

KASETSART UNIVERSITY, THAILAND

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Newsletter



## The Online 34<sup>th</sup> University Consortium Executive Board Meeting (UCEBM)



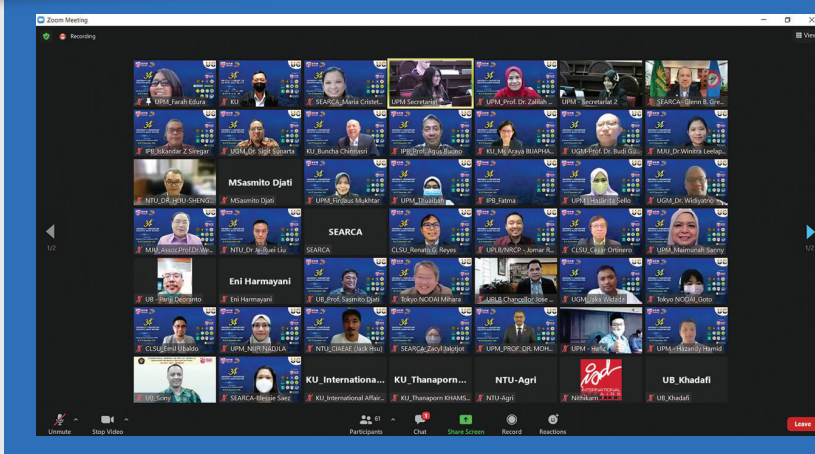
The online 34<sup>th</sup> University Consortium Executive Board Meeting (UCEBM) was held on 16-17 December 2021. Assistant Professor Dr. Kampanat Pensupar, Vice President for International Affairs and personnel of KU attended the meeting. Since its inception, every UC member has to attend the annual meeting of UCEBM every year. The host is rotated among the UC members every year. Last year, Kasetsart University successfully hosted the 33<sup>rd</sup> UC Executive Board Meeting virtually. This year, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), through its School of Graduate Studies (SGS) was chosen to be the host of the UCEBM. SEARCA also attended the meeting as Secretariat of the UC. The meeting was held online via Zoom Meeting on 16 and 17 December 2021.

On 16 December 2022, was the opening ceremony of the 34<sup>th</sup> UC Executive Board Meeting. The ceremony began with a Welcoming Message from Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman, the Vice Chancellor, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), followed by Opening Remarks from Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio, SEARCA Director and Dr. Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma as UC Coordinator. Introductions of University/Institute Representatives followed the Opening Remarks for 15 minutes each. A total of 60 people attended this meeting. This meeting is a platform for the presentation of the UC annual report. The



financial report included proposing and approving new proposals for academic activities or partnerships that benefit UC, including building new partnerships with institutions/agencies/organizations from relevant countries, and offers of competitive student and faculty grants and activities hosted by the different member institutions, which are regularly reviewed during the board meeting. The UC also discussed ongoing dual or joint degrees as well as proposed collaborative research studies among the members and institutional partners outside Southeast Asia. The UC also conducts the following activities annually: UC Summer School, UC Graduate Forum, UC Faculty Forum, 2022 UC Executive Board Meeting and 2022 UC Activities and Budget.

Lastly, Maejo University, Chiang Mai, Thailand will be the host of the UC Graduate Student Forum 2022; Central Luzon State University, Philippines will be the host of UC Faculty Forum 2022; the 35<sup>th</sup> UC Executive Board Meeting will be led by Universitas Brawijaya (UB), Indonesia in 2022 and will be the host of the UC Summer School 2022 as well.



### Did YOU KNOW

#### U2T 'Toffeeeso'

Sriracha district is packed with both natural resources and industrial zones. This district is the location of Kasetsart University regional campus, approximately 130 k.m. from the main campus in Bangkok. Kasetsart University has been a think-tank for eastern communities to uplift the livelihood of its people for almost 30 years.

