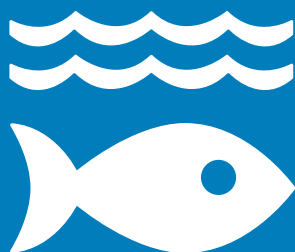


14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Conserve and Use the Oceans, Seas, and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development

NIDA promotes a sustainable aquatic ecosystem. Particularly for the fresh water sources in the surrounding areas, the Institute ensures its healthy balance and abundance through academic work and collaboration with other organizations and networks to preserve the aquatic ecosystem.

Research on Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystem

In the past year, the Institute's faculty with expertise in water conservation and sustainable use of marine resources have come forward in helping disseminate knowledge and information through academic articles in NIDA Digest, published on the Institute's website. One of which is an academic article on Sea Trash to Treasure, Mueng District in Pattani Province by Dr. Preeyanuch Thammapiya, Advisor at the Sustainable Development and Sufficiency Economy Studies Center.

SEA TRASH TO TREASURE

From its humble beginnings as a group of volunteers collecting waste from the beach, Trash Hero Pattani has expanded into a social enterprise called **Thaewu**, which helps locals generate income from the litter. At least ten percent of waste in the sea can be reused to create new products through upcycling and thoughtful design. The project fulfills one of the key strategies of the circular economy to create added value in local situations by converting waste into a source of revenue. It also brings value to the key (KSS) sector of tourism by rehabilitating deteriorated environments in an under-valued province.



In addition, the faculty conducts research involving the conservation and sustainable utilization of marine resources; for instance, the research project studying the recovery of marine and coastal resources during the Covid-19 crisis; policy guidelines on sustainable tourism; and research studies with regard to the Thai law amendments that align with Sustainable Development Goal #14 by the United Nations on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

Water Discharge Guidelines and Standards

The Institute has a wastewater treatment station that treats wastewater before releasing it to Sansaeb Canal. The wastewater is treated in the cluster wastewater treatment building which treats water by alternating between a closed aerator system and water fountain before releasing the water into Pattanatara Pond. The overflown water is transferred onto the pumping station behind the NIDA Sampan Building for further treatment before being released into Sansaeb Canal. Moreover, a closed aerator system is used to treat wastewater while some amount is reused for gardening on campus



Community Engagement for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems

The students and faculty of the School of Environmental Development Administration participated in the planting of mangroves and the field study of mangrove forest conservation by the community at the Center of Mangrove Forest Conservation in Khlongkone Subdistrict, Mueng District in Samut Songkram Province. The said activity is part of community engagement in conserving aquatic ecosystems. The participants acquired knowledge, experience, and memorable impression of local community cooperation in sustainable management of the environment.



Furthermore, during the 31st Top Executive Seminar on 15 – 16 June, 2023 at Ana Anan Resort and Villa Pattaya in Chonburi Province, the participants took part in the activity “Cleaning the Beach” with the local community which is one of the activities intending for the conservation of aquatic ecosystems.



Action Plan to Reduce Plastic Waste

The Institute has undertaken an action plan for plastic waste reduction through the project “Thailand Plogging 2023” and organized a roundtable discussion on “Plastic Waste: Management and Social Awareness”.

