

Report on SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Thaksin University, Thailand

Songkhla is notable for its distinctive characteristics in religion, lifestyle, art, traditions, and culture. It is a historical city with a unique identity, featuring a simple, peaceful way of life that reflects its rich cultural capital. This culture is both attractive to tourists and a resource for preserving and learning about local heritage.

The province offers a variety of opportunities for creative tourism, including food, local performing arts, wisdom, geography, history, weaving, and other traditions passed down through generations. These elements are part of the cultural heritage of the country, supporting creativity and innovation that can lead to sustainable economic development while maintaining the quality and standards of its cultural practices. Furthermore, it plays a role in spreading Thai culture globally.

Being the second-largest city in the southern region by population, Songkhla houses a variety of government and private institutions that serve both local residents and people from other provinces. It also has several educational institutions that attract youth from all directions to study and gain knowledge.

Mission to Serve Society

Thaksin University, located in Songkhla, has a mission to serve society and achieve the following objectives:

1. Provide education to produce graduates and develop skilled human resources to meet the needs of the region, the country, and the ASEAN community.
2. Conduct research and development work to serve and guide societal progress, aiming to become a research-driven university serving the community.
3. Provide academic services and share knowledge with society, fostering a strong learning community.
4. Promote and support the preservation and development of the arts, culture, wisdom, and environment of southern Thailand to enhance local, national, and ASEAN development.
5. Develop the university to be a community-based institution recognized at the ASEAN level.

Cultural Prosperit

In addition to its educational functions, Thaksin University has taken on various other initiatives to address social issues through research and academic services. These efforts are focused on solving poverty in the local community, in line with its mission to serve society. Thaksin University is also prominent in the fields of art and culture, particularly in performing arts. **Associate Professor Thammanit Nikhomrat**, a faculty member in the Faculty of Fine Arts, was honored as a **National Artist** for his dedication to preserving and transmitting the traditional Norah dance and its cultural significance to future generations.

Thaksin university also leads research projects that contribute to the local community's development. One notable project is the "Kris Sukhul Chang Songkhla: Creating Value and Managing Cultural Heritage through Participation for Sustainable Local Economic Development." This research aims to enhance the potential of local kris artisans and their cultural heritage. By creating value from this cultural asset, the project works to develop products, services, and market mechanisms that promote the kris culture both locally and within the ASEAN region.

Cultural Transformation

Through these various initiatives, Thaksin University demonstrates a strong commitment to utilizing its knowledge, capabilities, and resources to add value to the community. The university aims to improve the well-being and livelihoods of the local population, ensuring long-term sustainability and the continuation of its projects for future generations.