The University to Tumbon (U2T) project under the Faculty of Economics at Sriracha is also helping the locals of Thung Sukhla sub-district to develop the packaging and marketing of their local product, which is the traditional dessert called "Toffeeeso", as a processed food. With the slogan "Toffeeeso, Thailand's organic crunchy toffee", this particular product is very popular among tourists and has always been pre-ordered at the highest capacity throughout the years.

Projects such as this which Kasetsart University operates with the local communities reflects the determination of "Knowledge of the Land" perfectly with tangible outcomes.



# KUCSI #Online

**A**scholarship students who received scholarships from the Capacity Building of KU Students on Internationalization Program (KUCSI) 2022 were welcomed on 13 January 2022. Dr. Chongrak Wachrinrat, President of Kasetsart University presided over the ceremony online via the Cisco WebEx program.



President Chongrak said all scholarship recipients must use this important opportunity to gain knowledge and academic skills, learn culture and diversity, and be a good cultural ambassador to represent the good culture of Thailand in foreign countries. He also said to respect the rules of the host country and use this experience as an important driving force in changing yourself, and be ready for the changes that occur.

There are scholarship recipients who have been selected from the faculty and the committee to support for which the budget from the Capacity Building of KU Students on Internationalization Program (KUCSI) 2022. There are a total of 96 students receiving the scholarships which will be implemented in 2022. These students must prepare and study information for travel to participate in academic activities with foreign educational institutions in the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Australia, the United States,

Japan, Taiwan, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, etc.

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has caused the delay and postponement of travel to participate in academic activities abroad. Kasetsart University also expects that if the situation resolves and more vaccines are available, resulting in group immunization and reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19, travel to academic activities abroad can be undertaken subject to requirements and guidelines under world-standard public health regulations and practices.

Associate Professor Dr. Chamaipak Tayjasanant, Assistant to the President for International Affairs and representatives from the International Affairs Division also joined the meeting to give some useful advice on how to prepare for traveling to attend academic activities at foreign educational institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. She discussed

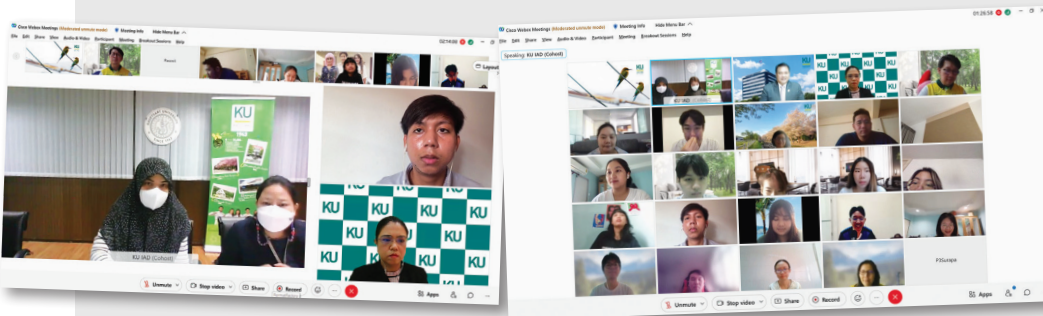
# on the cover

Pink trumpet trees or *Tabebuia rosea* are in full bloom alongside Watana Stienswat Road, also called Pink Trumpet Tree Road at Kasetsart University, Kamphaeng Saen Campus. There are 580 trees covering a distance of more than 2 kilometers. Now this road is recommended by the tourism organization as one of the attractions in western Thailand.

Let's visit this must-see attraction from December to February every year. # Chic and chill one day at Kamphaeng Saen.



Credit Photo:  
Kasetsart University  
Kamphaeng Saen Campus



the disbursement process, submission of documents, advice on how to prepare before traveling and when participating in activities, and how to coordinate with the relevant departments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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# Undergraduate Student Online Forum, Kasetsart University



