



2017 ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme

“Building Transformational Leadership towards the Sustainable Development Goals”

29 June – 5 July 2017

REPORT

In commemoration of the centennial anniversary of its founding, Chulalongkorn University hosted the 2017 ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme (LP2017) under the theme of “Building Transformational Leadership towards the Sustainable Development Goals”, from 29 June to 5 July 2017. The LP2017 Programme was jointly organized with ProSPER.Net, and institutions at Chulalongkorn University, namely, the Faculty of Science, the Center of Excellence on Hazardous Substance Management and the Southeast Asia Regional Center of START (Global Change SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training).

With the commitment of ProSPER.Net and Chulalongkorn University to play leading roles in societal transformation for sustainable development, the LP2017 Programme was designed to develop a new generation of leaders, equipped with the knowledge and skills required to build sustainable societies. The six-day activity was composed of five sessions of knowledge sharing, two field visits to Chonburi Province, two exercises of leadership skill development and two sessions in the Asia Research Intelligence Conference organized by Elsevier and Chulalongkorn University, all related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A good mix of twenty-one participants were selected from the public and the private sectors from ten countries across the Asia-Pacific region (Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam).

The programme was themed - *Building Transformational Leadership towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* - as transformative leaders are considered to be key driving elements to accomplish the SDGs, and they need to understand the challenges they face in the context of their communities and their environment. Participants were exposed to five case studies that were tied to the five pillars of the SDGs: **People**, **Planet**, **Prosperity**, **Partnership**, and **Peace** (5 P’s). Sixteen renowned speakers and experts, and seven resource persons engaged actively to transfer their knowledge and experience in the respective areas.

People: Population Lifespan and Sustainability
Multidisciplinary Approach to an Aging Society
Health and Care in an Aging Society: Experiences from Thailand
Transformation towards Sustainability in Chulalongkorn University

- Planet:** Land-Water Security
Climate Change Adaptation
Baan Rangsi Roof Garden
- Prosperity:** Sufficiency Economy and Business Sustainability
Promotion of Business Sustainability in Thailand and ASEAN
Business Sustainability Practices in Thailand
- Partnership:** Sustainable Development through Local Partnerships / Multiple Scales of Sustainability Governance at Panas Nikom Municipality, Chonburi Province
- Peace:** Social Responsibility and Conflict Management, Ao Udom Coastal Development Zone, Chonburi Province

The case studies were conducted in Bangkok and Chonburi Province. Participants worked in groups on the 5 P's. At the end of the programme, participants reflected on their learnings, and made suggestions how they would implement the SDGs in real life.

For some participants, it was the first time they were confronted with the SDGs, but all of them impressively expressed great reflections which suited the programme's objectives. Observations indicated the actual improvement of the transformational leadership through the process of creative thinking, as well as the development of communication skills through inter-personal active learning and group working environments. Participants reflected many promising sustainable ideas and practical projects to be implemented in their communities.

Leadership for sustainable development requires much effort via the process of learning, visioning, and transforming. Impacts of the implementation may vary based on the cultural context and other uncontrolled factors. However, transforming a real leader is a long-term process and requires dedication. It is the hope of the organizers that this programme provided a platform to shape leaders, not mere managers, to make a difference towards the SDGs.

Feedback from Participants

Post-programme evaluation from seventeen participants showed that the LP2017 programme ultimately fulfilled their expectations. Especially, the selected speakers were praised as their presentations reflected real cases and facts, provoking critical thinking, and useful for policy planning and decision making. Overall, the diversified content and case studies provided a good insight to the interlinked SDGs. In addition, the participants were happy with the accommodation, venue, facility, meals and overall management. Finally, the relationship built among the participants, and with the staff from Chulalongkorn University, ProSPER.Net and the network's members was strengthened through the combined reception of LP2017 and ProSPER.Net Board meeting in a local cultural environment at the Thai Pavilion of Chulalongkorn University.

Acknowledgement

It was a memorable experience for Chulalongkorn University to organize the LP2017 as an event of its centennial celebration, in close collaboration with the ProSPER.Net Secretariat. Apart from the essential academic dialogue, management and communication skill proved to be the necessary enabling factors for a successful joint endeavour. Much appreciation is extended to the core team at ProSPER.Net Secretariat, namely Mr. Naoya Tsukamoto, Professor Mario Tabucanon, Dr. Phillip Vaughter and Ms. Ikuno Suzuki for all the advice, coordination and support.

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