



The International Symposium and Exhibition on Local Innovation 2025

February 21 - 22, 2025

Grand Richmond Stylish Convention Hotel, Nonthaburi, Thailand

Inaugurated by Navamindradhiraj University, Thailand

Funded by

The Program Management Unit on Area-Based Development (PMU A)

Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation

Rationale

Managers in the current era place greater importance on developing innovation within their organizations than at any time in the past. This is essential for the organization's survival in the face of the rapidly changing and chaotic global economic environment. It is even more necessary for local governments to develop innovations to address new challenges posed by the volatility of environmental conditions, economic turbulence, and demographic changes within local communities. Therefore, it is not surprising that local authorities in various countries are often among the first public sector entities to pioneer and develop innovations. This has encouraged other government agencies, including national governments, to focus on and establish organizations to support public sector innovation development widely. Examples include MindLab in Denmark, Policy Lab in the United Kingdom, Helsinki Design Lab in Finland, Nesta, Kafka Brigade in the Netherlands, Gov Lab in the United States, Innovation Lab in Canada, and DesignGov in Australia. Likewise, the European Union has the OECD/ OPSI conducted policy research in supporting public sector innovation, while the United Nations has also set up units to support public sector innovation in various countries, known as UNDP Accelerator Labs.

In Thailand, over the past two decades, local innovation development has steadily grown both in terms of quantity and quality, alongside the increasing role of local governments in providing public services. However, most notable local innovations are often concentrated in large local administrative organizations, such as metro and medium-size municipalities. In contrast, more than 5,000 smaller local administrative organizations (over 70% of the total) still lack opportunities and capacity to develop their own innovations.

To address this, in fiscal year 2024, the Program Management Unit on Area Based Development (PMU A) has granted research funding to Navamindradhiraj University to launch a trial research program, so-called “Facilitating Local Initiative Research and Development and Synthetizing Lesson Learned for Policy Advocacy”. The objective was to help small local administrative organizations practice “research for innovations” that directly address local problems and challenges. Local entities participated in this project were provided with seed budgets and coaching services to test and develop their own initiatives. In the fiscal year 2024, there were altogether 21 local authorities participated in the project, with 17 scholars serving as coaches for 330 local researchers. The trial operations started in December 2023 and ended in October 2024.

Local innovations obtained from these trials include: (1) Local innovations in local tax and revenue development (14 projects), (2) Local innovations in public services (3 projects), and (3) Local innovations in waste management system, carbon credit and carbon footprint management (4 project). Local innovations emerged from this project have at least four notable features: First, these innovations were developed by local research teams. Second, modern information and communication technology have been applied in innovation solutions in ways that were suitable and aligned with the needs of local population. Third, the innovations were developed through experimental research methods (action research) and were based on the principle of collaboration with local citizens and private sectors. Finally, the results of these innovation trials were empirically confirmed to have significantly increased local revenue and effectively addressed local issues, marking a significant leap forward for small local administrative organizations in Thailand.

However, the current volume of local innovations in Thailand is still insufficient to bring about changes at the macro-level. There remains a need to enhance local governments’ innovation capacity, particularly in terms of knowledge creation, developing skilled personnel, and seeking new innovative ideations and solutions from localities worldwide. Therefore, this international symposium is designed as an exchange platform on local innovation development for policymakers, experts, and practitioners concerned with local innovation promotion in Thailand and worldwide.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the International Symposium and Exhibition on Local Innovation are fourfold:

1. To explore the state of the arts in local innovation at the international level.
2. To provide a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences among international stakeholders, both at the policy and operational levels, on approaches and measures for promoting local innovation.
3. To showcase Thailand's achievements and progress in local innovation on the international stage.
4. To seek cooperation and networking among organizations at both the policy and operational levels, as well as among experts and researchers in local innovation from Thailand and abroad.

Activities and Schedule

The International Symposium and Exhibition on Local Innovation will be held over two days, February 21 - 22, 2025, at the Grand Richmond Stylish Convention Hotel, Rattathibet Road, Bang Kraso, Mueang Nonthaburi, Nonthaburi, Thailand. The event comprises of academic forums and exhibitions, as following.

1. The Academic Forum

The first day, February 21, 2025 (08.30 AM - 04.30 PM) is dedicated to the topic of international perspectives on local innovation landscape, promotions, and lessons learnt, where the series of discussion panels are followed.

1. Session 1: Opening remarks and welcoming.
2. Session 2: Strengthening local innovation capacity through experimental research in Thailand: Key findings and policy recommendations.
3. Session 3: Landscape and ways-and-means of local innovations: International perspectives.
4. Session 4: National policy frameworks for promoting local innovations: International perspectives.
5. Session 5: Strengthening local innovation capacity through training, coaching, and technical assistances: International perspectives.
6. Final remark: Lessons learned from international perspectives.

The second day, February 22, 2025 (08.30 AM - 12.00 PM), will be occupied by forums for sharing and exchanging experiences on Thai local innovations among policymakers, experts, and practitioners. A series of three discussions, as following, will be organized.

1. Innovations on local revenue development
2. Innovations on local public services
3. Enhancing local innovations in Thailand and the way forward.

2. The Exhibition on Thai Local Innovations

The exhibition will take place on February 21 - 22, 2025, where local innovation showcases from the previous research program, “Facilitating Local Innovation Research and Development,” will be displayed.

Participants

There will be approximately 150 local and international participants onsite and some additional online. Onsite participants will be designated, including:

1. Distinguished international scholars and experts.
2. Thai policymakers, experts, and practitioners concerned with local innovation promotion.
3. Delegates of government agencies, private sector, and civic organizations directly involved in local innovation.