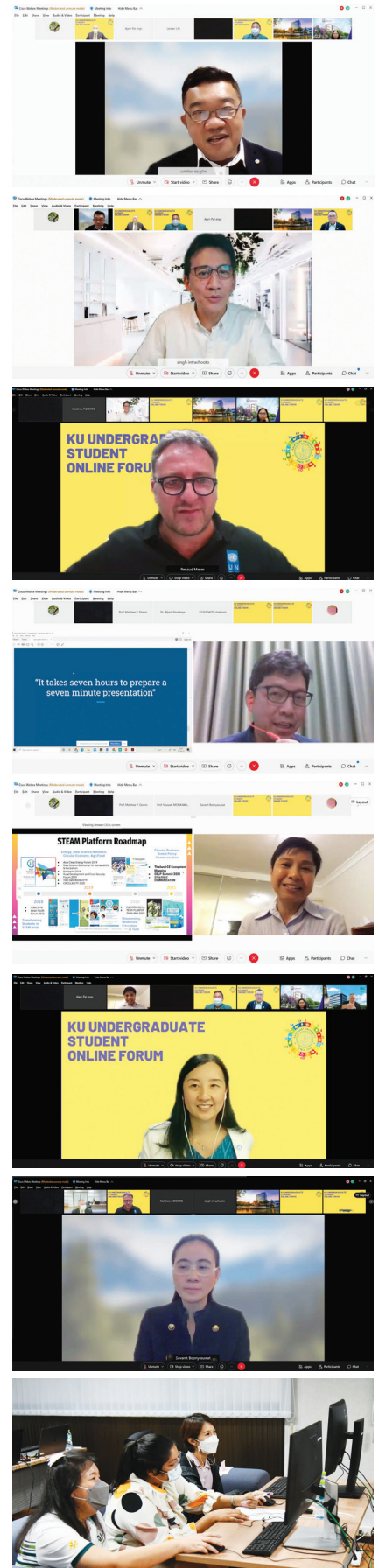
**O**n 15 December 2021, Kasetsart University organized an Undergraduate Student Online Forum, which opens the opportunity for students, lecturers, personnel of Kasetsart University and partner universities who are interested in improving their potential opportunities and skills. It's a way of getting ready for internationalization and to meet the needs of society in a borderless era. The forum also promotes developing creativity and critical thinking on sustainable development goals (SDGs) and sustainable economic models (Bio-Circular-Green Economy: BCGE). Therefore, Kasetsart University organized the Undergraduate Student Online Forum: What Students can do to Promote Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCGE) with a two-day activity format. The first day was on 15 December 2021 and the second day was on 26 January 2022. The MC for the first day of the meeting was Professor Matthew P. Downs, Senior Advisor for International Relations at Kasetsart University.

On the first day, the Undergraduate Student Online Forum began with greetings by Assistant Professor Ratchot Chompunich, Vice President for Student Affairs and Sustainable Development. He greeted the honorable speakers, distinguished guests and all of the participants at this online forum. Subsequently, Assistant Professor Dr. Kampanat Pensupar, Vice President for International Affairs, Kasetsart University presided over the meeting and delivered the opening address. After that, the first session consisted of a panel discussion from both domestic and foreign guest speakers with experience and knowledge. Panel Session 1: Universities and the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was covered by three speakers; Associate Professor Singh Intrachooto, PhD, Faculty of Architecture, Kasetsart University; Mr. Renaud Meyer, Resident Representative in Thailand United Nations Development Program; and Dr. Savanit Boonyasuwat Kosolpitskul, Vice President for Sustainability Strategy and Management PTT Global Chemicals Public Company Limited.

This was followed by Panel Session 2: The Macro-level Sustainability: Bioeconomy, Circular Economy, and Green Economy by Professor Masaaki Morikawa, PhD, Faculty of Environment Earth Science, Hokkaido University;

Dr. Lerwen Liu, Founding Director, STEAM Platform, KMUTT; and Ms. Marisa Panyachiva, Partnership and Development Finance Officer, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand. Next was the Final Keynote with a Q&A session entitled "Thailand's National Agenda: Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model" by Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, President of Thailand Environmental Institute.

