



# Long Live His Majesty the King

To celebrate the auspicious occasion of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua's 68<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary on 28 July 2020,



Prince of Songkla University executives and staff humbly submitted their most loyal greetings and best wishes to His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua on the auspicious 68<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary, through an oath of allegiance ceremony on Hat Yai Campus on 23 July 2020



## International Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 3 (July-September 2020)

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# Long Live Her Majesty Queen Sirikit the Queen Mother

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## the Beloved Queen Mother of Thailand

Celebrating Her Majesty Queen Sirikit the Queen Mother's  
88<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary on 12 August 2020.

12 August is a very special day throughout the Kingdom of Thailand,  
as it is the day the entire nation celebrates the auspicious birthday  
of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of the Ninth Reign. The day also is celebrated  
throughout the Kingdom as Mother's Day.



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# Long Live Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Walailak

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On the auspicious occasion of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Anniversary  
of Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Walailak on 4 July 2020,  
we wish HRH Princess Chulabhorn krom Phra Srisavangavadhana  
happiness, excellent health and longevity.

# HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn opened administrative building of the Southern Thailand Science Park



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has kindly presided over the opening ceremony for the administrative building of the Southern Thailand Science Park (Songkhla Province) at Thung Yai Sub-district, on 24 September 2020. Her Royal Highness was warmly welcomed by Adjunct Professor Dr. Anek Laothamatas, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation; Assistant Professor Dr. Niwat Keawpradub, President of Prince of Songkla University; the heads of government departments and administrators; and PSU faculty and staff.

After the opening ceremony, Her Royal Highness was presented with an informative report about the Southern Thailand Science Park by Asst. Prof. Kamron Pitaks, Director of the Science Park. The presentation was followed by an overview of outstanding regional innovations, presented by Asst. Prof. Sunton Wongsiri, M.D., PSU Vice President for Research and Innovation.

One of the innovative products presented was the GISS Unit, Slurry Casting Technology (GISCO Co., Ltd.), a machine that represents a new world-class technology known as slurry casting. The technology involves a semi-solid casting method with exceptional physical properties, which extends the life expectancy of the mold and reduces the time for casting parts per piece, compared to the current method of casting metal parts. As a result, the production cost for metal parts is lower, and the cast parts are of higher quality.

Another innovative product presented at the auspicious event was the screening kit for COVID-19 virus infection (PSU COVID-19 Rapid Test), used for screening patients in high-risk groups quickly. The screening relies on Immunochromatography (ICT), detecting antibodies against both IgM and IgG specific to the proteins of the COVID-19 pathogen. The ICT method is best suitable for this purpose because it is easy, fast, stable, sensitive and highly specific. The product is intended to be utilized both for the early detection of infection and for monitoring immune response development. The test requires 15-20 microliters (2-3 drops) of fingertip blood sample, plasma or serum, and is completed in 15-20 minutes. Moreover, the assay can be kept at room temperature for several months.

Her Royal Highness then kindly observed exhibitions of outstanding innovations in various fields such as rubber, health and food science, and then graciously planted a Sri Trang tree, whose flower is the symbol of Prince of Songkla University.

The administrative building of the Southern Thailand Science Park includes a laboratory, tools for research and development, analysis testing and certification service, promoting the establishment and growth of the scientific business, in addition to providing a full range of services by the Innovation Design Center, Office of Industrial Cooperation (OIL), Coordination Center for the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation under the cooperation between the titular office and the Southern Thailand Science Park by Prince of Songkla University, Walailak University and Thaksin University.

The Southern Thailand Science Park was established as a service center to link the knowledge from universities to the private sector in the southern region, in order to develop resources and research basic infrastructure in the public sector for maximum benefit, with the additional aim to strengthen the technological advances and increase the competitiveness of the region.





## PSU humbly presents Honorary Doctorate Degrees upon Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Walailak, The Princess Srisavangkavadhana

The PSU University Council unanimously agreed to humbly confer an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing upon Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn; and an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Science upon Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Walailak, The Princess Srisavangkavadhana, for bringing honor and grace to our university.

## HRH Princess Chulabhorn Honors the PSU 2020 Convocation Ceremony



His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun of Thailand kindly appointed Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Valayalaksana to graciously preside over Prince of Songkla University's 2020 Convocation Ceremony. The Convocation was held at The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne International Convention Center, PSU Hat Yai Campus, 11-13 September, 2020. A total of 8,586 graduates were presented with degrees, and five Honorary Doctorate Degrees were conferred to

- Mr. Pinit Kangwankit**  
(Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Aquatic Science),
- Mr. Vanus Taepsaitphongse**  
(Honorary Doctor of Business Administration),
- Prof. Dr. Sompong Sucharitkul**  
(Honorary Doctor of Law),
- Prof. Dr. Hwan-Seung Jung**  
(Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Korean Language),
- and **Prof. Dr. Jos Vander Sloten**  
(Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Engineering).

