

UK - Thailand Trans National Education Development Project Initiative

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The Beginnings

- In the Asian education market, 160,000 more students were involved in transnational education in 2013/14 compared with 2007/08. (Source: British Council) However, Thailand has been slower to engage in TNE than its neighbours within southern and northern Asia.
- In recognition of this, in 2015, the British Council, in conjunction with the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Thailand, established and supported the TNE Development Project, which commenced in January 2016.

Year 1: 2016

- In Year 1, the objective was to provide a platform for the nine * national Thai research universities to put in place up to 10 joint or double degree initiatives by August 2017, in conjunction with UK partners.
- The project's aim is to offer opportunities for students from Thailand and neighbouring countries to gain UK qualifications in Thailand, without going to the UK to study for the entire programme.

* Chulalongkorn, Thammasat, Kasetsart, Khon Kaen, Mahidol, Prince of Songkla, King Mongkut's University of Technology, Suranaree University of Technology, Chiang Mai.

What was achieved?

- In order to support the development of the partnerships, a Business Planning Workshop was held for representatives of the Thai Universities in December 2016, with the outcome to ensure that the participants:
 - “are able to design, refine and implement a strategy and business plan to successfully attract a sufficient number of students to their TNE programmes and enable sustainability of these programme.” (Source: ITQ)
- Business Plans were submitted in January 2017, with a Peer Review in London in mid February, 2017.
- 10 programmes were launched in August 2017.

- UK Universities: Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Queen Mary, Reading, Strathclyde, Sussex, Westminster.

Moving onto Phase II

- The success of Phase I provided the impetus for Phase II.
- A new dimension came into play.
- This reflected the Thai Government's 4.0 policy, designed to transform Thailand into a value-based economy.
- For Phase II, this meant an objective to create new TNE programmes that provide the basis for preparing an appropriate workforce to support Thailand's 4.0 initiative and social enterprise focus.

Engines of Growth: Thailand 4.0

First S-CURVE: Enhancing current industries
for continued growth

- - Next-Generation Automotive
- - Smart Electronics
- - Affluent, Medical and Wellness Tourism
- - Agriculture and Biotechnology
- - Food for the Future
- - Digital Technology

New S-CURVE: Developing future industries to
achieve a leap in growth for the Thai economy

- - Robotics
- - Aviation and Logistics
- - Biofuels and Biochemicals
- - Medical Hub
- Social Enterprise

What has been achieved?

- Phase II was expanded to all Thai and UK Universities.
- Twelve Thai Universities were selected to participate in the second phase.
- Representatives took part in a TNE Workshop in London on November 27/28, 2017 to meet existing and potential UK partners.
- Announcement of grants to support the development.
- A Workshop was held in Bangkok between March 19 and 21, 2018 to enhance their capabilities and expertise for the delivery of TNE with UK partners and identify the proper approach for developing and implementing TNE programmes between the two countries.
- A second workshop was held on how to engage industry in TNE.
- The outcome was a Business Plan for each partnership, submitted at end of April 2018 and reviewed at a Peer Review in London on May 8/9, 2018.

Phase II programmes and participants

- BBA (Global Tourism and Hospitality)
- BA (+ MABA in Thai Studies + BA in SEA Studies)
- Master of Management in Innopreneurship + MA in Social Entrepreneurship
- BSc in Medical Technology + MRes
- MSc Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- MA / PhD (Social and Sustainable Development) + Postgraduate Certificate
- BA Social Policy with Enterprise
- BSc Biotechnology & innovation + Master in Biotechnology and/or Masters in Enterprise
- BEng in Industrial and Intelligent Systems Engineering
- MSc (Digital Innovation and Financial Technology) + MSc in Digital Business
- BA (+ MA) in International Tourism Management
- Walailak University, Coventry University
- Thammasat University, SOAS, U of London
- Suranaree University of Technology, Goldsmiths,
- Prince of Songkla University, University of Manchester
- National Institute of Development Administration, University of Hull
- Naresuan University, Newcastle University
- Rajamangala UTK, University of Leeds.
- Nakhon Phanom University, University of Manchester
- King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, University of Sheffield
- Chiang Mai University, University of Westminster
- Bangkok University, Middlesex University

The next stages and challenges

- The partners are now working on final plans and Agreements, most likely for introduction in 2019.
- There are remaining hurdles to overcome:
 - Agreeing fee levels that are attractive to both parties;
 - Satisfying quality assurance requirements;
 - Providing an acceptable financial case to UK decision makers;
 - Generating sufficient student numbers;
 - Keeping up the momentum and lines of communication;
 - Ensuring adequate levels of commitment.

Opportunities

- British Council and UUK have summarized these.
- Opening up to foreign providers - no big appetite, so far.
- UK Universities have bigger issues.
- Dual awards need more promotion - but who does it?
- Further support required...given that ...
- The project aims to promote a long-term education partnership between Thailand and the UK and encourage exchange of knowledge, know-how and practices between education institutions in the two countries.