The Undergraduate Student Online Forum was very successful on the first day, with over 190 interested students, lecturers, personnel of Kasetsart University and partner universities joining in. The last program on the first day of the Undergraduate Student Online Forum was an announcement to invite undergraduate students of Kasetsart University to participate in the Idea Sharing Contest on the topic "A Better Tomorrow with SDGs /BCG" to win an educational prize worth over 50,000 baht. Professor Matthew P. Downs, Senior Advisor for International Relations at Kasetsart University and Assistant Professor Dr. Aracha Krasae-in, Associate Dean, Faculty of Architecture provided information and details of submissions to this competition. The Idea Sharing Contest of undergraduate students Kasetsart University (Final Round) was held on Wednesday 26 January 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



# Undergraduate Student Online Forum: Idea Sharing Contest



On 26 January 2022, Kasetsart University held the second day of the Undergraduate Student Online Forum: IdeaSharingContest. Dr.Chongrak Wachrinrat, President of Kasetsart University, along with administrators and personnel of the International Affairs Division joined the forum with the topic: What Students can do to Promote Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG): Idea Sharing Contest in Pecha Kucha format under the topic “A Better Tomorrow with SDGs/BCG”, via the Webex Meeting program. The event was moderated by Professor Matthew P. Downs, Senior Advisor for International Relations, Kasetsart University.



The purpose of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of this forum is to provide an opportunity for Kasetsart University students to increase and develop their potential, skills, and ability to internationalize and enter a new era of Societies without Borders and develop creativity of critical thinking on sustainable development goals (SDGs) and sustainable economic models (Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG)).

On this occasion, Assistant Professor Dr. Kampanat Pensupar, Vice President for International Affairs, Kasetsart University delivered welcoming remarks to the participants. Then Dr. Chongrak Wachrinrat, President of Kasetsart University delivered official opening remarks of the forum.

The agenda for the event included the following:

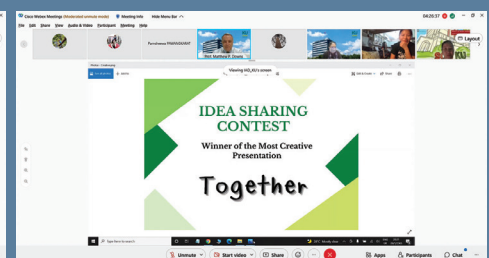
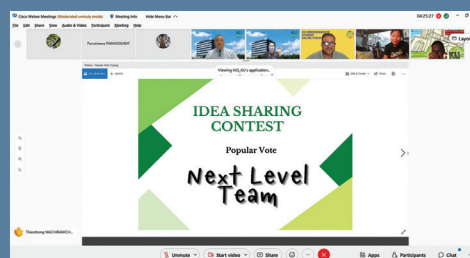
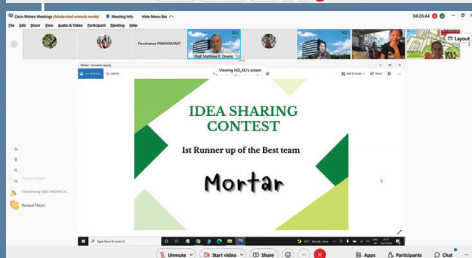
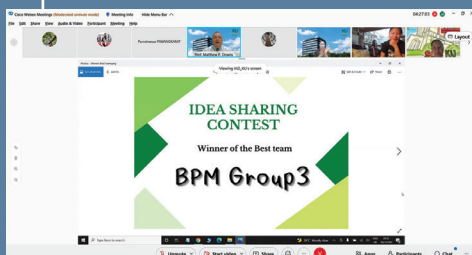
- Student Talk: What we can do to promote SDGs and BCG (20 minutes) by Ms. Chihiro Hasebe, Hiroshima University, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Division of Educational Sciences, International Education Develop. This was followed by a short speech by Kasetsart University’s student team leader Ms. Parisa Sattinsee, Project Manager, Seed Thailand. She is a former President of the Kasetsart University Student Council.

- Introduction of the 5 qualified committees, consisting of:

1. Mr. Renaud Meyer, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, Thailand
2. Associate Professor Dr. Cheema Soralump, Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
3. Assistant Professor Dr. Aracha Krasae-in, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture
4. Assistant Professor Dr. Nadhawe Bunnag, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences
5. Associate Professor Dr. Chamaipak Tayjasanan, Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities

The contest included 16 qualifying teams. Each team had 5-7 minutes to lead.

