

## *UNTA 2020 Webinar On Boosting University World Ranking Through UNTA Cooperation*



(Participating Universities)

NPUST, in her capacity as the permanent secretariat of UNTA, launched the first ever UNTA-member webinar on July 21, 2020 to discuss the topic of "enhancing university global ranking via UNTA cooperation". With travel largely shut-down, the webinar allowed members to get together and effectively engage with one another on issues important to the Network. A total of seventeen representatives from twelve universities (in six countries) took part in the productive exchange.



*President Chang-Hsien Tai delivers a welcome remark*

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## ***KASETSART UNIVERSITY: Improvement of University Rankings Through Participation in International Organizations***

During the webinar, Kasetsart University (KU) outlined how it is using four different mechanisms to enhance its global impact and reputation. With emphasis given to participation in international organizations, KU has effectively orientated its Internationalization Policy, Research Policy, Database System and University Rankings Committee towards a specific set of standards and goals.

-Continued on p.5

## 2020 UNTA SUSTAINABILITY LECTURES

The UNTA secretariat has organized a brand new lecture series that serves as a portal into Sustainability research activities across the Network. Starting this October, seven lecturers from four countries (Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand) will be live on Zoom every other week to offer students with insightful presentations on the Sustainability research being conducted in different fields—and in different parts of the world .- *Continued on p.7*

**2020 UNTA Sustainability Lecture Series**

750 Zoom members, 100 Zoom sessions, and 100 Zoom sessions for promotion or registration (max 100 Zoom sessions per class)  
Class fee: 1000 NTD (10000 THB) per class

**Program Schedule**

- 10/06** 19:30-20:30 (GMT+8)  
**Citizen Engagement and Sustainable City**  
Dr. Herlin Chien, Center of General Education (NPUST, Taiwan)
- 10/20** 19:30-20:30 (GMT+7)  
**Biodiversity Research in Indonesia**  
Prof. Iskandar Z Sirgar, Department of Ecological Botany, Director of International Collaborative Office (IPB University, Indonesia)
- 11/03** 19:30-20:30 (GMT+7)  
**Genome wide association study (GWAS): an efficient tool for detecting the valuable agronomical traits**  
Dr. To Thi Mai Huong, Institute of Biotechnology (University of Science and Technology of Hanoi (USTH), Vietnam)
- 11/17** 19:30-20:30 (GMT+7)  
**Induced resistance to rice against pathogens by endophytic microbes**  
Prof. Linck Subdyonati, Department of Plant Pathology and Disease Control, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Brawijaya (UB), Indonesia
- 12/01** 19:30-20:30 (GMT+7)  
**Sustainable animal production under extensive mixed production system**  
Prof. Liang Chou Hsia, Department of Tropical Agriculture, National Taiwan University (NTU), Taiwan
- 12/15** 19:30-20:30 (GMT+7)  
**Industrial Management System for Enhancing Business Sustainable Development**  
Dr. Anuraj Papatirapan, Department of Management, Papanagaras University of Technology (PAPUT), Thailand
- 12/29** 19:30-20:30 (GMT+8)  
**Veterinary vaccine development: sustainable animal production and health**  
Dr. Hsing-Chieh Wu, Department of Animal Science, National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU), Taiwan

Participating Universities: NPUST, IPB, USTH, UB, NTU, PAPUT, NSYSU

**How to participate:**  
1. The program will take place on Zoom. Please contact your internal coordinator to obtain a login with a camera and microphone to register.  
2. Add meeting ID: 985 88 8888. You can search for the meeting ID by clicking on "Join by Meeting ID" in the Zoom app.  
3. Apply online system: <https://www.untanet.org/>  
4. Apply online system: <https://www.untanet.org/>  
5. Contact for participants: [untanet@untanet.org](mailto:untanet@untanet.org) or [untanet@untanet.org](mailto:untanet@untanet.org)

Lecture information

## UNTA BILATERAL FACULTY EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2018-2019

Since 2018, the Secretariat has been organizing the “UNTA Bilateral Faculty Exchange Program” to promote deeper cooperation between partners. Through the program, NPUST has already hosted more than 30 faculty members and graduate students affiliated with 17 bilateral projects. So far, the main focus of these has been placed on food science, animal science, plant medicine, aquaculture, biological science and technology, civil engineering and biomechatronics engineering.- *Continued on p.8*



Assembly meeting in 2019

## 2020 NPUST HUNT TAIWAN

With considerable concern stemming from the global Covid-19 outbreak, NPUST’s Office of International Affairs held an event designed to encourage students to stay in Taiwan over the summer break. Divided into 8 major themes, the “Hunt Taiwan” activity ran from July 10 to August 27 and gave students a chance to experience Taiwan in a new and exciting way. - *Continued on p.9*



Opening activity of Hunt Taiwan

## UNTA 2020 Webinar on Boosting University World Ranking Through UNTA Cooperation

By honing in on the type of features that are reflective of performance, “university rankings” offer a simple way to tell the world what it wants to know about our schools –and to tell our schools what other people are thinking. In essence, they act as a conversation. And one of the important messages that is being conveyed through this conversation is that international organizations, such as UNTA, matter.



