

Sumate Hongsachum 2014: The Implementation of National Research Project Policy: A Case Study of Kasetsart University. Master of Arts (Political Science). Major Field: Political Science. Faculty of Liberal Arts and Science. Thesis Advisor: Mrs. Surang Narongsaksakul, Ph. D. 224 pages.

The purposes of this research were 1) to examine the current state of Kasetsart University research administration under the implementation of National Research Project policy, 2) to study Kasetsart University personnel's opinions on the implementation of National Research Project policy and effectiveness of the implementation, 3) to study factors affecting the effectiveness of the implementation National Research Project policy, 4) to compare the personnel's opinions on the effectiveness of the implementation of National Research Project policy classified by campuses, and 5) to study problems and obstacles associated with the implementation of National Research Project policy. This study was divided into 2 sections. For the first section, the documentary analysis and the interview of 8 administrators were used. The second section was the study of factors affecting the effectiveness of the implementation of National Research Project policy. The proportional simple random sampling was used to select 359 academic staff and support staff of Kasetsart University to be the respondents. The data were collected by a five-scaled questionnaire developed by the researcher. Reliability for the questionnaire was 0.869. Statistical tools used for data analysis were percentage, mean, standard deviation, one-way ANOVA and stepwise-multiple regression analysis with statistical level of significance at 0.05.

The results were as follows 1) from the documentary analysis, it was found that the effectiveness of Kasetsart University research administration before and after the implementation of the National Research Project policy complied with the Commission on Higher Education criteria was at a low level (12.85%, 16.09%, respectively). When each aspect was considered, it was found that all of them were at low levels which were the amount of published research (9.34%, 13.47%, respectively), the amount of research citation (18.48%, 27.38%, respectively), the amount of patented research (0.11%, 0.32%, respectively) and the number of research grants (23.45%, 23.20%, respectively). And the results of the administrators' interviews in terms of the structure of the policy to promote research showed that the structure of the administration clearly complied with the four missions of the higher education institution. Concerning the attitudes, it was found that administrators were confident that the implementation of the National Research University policy would be successful. However, the government's policy to support the implementation was uncertain. Resources were inadequate and the budget was not allocated for the maintenance of equipment used in research. And 2) the implementation of National Research Project policy and the effectiveness of the implementation were at a moderate level ( $\bar{x} = 3.32$ ,  $SD = 0.87$ ;  $\bar{x} = 3.25$ ,  $SD = 0.95$ , respectively). 3) The study of 4 factors including policies and plans, management, knowledge, understanding and research ethics, and attitudes of personnel who implemented the policy could hardly predict the effectiveness of the implementation at 0.05 level of significance. The predictors accounted for only 0.20 percent ( $R^2 = 0.002$ ) which showed regression coefficients of 0.019, 0.031, 0.019 and 0.009, respectively. 4) Kasetsart University personnel's opinions on the effectiveness of the National Research Project policy were not significantly different in the four campuses and 5) the problem and obstacle associated with the implementation of National Research Project policy was continuity of the budget to support the project.

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