

Humans live on this planet based on four requisites: food, medical care, accommodation, and clothing, which require resources on this planet to produce so that human beings can continue to survive. However, if the resources on this planet are wasted and uncontrolled, new natural resources cannot be generated sufficiently for future generations.

Thus, sustainability is determined as a shared blueprint for countries across the world, resting on the principle that sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations in all dimensions, including environments, society, and economics.

With a well-defined vision and mission, Walailak University has been mobilizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through research, higher education reform, outreach, and stewardship. The predominant activities can be seen in the Walailak University SDG Report, which reflects the university's stewardship of local stakeholders around the university and on the regional, national, and international levels.

Moreover, Walailak University has formed a model called "Happy Tree", which is the pillar in supporting social engagement for sustainability. The model encompasses five significant branches, including Career Opportunity, Happiness in Health, Education, Resource and Environment, and Social and Cultural Background.

The WU SDG Report 2022–2023 outlines the university's activities that have contributed to the UN's SDGs and the Happy Tree Model in all dimensions, including stewardship, outreach, research, and teaching. The report is also used for driving impact ranking as it meets the indicator 17.3: Publication of SDG reports per SDG of the THE Impact Ranking Methodology 2024. The report was successfully produced through cooperation between the Center for Academic Services and the School of Liberal Arts at Walailak University. All the contents were written in English to mobilize the university to be recognized internationally as a responsible steward of the planet.

The CAS was responsible for writing the contents. After that, the lecturers of the School of the Liberal Arts would proofread the stories of 8 SDGs in terms of grammar and appropriate language usage in each context of the contents that Walailak University submits, including SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 14: Life Below Water, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Here are 5 records of achievement of Walailak University contributing to SDGs and the Happy Tree Model:

1. WU Clinic Technology

Nakhon Si Thammarat is one of Thailand's provinces famous for its urban farming. Currently, the agriculturists in the province are placing importance on the Good Agricultural Practice Standard, or GAP, due to food safety, which has gained increasing importance over the years. Walailak University, through Clinic Technology, has a strong commitment to accessing food security knowledge, skills, technology, and food safety knowledge. This achievement is consistent with SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 4: Quality Education, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. It is also consistent with the Happy Tree Model in the dimension of Career Opportunity.

2. Mobilizing the Livable Communities in the 7 Provinces in the Upper Part of Southern Thailand

Health outreach programs have been organized by Walailak University since its foundation because social engagement is one of the primary missions of the university. The project “Mobilizing the Livable Communities in the 7 Provinces in the Upper Part of Southern Thailand” aims to develop the potential of community leaders in terms of community economic development and community-based health literacy. The project is consistent with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being and the Happy Tree Model in the dimension of Happiness in Health.

3. Free Access to Educational Resources at WU

Walailak University supports the lifelong learning policy for all by offering public access to educational resources in various aspects, including training courses, online learning courses, and library and computer services. All WU facilities can be accessed without cost and regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, immigration status, or gender. This policy is consistent with SDG 4: Quality Education and the Happy Tree Model in the dimension of Education.

4. The Blue Crab Bank Project

The project has been implemented under the leadership of Asst. Prof. Dr. Amonsak Sawusdee. The Blue Crab Bank Project has sustainably created great environmental impacts, especially in the rehabilitation of the blue crab population that will be food for new generations in the future. The project contributes to SDG 14: Life below Water, SDG 1: No Poverty, and SDG 2: Zero Hunger. It also contributes to the Happy Tree Model in the dimension of Resource and Environment.

5. The Nora Performing Arts Course Online

Nakhon Si Thammarat was part of the Srivijaya Empire, as it is one of the Thai provinces with a long and rich history in Southeast Asia. Menora, or Nora, is a dance performance that originated from the southern regions of Thailand. At the moment, the younger generations have less interest in the performance. Thus, Walailak University partnered with the Ministry of Culture to organize the Nora Performing Arts Course Online under the key strategies for raising people's awareness and perception of Nora. The course has been developed to align with SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and the Happy Tree Model in the dimension of Social and Cultural Background. In the future, Walailak University will be continuously involved in THE Impact Ranking to demonstrate how the university contributes to the SDGs as a responsible steward at local, national, and international levels. WU is also committed to publishing the sustainability report following the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Happy Tree Model.