*Dr. Herlin Chien, President Tai, and Dr. George Lin ( left to right)*

With these things in mind, on July 21<sup>st</sup> UNTA members were online and ready to discuss how to direct UNTA activities in ways that will boost the world university rankings of its members—or in other words, to answer some of the expectations expressed through that ongoing global conversation.

As a starting point, representatives from IPB, UB, KU, CMU, UQ and RMUTI cited some of their past experiences with rankings, and highlighted some of the methods they have employed to improve their standings.

From there, meeting participants began discussing ways in which to create new opportunities for UNTA members to grow and develop together. The underlying principle is that by pursuing common interests and leveraging resources to achieve common goals, partners have a real chance to make an impact and contribute more to the conversation.



*A Clip of participants*



*In the meeting*



Scaled-up contributions made through global academic collaboration has the potential to translate into international recognition and increased worldwide reputation. But at the heart of it all is the objective to improve instruction, learning, research, and overall university operations. This objective can be facilitated through the creation and careful application of self-assessment mechanisms which accurately reflect progress. Universities should consider how well they cherish their alumni, how efficient their administrative activities are, and how well they are evaluating the performances of educational and research activities.

As universities pursue outstanding ranking performances, they are ultimately pursuing the betterment of learning and development for both students and faculties alike. Development means change. It means new knowledge and new experiences; and it means looking at issues from new perspectives. It is for this reason that the “promotion of faculty and student exchanges among member universities” was encouraged during the webinar. And it was recognizably with these intentions that Prof. Dr. Iskandar Z Siregar, Director of International Collaboration of IPB, proposed the organization of an international online lecture series on Sustainability. The idea was to invite professors from UNTA member universities to come online to offer students and faculty from the Network with 30-minute lectures on diverse topics unified by the common theme. The suggestion was well received, and already the series has taken form— with the first lecture scheduled for early October.

Overall, the webinar on global rankings was a fruitful time of exchange and the Secretariat is greatly appreciative of all the contributions that were made by the participants.

We thank you all for your support and look forward to seeing you again in the near future for the Sustainability Lecture Series\*.

\*For more on the Sustainability Lecture Series, see page 7.

**Relevant Link:**

<https://en.npust.edu.tw/2020/08/unta-2020-webinar-on-boosting-university-world-ranking-through-unta-cooperation/>

## KASETSART UNIVERSITY: Improvement of University Rankings Through Participation in International Organizations



*Assoc. Prof. Chutchapol CHUNGCHOO, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Quality Development,  
Kasetsart University.*

Kasetsart University is extremely honored to have an occasion to share experiences gained and lessons learned regarding Kasetsart University's World Rankings in this UNTA 2020 Meeting under the theme,

### ***Improvement of University Rankings through Participation in International Organizations.***

Kasetsart University focuses its activities on six main areas under its "6U Model", which reflects our drive to be *a world class university, a research university, a digital university, a green university, a happiness university, and a social responsibility university*. The 6U model is used as an important mechanism to push forward the university's mission and to improve its performance across a wide range of ranking systems (QS World University Rankings, QS World University Rankings by Subject, Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE), SCImago Institutions Rankings, QS Stars, Webometrics Ranking of World Universities, UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, THE Impact Rankings, and University Performance Metrics (UPM)).

The Office of Quality Assurance at Kasetsart University would like to share the mechanisms that we use to enhance our global impact and reputation.

#### 1) University's Internationalization Policy

The top management of Kasetsart University is aware of the important role of internationalization. Our internationalization policies strongly support sustainable collaboration between our university and its partner institutions. We believe that when our policies are effectively implemented, they will help boost the university's performances in different areas, e.g. quality publications, international atmosphere, and worldwide reputations. This will in turn help to raise the university's ranking. For example, Kasetsart University has continuously participated in offering full-degree scholarships to Cambodian students in part of the Royal

Scholarship Project under Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Education Project to the Kingdom of Cambodia, initiated ASEAN + 4 student's exchange program, conducted undergraduate research programs (targeting at CLMV students), and provided supports as host or co-host of conferences, seminars, and symposia.

## 2) University's Research Policy

Kasetsart University also pursues a policy that encourages all faculty members to increase the quality as well as the quantity of their research publications through different means, such as granting awards, appreciations, certificates and plaques. These missions are carried out by Kasetsart University Research and Development Institute (KURDI), the Office of Academic Services and different faculties.