After all graduates received their degrees, Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Walailak, The Princess Srisavangkavadhana, kindly delivered an inspirational speech to all participants.

Graduation activities on campus were more subdued than usual, to ensure all participants' health and safety. Faculties have arranged beautiful floral displays, where graduates and attendees took photos to commemorate the long-awaited occasion.

PSU is grateful for the congratulatory videos sent by our 14 esteemed partners: Kanazawa University, Miyazaki University, Yokohama National University, and Toho University from Japan; Guangxi Normal University and Shanghai University from China; University Malaya, Universiti Kenabgsaan Malaysia, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaya, and Universiti Malaysia Perlis from Malaysia; Universitas Airlangga from Indonesia; and Ming Chi University of Technology from Taiwan.

Congratulations to all PSU graduates of 2020 in their future endeavors!



# PSU lecturer is #1 in “Southeast Asian Women 2020 in Science and Education”



Asst. Dr. Pimchanok Buapet, a lecturer at PSU’s Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, was selected as #1 in the “Southeast Asian Women 2020 in Science and Education” category by the Young Southeast Asia Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Women’s Leadership Academy Alumni Network. This year, a total of 80 people were recognized in 16 disciplines across ten countries.

Dr. Pimchanok, who also serves as the Director of Coastal Oceanography and Climate Change Research Center at PSU, revealed that she initially joined the YSEALI Southeast Asian Women Network when she participated in a workshop on assessing the carbon storage potential of seagrass ecosystems. Dr. Pimchanok recognized the importance of building a network within the region, because climate change is a global problem that requires cooperation and communication of not just researchers, but every sector that has a role in mitigating climate change.

“I am delighted that the work of the Coastal Oceanography and Climate Change Research Center is recognized on the international stage. I want to thank Prince of Songkla University and its Research and Development Office for supporting the establishment of the research center in 2017, playing a pivotal role in driving research related to climate change and coastal ecosystem issues. The current goal of research studies in the seas and the coast is to meet sustainable development goals in climate change management and in the exploitation of oceans and marine resources, as described in the United Nations Development Agreement Framework”, Dr. Pimchanok explained.

**Introducing:  
the 2020 cohort**

**80 women**  
**10 countries**  
**16 industries**

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

*Southeastasianwomen.org* is a platform that allows leading women across industries in Southeast Asia to be discovered and connected to the public for collaboration. It is an initiative by the Young Southeast Asia Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Women's Leadership Academy.



# Best "Golden Age" Universities 2020

Prince of Songkla University Ranked 201-250 among the world's best higher education institutions established for more than 50 years but less than 80 years.

Distinction in Internationalization by Times Higher Education



## Prince of Songkla University among ASEAN universities rated in ARWU 2020

The Academic Ranking of World Universities 2020 (ARWU 2020) by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy has been announced at <http://www.shanghairanking.com/ARWU2020.html>.

ARWU 2020 ranks the top 1000 higher educational institutions from all around the world. PSU is listed among the four universities ranked in Thailand. In the ASEAN region, four universities in Singapore and five universities in Malaysia are listed in the following rankings.

World Rank	Institution	PCP Score	PUB Score	N&S Score	HICI Score
80	National University of Singapore	29.9	63.2	21.9	35.7
91	Nanyang Technological University	27.9	56.1	20.9	37.7
301-400	University of Malaya	16.4	38.5	3.1	15.7
401-500	Mahidol University	14.1	32.1	6.8	14.0
501-600	National University of Malaysia	12.2	28.5	1.4	12.1
501-600	University of Science, Malaysia	12.7	29.8	1.4	12.1
601-700	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	11.6	27.8	0	9.9
701-800	Chulalongkorn University	12.5	31.5	2.5	0
701-800	University Putra Malaysia	12.3	31.1	0	0
801-900	Duke-NUS Medical School	9.1	20.4	11.0	0
<b>801-900</b>	<b>Prince of Songkla University</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>7.0</b>
901-1000	Chiang Mai University	10.1	25.6	2.5	0
901-1000	Singapore University of Technology & Design	7.8	18.1	4.1	7.0

The criteria for ranking in ARWU 2020 consist of several metrics, as shown below, and on the page <http://www.shanghairanking.com/ARWU-Methodology-2020.html>.

Criteria	Indicator	Code	Weight
Quality of Education	Alumni of an Institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	Alumni	10%
Quality of Faculty	Staff of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	Award	20%
	Highly Cited Researchers	HIC	20%
Research Output	Papers published in Nature and Science	N&S	20%
	Papers Indexed In Science Citation Index-Expanded and Social Science Citation Index	PUB	20%
Per Capita Performance	Per capita academic performance of an Institution	PCP	10%
Total			100

# Prince of Songkla University joins MOU with 14 leading higher education institutions through QS Stars rating



Prince of Songkla University, represented by Asst. Prof. Sunton Wongsiri, M.D., Vice President for Research and Innovation, has entered collaboration with the Office of Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, along with 14 leading higher education institutions, to set guidelines for enhancing the quality and standards of higher education institutions. Their aim is to reach international quality and standards through the quality assurance system of the world's leading ranking institution: QS Stars.

