Report on SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice

1.1 Institutional Approach to International Collaboration and SDG Best Practices

Thaksin University promotes international collaboration and interdisciplinary research as important mechanisms for addressing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Guided by its institutional commitment to social innovation and the concept of the University of Glocalization, the University seeks to integrate international knowledge, research expertise, and innovative practices with local development priorities.

During 2025, Thaksin University strengthened international academic and research partnerships addressing poverty reduction, sustainable community economies, low-carbon development, and technology-based innovation.

Particular emphasis was placed on cooperation with the University of Kitakyushu, Japan, in connection with the Phatthalung Model, an area-based research initiative designed to address poverty through social innovation and community development.

The University also facilitated international knowledge exchange through its engagement with the United Nations in Thailand and international learning activities involving participants from several Asian countries.

These initiatives provided opportunities to examine development approaches from different institutional and national contexts, exchange research experiences, and explore the adaptation of international knowledge to local sustainability challenges.

While the available evidence confirms international collaboration and knowledge exchange, additional documentation is needed to establish the completion of formal comparative research and the joint development of internationally applicable best-practice frameworks during 2025.

Thailand–Japan Research Collaboration on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Community Development

University of Kitakyushu–Thaksin University Research Collaboration on the Phatthalung Model

Date: 7 February 2025

Partners: Thaksin University, Thailand, and The University of Kitakyushu, Japan



This international research collaboration encompasses several key areas of cooperation between the two universities, including joint research and knowledge development focused on poverty eradication and grassroots economic development; the exchange of researchers and students to enhance cross-cultural knowledge, skills, and competencies; and the development of practical, community-based social innovations to advance sustainable development. The partnership also aims to address emerging global challenges and strengthen the capacity of local communities to adapt to changing global conditions through the integration of social sciences, natural sciences, research, and innovation.

On 7 February 2025, Thaksin University announced academic and research cooperation with the University of Kitakyushu, Japan, to support the Phatthalung Model, an integrated research and social innovation initiative addressing poverty and sustainable community development.

The partnership brought together the research expertise of both institutions to support sustainable products and services, low-carbon production, local economic development, and practical social innovation.

The cooperation framework included joint research and knowledge development, researcher and student exchanges, and the application of interdisciplinary expertise to local sustainability challenges.

The Phatthalung Model offers a locally grounded approach to poverty reduction by integrating community resources, research, technological innovation, and collaboration among stakeholders. Cooperation with the Japanese university creates opportunities to examine this approach alongside international experience in sustainable production, community innovation, and economic development.

Such collaboration is relevant to the development of international best practices because it can facilitate the identification of approaches that are adaptable across different social, economic, and institutional contexts.

Contribution to SDG best-practice development: Establishing a bilateral research framework for sharing expertise and exploring approaches to poverty reduction, sustainable production, and community-based innovation.

Public evidence: https://www.tsu.ac.th/home/details.php?id=4659

International Technology Startup Platform: Exchange of Innovation and Commercialization Practices

Activity: The International Technology Start Up Platform: A Collaboration between TSU (Thailand) and University of Kitakyushu (Japan)

Date: 24–29 September 2025

Location: Japan

Partners: Thaksin University, University of Kitakyushu, and Thailand's Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO)



From 24 to 29 September 2025, representatives of Thaksin University and Thailand's Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council participated in the

International Technology Start Up Platform program in Japan, in collaboration with the University of Kitakyushu.

The program aimed to strengthen the University's capacity to develop and incubate technology-based enterprises, connect innovation development with university holding-company mechanisms, and support sustainable commercialization.

This initiative provided a platform for international institutional learning concerning technology startup development and innovation ecosystems.

The cooperation is relevant to SDG 8 and SDG 9, particularly in relation to entrepreneurship, innovation capacity, and the translation of research into economic opportunities.

For Indicator 17.2.4, the program offers evidence of international exchange concerning innovation-development approaches. Nevertheless, the available announcement does not establish that the participating institutions completed a structured comparison of Thai and Japanese practices or jointly developed an international best-practice framework.

Contribution to SDG best-practice development: International exchange on technology incubation and research commercialization, potentially informing the adaptation of innovation-management practices at Thaksin University.

Public evidence: https://sdg.tsu.ac.th/detail.php?aNum=20250929093200&id_list=1354

International Knowledge Exchange on Poverty Reduction through the Phatthalung Model

Activity: International Social Innovation Camp 2025

Date: 13 July 2025

Countries represented: Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Laos

Participants: More than 50 students



Public evidence: https://sdg.tsu.ac.th/detail.php?aNum=20250722151544&id_list=1236

On 13 July 2025, Thaksin University facilitated field-based learning under the International Social Innovation Camp 2025, involving more than 50 students from six countries.

Participants visited community enterprises associated with the Phatthalung Model and learned about approaches to poverty reduction through community entrepreneurship, local resources, and social innovation.

The program introduced international participants to practical development approaches grounded in the social, economic, and cultural context of Phatthalung Province.

By bringing together participants from different countries, the program created opportunities for international discussion and reflection on community-based development approaches.

The activity illustrates the University's efforts to share locally developed social innovation practices with international participants. It may contribute to the wider dissemination of knowledge concerning sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.

Contribution to SDG best-practice development: International dissemination of the Phatthalung Model and exchange of knowledge concerning community-based poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods.

International Comparative Research and Knowledge Exchange through ICASD 2025

Activity: The 2nd International Conference on ASEAN Sustainable Development (ICASD 2025)

Date: 24–25 April 2025

Organizer: International College, Thaksin University

Venue: Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town, Thailand

Theme: Accelerating Action: Collaborative Solutions for a Sustainable Future

The International College of Thaksin University organized the second International Conference on ASEAN Sustainable Development (ICASD 2025) on 24–25 April 2025. The conference brought together international researchers, scholars, and students to share research findings and discuss approaches to sustainable development in the ASEAN region.



International collaborating institutions and organizations included Université de Moncton (Canada), Universiti Utara Malaysia (Malaysia), Myanmar Creative University, Scientists and Engineers Without Borders (South Korea), and the Indonesia–Malaysia–Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).

The conference was structured around the five dimensions of sustainable development: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnership. Its program included international keynote presentations and research sessions addressing social, economic, environmental, and technological challenges.

A keynote presentation by Professor Dr. Min-Soo Maeng from Dankook University, South Korea, addressed international carbon-reduction policy and sustainable development cooperation in response to climate change. Another keynote by Professor Dr. Nils-Kåre Birkeland from the University of Bergen, Norway, presented research on the biodegradation of feather keratin using thermophilic microorganisms.

These presentations brought international perspectives on climate policy and biotechnology into discussions on sustainable development.

The conference also produced published proceedings containing 49 oral research presentations, providing a documented output of international research exchange. This is particularly useful evidence because it allows the University to demonstrate research dissemination rather than relying solely on photographs of a conference.

ICASD 2025 provided a platform for examining sustainability approaches across different research and national contexts and sharing potential solutions to regional challenges. Nevertheless, the proceedings would need to be examined at the individual-paper level to identify completed comparative studies or explicitly formulated international best practices.

Contribution to SDG best-practice development: Facilitating international research exchange, dissemination of sustainability approaches, and discussion of potentially transferable solutions to SDG challenges.

Public evidence: https://sdg.tsu.ac.th/detail.php?aNum=20250714162850&id_list=1098