

KEYNOTE SPEECH

“The Power of Happiness Towards Sustainable Education”

By Prof. Vicharn Panich (M.D.)



Prof. Vicharn Panich

Professor Vicharn Panich, MD, MS, graduated from the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, University of Medical Sciences (now Mahidol University) in 1966. After one year internship he went to further his study at the Department of Human Genetics, University of Michigan Medical School and received Master of Science in Human Genetics in 1968.

He has worked at the Hematology Division, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University for 6 years and moved to a new medical school at Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai where he became head of the Department of Pathology, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Vice President of the university. He has done research on glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency in Thailand.

In 1993 he became the founding director of the Thailand research Fund where he served for eight years. From 2003 to 2008 he served as founding director of Knowledge Management Institute.

Some of his previous responsibilities are; chairman of Mahidol University Council for 10 years, director of Siam Commercial Bank for 10 years, chairman of the Higher Education Council for 2 years, member of more than 10 university councils, member of WHO's Advisory Council on Health Research.

Now Professor Vicharn Panich is the chairman of Suranaree University of Technology Council and sits in the university council of other two universities. He serves as chairman of the board of 4 foundations and member of the board of 3 foundations.

He has written 14 books on education, 3 books on knowledge management, 3 books on research management, and 4 books on university governance, all in Thai. He regularly writes in the Gotoknow blog (in Thai) at <https://www.gotoknow.org/blog/thaiKM>, <https://www.gotoknow.org/blog/council>, and <https://www.gotoknow.org/blog/thai-politics>.

ABSTRACT

The Power of Happiness Towards Sustainable Education

Prof. Vicharn Panich, MD

Sustainable education can have two meanings. One is education for sustainable or lifelong learning of individuals. Another is education for sustainability of individuals, community, country and the world. Both meanings are mutually supportive or synergistic.

Happiness and sustainable education are also mutually supportive. Happiness leads to sustainable education. Sustainable education also leads to happiness. But the interaction between them is very complex and can easily lead to misunderstanding.

As indicated in the best buy book 'Hidden Potential' written by Adam Grant, good education must empower individuals to achieve greater things. Evidences from research tell us that both happiness and unhappiness contribute to learning and growth. Grit can help us turn unhappy moments into joy of perseverance for achieving the goals and purpose.

We will explore the complex relationship of happiness and sustainable education in the conference.