

SEP and SDG in the Classroom: A Pilot Study on the Application of SEP in Teaching and Learning of Health and Environment Science among Grades 7-10, or ages 12-15 pupils in SEAMEO Member Countries

The SEAMEO Regional Centre for Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainability (SEAMEO SEPS) was established as one of 26 SEAMEO Regional Centres under the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). SEAMEO SEPS was established in 2019 and is hosted by the Ministry of Education of Thailand, with a mandate to promote the philosophy, principles, and values of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) as an instrument for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) among 11 Southeast Asian Countries.

Walailak University (WU) is a comprehensive and research-intensive university committed to producing quality graduates through myriad areas of disciplines and fields of expertise in science, engineering, agriculture, biotechnology, informatics, management, liberal arts, and social science, together with three international colleges. The University strives to enhance education through research-inspired and contemporary pedagogical practices consistent with 21st-century skills. Intending to become a world-class research university, Walailak University features various centers of excellence.

The Center of Excellence for Ecoinformatics, Faculty of Science, Walailak University, "We have extensive experience in conducting data analysis. Our expertise lies in data management and utilization for analyzing individual profiles based on the sufficiency economy philosophy. This project aims to (1) test the integration of SEP in the teaching and learning of health and environment sciences in approximately 2,200 Grades 7-10 or ages 12-15 pupils and involving 110 teachers in 11 SEAMEO Member Countries, (2) demonstrate an in-depth understanding of SEP and its connection with the SDGs and how they could be integrated into teaching and learning through online training of 110 teachers, (3) promote knowledge and moral skills for transition to a greener and sufficient economy through using SEP-rich lesson plans in teaching and learning by 110 participating teachers and (4) encourage group thinking, communication, and cooperation among 22 participating school principals and 110 teachers through cooperative online research.

The Center of Excellence for Ecoinformatics, School of Science, Walailak University, conducted a practical training workshop on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainability, funded by the SEAMEO Community Involve Programme, from December 4, 2023, to August 4, 2024. This project involves nine Southeast Asian countries (i.e., Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Timor Leste, and Brunei) with an online workshop. The program addressed SDG 17.2.3 by gathering international data on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP). The workshop trained 90 teachers and 2,700 students from 18 regional schools. The program addressed SDG 17.4.3 by facilitating out-of-classroom student learning activities and online training sessions for school principals and teachers on SEP, moderation, zero waste, reducing, reuse, and recycling.