

Title: Information System Project for Transparency of Temples

SDG 17.2.5: Collaboration with NGOs for SDGs

Indicator Question 17.2.5: Does the university collaborate with NGOs to address sustainable development goals (SDGs) through student volunteer programs, research programs, or the development of educational resources?

Walailak University, through the School of Informatics and the Academic Service Center, established the Information System Project for Temple Transparency in collaboration with NGOs such as the Public Policy for Society and Governance Foundation, the Buddhadasa Archives (Suan Mokkh, Bangkok), and the Thai CG Fund to address sustainable development goals (SDGs). This project supports temples in implementing information systems that can effectively and efficiently disseminate temple data, aligned with the 8th principle of good governance in temple management, which emphasizes structured and formal disclosure of both financial and non-financial information.

"The Information System for Temple Transparency project integrates teaching with various courses in the Digital Content and Media curriculum, such as the courses DCM63-233 Digital Photography for Learning Development, DCM63-238 Video Production for Learning, DCM63-353 Web Design and Development for Information Services, and DCM63-354 Web Management for Information Professional. Volunteer students participate in field visits to help collect data, take photographs of the temple's surroundings, locations, and activities. This leads to research on the development of an information system for temple transparency that is user-friendly, easily accessible, and meets the needs of the temple committee, the Public Policy Foundation for Social and Governance Committee, and other stakeholders. Moreover, this information system contributes to the development of educational resources for learning in areas such as history (the origins of the temple) and religion (activities related to Buddhism). The activities under the project include the following:

First Field Visit: The project team participated in a meeting to clarify the objectives of the information system development to the abbot of Wat Wang Tawantok. Important points for developing the system were discussed.

- **Second Field Visit:** The team met with the temple's management committee to further clarify objectives and operational details, collecting feedback on what temple assets, stories, and photographs could be included in the information system. In addition to promoting transparency, the team ensured careful dissemination of certain contents to prevent the loss of temple assets. "Additionally, during this field visit, faculty members from the School of Law brought regulations and guidelines for the administration of Wang Tawan Tok Temple. These guidelines align with principles of good governance and the teachings of Buddhism in an appropriate and correct manner. The guidelines include the following:"
- **Third Field Visit:** The team captured photos and videos of various buildings and key religious sites within the temple to display essential characteristics both inside and outside. The media will be edited for publication in the temple's information system for transparency.

- **Fourth Field Visit:** The team filmed videos and interviewed the abbot and individuals involved in significant temple events, such as the traditional "Kwan Khao Ya Khu" (rice pudding) ceremony, alms offerings, and other activities. The edited media will promote these events and encourage participation from the public. "During the video production, an interview was conducted with Phra Khru Phromkhet Khanarak, Ph.D., the abbot of Wang Tawan Tok Temple, regarding the temple's project (Meditation Teacher Program). The interview covered topics such as the objectives of the project, the timeline for the project, participating countries (besides Thailand), contact information for those interested in joining the project, and the methods for project follow-up and expansion."

After gathering relevant data and media, the team developed an information system to present the temple's activities in a transparent and accountable manner, aligned with the 8th principle of good governance for structured and formal disclosure of both financial and non-financial data. "Once the task force had fully entered all the data into the information system, they proceeded with the fifth field visit.

The purpose of the fifth visit was to introduce the method of entering data into the system to the temple's information system administrators, so they could update the data to be current and modern. This ensures that the temple's activities can be displayed promptly. Additionally, the team advised the temple management committee to understand and access the system, leading to effective public outreach, allowing the general public to access and be informed about the temple's activities."