

Recording and preserving the creation of Buddhist offerings to offer to Phra Borommathat Chedi Nakhon Si Thammarat

Walailak University has preserved and restored the creation of Buddhist offerings for the Phra Borommathat, which is a local art and cultural heritage. This operation is under the project of recording and preserving the creation of Buddhist offerings for the Phra Borommathat Chedi, Nakhon Si Thammarat, led by Assistant Professor Dr. Pairote Nualnoom, an expert in economics and cultural capital management, who has coordinated with relevant sectors. These include the Nakhon Si Thammarat Provincial Cultural Council, the Nakhon Si Thammarat Provincial Cultural Office, Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, and The Library at Nakorn. This project uses the approach of the academic project to serve society as a part of driving the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by recording and preserving the creation of Buddhist offerings, which are flowers and trees made from metalwork, which are valuable local arts and culture of Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, the southern region, and the country. This will be an important part in supporting the creation of Buddhist offerings and restoring the ceremony of offering Buddhist offerings to the Phra Borommathat, which is a local art and cultural heritage, so that it will continue to exist. The activities are free of charge in 2024, as shown below.

1. Walailak University, in collaboration with The Library at Nakorn, conducted an in-depth study of knowledge about Buddhist offerings by extracting in-depth knowledge of the creation of metalwork Buddhist offerings, a case study of gold and silver trees, which will be important knowledge for those interested in understanding, referencing, and developing further.
2. Walailak University has gathered cooperation from those interested in restoring Buddhist offerings, with those interested in co-creating five Buddhist offerings: (1) Kalyanamitra trees (a tree in the Daowadungsa heaven created by a group of good friends.), (2) Samkasat cocoa trees (the cocoa tree made of three metals: gold, silver and copper alloy with silver and gold), (3) Monthong durian (made from silver and gold metal), (4) bronze bells (made to replace 210 bells that were installed around the Phra Borommathat Chedi for around 140 years ago but now disappeared), and (5) Buddhist offerings for the dance to worship the Phra That, with the total value of the artwork created in the project being 1 million baht.

3. Walailak University, in collaboration with the Nakhon Si Thammarat College of Dramatic Arts, developed a curriculum on “Creating Buddhist Offerings (Gold and Silver Tree Bushes)”, which is a further development from in-depth knowledge into a training curriculum and has experimented with organizing training according to the developed curriculum. With over 20 participants in the training

4. Walailak University organized an exhibition and seminar to share knowledge about the creation of Buddhist offerings discovered from research studies. The project organized 2 exhibitions and seminars: (1) a seminar on the topic of "Buddhist offerings: Tree works from metal art" and (2) a seminar and exhibition on the topic of "Reviving Buddhist offerings: Continuing faith, continuing the wisdom of local craftsmen in Nakhon Si Thammarat"

5. Walailak University collaborated with relevant agencies to expand knowledge by integrating with Nakhon Si Thammarat Province to revive the Buddhist offering ceremony to honor His Majesty the King, consisting of 2 important ceremonies: (1) the ceremony to celebrate the bronze bell and Buddhist offerings and (2) the ceremony to present Buddhist offerings and install the bronze bell. In addition, the project has extended knowledge from in-depth studies of Buddhist offerings to design equipment for the Mahakkhaphant Wan Tha Phra That (Buddhist offering dance) to be displayed in the ceremony.

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