

(Unofficial Translation)

- Official Emblem -

**Thammasat University Announcement, re:
Establishment of the Center of Excellence, B.E. 2568**

WHEREAS, Thammasat University has the policy to establish and use the Center of Excellence (CoE) as mechanism to improve the research and academic work of the University that will, in turn, allowing the University to become a more complete research university, create new knowledge, progress, and academic excellence in various fields of study.

By virtue of Section 39 of the Thammasat University Act, B.E. 2558, and Article 16, Paragraph Two of the Thammasat University Regulations, re: Research and Research Fund Management, B.E. 2561, and by resolution of the Research and Research Fund Management Board from the 2/2567 Meeting, which took place on September 9th, 2024; and from the 1/2568 Meeting, which took place on March 11th, 2025, the Rector hereby issues the following Announcement.

Article 1 – This Announcement is called “*Thammasat University Announcement, re: Establishment of the Center of Excellence, B.E. 2568.*”

Article 2 – This Announcement shall come into force from the day after the announcement date onwards.

Article 3 – This Announcement shall repeal and replace

(1) Thammasat University Announcement, re: Establishment of the Center of Excellence, B.E. 2566.

(2) Thammasat University Announcement, re: Establishment of the Center of Excellence, B.E. 2567.

Article 4 – In this Announcement.

“*The Board*” means the Research and Research Fund Management Board.

“*The Sub-Committee*” means the Sub-Committee on Research Fund and Research Promotion of Thammasat University appointed by the Research and Research Fund Management Board.

“*The Center*” means The Center of Excellence (CoE)

“*Research Unit*” means the Research Unit, as specified in the Thammasat University Announcement, re: Establishment of the Research Unit.

“*Large research projects*” means research projects with a project value of not less than three million Baht.

Article 5 – The Center shall consist of at least 5 members who are permanent faculty members or researchers with expertise in the field of study related to the objectives of the Center. Members of the Center are responsible for creating or producing research studies, innovations, or other academic works.

Article 6 – The Objectives of the Center shall include the creation or production of research studies, innovations, or other academic works, as per the Center’s mission, which is declared in the announcement of the establishment of the Center.

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The Center shall prepare and submit its annual research and innovation plan and other related plans, in accordance with its objectives, for consideration and approval of the Sub-Committee, as follows.

- (1) The annual research and innovation plan.
- (2) The joint research and innovation plan for cooperation with the government, private sector, community, or society.
- (3) The joint research and innovation plan for cooperation with foreign research institutions.
- (4) The joint development and research plan for cooperation with graduate students or post-doctoral researchers, whether of the University or other higher education institutions.

Article 7 – The Center shall consist of the following members.

(1) The Head. The Head of the Center must possess the following qualifications:

(1.1) The Head must be a permanent faculty member or a researcher of the University.

(1.2) The Head must have experience in conducting research in the field of study related to the objectives of the Center for no less than five years.

(1.3) The Head must have experience working as a project leader of a large research project and a research program in the field of study related to the objectives of the Center that has been completed within five years prior to the establishment of the Center. Such research projects or research programs must also produce outstanding results; for example, the results must have been published in international academic journals, registered for patent or petty patent, or received internationally recognized awards.

(1.4) During a period of ten years prior to the establishment of the Center, the Head must have been serving as an advisor or a co-advisor to at least five students who graduated from the Master's degree programs or at least three students who graduated from the doctoral degree programs.

(2) General members. The general members of the Center must possess the following qualifications.

(2.1) The Center must have at least four general members. The general members must be permanent faculty or researchers of the University. At least two general members must have experience in conducting research in the field of study related to the objectives of the Center for no less than three years.

(2.2) The general members must have experience working as a project leader of a research project in the field of study related to the objectives of the Center. Such research projects must also produce outstanding results; for example, the results must have been published in international academic journals, registered for patent or petty patent, or received internationally recognized awards.

In addition to general members under Item (2), the Center may also recruit an appropriate number of persons outside the University who are experts in the field of study related to the objectives of the Center as general members.

Article 8 – The Head can only serve as the head of one center. The Head must not be a member of any other centers or research units.

General members of a center can also serve as general members of another center, but they cannot serve as general members of more than two centers.

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Article 9 – Responsibilities and duties of the Head are as follows.

