

Abstract

This study is an attempt to present the concept of international education and its application to the National Institute of Development Administration. The concept, which was new to almost all Thai university administrators before the adoption of the Ministry of University Affairs' 7th Educational Development Plan (1992-1996), was brought to light when the Ministry invited a renowned professor and expert (Dr. Jack Van de Water) on international education from the Oregon State University to conduct seminars and workshops on this subject in Thailand. International education is given different definitions by different US educators. The one given by Dr. Jack Van de Water reads "International education refers to the multiple activities, programs and services that fall within international studies, international exchange and technical cooperation."

The National Institute of Development Administration in its efforts to adopt the concept of international studies to be in line with the Ministry's 7th Educational Development Plan launched its international program at the outset of the Plan. The program has been steadily developed and improved since then.

This study explores how and when this concept was first mooted in the Institute. It presents detailed information about the program: its inception, the Institute's commitment to the program, funding and supporting resources, the Institute's current international programs and activities, and prospects of internationalization at the Institute. And for the Institute's internationalization to be fully achievable, some recommendations are also presented.