

UNTA Annual Meeting & Tour - Official Meeting Minutes

Host University: Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF)

Venue: Meeting Hall A1, The Central House

Date: November 6, 2025

Time: 15:30 - 17:30

1. Opening of the Meeting

Time Started: 15:41

Opening Remarks:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duong Van Thao, Head of the Department of Science, Technology, and External Affairs, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, welcomed all UNTA member universities and emphasized the importance of regional collaboration in advancing higher education, sustainable agriculture, and innovation.

Agenda Confirmation:

The proposed meeting agenda was presented and unanimously approved by all participants.

2. Introduction of Member Universities (15:41-15:55)

Each representative introduced their respective institution and shared ongoing collaborations under the UNTA network:

- ◆ Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Hung Quang
- ◆ National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST) - Prof. Dr.-Ing. Chin-Lung Chang
- ◆ National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST)- Prof. Dr. Ru-Chu Shih
- ◆ Universitas Brawijaya - Prof. Widodo, S.Si.,M.Si.,Ph.D.Med.Sc
- ◆ University of Science and Technology of Hanoi (USTH) - Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Hai Dang
- ◆ Universiti Putra Malaysia - Prof. Ir. Dr. B.T. Hang Tuah Bin Baharudin
- ◆ University of Guam - Senior Vice President & Provost, Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba

- ◆ University of Guam - Mr. Vincent Bamba
- ◆ University of Science and Technology of Hanoi (USTH) - Prof. Dr. Patrice Estelle
- ◆ University of Science and Technology of Hanoi (USTH) - Assoc. Prof. To Thi Mai Huong
- ◆ Universiti Putra Malaysia - Prof. Dr. Uma Rani Sinniah
- ◆ Kasetsart University - Asst. Prof. Dr. Aksorn Saengtienchai
- ◆ Chiang Mai University - Asst. Prof. Dr. Daranrat Jaitiang
- ◆ Thai Nguyen University - Dr. Mai Anh Khoa
- ◆ Chiang Mai University - Asst. Prof. Dr. Juthathip Chalermphol
- ◆ Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry - Dr. Ho Ngoc Son
- ◆ Rajamangala University of Technology Isan Nakhon Ratchasima Province Main Campus - Asst. Prof. Rabil Ponphai
- ◆ Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry - Dr. Duong Van Thao
- ◆ Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Huu Ty (Online)
- ◆ Periyar University - Dr. Soundarapandian Kannan (Online)
- ◆ National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST) - Eva Lin (Online)

3. 2025 UNTA Annual Report (15:55-16:15)

Presented by: Prof. Dr. Vincent Ru-Chu Shih, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST), Taiwan

3.1 Background and Overview

Prof. Shih provided an overview of the University Network for Tropical Agriculture (UNTA), emphasizing its establishment, growth, and commitment to fostering academic and research collaboration.

- Year Established: 2012
- Founding Members: 10 universities
- Current Membership (2025): 30 universities
- New Member (2025): University of Guam, USA

He reaffirmed UNTA's mission to promote integration, collaboration, and innovation in tropical agriculture, education, and sustainability.

3.2 UNTA Objectives

- Reinforce academic and research cooperation among member universities.
- Focus on tropical agriculture, food security, and environmental sustainability.
- Enhance faculty and student mobility programs.
- Promote joint research, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Support member universities in developing agricultural policy recommendations.

3.3 Summary of Activities and Assemblies

- 2023 Annual Assembly: Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia
- 2024 Annual Assembly: NPUST, Taiwan

Key 2024 Proposals and Actions:

- Appeal for international funding
- Promotion of joint research programs
- Strengthening innovation and interdisciplinarity
- Revitalization of the UNTA website
- Encouragement of postgraduate research through TEEP
- Launch of joint online courses and engaging assembly activities
- Conduct of the UNTA collaboration survey

3.4 Membership and Digital Initiatives

The updated list of member universities is available on the official UNTA website: <https://unta.npust.edu.tw/member/>

Ongoing website enhancements aim to showcase member profiles, research collaborations, and joint programs.

3.5 Admissions and Academic Exchange Programs

T.E.E.P. Admissions:

- Total Admissions: 30
- From UNTA Members: 12
 - Universitas Brawijaya (5), Kasetsart University (4), Chiang Mai University (1), IPB University (1), University of Agriculture and Forestry - Hue University (1)

Study Program Applications:

- Total Applications: 67
- Total Admissions: 30
- From Member Universities: 20
- Universitas Brawijaya (16), Universitas Gadjah Mada (2), Universitas Sriwijaya (1), Chiang Mai University (1)

3.6 Survey on Collaboration Willingness

Respondent Universities (9):

Universitas Sumatera Utara, Maejo University, Periyar University, Tarlac Agricultural University, Universidad de Córdoba, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Science and Technology of Hanoi, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, Universitas Brawijaya.