Online participants are welcome to attend the conference through the PMUA Facebook page, as well as through those of Navamindradhiraj University below:

1. The PMUA facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PMUA.THAI>
2. The Navamindradhiraj University facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NavamindradhirajUniversity>

Organizers and Financial Support

The primary organizer of the International Symposium and Exhibition on Local Innovation 2025 is Navamindradhiraj University (under charged by the research program, Facilitating Local Initiative Research and Development and Synthetizing Lesson Learned for Policy Advocacy) with funding support by the Program Management Unit on Area Based Development (PMU A)

Conference Materials and Documentation

Participants can access the conference's materials and documentation via <https://shorturl.at/4gi3m> or scanning the QR Code below.



Google Drive: International Symposium and Exhibition on
Local Innovation 2025 [Publishing Documents]

<https://shorturl.at/4gi3m>

Contact persons for further inquiries

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Schedule and Agenda

The International Symposium and Exhibition on Local Innovation 2025

February 21 - 22, 2025

Grand Richmond Stylish Convention Hotel

Rattanakthibet Road, Bang Kraso, Mueang Nonthaburi, Nonthaburi, 11000, Thailand

Friday, February 21, 2025

Venue: Richmond Ballroom 1, 6th Floor

Time	Day 1: International Symposium (English Language)
08.00 - 09.00 AM	Register
09.00 - 09.30 AM	Session 1: Opening remarks and welcoming. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Minister of Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation or delegated● Associate Professor Dr. Manutham Manavathongchai (Vice President of Navamindradhiraj University)● Director of Program Management Unit on Area Based Development (PMU A) or delegated
09.30 - 10.30 AM	Session 2: Strengthening local innovation capacity through experimental research in Thailand: Key findings and policy recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Professor Emeritus Dr. Charas Suwanmala (Research Program Director)
10.30 - 12.00 PM	Session 3: Landscape and ways-and-means of local innovations: International perspectives. <p>Moderators: Professor Dr. Fumio Nagai (Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Professor Dr. Alex B. Brillantes, Jr. (University of the Philippines, Philippines)

Time	Day 1: International Symposium (English Language)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assistant Professor Dr. Arif Budy Pratama (Universitas Tidar, Indonesia)
12.00 - 01.00 PM	Lunch break
01.00 - 02.30 PM	<p>Session 4: National policy platform for promoting local innovations: International perspectives.</p> <p>Moderators: Professor Emeritus Dr. Alex B. Brillantes, Jr. (University of the Philippines, Philippines)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professor Emeritus Dr. Charas Suwanmala (Research Program Director) ● Tiffany Chen (Thailand Policy Lab, UNDP Thailand)
02.40 - 04.00 PM	<p>Session 5: Strengthening local innovation capacity through training, coaching, and technical assistances: International perspectives.</p> <p>Moderators: Assistant Professor Dr. Arif Budy Pratama (Universitas Tidar, Indonesia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professor Dr. Fumio Nagai (Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan) ● Nutthapon Rathie (UNDP Thailand Accelerator Lab, Bangkok, Thailand)
04.00 - 04.30 PM	<p>Final remark: Lessons learned from international perspectives.</p> <p>Moderators: Professor Emeritus Dr. Charas Suwanmala (Research Program Director)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suwannachai Sompornng (Delegate of the Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior, Thailand.) ● Sumrit Doungsano (Delegate of the National Municipal League of Thailand) ● Assistant Professor Dr. Kraiwuth Jaikampan

Time	Day 1: International Symposium (English Language)
	(Chiang Mai University, Thailand)

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Venue: Citrine 3 - 4, 5th Floor

Time	Day 2: Sharing and exchanging experiences on Thai local innovations (Thai Language)
08.00 - 09.00 AM	Register
09.00 - 10.30 AM	Session 1: Innovations on local revenue development Moderators: Assistant Professor Dr. Kraiwuth Jaikampan <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Non Pradoo Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Nakhon Ratchasima Province● Pakkret City Municipality, Nonthaburi Province● Muang Kham Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Chiang Rai Province● Warin Chamrap Municipality, Ubon Ratchathani Province● Talat Chaiya Subdistrict Municipality, Surat Thani Province● Watpradu Subdistrict Municipality, Surat Thani Province● Phru Phi Subdistrict Municipality, Surat Thani Province● Pha Tan Subdistrict Municipality, Chiang Rai Province● Nong Hoi Subdistrict Municipality, Chiang Mai Province● Khongpha Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Surat Thani Province● Tha Pho Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Phitsanulok Province● Ngao Subdistrict Municipality, Chiang Rai Province● Nong Raet Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Chiang Rai Province● Hong Hin Subdistrict Municipality, Phayao Province

Time	Day 2: Sharing and exchanging experiences on Thai local innovations (Thai Language)
11.00 - 12.00 PM	<p>Session 2: Innovations on public services</p> <p>Moderators: Dr. Thalinee Sangkachan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Su-ngai Kolok Town Municipality, Narathiwat Province ● Pattani Town Municipality, Pattani Province ● Yaha Subdistrict Municipality, Yala Province ● Sakon Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Satun Province ● Khuan Don Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Satun Province ● Thap Nam Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province ● Lam Chi Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Kalasin Province
12.00 - 12.30 PM	<p>Session 3: Enhancing local innovations in Thailand and the way forward.</p> <p>Moderators: Professor Emeritus Dr. Charas Suwanmala</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chatkul Chuensuwannakul (The City and Town Municipality Association) ● Dr. Laem Srinui (Delegate of the Subdistrict Administrative Organization Association of Thailand)
12.30 - 01.30 PM	Lunch break

Note: The schedule and agenda are subject to change as appropriate.