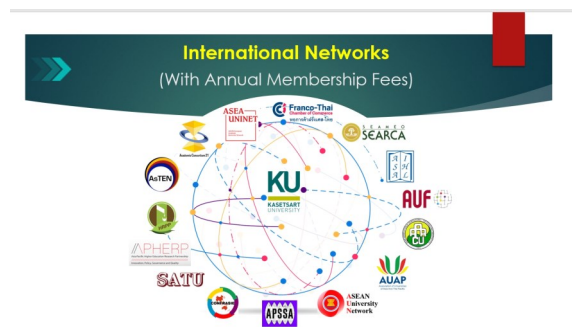
## 3) Database System

Kasetsart University is considered a large-size university comprising five campuses. Therefore, having an effective database system to collect data for different missions, particularly university rankings is tremendously important. It is crucial that all units are able to provide data efficiently. Subsequently, those data also need to be analyzed thoroughly for further interpretation.

4) University Rankings Committee. There is a university rankings committee that meets on a regular basis to monitor and evaluate the readiness of data prior to submitting data to the collection portal.



**KU- 6U Model**



**KU- International Networks**

The above mechanisms are considered internal mechanisms; another important element is the external mechanism through international organizations. Kasetsart University realizes that collaboration and engagement with other universities and institutions through various forms of activities, particularly research collaboration, academic collaboration, student exchange through internships or cooperative education, as well as the exchange of faculty members, and overall academic and employer reputation, which are all considered as ranking criteria. The value of each aspect varies depending upon each ranking system that the university takes part. By appreciating the benefits of participating in international organizations such as UNTA, we believe that our rankings, as well as those of other member universities, will improve without doubt.

To conclude, we trust that participation in international organizations plays an important role in improving not only our academic reputation but also research collaboration in a sustainable fashion. Nevertheless, most international organizations have not explicitly addressed how to use these networks as means of boosting universities' world rankings. We believe that UNTA cooperation will be able to stimulate this mission so that we can further pursue our excellence and achieve better places in world university rankings.

- **Written by Vice President Assoc.Prof.Chutchapol CHUNGCHOO**

## 2020 UNTA SUSTAINABILITY LECTURE SERIES

The **2020 UNTA Sustainability Lecture Series** is an multinational, inter-university online course that was created to give UNTA member university students the chance to explore a diverse set of Sustainability topics like never before. The seven-part series runs from October through December (2020), with lectures scheduled to take place once every second week.

Sustainability is a multi-faceted concept applied in different ways in different parts of the world. The seven-part series is designed to let students sample a variety of Sustainability research in different countries, including Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The first lecture in the series will be presented by Dr. Herlin Chien of NPUST (Taiwan), who will be elucidating the topic of Citizen Engagement and Sustainable Cities. From there, Prof. Iskandar Z Siregar of IPB (Indonesia) will give focus to some of the biodiversity research that is currently underway in Indonesia. In the third lecture, presented by Dr. To Thi Mai Huong of USTH (Vietnam), students will learn about the way in which “Genome wide association studies” (GWAS) are used as tools for dissecting valuable agronomical traits in organisms.

In the midpoint of the series, a second lecture out of Indonesia will be presented by Prof. Liliek Sulistyowati of UB, who will share how endophytic microbes are used to induce resistance in rice against fungal diseases. Then, back in Taiwan, NPUST’s Prof. Liang Chou Hsia will explain how the sustainability of animal production can be enhanced by applying automation techniques. Transitioning to Thailand, Dr. Anirut Pipatprapa of RMUTI offers students a look at the way in which businesses can enhance sustainable development by applying industrial management systems; and then, for the final lecture, Dr. Hsing-Chieh Wu will bring students back to Taiwan and back to the topic of “sustainable animal production” —this time, however, it will be from the angle of veterinary vaccine development.

With “Sustainability” as the main objective of the series, each of the topics is directly associated with two to four UN sanctioned Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Students and faculty who are interested in learning more about these specific topics are encouraged to sign-up and make the most of this unique opportunity.

### Relevant Links:

1. Lecture Zone <https://unta.npust.edu.tw/online-course-2020/>
2. ISDC 2020 <https://isdc.npust.edu.tw/#>



Registration  
QR code



**ISDC 2020** International Sustainable Development Conference  
Theme: **Our Common Future**

Time | 2020/11/27-28  
Venue | NPUST Pingtung Taiwan

Logos: NPUST, UNTA (University Network for Tropical Agriculture), UICM, IAAS

ISDC 2020  
Information



## UNTA BILATERAL FACULTY EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2018-2019

The UNTA secretariat organized the activity “UNTA Bilateral Faculty Exchange Program” since year of 2018. In 2020, we regret to temporary pause this program due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

However, by this chance of publishing the first edition of UNTA Newsletter, we are delighted to take a look back at the highlights of the program. The purpose of UNTA Bilateral Faculty Exchange Program was to promote facilitate cooperative on research and education. Started in 2018, we hosted more than 30 invited faculty members and graduate students affiliated with 17 bilateral projects between partner universities with NPUST under this program. The main collaboration fields include food science, animal science, plant medicine, aquaculture, biological science and technology, civil engineering and biomechatronics engineering.