QS Stars rating, an innovative system for evaluating the performance of higher education institutions around the world, could incentivize Thai higher education institutions to raise their level of quality to international standards acceptance. Quality assessment is carried out by measuring indicators in various areas, including research, teaching, employability, internationalization, facilities, innovation and social responsibility. Higher education institutions with potential and readiness have been invited to enter the quality assurance system, and as a result, currently 14 higher education institutions indicated their intention undergo quality assurance through QS Stars rating.



# COVID-19: joint webinars between the UoB and PSU

The University of Bahrain (UoB), in cooperation with Prince of Songkla University (PSU), organized two webinars concerning the COVID-19 situation.

The first webinar, held on 8 July 2020, focused on the topic "Overcoming Impact of COVID-19 through Digital Transformation". The event featured experts from outstanding institutions in Australia and Singapore, alongside experts at PSU, all talking about various approaches to managing COVID-19 impact and recovery plans using digital tools, and why they are essential for the education and economic sectors.

A week later, the second webinar tackled the topic "Healthcare Resiliency during COVID-19", where specialists from PSU and the UoB discussed the implications of the pandemic on the healthcare system, shared their practical experiences in taking care of COVID-19 patients, and highlighted technological applications that provide the means necessary to manage this pandemic.

The two events provided the target audience with practical knowledge and experiences to help their institutions minimize and recover from the negative impact of the ongoing pandemic. Furthermore, the successful joint hosting of the webinars represents a milestone in the history of fruitful cooperation between the UoB and PSU.



# Honorable Consul from the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia visits PSU

On 3 August 2020, the Consul for Islamic Affairs of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Yuosef Abdullah S. Alhumoudi, visited PSU for a detailed discussion concerning activities in the Halal field.

PSU President Asst. Prof. Dr. Niwat Keawpradub, together with members of the administrative team and the PSU Halal Institute, welcomed the esteemed delegate.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Asman Taeali, Director of the Halal Institute, invited Dr. Yuosef to visit the Office of Scientific Instrument and Testing, and witness a demonstration of the pork meat DNA Contamination Test Kit. Dr. Yuosef has also visited the Halal Institute at PSU Pattani Campus to listen to the mission of the Institute and discuss opportunities for further collaboration.

PSU's fruitful cooperation with the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia started on 1 March 2019, when a PSU delegation made a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Abdalelah Mohammed A. ALSheaiby, Chargé d'Affaires at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia. With the kind support of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, PSU has been able to establish collaborative projects between PSU and universities in Saudi Arabia. The Centre for Arabic Testing and Skill Enhancement at the PSU Faculty of Islamic Sciences is an excellent example.

The cooperation has been further enhanced in July 2020, when a delegation from the PSU Halal Institute paid a courtesy call on Dr. Yuosef Abdullah S. Alhumoudi, and received valuable advice on initiating various kinds of collaborative activities to develop the Institute.





On 26 September 2020, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China to Songkhla Mr. Ma Fengchun, together with Vice Consul Ms. Jin Yilin, paid a courtesy visit to PSU President Asst. Prof. Dr. Niwat Keawpradub and Vice President for International Affairs Asst. Prof. Dr. Thakerng Wongsirichot.

The Consul-General remarked upon the productive relationship between the Consulate General in Songkhla, organizations in Southern Thailand, and the PSU Faculty of Medicine. The PSU President in turn has informed the honorable visitors about the long-standing collaboration between PSU and Chinese higher education institutions, and then expressed his gratitude for the continual assistance that the Consulate General has been kindly providing to PSU. The meeting ended with the two parties reassuring each other of their mutual respect and further support.

## Consul-General of the People's Republic of China to Songkhla makes courtesy visit to PSU President

# ASEAN Night and International Food Festival 2020



On 26-27 September 2020, PSU's Hat Yai campus transformed into an exciting hub of cultural and culinary diversity through the engaging activities of ASEAN Night and International Food Festival 2020. The event featured a wide range of exotic international dishes prepared and displayed by Thai and international students, alongside an ASEAN-themed fashion show, flag performance by PSU's international students, and a mini-concert by talented students. A talk show titled "Surprising Food in My Good Journey" by Mr. Niyaseen Sulaiman, owner of the famous YouTube channel "Yes I Go", completed the festival.

The event was organized by PSU's Student Union Committee, with support from the PSU ASEAN Studies Center, the Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Cultural Studies, the Student Development and Alumni Affairs Department, and the Global Affairs and Corporate Communication Center. The two-day festival is a testament to youth empowerment at PSU, their ability to successfully arrange such a significant event amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. To accomplish the necessary social distancing and safety measures, festival activities were divided into rounds, and only 300 participants were allowed to enter the premises for each round. Altogether, over 2,000 staff and students of PSU attended the ASEAN Night and International Food Festival – a reminder of our interconnectedness in a diverse world.



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