

ABSTRACT

**Private and Public Sector Employees' and Graduate Students' Attitudes toward
the Language and Communication Program at NIDA**

by

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This study was to investigate the needs of private and public sector employees and NIDA Language Center graduate students, as well as their attitudes toward the Language and Communication program at NIDA. The subjects of the study were 15 executives of 15 sampled companies and 50 NIDA Language Center graduate students. The instruments used for data collection were two forms of questionnaires -- one for private and public sector employees and the other for graduate students. The completed questionnaires were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS/PC+ 4.0). The statistics used were percentage, a five point Likert scale, and arithmetic mean. The most significant finding of this research study was that both private and public sector employees and graduate students desired practical skills most. The most common response for the appropriateness of the course was that the contents could be applied to work. Private and public sector employees felt that practical courses, such as those relating to communication, translation, interviewing, computer and research were the most appropriate part of the program. Both students and employees recommended that more business-oriented courses should be added. The findings suggested that it be beneficial to further modify the Language and Communication program to satisfy the needs of both groups. The appropriate proportion of practical skills to theoretical knowledge, however, would depend on the curriculum development model adopted.