We would also like to thank all participating universities to remain active and supportive to this event and the organization of UNTA; they are Kasetsart University, Maejo University, Songkhla Rajabhat University and Mahasarakham University from Thailand; The National University of Malaysia and Universiti Putra Malaysia from Malaysia; Univeritas Negeri Yogyakarta, Airlangga University, Universitas Brawijaya, IPB University and Gadjah Mada University from Indonesia; Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry from Vietnam.

The UNTA secretariat would like to wish all members safe and sound in this unusual time, and we all hope to restart the exchange program soon in the near future.

The outcome of each bilateral project has been posted on the website:

<https://unta.npust.edu.tw/category/topic/>



*Campus tour and assembly in 2019*



*Prof. Jue-Liang Hsu and and Visiting Scholars from Univeritas Negeri Yogyakarta*



*Prof. Jyh-Jian Chen and Prof. Puchong Kijamnajsuk from KU*



*Dr. Yung-Lin Chu, Prof. Pao-Chuan Hsieh and Dr. Chuenjit Chancharoonpong from KU*



## 2020 NPUST HUNT TAIWAN



*Climbing to the top -  
Mt. Hehuan*

With considerable difficulties stemming from the global Covid-19 outbreak, NPUST's Office of International Affairs encouraged the university's 600+ overseas students to stay in Taiwan over the summer break and enjoy their time spent on the island. To give the students an eventful and memorable summer, a series of activities were planned over the two-month recess .



*Boarding Marine Ship*



*Paintball*



*Making tea*

The activity, which was branded "Hunt Taiwan" was organized according to 8 major themes including Sports Competition, Hakka Culture, Extreme Challenge, Eco-Tourism, Creative Placemaking, Mountain Climbing, Minnan & Hakka Culture, and the Navy and Air force Tour. The series was launched with lively sporting event that helped everyone get excited for summer holidays. Dr. Pomin Li, the Dean of Office of International Affairs, commented on the activities, explaining that they "created an opportunity for international students to interact with local students while also coordinating with the government's epidemic prevention recommendations —they also gave the students a chance to become more familiar with Taiwan's culture and scenery".

As soon as the activity was announced, registration quickly began filling up with students coming from Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Mongolia, England, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palau, Hong Kong, and Macau. Through Hunt Taiwan the students were able to bond with one another as they experienced Taiwan in a whole new way— resulting in a summer they will never forget!

### Relevant Link:

<https://en.npust.edu.tw/2020/08/2020-hunt-taiwan-activity-5-leads-to-extreme-challenge/>

## ACTIVE MEMBERS

### **IPB University**

Prof. Dr. Arif Satria

Rector

Email: rektor@apps.ipb.ac.id

### **Kasetsart University**

Dr. Chongrak Wachrinrat

President

Email: president@ku.ac.th

### **Maejo University**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Weerapon Thongma

President

weerapon@mju.ac.th

### **The University of Queensland**

Prof. Peter Høj

Vice Chancellor

Email: vc@uq.edu.au

### **Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry**

Assoc. Prof. Tran Thanh Duc

President

Email: phamhuuty@huaf.edu.vn

### **Periyar University**

Prof. Dr. P. Kolandaivel

Vice Chancellor

Email: vcperiyar@gmail.com

### **University Brawijaya**

Prof. Dr. Ir. Nuhfil Hanani

Rector

Email: rektorat.ub@gmail.com

### **Chiang Mai University**

Prof. Niwes Nantachit

President

Email: president@rmuti.ac.cth

### **Rajamangala University of Technology Isan**

Asst. Prof. Dr. Viroj Limkaisang

President

Email: iro.rmuti@hotmail.com

### **Thai Nguyen University**

Dr. Pham Hong Quang

President

Email: vanphong.dhtn@moet.edu.vn

### **University of Science and Technology of Hanoi, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (USTH)**

Dr. Dinh Thi Mai Thanh

Rector

Email: dinh-thi-mai.thanh@usth.edu.vn

## UNTA SECRETARIAT OFFICE

University Network for Tropical Agriculture (UNTA)

Address: 1, Shuefu Road, Neipu, Pingtung 91201, TAIWAN

Email: unta\_secretariat@mail.npust.edu.tw

Phone No: +886- 8-770-3202 EXT 6215

Fax: +886- 8-774-0208

Website: <https://unta.npust.edu.tw>