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Slide 1: Title –Mahidol Wittayanusorn School: Empowering Youth and Fostering Global Citizenship

Good afternoon, everyone.

I'm **Solada Rachataphrueksa**, Global Engagement Officer from **Mahidol Wittayanusorn School** in Thailand.

It's an honor to share how our school fosters *global citizenship*—by empowering youth for cultural understanding and collaborative learning.

Slide 2: About MWIT

Mahidol Wittayanusorn School, or **MWIT**, is Thailand's first science high school for gifted students under the Ministry of Education.

While we are known for our academic excellence in science and technology, we also believe that *knowledge alone is not enough*.

We aim to nurture students who are not only innovators, but also **compassionate global citizens**—young people who understand others, appreciate diversity, and take responsibility for creating a better future.

Slide 3: Why Global Citizenship Matters

Global citizenship is at the heart of MWIT's educational philosophy.

For us, it means developing three key qualities in our students:

1. **Empathy and cultural understanding** – seeing the world through different perspectives.
 2. **Collaboration across borders** – learning to work with others to solve challenges.
 3. **Commitment to sustainability** – acting responsibly for people and the planet.
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Slide 4 – The Role of the Global Engagement Office

The **Global Engagement Office (GEO)** connects MWIT with the international community. Our mission is to create meaningful opportunities for students to engage with global issues and collaborate with peers worldwide.

We focus on three main pathways:

1. **Academic and Cultural Exchange Programs**
2. **International Collaborative Research Projects (ICRP) Programs**
3. **Research and Academic Competitions**

Let me briefly share some examples from each area.

Slide 5 – Academic and Cultural Exchange Programs

MWIT has established partnerships with **13 schools across 8 countries**, including the **United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore**.

Each year, **hundreds of students** participate in both inbound and outbound exchange programs. They stay with host families, attend local classes, and experience daily life in different cultures.

In addition, the program includes **study visits to leading universities and institutions**, inspiring students to pursue international education.

Slide 6 – International Collaborative Research Projects (ICRP)

Beyond exchange, MWIT emphasizes collaborative learning through the International Collaborative Research Project (ICRP) programs.

Students work with peers abroad on projects that blend science and cultural understanding. They learn to communicate, share ideas, and respect diverse viewpoints as they work together to solve real-world challenges.

Slide 7: Research and Academic Competitions

MWIT integrates global citizenship principles into international research and academic competitions.

Each year, students participate in global events and collaborate with international institutions to share innovative projects.

In 2025, we joined over 40 programs in 15 countries, with more than 200 participants presenting research, competing globally, and earning outstanding international awards.

Slide 8: Learning Outcomes

From these programs, we've seen remarkable growth among our students:

- Increased confidence in cross-cultural communication
- Broader global perspectives and deeper intercultural understanding
- Greater respect for diversity and stronger collaboration skills
- Expanded international networks for continued growth

We believe these outcomes demonstrate that fostering global citizenship is not an *extra* part of education—it's an *essential* part of shaping responsible young leaders.

Slide 9: Challenges and Reflections

Of course, there are challenges.

Time differences, communication barriers, and cultural differences can make collaboration difficult.

But these become valuable lessons, helping students learn patience, flexibility, and problem-solving skills.

For educators, the key is to integrate global citizenship into both curriculum and school culture — not as an event, but as a mindset.

Slide 10: Moving Forward

Looking ahead, MWIT aims to become a leading hub for global collaboration in education. We plan to:

- Expand partnerships through the International Science Schools Network (ISSN).
 - Continue empowering students as changemakers who think globally and act locally.
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Slide 11: Closing

In conclusion, fostering global citizenship is more than just travel or exchange—it's about nurturing empathy, understanding, and a shared humanity.

At Mahidol Wittayanusorn School, we believe every student can make a difference. When youth connect across cultures and learn to live together, they not only build a better world—they *become* the better world.

Thank you very much.
