

Walailak University joins in developing the Pracha Uthit community area, Thung Song Municipality.

The School of Political Science and Public Administration, Walailak University, led by Associate Professor Dr. Kitchet Kraiwas and faculty members in the School, has implemented a project to develop and drive problem-solving and development in the Pracha Uthit community area, Thung Song Municipality, to help solve problems and various impacts that have occurred to the people in the community and to develop the community area to have an environment suitable for living, be safe, and be convenient. The School of Political Science and Public Administration has brought students in the field of Public Administration to visit the Pracha Uthit community together with personnel from the Welfare and Social Division and personnel from other divisions of Thung Song Municipality to survey data and listen to problems from people in the community in terms of physical, economic, social, and environmental aspects.



It was found that most of the problems of the people in the Pracha Uthit community were economic, affected by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), which caused many families to lose their jobs and income. People in the community wanted to have stable jobs and be able to work in their area. There were also environmental issues in the community. Since the Pracha Uthit community is located near the railway tracks, some areas are deserted forests, so they wanted to adjust the landscape and scenery to be a tourist attraction and a place for relaxation.

From the issues and needs of the community, the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Walailak University, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kitchet Kraiwas and faculty members have created a master plan for the Pracha Uthit community, Thung Song Municipality, as a guideline for driving and developing the Pracha Uthit community. There has been a pilot project driving the Pracha Uthit community master plan.

In addition, activities were carried out to encourage people in the Pracha Uthit community to exchange knowledge from model communities and create networks for sustainable community development. There was a field study of model communities in Samut Prakan Province to study the cultivation of herbal plants for economic benefits and the raising of stingless bees to generate income and maintain the balance of nature. Representatives from Khao Lao Co., Ltd. provided knowledge on cultivating and processing herbal plants. Representatives from the Samut Prakan Provincial Public Health Office provided knowledge on the process of bringing some herbs into the notification system and registering them legally for the development of agricultural herbal plants and further development for processing for legal distribution, as well as the cultivation of herbal plants and raising high-value animals at the Khung Bang Krachao Agricultural Learning Center.



In addition, the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Walailak University, in collaboration with Thung Song Municipality, has allowed representatives of the Pracha Uthit community to integrate their knowledge from the study tour in the area by driving problem-solving and developing the Pracha Uthit community area together with network partners. In the physical dimension, the landscape was improved, and the vacant area was made a public park for the relaxation and exercise of the people in the community. In the economic dimension, there was joint preparation of the area for raising bees and planting medicinal plants to create jobs and income for the people in the community.

The joint operation of the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Walailak University, Thung Song Municipality, and Pracha Uthit Community led to the creation of the Pracha Uthit Community Development Plan and the start of the implementation of the plan, resulting in the “Pracha Uthit Model”, which is a prototype for implementation in the development of other communities.