



# Foster International Partnerships and Expand Public-Private Collaborations for Sustainable Development

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



## OVERVIEW

In 2023, NIDA proactively engaged in myriad activities to foster domestic and international partnerships with esteemed academic institutions, organizations, and agencies across public and private sectors. In line with SDG 17, these collaborative efforts contributed to knowledge exchange, resource mobilization, and innovation across diverse fields such as environment, tourism, education, culture, and health. By working together, we developed effective solutions, created collective impact, and drove efficient progress toward the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Key national and international partnership initiatives are outlined below.

## RESEARCH / FUNDING

### Collaborative polar science research with China addresses climate resilience

In a significant international collaboration, NIDA has joined the Thailand-China partnership on Polar Science Research, championed under the MOU framework initiated by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. This initiative unites Thai and Chinese scientists from the Chinese National Antarctic Research Expedition to examine the impacts of climate change in Antarctica, an area crucial for understanding global environmental shifts.

A key contribution to this collaborative effort is the recent research led by Professor Dr. Siwatt Pongpiachan, a NIDA scientist recognized as part of the World's Top 2% Scientists. Professor Siwatt, along with an international team, conducted a groundbreaking study utilizing synchrotron radiation-based attenuated total reflection-Fourier transform infrared (SR-ATR-FTIR) spectroscopy to analyze organic functional groups in Antarctic soils on King George Island. This advanced technique provided precise insights into the variations in chemical composition across soil samples, revealing valuable data on both natural and human impacts on the Antarctic ecosystem.

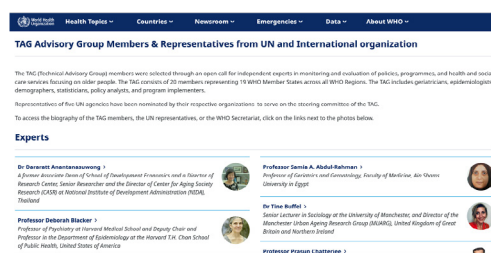
These findings underscore the critical role of advanced scientific collaboration in climate change research and disaster preparedness. The Thailand-China Polar Science Research partnership exemplifies the impact of shared expertise in addressing urgent environmental challenges on a global scale.



## RESEARCH / FUNDING

### Healthy aging & well-being of older adults

Asst. Prof. Dr. Dararat Anantanasuwong, Director of the Center for Aging Society Research at NIDA, has been actively engaged in international research collaboration as a member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG brings together experts to provide scientific, technical, and strategic advice through specialized advisory groups, focusing on health issues to enhance the well-being of older adults (aged 60 and over), their families, and communities. Among 20 members from 19 WHO Member States, the TAG consists of professionals such as geriatricians, epidemiologists, demographers, statisticians, policy analysts, and program implementers. Together, they work to not only ensure the best research practices for monitoring and evaluating healthy aging, but also offer guidance for decision-making and capacity-building at the country level.



## ENGAGEMENT

### Pre-election dialogues on sustainable development goals

Ahead of Thailand's national elections in 2023, NIDA and several affiliated schools organized a series of discussions focused on the SDGs. These events featured representatives from various political parties, who were invited to present their visions, policies, and strategies related to the SDGs. For instance, the School of Social Development and Management Strategy, NIDA, in collaboration with the Future Earth Thailand network, hosted a forum addressing environmental policies and disaster management strategies. Similarly, the School of Tourism Management, NIDA, in partnership with the School of Tourism and Hospitality from the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Thailand Chapter, organized an event where political party representatives presented their visions and policies on tourism development.



## ENGAGEMENT

### NIDA-organized international conferences on SDGs

NIDA hosted two major international conferences to promote active cross-sectoral dialogues on the Sustainable Development Goals. On August 17-18, 2023, the institute organized the international conference titled "New Frontiers of Sustainable Development through Designing and Implementing Re-globalization" at its campus in Bangkok. The event brought together prominent SDG and BCG experts from esteemed educational institutions, as well as public and private agencies from Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and the USA. These experts participated as keynote speakers, plenary speakers, panel discussants, and case study presenters, offering a comprehensive exploration of SDG-related topics, from policy frameworks to practical implementation strategies.

