

The Project impact: The University Living Learning Lab Model: Learning for Sustainability

Students



Siam University encourage pedagogical change from lecturing and learning from textbooks to learning from real-world experiences by applying the “Living Learning Lab” approach and “4Cos Action Model.” This leads to a richer learning experience than what is found in textbooks alone. Students feel more engaged with sustainable issues and problems. Those who are not familiar with this hands-on learning revealed at the end of the class that they were proud and impressed from their participation in activities that could help solve problems of others. These experiences enhance their awareness to global problems and provide opportunities for developing sustainability competences as well as social adaptation, volunteering, and teamwork. Some students managed to run projects which could alleviate community problems, such as reducing waste in the community, planning local eco-tourism, and some involved in upskilling online sales for community members. Learning in social living labs like this allows the students to effectively apply their knowledge and develop their own ideas for future careers and sustainability projects.

Instructors



Teaching sustainability subject requires instructors to work closely with students from various faculties with different skills, experiences, aptitudes, and ways of thinking. Not only the instructors should concern global issues and appreciate sustainability work, they need to adopt an active teaching approach, encourage free exchange of ideas, continuously adapt teaching methods, and utilize modern applications to make the teaching relevant to the subject matters. Importantly, instructors must engage with the community, organizations, and networks to enhance learning and gain the trust of the community. Living learning lab approach for teaching and learning thus not only enhance awareness of students but also bring together expertise of the instructors. And students in the classroom To further promote these experiences, knowledge and lessons learnt from working in exemplary communities which are social living labs of the university should be shared through research and academic work.

Community



Siam University aims to be a leading university creating innovation for sustainable future following by our policy "Sustainable University, Sustainable District." Community sustainability is hence promoted through project-based and community-based learning in our community living labs. SDGs-related work was assigned in these communities with the hope to change their pain-points into gain-points. Example is Lertsuksom community where classroom projects in sustainable development were continuously assigned since 2019. Each year, prioritized SDG such as well-being, decent work and local product development, healthy space in community will be used as main focuses for class assignment. After years of work, the community has become more sustained socially, economically, and ecologically. Community members who have been our co-creators, co-designers, co-producers, and co-reflectors express their appreciation and strong-bond with Siam University for sustainability.

U-P-C Partners



Sustainability work in the social living lab areas of the university to solve real community problems, improve the environment, enhance quality of life, and educate the community has attracted both public and private organizations to participate and support our efforts. A University-Public/Private, Community (U-P-C) partnering for local SDGs has thus been strengthened. Organizations such as the Phasi Charoen District Office, Government Savings Bank, and Area 4 Agricultural Office have collaborated closely with the university. The success and dedication of our work has been recognized by the fact that our university administrators and instructors have been invited by government organizations to serve as consultants and collaborators on various projects. Hence, Siam University serves as a bridge between government agencies, private institutions, and communities, to become active partners working for the sustainable goals.



Students



Co-create: prioritize pain-points



Co-design



Co-produce



Co-reflect:



Instructors



Lecturing SD, SDGs, SEP



Real-life experiences



Project-based teaching



Community-based teaching



Community

From pain-points to gain-points



U-P-C Partners