(1) Acting as a representative of the Center in coordinating with the University.

(2) Managing the Center to achieve the underlying objectives of the Center.

(3) Preparing and submitting the Center’s annual research and innovation plan for consideration and approval of the Sub-Committee.

(4) Supervising the research studies, innovations, or other academic works, in accordance with the objectives of the Center.

(5) Reporting the results of the Center’s operations, according to the Center’s annual research and innovation plan that has been approved by the Sub-Committee.

(6) Managing the Center’s budget, finances, and accounting, as well as supervising the Center’s spending of the allocated funds, in accordance with the provisions described under this Announcement.

(7) Reporting the Center’s spending of the allocated funds, in accordance with the criteria and methods determined by the Committee.

In the event that the Head is unable to submit the reports described under Item (5) within the timeframe specified, the Head must submit an explanation for such a delay to the Sub-Committee.

Article 10 – The Center’s name in the Thai language must be “ศูนย์แห่งความเป็นเลิศทางวิชาการด้าน...”; and the Center’s name in the English language must be “Center of Excellence in...”, whereas the specialized field of study of the Center must be added to the end of the name.

The name and objectives of a Center must not be the same as the names or objectives of currently existing centers.

Article 11 – In order to submit a proposal to establish a center, the Head must submit the Proposal Form for Requesting Support and Approval for the Center Establishment to the Sub-Committee. After reviewing the Proposal, the Sub-Committee will forward it for the Rector’s consideration and approval.

The Proposal Form for Requesting Support and Approval for the Center Establishment must be made using the form specified by the University.

Article 12 – Consideration and approval for the request for the center establishment shall observe the following criteria.

(1) The Center must prepare its annual research and innovation plan and other related plans, in accordance with its objectives, as required under Article 6, Paragraph Two herein, at least three years in advance. Those plans must be in line with the name and objectives of the Center, and the research policies and guidelines of the University, as well as must be beneficial to the academic strength of Thailand.

(2) The Head and general members must collectively produce at least five of the following works during a period of three years prior to the submission date of the Proposal.

(2.1) Research papers that have been published in international academic journals listed on the international databases, such as SJR (SCImago Journal Ranking: www.scimagojr.com), ISI Web of Science (Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Art and Humanities Citation Index), or the Scopus Database.

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(2.2) Specifically for the case of establishing a center in the fields of Social Science and Humanities: research papers that have been published in international academic journals listed on the international databases, such as SJR (SCImago Journal Ranking: www.scimagojr.com), ISI Web of Science (Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Art and Humanities Citation Index), or the Scopus Database; or academic journals listed on the national databases, according to the Thai Journal Citation Index Centre: TCI, namely, TCI Tier 1.

(2.3) Inventions or creative works that have been registered by a certification of intellectual property rights, such as registration of patent or petty patent; or inventions or creative works that have been published and recognized by the academic circles, whether nationally or internationally.

(2.4) In addition, the Head and general members must have experience in research development and cooperation with graduate students, doctoral students, or post-doctoral researchers.

Article 13 – The establishment of a center must be made by a Thammasat University Announcement. The Announcement must specify the following details:

- (1) The name of the Center.
- (2) The objectives and mission of the Center.
- (3) The names of the head and general members of the Center.

Article 14 – The Center that has been approved for establishment shall be allocated annual support funds, as per the following criteria and rates.

(1) For the first year of operation and after the Center is properly established and the Sub-Committee approves its annual research and innovation plan, an annual support fund for an amount not exceeding 1,000,000 Baht will be allocated to the Center. The payment of the fund will be divided into two installments, and the payment schedule is as follows.

(1.1) The first installment: a payment of 50 percent of the approved annual support fund will be made after the Center is properly established.

(1.2) The second installment: a payment of 50 percent of the approved annual support fund will be made after the Center submits its six-month performance report and the Sub-Committee approves such a report.

(2) For the second to the fifth year of operation, the annual support funds will be allocated at the rate of 50 percent of the support funds that the Center received from external sources – in the previous year, for a total amount not exceeding 1,000,000 Baht per year. The payment of the fund will be made after the Center submits its results, in accordance with the annual research and innovation plan approved by the Sub-Committee. The payment of the fund will be divided into two installments, and the payment schedule is as follows.

