

Title : **The Follow-up Study of the Graduates of Suranaree University of Technology 1997**

Author : **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chanchai Intaprawat and Other**

Publish : **2001**

Source : **Institutional Research Project Financially Supported by Suranaree University of Technology**

Abstract

The main aims of this institutional research were as follows:

- to study employment situations of the 1997 SUT graduates.
- to study their opinions concerning curriculum and instruction and such main services of the university as the registrar's office, dormitory, and student activities.
- to study the job supervisors' opinions regarding SUT graduates' characteristics and their working capabilities.
- to study the academic advisors' opinions regarding the graduates' characteristics and academic capability for graduate study.
- to study working promotion of SUT 1996 graduates.
- to study the job supervisors' opinions regarding SUT 1996 graduates' characteristics and their working capabilities in the second year of their working.
- to study the academics advisors' opinions regarding SUT 1996 graduates' characteristics and academic capability for graduate study perceived during the second year of study.
- to study the SUT 1996 graduates' opinions regarding their quality of life.
- to study the progress in graduate study of SUT 1996 graduates.

The samples were 53 SUT 1996 graduates, 532 SUT 1997 graduates, 53 job supervisors of SUT 1996 graduates, 87 job supervisors of SUT 1997 graduates, 19 academic supervisors of SUT 1996 graduates, and 31 academic supervisors of SUT 1997 graduates.

Two types of research instruments were employed, the checklist for collecting facts, and the Likert rating-scale questionnaire for collecting all opinions studied. The 1997 graduates provided data

when they registered for the graduation ceremony. While the data from the 1996 graduates, the supervisor, and the academic advisors were collected mainly by mail. The data were analyzed using percentage and arithmetic means. The opinion data were compared based on the standard scale of John Best.

The research findings were as follows:

1. The 1997 graduates were employed 203 out of 532 or 38.16%
2. 79 of 532 graduates or 14.85% continued their study.
3. 250 of 532 graduates or 46.99% were still unemployed.
4. 61.76% of the 1996 graduates were employed while only 38.16% of the 1997 graduates could find the jobs.
5. Both 1996 and 1997 graduates mainly were employed by the private sectors, very few of them found the jobs in the government service system.
6. Greater percentage of SUT 1997 graduates in engineering were employed than those graduates from Kasetsart and Chulalongkorn University. But less percentage of SUT 1997 graduates were employed than those graduates from King Mongkut Institute of Technology Northern Bangkok, King Mongkut University of Technology Dhonburi, Khon Khean University, and Prince of Songkla University. Meanwhile the graduates in agricultural technology of SUT were less employed in percentage compared to those graduates in the same field of study from Kasetsart University, Khon Khean University, and Prince of Songkla University.
7. The 1997 graduates rated the overall University curriculum as good, except the general education as moderate. As for the lecturer's instructional performances, they were rated as good in almost every aspect.
8. As for some University services: the student activities was rated as good, while the registrar's office, the dormitory, and the supportive services in the lecture building were rated as moderate.
9. The graduates' job supervisors rated the graduates overall characteristics and working capability as good. Only the communicative skills in English were rated as moderate.
10. The 1997 graduates' academic advisors rated the graduates from the Institute of Agriculture and the Institute of Engineering as good. While the 1996 graduates from the Institute of Agriculture were rated as moderate.

11. The job supervisors of the 1996 graduates rated the characteristics and working capability in the second year of work as high which the arithmetic means higher than the one rated in the first year of work.
12. The 1996 graduates viewed that they have good quality of life.
13. The 1996 graduates academic advisors rate the characteristics and academic capability for graduate study of the graduates in the second year of their study as high.
14. As for the working promotion, the 1996 graduates received 1,335.15 bath higher average salary than the first year salary, 27.66% of them were awarded study trips abroad, and 25.53% of them went for their further education.
15. As for the progress in graduate study, 10.71 % of them had finished their master degrees, while 35.72 % of them dropped out before completing the degrees.

From this research, the following recommendation can be further applied:

1. The services in student dormitory should be studied because it was rated moderate two years consecutively.
2. The policy of SUT concerning student values development in four aspects: honesty, hard working, politeness, and responsibility should be enhanced since they were found significantly in 1996 and 1997 graduates.