Key Findings:

- Joint Research Projects: 100% Yes
- Faculty Engagement Programs: 100% Yes
- Student Exchange Support: 100% Yes
- Innovation and Interdisciplinary Research: 100% Yes
- Laboratory and Expert Sharing: 100% Yes

3.7 Research and Innovation Focus

Top Research Fields:

- Food Science (9)
- Tropical Agriculture & Animal Science (8)
- Plus nine other specialized disciplines

Innovative Areas Identified:

- Agriculture & Food Sciences
- Animal & Aquaculture Sciences
- Biological Science & Technology
- Artificial Intelligence & Digital Applications
- Sustainability & Climate Change

3.8 UNTA Website Content Development

Members agreed to provide materials highlighting:

- Institutional identity and vision

- Research strengths and achievements
- Academic collaborations and exchanges
- Seminars, workshops, and related programs

3.9 Online Learning Collaboration

- Willingness to Develop Online Courses: 89% Yes, 11% No
- Available Course Areas: Agriculture, Animal Science, Environmental & Biological
- Availability of Technical Platforms: 100% Yes

3.10 Annual Assembly Activities

- Interest in Interactive Activities: 100% Yes
- Suggested Formats: Online, hybrid, and in-person workshops and symposiums

3.11 UNTA International Research Fund

- Support for Establishment: 89% Yes, 11% No

Members encouraged seed funding mechanisms for collaborative research projects.

3.12 General Recommendations

- Promote joint R&D across disciplines.
- Strengthen communication channels.
- Establish annual evaluation of collaboration outcomes.

4. Host University Report - 2026 UNTA Annual Assembly (16:15-16:25)

Presented by: Kasetsart University, Thailand

Presided by: Asst. Prof. Dr. rer. Soc. Supapatpimol Simle

4.1 Overview

Kasetsart University confirmed its role as the host institution for the 2026 UNTA Annual Assembly, scheduled for November 4-7, 2026, at Bangkhen Campus, Bangkok.

The representative reaffirmed the university's dedication to advancing UNTA's mission in tropical agriculture, food security, sustainability, and academic cooperation.

4.2 Proposed Theme and Focus

Tentative theme: Somewhat related to Climate Change, Agriculture, and Sustainable Food Systems.

The university proposed launching a UNTA Climate Change Consortium for 2026, focusing on resilience, sustainable farming, and innovation.

4.3 Preliminary Plans and Excursions

- Main Venue: Bangkhen Campus, Bangkok
- Proposed Excursion: Kamphaeng Saen Campus, Nakhon Pathom, and some other places

Tours will include agricultural research facilities, experimental farms, and local Thai cultural visits.

4.4 Next Steps

- Finalize the 2026 theme and program schedule
- Coordinate with UNTA Secretariat for official announcement and registration
- Call for participation in climate-related research exhibits

5. Presidents' Roundtable: Discussion on Future Collaboration (16:25-16:45)

Opened by: Prof. Dr. Vincent Ru-Chu Shih, NPUST

Highlights:

- Emphasis on strengthening student and faculty mobility, joint research, and innovation partnerships.

Key Discussion Points:

- Exchange Programs: To be credited by universities and coordinated through academic affairs offices.
- Joint Research Fund: Indonesia initiated seed funding; others encouraged to join.
- Biotechnology Collaboration: TUAF presented its 2030 Strategic Plan for Biotechnology and encouraged biotechnological research networking.
- Promotion of Activities: UPM proposed featuring member programs and symposiums on the UNTA website.
- Budget for Research: Universitas Brawijaya proposed funding support for scholar exchanges.
- Student Involvement: University of Guam emphasized student inclusion in research initiatives.
- Climate Symposium: Kasetsart University announced the upcoming International Consortium on Climate Change Solutions (May 15, 2026).
- **Future Hosts:**
 - 2026 - Kasetsart University, Thailand
 - 2027 - Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia

6. MOU Signing Ceremony & Souvenir Exchange (16:45-17:30)

Purpose: Renewal and reaffirmation of the UNTA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Key MOU Highlights:

1. Strengthen academic and research collaboration
2. Focus on tropical agriculture, food security, and sustainability
3. Promote faculty and student mobility
4. Support joint conferences and publications
5. Maintain the UNTA Secretariat at NPUST, Taiwan
6. Rotate hosting annually among member universities

Signatories:

1. Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Hung Quang
2. Thai Nguyen University - Dr. Mai Anh Khoa
3. Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tran Thanh Duc
4. University of Science and Technology of Hanoi - Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Hai Dang
5. Universitas Brawijaya - Prof. Widodo, S.Si.,M.Si.,Ph.D.Med.Sc
6. Universiti Putra Malaysia - Prof. Dr. Ir. B.T. Hang Tuah Baharudin
7. University of Agriculture Faisalabad - Dr. Zulfiqar Ali
8. Chiang Mai University - Asst. Prof. Dr. Juthathip Chalermphol
9. Rajamangala University of Technology Isan - Asst. Prof. Dr. Rabil Ponphai
10. Kasetsart University - Asst. Prof. Dr. rer. Soc. Supapatpimol Simle
11. University of Guam - Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba
12. NPUST, Taiwan - Prof. Dr.-Ing. Chin-Lung Chang

Ceremonial Photo & Souvenirs:

All signatories joined for a commemorative photo and souvenir exchange, symbolizing the renewed UNTA partnership.

7. Closing Remarks

Delivered by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Hung Quang, Rector of TUAF, expressing gratitude to all delegates and reaffirming UNTA's collective vision for advancing tropical agricultural education and research.

Time Ended: 17:30

8. Summary of Decisions and Action Points

No.	Agenda Item	Decision / Action	Responsible Party	Next Step
1	Future Collaboration	Draft framework for UNTA Joint Research Fund	UNTA Secretariat	2026 Review
2	2026 Host Promotion	Provisional endorsement of Kasetsart University	UNTA Executive Committee	Next Annual Meeting
3	2027-2028 Host Election	Universitas Brawijaya volunteered as 2027 host university	UNTA Secretariat	Issue an official circular