(2.1) The first installment: a payment of 50 percent of the approved annual support fund will be made after the Center submits its annual performance report of the previous year and the Sub-Committee approves such a report, as well as the annual research and innovation plan of the current year.

(2.2) The second installment: a payment of 50 percent of the approved support fund will be made after the Center submits its six-month performance report for the current year and the Sub-Committee approves such a report.

(3) For the sixth year of operation onwards, the annual support funds will be allocated at the rate of 50 percent of the support funds that the Center received from external sources in the previous year, for a total amount not exceeding 500,000 Baht

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per year. The payment of the fund will be made after the Center submits its results, in accordance with the annual research and innovation plan approved by the Sub-Committee. The payment of the fund will be divided into two installments, and the payment schedule is as follows.

(3.1) The first installment: a payment of 50 percent of the approved annual support fund will be made after the Center submits its annual performance report of the previous year and the Sub-Committee approves such a report, as well as the annual research and innovation plan of the current year.

(3.2) The second installment: a payment of 50 percent of the approved support fund will be made after the Center submits its six-month performance report for the current year and the Sub-Committee approves such a report.

The support funds from external sources mentioned in Paragraphs One (2) and (3) mean funds from individuals or organizations outside Thammasat University, both domestic and international sources, who have provided research funding to researchers of Thammasat University. However, external sources do not include research funding provided under the Fundamental Fund, training programs, or consulting programs.

Article 15 – In order to receive the annual support funds, the Center must open a bank account with a commercial bank specified by the Treasury Division, whereas the account name must be the name of the Center.

In order to withdraw the annual support funds from an account opened under Paragraph One, the withdrawal request must be signed by at least two persons, namely, the head of the Center and the head of the Section, or the deputy head of the Section assigned by the head of the Section.

Article 16 – The Center must use the support funds allocated under Article 14 for the objectives of the Center. The support funds can also be used for the following expenses.

- (1) Salary for post-doctoral researchers.
- (2) Salary for research assistants and student assistants.
- (3) Salary for administrative staff.
- (4) Thesis support scholarship for graduate students of the University.
- (5) Office supplies, scientific materials, and equipment.
- (6) Costs and maintenance expenses of durable articles.
- (7) Facility improvement expenses.
- (8) Publication expenses for publishing the works in academic journals.
- (9) Other expenses.

Article 17 – While spending the support funds for the expenses listed under Article 16, the Center must not exceed the limited amount for individual expenses, as specified by the Committee. The Head of the Center must also follow the rules and regulations regarding disbursement, as specified by the University.

Article 18 – For the purpose of facilitating the audit process of the Center's expenditure, the Head of the Center is responsible for the following.

- (1) Prepare and maintain the account books of the Center's income and expenditure, and maintain evidence of all expenditures for auditing purposes.

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(2) Prepare and submit the expenditure summary report of the Center, within thirty days after the ending date of the annual research and innovation plan, to the Research Administration Division, which will later forward the report for the review and acknowledgment of the Sub-Committee.

Article 19 – In the event that the Center wishes to make any changes to its operation, for example, changes of the annual research and innovation plan or the spending plan; or in the event that the Center wishes to add or remove its members, the Center must seek and acquire approval from the Sub-Committee first.

Article 20 – For the purpose of facilitating the reviewing process of the Center's annual research and innovation plan, the Center must take into account the following matters.

(1) The Center must be able to produce research results, as follows.

(1.1) At least three research papers that have been published in international academic journals listed on the international databases, such as SJR (SCImago Journal Ranking: www.scimagojr.com), ISI Web of Science (Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Art and Humanities Citation Index), or the Scopus Database; whereas one article must be published in academic journals of the 1st Quartile (Q1) ranking and two articles must be published in academic journals of no lower than the 3rd Quartile (Q3) ranking. OR, at least two research papers that have been published in international academic journals listed on the international databases, such as SJR (SCImago Journal Ranking: www.scimagojr.com), ISI Web of Science (Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Art and Humanities Citation Index), or the Scopus Database; whereas one article must be published in academic journals of the top 10 % of the 1st Quartile (Q1) ranking and another article must be published in academic journals of no lower than the 2nd Quartile (Q2) ranking. OR.