Lastly, there was a presentation of awards to students and then the forum closing by Assistant Professor Ratchot Chompunich, Vice President for Student Affairs and Sustainable Development, Kasetsart University. The award recipients were as follows:



# KU Online International Academic Forum 2022 (79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

On 2 February 2022, Kasetsart University held the first day of the KU Online International Academic Forum 2022: In Celebration of the 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kasetsart University under the theme “Reinventing Kasetsart University: Innovative Research and Advanced Studies on Agriculture and Food.” The two day event was held on 2 February (Day 1) at 4:00-5:15 p.m. and 3 February (Day 2) from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting. Professor Matthew P. Downs was the moderator of the event for both days.

At 6:00 a.m., there was a wreath-laying ceremony to pay homage to the Three Founders of Kasetsart University Monument on the occasion of the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Kasetsart University. The ceremony was attended by the administrators, alumni, current students, personnel, faculties and organizations to commemorate the great contributions of “Sam Buraphachan”, the founders of Kasetsart University. Attendees were invited to join in laying the wreath online.

KU’s 79<sup>th</sup> Academic Forum provided a platform for discussions and exchange of ideas between international partners on issues related to Global Food Security: Challenges and Strategies in Agri-food Research and Innovation, Enhancing Agriculture and Food Research. KU and many of our partners are currently focusing on these topics as part of our Reinventing the University and Research Institutes Program. The Forum will showcase some of these collaborative initiatives and provide opportunities for partners to participate, which KU hopes will lead to additional opportunities for future research and collaboration.

The program started with an opening ceremony of the forum. A welcome speech was given by Assistant Professor Dr. Kampanat Pensupar, Vice President for International Affairs, Kasetsart University. Then Dr. Chongrak Wachrinrat, President, Kasetsart University delivered an opening statement. The next



program was a keynote address on the topic “The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Food Security: Challenges and Strategies in Agri-food Research and Innovation” by Professor H. De Jong, Wageningen University and Research, the Netherlands. Later, the second Keynote speaker was Associate Professor Dr. Suktet Nakasathien, Vice President for Research and Creation, Kasetsart University on the topic “Enhancing Agriculture and Food Research under the Reinventing Universities and Research Institutes Program.” In the meantime, participants were given an opportunity to ask questions and express their opinions on various topics. Finally, all main points were reviewed to wrap up of the first day of the forum. More than 300 people attended the first day of the online meeting including representatives from higher education institutions, international relations networks, international partners, faculty members, students and the general public. This forum has reached another milestone in terms of academic participation in society including academics, research, and national development as well as establishing continuous and sustainable international cooperation.

The second day of the KU Online International Academic Forum 2022 (79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) on 3 February 2022 was presented as Panel Sessions. These sessions showcased outstanding outputs from two schemes in Kasetsart University’s innovative research and advanced studies programs. The research focus is on agriculture and food, and agriculture and forestry, including related science and technology with a future vision (2021-2024). The forum was divided into two main sessions:

The first session was titled Scheme 1 Outbound Exchange for Advanced Research Program (collaborative research and co-publication in high-quality international journals). The four panelists are researchers (two from Kasetsart University and two from international institutions) actively involved in various research projects and have been invited to share details (20 minutes with Q&A for each panelist) on their research projects. Panelists are:



1) Professor Masaaki Morikawa, Faculty of Environmental Earth Science, Hokkaido University, JAPAN on the topic “Development of the Duckweed Holobiont Resource Values towards Thailand BCGs economy”

2) Professor Zhou Weibiao, Head of Food Science and Technology Department, NUS, Singapore on the topic “Student Mobility : A key attribute of Global Education and Internationality Collaborative Research”

3) Professor Theeraphap Chareonviriyaphap, Faculty of Agriculture, Kasetsart University on the topic “Scientific Achievements and Reflections after 20 years of Vector Biology and Control Research: The Mosquito field research station - Thailand”, and

4) Professor Metta Chareonpanich, Faculty of Engineering, Kasetsart University on the topic “Nanocatalysts and Nanomaterials for Sustainable Energy and Environment”.

