

NEWSLETTER

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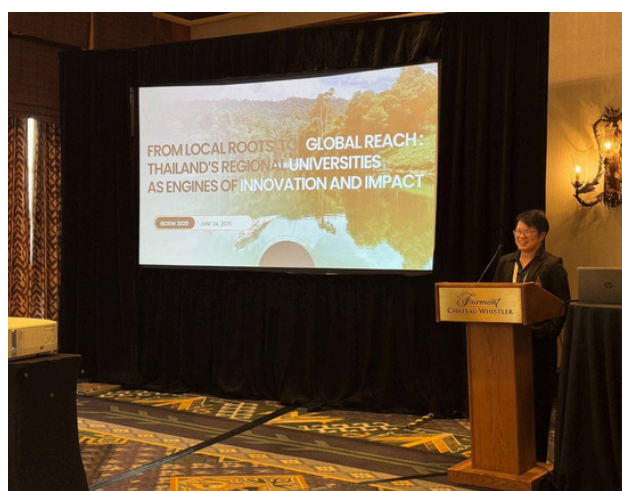
SUT⁷ HIGHLIGHTS REGIONAL INNOVATION AND THAI-CANADIAN COLLABORATION AT BC INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2025



Whistler, Canada – Suranaree University of Technology (SUT), Thailand, took the international stage at the British Columbia International Education Week (BCIEW) held from 22–25 June 2025 in Whistler, British Columbia. The university was represented by Dr. Wipawee Usaha, Director of the Center for International Affairs (CIA), alongside delegates from Thailand, the Philippines, China, Mexico, and Ecuador.



Organized annually, BCIEW convenes universities, colleges, government agencies, and educational stakeholders to strengthen international education partnerships in Canada's most western province. The 2025 edition brought together over 200 participants in the scenic setting of the Winter Olympic Village of Whistler.



Highlighting the Role of Regional Universities

On 24 June, the Thai delegation led by the representative from the Embassy of Canada to Thailand, hosted a special session titled "From Local Roots to Global Reach: Roles of Regional Universities in Thailand."

The session spotlighted how Thailand's regional universities serve as engines of economic, social, and environmental transformation, while contributing to global collaboration. During the session, Dr. Wipawee Usaha introduced key initiatives from Suranaree University of Technology that exemplify the university's commitment to inclusive innovation and sustainable development.

MITACS



On 25 June, the Thai delegation met up with David Enriquez, Head of International Relations and Fiona Langdon Senior International Relations Officer, of **mitacs**, to update on Quantum project support for Thai universities under QuTRIC and the **call-for-grants under mitacs x CUPT MOU** such as the **Global Research Internship** launched in August 2025.

Mitacs connects universities, industry, and government in Canada to support research and talent. For SUT and other CUPT members, programs include Globalink Internships for undergraduates, Research Awards for graduate/postdocs, Accelerate for industry collaboration, and Elevate for postdocs. These expand mobility, partnerships, and innovation in fields like quantum, health technologies, and sustainability.

SUT's Featured Projects and Innovations

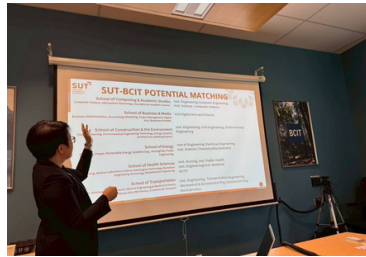
In SUT's presentation, five key initiatives that reflect SUT's commitment to sustainable development and community engagement were highlighted:

- **Klong Plakang Thailand-Canada Friendship Trail**
 - Thailand's first tech-enhanced nature education trail in Khao Yai National Park, promoting biodiversity and human-wildlife coexistence.
- **Local Guide and Community-Based Tourism Program**
 - Builds local capacity for sustainable, local wisdom-based ecotourism.
- **Korat Chicken Academy**
 - Transfers technology for human, sustainable poultry farming to support rural livelihoods.
- **Wolffia Superfood Innovation**
 - Scales up hygienic, high-protein Wolffia production for the food industry using integrated technologies.
- **Silk Cultural Innovation**
 - Fuses traditional silk production with design and entrepreneurship to enhance cultural and economic value.



Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

On June 27, the group met Erin Williams, Director at the **Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada** (APFC), to discuss youth skills, education, and regional partnerships. The meeting ended positively, with by exploring potential APFC's **funding support** for collaborative programs.



BCIT

On 26 June, the group visited the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) to explore the many exciting possibilities for collaboration between SUT and BCIT across construction, transportation, business, and global education.

For green construction and sustainable infrastructure, we plan to arrange a Zoom discussion in August between **SUT Civil Engineering** and the **School of Construction and the Environment**.

For **SUT's mechanical and aeronautical engineering**, there are already follow up meetings and progressing dialogue with Bruce Thompson, Interim Dean of the **School of Transportation**, and Gerry Egan, Associate Dean, **Aerospace and Technology Management**, and will continue to align BCIT-SUT programs.

SUT's **Digitech** may connect with Dean Kenton Low, **School of Business and Media**, to explore synergies in business, media, and digital innovation.

University of British Columbia

On June 26, the visit to UBC aimed to explore collaborative opportunities with the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, Vantage College, and global engagement units for SUT. Mr. Haochen Li highlighted UBC's global partnership activities. Prof. David Kitts, Dean of **Faculty of Land and Food Systems** welcomed research collaboration with SUT's Institute of Agricultural Technology in sustainable food systems. Ms. Roxana Quinde encouraged student exchange through the **Global Resource Systems** program. Mr. Jonas To presented UBC's summer program. Prof. Suzie Lavallée introduced **Vantage College** and expressed interest in co-developing global learning modules and intercultural student preparation.

Center for Digital Media

On June 27 at the **Centre for Digital Media** (CDM), we met with Deven Cosma and Ryan Klesc to explore collaboration opportunities. CDM showcased its industry-integrated, project-based graduate model and highlighted the **CDM-CUPT MOU** offering Thai students scholarships, faculty training, and digital innovation partnerships for creative media and technology, which is matched with **SUT's Digitech**.

Strengthening Global Collaboration

This visit highlights SUT's strategic role as a regional innovation hub committed to community empowerment and global engagement. The university also reaffirmed its openness to new partnerships with Canadian institutions, particularly in areas such as:

- Sustainable tourism and biodiversity conservation

- Food technology and agricultural innovation
- Health sciences and digital health
- Digital technology
- Co-op education and student mobility (through platforms like Mitacs-CUPT, SEED, and CDM-CUPT).

For more details and funding, please contact CIA.



cia.sut.ac.th



cia@g.sut.ac.th