(1.2) At least one research paper that has been published in international academic journals listed on the international databases, such as SJR (SCImago Journal Ranking: www.scimagojr.com), ISI Web of Science (Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Art and Humanities Citation Index), or the Scopus Database, whereas the article must be published in academic journals of the 1st Quartile (Q1) ranking; as well as at least two of the following works.

(1.2.1) Works that have been put to good use for the public sector, the private sector, communities, or societies, with a certificate of utilization issued by either national or international organizations.

(1.2.2) Awards bestowed by national or international organizations to commemorate research results or research-related individuals, for example, awards from the National Research Council, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Science and Technology Development Agency, etc.

(1.2.3) Creative works that have been published at international-level events, attached with the program cards of the events, or supporting documents of such works.

(1.2.4) Academic works for social services, with a certificate issued by the community that the Center worked with, whether by conducting research projects with the community, arranging community-based exhibitions, arranging panel discussions with the community, etc.

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(2) The Center must be able to show evidence of its cooperation with foreign research institutions to produce research and innovation, or tool support, joint publication, or exchange of doctor students with such institutions; or evidence showing the Center's cooperation in research and innovation with the government, the private sector, community, or society, at least one project per year.

(3) The Head and general members of the Center must collectively serve as advisors or co-advisors to at least three master's degree students each year.

(4) Research results published in accordance with Item (1.1) and (1.2) will not be eligible for other funds allocated by the Research and Innovation Department from the Fundamental Fund or Thammasat University Research Fund.

Article 21 – In order to present or publish the works of the Head or general members of the Center under Article 20, or to present the works as supporting evidence for performance evaluation against the annual research and innovation plan, the works must bear the name of the Center, along with the name of Thammasat University and the Acknowledgement section must state that *“This study was supported by Thammasat University Center of Excellence in....”*

Article 22 – The Sub-Committee shall withhold the support funds in the following cases.

(1) The Center fails to submit its annual performance report, as per the annual research and innovation plan, under Article 9.

(2) The Center fails to submit its expenditure summary report, under Article 18 (2).

(3) The Center fails to submit its annual research and innovation plan and other related plans, in accordance with its objectives, for consideration and approval of the Sub-Committee.

Article 23 – The Sub-Committee may dissolve the Center for the following reasons.

(1) The Head of the Center is no longer an employee of the University, and the general members are unable to find a qualified person to be the new head of the Center within a period of ninety days.

(2) The Center fails to deliver the results required under Article 20.

(3) The Center fails to acquire support funds for three consecutive years.

(4) The Head of the Center proposes the dissolution of the Center.

(5) The actions of the Center may cause serious damage to the University.

Article 24 – After the Center is dissolved, the Head of the Center must complete the following actions within thirty days after the dissolution date.

(1) Return any remaining amount of the support funds to the Thammasat University Research Fund and submit the duplicates of receipts issued by the Treasury Division to the Research Administration Division.

(2) Submit the expenditure summary report and the account book that has been properly closed to the Research Administration Division.

(3) Submit the overall performance summary report of the Center for the University's review and acknowledgment.

(4) Create an account book of the acquired durable articles and deliver such durable articles to the Section.

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Article 25 – The Head and general members whose center has been dissolved under Section 23 (2), (3), and (5) will not be able to act as founding members of another center within a period of three years from the dissolution date. However, they may become general members of other centers established under this Announcement.

Article 26 – In order to submit matters that are related to this Announcement for the Sub-Committee’s consideration, such matters must first be presented to the Section-level Research Promotion Committee, or the Section-level Committee, if there is no Section-level Research Promotion Committee, for preliminary screening.

Article 27 – All Centers established prior to the effective date of this Announcement shall be recognized as Centers under this Announcement.

Regarding criteria for external sources of funding, support funds, presentation of research results for the purpose of performance evaluation, declaration of the names of the Center and the University, all Centers established prior to the effective date of this Announcement shall continue to observe and follow the regulations and methods described under the Thammasat University Announcement, re: Establishment of the Center of Excellence, B.E. 2566; and the Thammasat University Announcement, re: Establishment of the Center of Excellence, B.E. 2567, until the end of the Fiscal Year B.E. 2569.

Announced this on March XXth, 2025

- *Signature* –

(Professor Dr. Supasawad Chardchawarn)
Rector