



Establish Strong Institutions to Promote Peace and Justice

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



OVERVIEW

Goal 16 focuses on promoting peace, justice, and building strong institutions, which form the foundation for sustainable development. This goal aims to reduce violence, conflict, corruption, and human rights violations, as well as develop mechanisms that prioritize transparency and social participation in governance.

Peace and justice are essential factors for economic and social development. When people feel safe and confident in the legal system, other aspects of development can progress smoothly. Strengthening institutions, particularly those related to governance, justice, and human rights protection, is key to maintaining long-lasting peace.

NIDA plays a significant role in supporting SDG 16 through research, education, and the creation of an environment that promotes justice and transparency, including community collaboration to build quality citizens and support the development of a sustainable and just society in the long term.

RESEARCH

Addressing poverty, inequality & community strength

NIDA focuses on research that leads to long-term solutions to social problems. Research conducted by faculty members, such as studies on poverty and household vulnerability, and government policies to reduce inequality (Prof. Direk Patmasiriwat et al., 2024), have been ongoing since the COVID-19 crisis. Other projects include "Social Innovation for Strong Community Foundations of Thai Identity Democracy" (Prof. Banjerd Singkaneti et al., 2024), which is a participatory action research (PAR) project to drive networks of civil society at subdistrict and provincial levels. In collaboration with public and private sectors, as well as related academic networks, this research project involved activities that emphasize collaboration in thinking, working, learning, and integrating efforts.

Further examples include projects like developing the system for e-reports on the implementation of specific national security plans (Phase 2) (Prof. Siwatt Pongpiachan et al., 2023), evaluating the master plan for national justice administration (3rd edition, 2019-2022) (Assoc. Prof. Pol. Lt. Col. Kasemsarn Chotchakornpant et al., 2023), and studies on improving public access to the justice system (Assoc. Prof. Pol. Lt. Col. Kasemsarn Chotchakornpant et al., 2023). Additionally, there is collaborative research between faculty and students, such as studies on factors affecting community strength in preventing and addressing drug problems in the northeastern border areas (2023).

TEACHING & LEARNING

Commitment to peace & human rights through education & advocacy

NIDA promotes learning about peace and human rights by integrating these topics into the curriculum. Related courses are also offered, namely (1) International Human Rights Law which aims to educate students on human rights recognition and protection, mechanisms for safeguarding human rights under Thai and international law, and the roles of international organizations; (2) International Humanitarian Law, where students learn about the role and duties of international organizations in protecting and assisting individuals during wartime, migration, and the protection of children and women affected by conflict; (3) International Law Concerning the Status of Individuals focusing on the international protection mechanisms for individuals, especially those in special situations like refugees or stateless persons, individual duties and responsibilities in international society; (4) International Law Relating to the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, enabling students to understand the definitions of refugees and stateless persons and legal principles for protecting refugees derived from international treaties and customary international law.

Furthermore, the institute's teaching approach across all courses emphasizes the development of negotiation skills, critical listening, and the use of peaceful methods in conflict resolution through various activities to prepare students to become peace-oriented leaders and citizens in society.

POLICY

Creating an environment of morality and good governance

NIDA has a five-year strategic plan (2023–2027), where one of the key strategies is the digital transformation and open governance approach. One of the significant objectives (Objective and Key Results: OKR) is to focus on transparency and public participation in management.

Since 2021, the institute has been promoting morality by driving the organization as a moral institute, categorized into four groups: 1) executives, 2) faculty, 3) support staff, and 4) students, aiming to instill morality, ethics, transparency, and anti-corruption among the NIDA community. Measures are put in place to promote transparency and prevent internal corruption or to create a transparent and corruption-free environment, serving as a safeguard for the NIDA community. NIDA has also been developing and revising relevant regulations to comply with the good governance principles for higher education institutions, as announced by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation (MHESI). For instance, adjustments have been made to the regulations on the qualifications, criteria, and process for selecting the university president and vice-presidents in 2024, aiming to set a strong example for creating a sustainable institute at the national level

NIDA also places primacy on stakeholder engagement from various sectors, as outlined in the Institute's Policy on External Stakeholder Engagement (2024). This policy incorporates public and business sectors in anti-corruption efforts, in accordance with the Public Procurement and Supplies Administration Act B.E. 2560 (2017). Furthermore, in overseeing the Institute's administration, the Board of Governors comprises not only external experts but also the President of the Alumni Association representing alumni; a faculty representative who is the Chair of the Faculty Senate; and the Chair of the Staff Council representing support staff. Such an atmosphere that encourages active participation from students, staff, and the community further strengthened the institute.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ ENGAGEMENTS

NIDA's Sikhio education center: A hub for sustainable transformation & community empowerment

NIDA works closely with communities in various ways to build strong communities. Examples include training for subdistrict administrative organization (SAO) personnel, such as preparing SAO for modern organizational transformation nationwide, and collaborating with the Government Savings Bank in the "Youth for Development and Local Preservation 2024" focusing on working with communities to enhance products and services while building stronger sustainable communities.



One focus area is developing the Sikhio Education Center, located in Ban Klong Tabak, Moo 4, Lat Bua Khao Subdistrict, Sikhio District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province. The institute has held brainstorming sessions with village leaders, representatives from public and private sectors, civil society, and the Sikhio community to gather ideas for managing and developing the center as a hub for sustainable learning. This initiative is part of the Sikhio Master Plan 2024-2027, which includes projects and activities across the following four dimensions:



Production and service sector: This includes establishing a comprehensive digital agricultural learning center and a model vetiver grass demonstration plot for industrial applications. The objective is to train local residents in planting vetiver grass as a raw material for mouthwash products implementable in their own areas. The target group consists of 50 community members around the Sikhio Education Center (pilot project with 10 communities).

Economic and social equality: Initiatives include opening the Sikhio Campus and offering master's degree programs in fields such as Law, Public Health, Public and Private Management, and Educational Administration. These programs aim to expand educational opportunities for people in the region and nearby provinces.

Resource sustainability: This includes conducting action research to enhance the capacity of local administrative organizations and communities in Sikhio District to transition to a low-carbon society. The objective is to test and implement newly developed guidelines and curricula to aid local organizations and communities in their transition.

Support factors for transformation: This involves developing legal skills and enhancing the knowledge of government officials, private sector employees, and the general public in Sikhio District on legal matters. The target group is 350 local community members around the Sikhio Education Center.