A Chairperson of the 1<sup>st</sup> session was Assistant Professor Dr. Kittipong Rattanaporn, Associate Dean for Research and Innovation, Faculty of Agro-industry, Kasetsart University.

The second session was titled Scheme 2 Visiting Professor Program. Three visiting professors at Kasetsart University have been invited to share their expertise (20 minutes with Q&A for each panelist) in science, technology, and frontier research, as well as their experience as visiting professors in the Reinventing Kasetsart University Program. Panelists are:

1) Professor Tohru NakashiZuka, Graduate School of Life Science, Tohoku University, Japan on the topic “Collaborating Research on Tropical forests with Kasetsart University: A Collaboration project in MMRS”

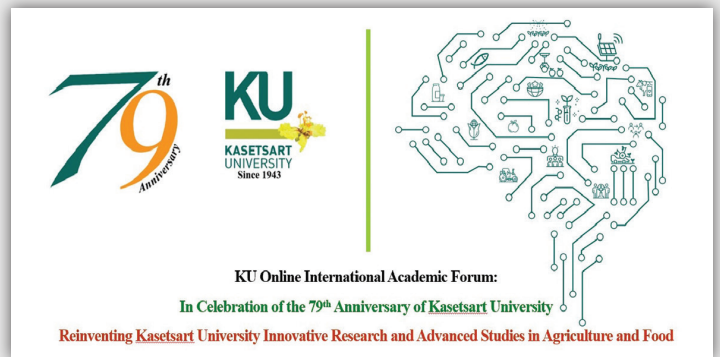
2) Dr. Mikolaj Adamek, Fish Disease Research Unit, University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover, Germany on the topic “Joined research into finding a solution to a global problem -Tilapia Lake Virus”, and

3) Professor Mattheos Koffas, Department of Chemical Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA on the topic “The Road to Animal-Free Sulfated Glycosaminoglycans: Complete Biosynthesis of Chondroitin Sulfate in Recombinant Microbe”.

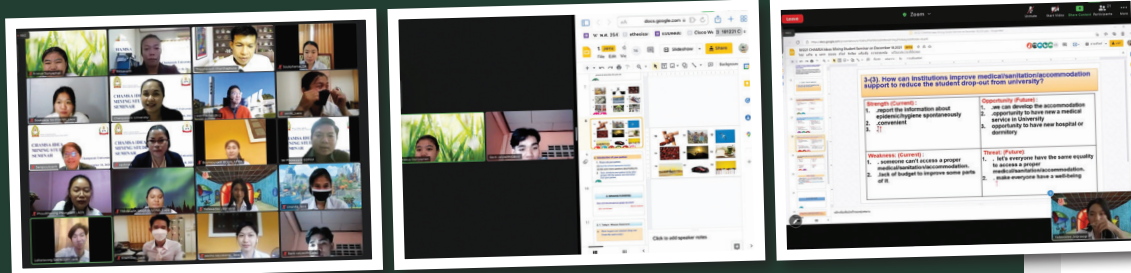
The Chairperson of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session was Professor

Matthew P. Downs, Senior Advisor for International Relations, Kasetsart University.

The Forum Closing was delivered by Assistant Professor Dr. Kampanat Pensupar, Vice President for International Affairs, Kasetsart University. The KU Online International Academic Forum 2022: In Celebration of the 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kasetsart University under the theme “Reinventing Kasetsart University: Innovative Research and Advanced Studies on Agriculture and Food,” was a very successful event for participants to support knowledge sharing at the higher education level which all face various and challenging problems. We firmly believe that a primary role of universities is to provide leadership and to find strong partners for collaboration and innovation so that we can together develop effective strategies to prepare our students so they can confront the critical global challenges in ways that best serve our communities.



