is important to be a part of the human team, banding together to promote sustainability and protect the future of our planet for upcoming generations. It is for these many reasons that Thammasat has



made a new commitment to teach their students what it is to be both an ASEAN citizen and a global citizen.

Thammasat University has had a long history of getting involved in public affairs. That is why it is very important that the school set a leading example for what it is to be a productive member of Thai society. It is precisely for this reason that Thammasat funds research that benefits both the ASEAN community as well as the global community often without thought of financial return. Thammasat routinely invites important guest speakers from around the world to give talks to both the students and the community on matters of interest like culture, sustainability, economy, and development. Essentially, though offering a wide spectrum of experience and opportunity, Thammasat enables its students to better understand the world around them and in turn impart a better knowledge of the different facets of the various teams they might eventually become a part of. By understanding more of what the whole team does, students will then better realize what their own roles will serve to achieve.

# SPIRIT OF THAMMASAT

The spirit of Thammasat refers to the spirit of social responsibility. It is important that Thammasat University students understand that they are all a part of a society and that they have a certain commitment to it. This quality is fostered by offering a number of different programs.

Learning by doing has always been an important method for instilling this spirit of Thammasat. By having students go out in to the community and actually apply their theoretical knowledge in a practical setting, Thammasat encourages its students to out into the world and see what kind of a difference they can make. This in turn gives them a greater sense of purpose and responsibility. Another popular method is involving the community in various functions. Thammasat routinely hosts events and talks that are open to the general public. In this way, many members of the community may often come to realize what Thammasat students can do for them as well, thus creating a sense of unity between the community and the students.

Thammasat University also offers many scholarships to students of low financial means as well as disabled students. This is to open up new opportunities to people who might not have been given them otherwise. One of the best examples of how the scholarship program can make a positive difference for someone is that of Terdkiat Boontiang, a scholarship student, a Thammasat graduate of the Science and Technology program, a soccer player for team Thailand, and blind.