Another international conference organized by NIDA's Graduate School of Tourism Management, was the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Joint Conference on Hospitality & Tourism 2023 (IJCHT-23). Under the theme "Reactivate, Rebuild, Resilience: Tourism and Hospitality Sustainable Development Goals," this event took place at NIDA from July 18-20, 2023. It attracted researchers, scholars, educators, and tourism stakeholders, including government officials, practitioners, associations, communities, and students. Discussions concentrated on strategies for sustainable tourism development, with an emphasis on health and well-being within tourism communities.



## ENGAGEMENT

### International collaboration on SDG data measurement

NIDA plays a crucial role in international collaboration on gathering and measuring data for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), working with the Ministry of Interior, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI). This collaboration (1) aims to create provincial SDG profiles for 15 target provinces in Thailand, including Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Son, Nakhon Ratchasima, Narathiwat, Pattani, Phetchaburi, Phuket, Songkhla, Surat Thani, Tak, Ubon Ratchathani, Udon Thani, and Yala; (2) raise awareness among provincial agencies about the importance of the SDGs.

The SDG profiles are not just documents but powerful tools for enhancing understanding of the alignment between the SDGs and provincial development plans and strategies (2022-2027), as well as empowering stakeholders with knowledge, insights, and public perspectives on critical sustainability issues.



## ENGAGEMENT

### NIDA's collaborative efforts with NGOs

During 2023, NIDA collaborated with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to drive progress toward the SDGs, as follows:

- On July 27, 2023, NIDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Yunus Center, Dhaka, to establish the YUNUS – NIDA Center.
- On August 18, 2023, NIDA held the opening ceremony of the YUNUS – NIDA Center, aiming to support social innovation, social business, and social capital through the participation of all sectors.
- During the same period, NIDA established collaboration with the "Social Business Academia Network" (SBAN), led by Professor Muhammad Yunus, the pioneer of the social business concept and founder of Grameen Bank, a financial institution to assist the poor in Bangladesh.
- On November 12, 2023, the YUNUS – NIDA Center Director led a group of volunteer students to the Sikhio Educational Center in Nakhon Ratchasima Province to conduct exploratory research on community situations, problems, and needs, gathering information on notable social, cultural, and environmental resources. Based on this data, recommendations were made to the community to assist with their development plans.
- On May 23, 2023, NIDA, in collaboration with CODI, launched a participatory research project titled "Social Innovation for Building Strong Communities: The Foundation of Thai Democracy Identity."
- On June 19, 2023, representatives from CODI (Public Organization) and NIDA met with executives from the National Health Commission Office (NHCO) to create strategic partnerships under the research project titled "Social Innovations for Building Strong Communities as the Foundation of Thai Democratic Identity," together with faculty and staff from the Faculty of Law.

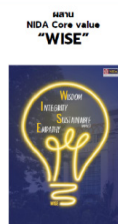
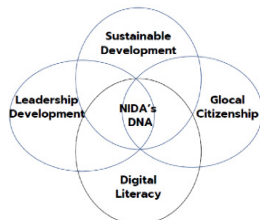


## TEACHING & LEARNING

### Enhanced graduate education for sustainable development

NIDA recognizes the importance of providing education on sustainable development to all students. Therefore, in 2023, the institution revised and enhanced the foundational course for graduate studies (ND4000) to ensure that all master's degree students benefit from this foundational knowledge. This initiative aims to modernize students' perspectives, equipping them with essential leadership skills in alignment with SDGs, which can be divided into four categories: 1) Digital Literacy, 2) Glocal Citizenship, 3) Leadership Development, and 4) Sustainable Development. This institute-wide course enables students to apply these skills to drive various sectors of the country toward achieving SDGs across economic, social, political, ethical, and environmental dimensions. The course's implementation is in line with policies from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation.

#### NIDA's DNA and Skillset Architecture



หลักสูตรประกาศนียบัตร (Certification)  
3 Modules 3 Credits 45 Hours



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### SDG education projects for alumni, local communities & displaced groups

NIDA has initiated various outreach programs focused on SDGs for alumni, the local community, and displaced people. In one key project, Carbon Neutral Tourism Development, NIDA hosted seminars and exhibitions in Songkhla and Phitsanulok, involving tourism businesses, local communities, and ethnic groups. Another initiative, the Royal Project Foundation Training Program, educated local workers and representatives from highland displaced communities on sustainable development practices. Additionally, the Leadership Program on the Royal Initiatives trained leaders and NIDA alumni in sufficiency economy principles, promoting sustainable development and cross-border support for underprivileged students in Laos. These initiatives, in short, underscore NIDA's commitment to SDG education for alumni, local communities, and displaced populations.