## KUSAm#3 participated in CHAMSA-Ideas Mining Student Seminar



**K** U Student Ambassador batch 3 (KUSAm) participated in CHAMSA-Ideas Mining Student Seminar on 18 December 2021. CHAMSA Idea Mining Student is an online seminar on a specific theme of [Happiness] Today’s mission statement [How to prevent student drop out from the university], organized by Champasack University, Laos. This seminar is held as part of the student exchange program in the near future. The purpose of a seminar is to create an experience of working together, therefore students can collaborate, discuss, brainstorm and create new ideas and try to find a solution. Champasack University, Laos asked for cooperation to send 2 students from each of the 10 partner universities to attend the seminar with 12 Champasack University students, totaling 22 students who attended this seminar. The seminar was held half-day in the morning on 18 December 2021. It opens to undergraduate students of all faculties and all year levels. Students are free to participate in the seminar, however should be able to write and speak fluent English. The International Affairs Division selected 2 students of KU Student Ambassador batch 3 (KUSAm) joining in this seminar. The list of participants was as follows: Ms. Areeya Duriyaphan and Ms. Yadawadee Jaiprasop from the Faculty of Engineering.

# KU Student joins the Youth Ag Summit 2021



Youth Ag Summit 2021 in collaboration with Bayer CropScience in Germany and the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) aimed to have approximately 100 young people from around the world offer their opinions on providing enough food for the world in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework. Youth learnt entrepreneurial and leadership skills, receive coaching from mentors, and improve their project ideas to “go for change” over the 10 weeks following the November meeting.

Ms. Jirarak Charoendisorn of Kasetsart University was the only youth representing Thailand who attended the project. The meeting was the fifth, but this was the first time an online meeting was held. Ms. Jirarak said “This project provides the benefit of acquaintance with young leaders from many countries who share the same goals, which are to strive to make the agricultural sector more sustainable and environmentally friendly, and alleviating food security problems in their own countries.

This is the first year that the project was conducted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the advantage is that this year the project has been organized for 6 consecutive months. It is like taking a short course that is very intense. Important guests around the world share their knowledge with youth throughout the program on topics including business, science, and communication arts. This seminar helps young people to improve their ongoing projects in a positive and sustainable way. Ms. Jirarak said “Personally, I love hearing ideas from young people around the world who have shared their projects, which makes me feel more confident that there are still many people who want to create a global agricultural society in the direction of social and natural sustainability.”

Ms. Jirarak added that “Farmer career is a form of private business. For a business to be successful or to produce a profit, there must be a cost. Whether it is financial support, location, personnel, knowledge and connections which is quite a challenge for the new generation. On the other hand, the advantages of the new generation are many, both in technology and perception of information. Especially, the new generation focuses on farming methods with the least impact on the environment. With extensive information and accessible support, modern farmers are believed to be farming with their own and social responsibility at their best. In the end, if the new generation has a heart that wants to farm and has a sufficient cost to start, the farming career is a career that will make us happy as other careers.”

Ms. Jirarak commented that “There is the view that Thai farmers with both new and senior generations are very knowledgeable about industrial agriculture, processed agriculture or tourism agriculture because it has been supported in a variety ways from both the public and private sectors. But the main obstacle for them is the old farmer’s market mechanism that has been in agriculture for a long time lacks the ability to compete with the current market system. Therefore, they should not be ignored. If possible, I would like to see good management from the public and private sectors so that agricultural products will have a reasonable price for the producers and consumers. Fairtrade that is as serious as abroad such as labeling a bag of vegetables so that the producer can profit from his production process. I believe that the solution to the system will drive farmers to have an incentive to produce better quality produce for their own health, consumers and the environment.”



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**Photographer :**  
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**Graphic Design :**  
Global GE Co., Ltd.  
E-mail : pasda2007@gmail.com



The Yellow Flamboyant  
(*Peltophorum pterocarpum*)  
is the symbolic tree of Kasetsart University  
Thai people call it “NONSEE”



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50 Ngamwongwan Road, Chatuchak,  
Bangkok 10900, Thailand

+66 2942 8171-3, +66 2942 8858  
Fax : +66 2942 8170, +66 2942 8726

fro@ku.th