

An exclusive top-level presentation of the world in higher education



*Showcase*

2015

## Preface

Higher education in Asia, the Middle East and Africa is making stupendous progress; and the progress is reflected every year in this prestigious book—QS Showcase. For the first time, the book embraces Latin American higher education this year, which is great news for everyone! First published in 2010, QS Showcase 2015 continues to document global higher education developments.

In spite of their consistent advancement, Asian universities have not yet broken into the global top 20 of the QS World University Rankings. But they are almost there—National University of Singapore (NUS) is snapping at the heels of their Western counterparts in the 22nd position!

In addition, Asian institutions have dominated the top spots among the world's youngest universities: all top five institutions in QS Top 50 Under 50 rankings this year are from Asia. Singapore's Nanyang Technological University is leading the batch, followed by Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Pohang University of Science And Technology (POSTECH), and City University of Hong Kong. There is compelling evidence to suggest that Asian universities will continue to rise in global recognition and world rankings, while an increasing number of Middle Eastern institutions are internationalizing and more African universities are seeking collaboration with overseas partners.

In this edition of QS Showcase, we feature articles on higher education topics that are of current interest and future relevance. The book comprises three equally informative sections: the Main Features are based on interviews with prominent higher education leaders; the Special Features are broadly profound higher education views written by international luminaries; and the Country Features section sheds light on the current developments and future trends in higher education in the Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.

In this edition:

- Dr Kevin Downing, a well-known academic with a reputation for witty remarks, gives an account of “the good, the bad and the ugly” of 10 years of global university rankings;
- Russia's deputy Minister of Education, Alexander Polkavo, elaborates on how his country's universities will rise to the top;
- Inam Bioud, Minister Plenipotentiary in the League of Arab States, puts forward bold proposals for the modernization of the Arabic language,

believing the region's universities have hard choices to make over language and curriculum reform;

- Sir David Greenaway, vice chancellor of Nottingham University, sheds light on the rise of Asian higher education in relation to establishing Western universities' branch campuses in Asia, building research ecosystems, and adding value to the student experience;
- Mexican higher education, the challenges it faces, and possible solutions are discussed by David Noel Ramirez Padilla, rector of Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico;
- Private participation changed the higher education landscape in Ghana—Dr Samuel Donkor, the founder and president of All Nations University College, explains how and why this happened.

A total of 29 countries have been featured in the Main and Country Features of this edition—seventeen in Asia, six in the Middle East, two in Latin America, and four in Africa.

While QS Showcase aims to present documentary evidence of the four regions' continuing rise in higher education, it will also offer universities in these regions an exclusive top-level media platform to project themselves to academics, government bodies and business communities across the world.

Copies of this prestigious publication are distributed to the presidents of the top 500 universities featured in the latest QS World University Rankings, top 200 universities featured in the most recent QS Asian University Rankings, top 50 universities in QS University Rankings: Latin America, and top 20 universities in India and the Middle East. In addition, QS Showcase will be presented to the heads of state of G20 countries, ambassadors and high commissioners of 250 major diplomatic offices worldwide and chief executives of the top 200 corporations. The entire content of this book is also freely accessible online as an e-book and as a mobile application.

QS Showcase is published by QS Asia, the regional subsidiary of QS Quacquarelli Symonds, producer of the world's widely respected QS World University Rankings and QS University Rankings: Asia. It is our pleasure to showcase Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern and African higher education achievements and developments to the world. We hope that QS Showcase 2015 will inspire universities in these regions to rise and shine internationally.

# THAILAND

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ASIA COUNTRY FEATURES

# Thammasat University

A QS Showcase profile of Dr Somkit Lertpaithoon, professor of law and rector of Thammasat University



“As one of the oldest universities in Thailand, we’re moving towards our TU’s 2020 GOALS of training our graduates to have global mindset, originality, accountability, leadership, and spirit of Thammasat.”

**Dr Somkit Lertpaithoon**  
Rector

Thammasat University has been renowned for its dedication to wellbeing of the people. Originally, the school started with strong social science and has made its name for a firm stand on promoting democracy and freedom. Its campus is a popular place for staging student movements for better society throughout the history. In fact, several prime ministers of Thailand were alumni of Thammasat University.

Currently, Thammasat University has approximately 35,000 students studying in almost 300 degree-programs in 4 clusters of discipline: social sciences, humanities, technology, and health science. Among those, about 90 are international undergraduate and graduate programs; each with a good portion of full-time or exchange international students from all parts of the globe.

## Campuses

Thammasat prides itself on Thammasat Hospital, one of the best in the country, as well as a huge international standard sports complex, the largest student residences, and a brand new state-of-the-art learning center. Each of the 4 campuses of Thammasat University is unique and has its charm. Tha Prachan campus, its first and original, is located on a former palace ground on the bank of Charo Praya River and neighbors the National Gallery, National Theater, as well as the Grand Palace. Rungsit, the second site, boasts a wide green area and a progress towards becoming a sustainable campus with its green

canteen, solar park, and environment-friendly facilities and activities. Pattaya campus, located in the eastern part of Thailand, is a pleasant area with many trees, ponds, and conference facilities and is home to College of Innovation and Department of Automotive Engineering. Lampang campus is up north and specializes in industrial craft designs, law as well as interdisciplinary degrees.

