

Plastic Free Phuket GOMAD Report

Since being awarded the GOMAD funding, Plastic Free Phuket has taken on several initiatives to make our project more efficient, effective, and engaging.

Beach Cleaning

Plastic Free Phuket has continued to perform weekly beach cleans. Our attendance has grown! We now average over 50 participants per week. In order to encourage and maintain participation in our community, we gave student designed “Plastic Free Phuket” t-shirts to participants who have attended 10 beach cleans. Beach cleaning has allowed us to spread our love for the environment while educating in a hands-on manner. We plan to spread the beach cleaning aspect of our initiative across various communities in Phuket in order to increase sustainable awareness. Pictured below is the shirt design.



We continue to recycle the rubbish that we collect off the beach into 9 different recyclable categories. We then send these separate products to groups around Thailand which recycle them into new products. Attached below are several pictures from our beach cleans over the past year.





Plastic Bag Ban Proposal

On October 26, we met with the Governor of Phuket, Narong Woonsiew, to propose an island wide plastic bag ban. During the meeting, we advocated for legislation to enforce sustainable practices in Phuket and preserve Phuket's natural beauty. The meeting was fairly successful and the Governor commended our work. The first step that he took in response to our proposal was to set up a conference consisting of the relevant government personnel, school administration for around the island, and sustainability experts in Phuket. In this conference, we presented our plastic bag ban proposal as well as answered the concerns and questions of the attendees.

In follow up to the conference, we invited the attendees of the meeting to a sustainable night market on January 13 as a way to show what sustainability could look like under the legislation of a plastic bag ban. Pictured below is the first meeting we had with Governor Narong.



Sustainable Night Market

We coordinated with a local night market and over 100 vendors to facilitate one night of this market to be sustainable on January 13. As such, we provided sustainable packaging for the vendors at the market. In addition, we provided wooden utensils and chopsticks for the attendees of the market. The initiative aimed to realistically show what a sustainable night market can look like in Phuket. The market is trafficked by over 2,000 people every night, so we

used this opportunity to spread awareness and education of sustainable practices. In addition, Governor Narong visited our night market and commended our work.

At the sustainable night market, in order to encourage sustainability, we provided tote bags to customers for free if they brought a reusable container for use during the night market. The design of the tote bags comes from a student art competition that we facilitated in our school community. The tote bags advocate for sustainable practices and encourage customers to use our reusable tote bags rather than plastic bags. Below are the three designs which were chosen to be included in the sustainable night market as well as images from the night of the market.





Members of the Plastic Free Team at our advocacy stall located at the entrance of the night market.



Members of the Plastic Free Phuket team meeting Governor Narong at the entrance to the night market.



One of the leaders of Plastic Free Phuket, Iyla Davis, gives a thank you speech to Governor Narong, and attendees of the Night Market.

Thank you!

We are incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to pursue our passions and ideas through this project! Throughout the process we have been challenged, come to dead ends, and changed course several times. However, we have grown as leaders, people, and sustainable advocates. As our core leadership team graduates from UWC this May, we don't want to say goodbye to the Plastic Free Phuket project, but we know it is in good hands as we pass it on to Grade 11's who will surely take it to great places! Thank you GOMAD team for believing in this project and helping us to pursue a more sustainable Phuket.