## Learning

“We’re transforming our university-wide pedagogy at every level towards active learning, i.e. students must make every effort to discover their subject of knowledge. They’ll learn how to learn and this will become their great asset after they graduate. We want them to be able to continue a lifelong learning on their own.” Professor Lertpaithoon emphasized his view on the learning philosophy at Thammasat as he himself serves as a chair for Thammasat Active Learning Committee.

Besides active learning, the following are activities that characterize much of this institute known as Thammasat University:

## Impacting Positive Changes in Society through Research

Thammasat allocates more than 8% of its annual budget to fund many research projects and inventions that help improve the quality of life in Thai society. Some recent examples included low-cost DIY spacers that would

benefit several hundred thousands of asthma patients in Thailand; and the “Bus Cycle”, a 20-seat prototype bus driven by passengers in a way much like a bicycle. These research outcomes generally receive much attention from the media in addition to winning excellence awards from both national and international events. Moreover, books and research in social science and humanities from Thammasat scholars are also recognized every year for their influence in Thai society by various organizations such as the Toyota Thailand Foundation Awards.

## Partnering with World-Class Institutes

Thammasat boasts a largest number of cooperation with partners around the globe that enable its exchange of students and faculty members, joint research, international internship, double-degree programs etc. All professional degree programs are highly recognized by their respective professional associations. Thammasat Business School is already accredited by European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) and is now on its way to get accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

## Always for the People

All undergraduate students take a compulsory community-service-learning course of Civic Education upon entering the university and must complete at least one senior course of Professional Service to Society before graduation. Most graduate programs are connected with industry practices and real-world problems, creating practical learning environments for its students in all fields. Moreover, Thammasat has extended its outreach program, which typically included only students from low-income families, to include students with disabilities, and has been improving classrooms and facilities to accommodate these groups of students. “In order to plant socially responsible DNA in our students, Thammasat has to act and be a role model for that.”

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Education



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UNDERTAKING HIGHER EDUCATION'S CHALLENGES



THAMMASAT  
UNIVERSITY

# A Leading Creative University

A QS Showcase message from Silpakorn University President Chaicharn Thavaravej



President Chaicharn Thavaravej proclaims Silpakorn University strategies to stay at the forefront of Thai and ASEAN universities.

## An Architect and a Leader

After completing a Bachelor of Architecture from Silpakorn University (SU), President Chaicharn Thavaravej developed his skills in professional practice, before obtaining a higher degree in the United States and eventually becoming a lecturer at SU in 1982. He was a dean of Faculty of Architecture, and played a major role in promoting Thai architecture into Royal Thai Government Support, which led to the provision of scholarships and grants to strengthen academic staff and modernize studios. As a result, SU architecture program is now considered one of the strongest in Thailand. Another achievement includes overseeing the growth of Phetchaburi IT Campus into a self-supporting financial campus, offering programs for the western region of Thailand in business, ICT and agricultural science.

Professionally, he is also greatly appreciated by his fellow architects and the Association of Siamese Architects recognized his contribution to industry by presenting him with the prestigious award of "Architect of the Year 2014".

## SU is a Leading Creative University

It is very appropriate that as an architect with a profession associated with creativity, President Thavaravej leads SU in the 21st century under this vision. Since its beginnings as a School of Fine Arts in Bangkok almost one hundred years ago, SU has evolved into a comprehensive university with 4 campuses and many strong science-based programs, yet our vision still needs to reflect SU's past, pride, strength and goals.

President Thavaravej believes that SU is a leading creative university as long as we produce graduates who are creative in thinking, creative in aesthetics, and creative in function. This is being witnessed by the National Artists Awards, which are exclusively presented to SU alumni every year. In addition, many of the leading architects, designers, archaeologists, film directors, and writers, in Thai society nowadays are SU alumni or staff. SU is a larger institution than ever; nevertheless, he believes the focus must always stay on students, quoting Albert Einstein in saying "It is the supreme act of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge (of their students)."

## Maintain Standards, Integration and Internationalization

In response to globalization challenges, SU has been implementing three strategic policies to stay at the forefront of ASEAN universities: maintaining our standards of teaching, learning and research, while using accreditation, benchmarking and ranking to inform others about our quality; creating unique approaches and added value to academic programs, graduates and research through the integration and cooperation of arts and sciences; internationalizing the university by various means such as the development of the International College (SUIC), as the corridor to international education, offering double degree programs with partner universities in France and England, and the building of a fifth campus to further the internationalization of the university.

With an all new fully fledged city campus in a few years' time in the heart of Bangkok, President Thavaravej is confident that Silpakorn University will be recognized as the Thai university leading creativity globally.



FINE ARTS  
DESIGN  
ARCHITECTURE  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
ARTS  
EDUCATION  
SCIENCE  
PHARMACY  
ENGINEERING &  
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY  
MUSIC  
ANIMAL SCIENCE &  
AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

# SILPAKORN UNIVERSITY

BUSINESS AND  
MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGY

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE (SUIC)  
2 DOUBLE DEGREES  
B.B.A (Hotel Management) ;  
with Vatel International Business School, France  
B.F.A (Digital Communication Design) ;  
with Birmingham City University, UK

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