

Course Detail
Master of Rural Development Management (M.R.D.M.) (International Program)

Course Title:	Master of Rural Development Management (M.R.D.M.) (International Program)
Master Degree:	Master of Rural Development Management (International Program)
Academic Institution:	Graduate School, Khon Kaen University
Duration:	One (1) academic year (15 months) (June 2020 – September 2021)
Background and Rational:	

Program’s Background

Economic, political, social and cultural changes that occur in the current globalization has a great impact on people's lives. As a former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki – Moon noted in the Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, “*disparities between rural and urban areas remain pronounced*” and big gaps persist in different sectors. In addition, the United Nations also realizes the importance of rural development for sustainability that making rural development plays an important role for developing the country, especially for the rural area where most of the world’s poorest people live. From the past, although the development policy of Thailand and many other countries have been focusing on the solutions of poverty and inequality among rural people, still it is not as successful as it should be. Many people are still poor, in debt, being a migrant worker. Also, some rural people have lost their arable land and become a producer that have to rent others to do agriculture. They often lack of morale in the development of production and lack of incentives to conserve agricultural resources for sustainable use.

Program’s Rationale

From the above changes and including the disruptive change of the world today, this inevitable affects people’s way of life more or less. Khon Kaen University is an initial university that produce graduates dedicating to work for the society since 1969. Specifically, for graduate study, Master of Rural Development is the first international program for international students since 1992. The program has been implemented, since then following the changes of economy, politic, society, and culture that happens throughout the times. Hence, the program has improved in 2017 to be in accordance with the Twelfth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2021), for the graduates to be able to adapt the knowledge of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy to apply for their professional and academic works.

Benefits of program:

The program provides the ways to promote economic prosperity. Since materialism and globalization affect to rural people’s living, way of life and local traditions, because most of them cannot adjust themselves to the changing of society, economic and technology. Urban society and foreign culture also influences on rural people who receive information from many channels which affect their living, values, eating behavior and entertainment activities. These things make the living cost of rural people higher. However, rural people have limited income, so it’s caused debt in rural communities. Rural labors have to immigrate to work in the city that

cause the family's problems. Beliefs, values and local traditions are passed on to the new generation less than the past. The relationship among people in rural society get worse.

Thai Government is developing economic, politics, society and cultures by using sufficiency economy theory especially THE TWELFTH NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2017-2021). The plan adapts sufficiency economy theory to development strategies. The strategies focus on continuous process and conform to good governance. The program is improved to conform to Thai government's strategies and insert sufficiency economy theory to develop society and culture.

Expertise, Excellence, Knowledge, Staffs and facilities:

One of Khon Kaen University missions is to produce the qualified and international standard students to develop society. Hence, Khon Kaen University has a vision to be the leader in the higher educations of ASEAN. We will be the university of learning, research, qualified, and community and country development.

Rural development management program is a uniqueness of multi-disciplinary program coordinated by Graduate School at Khon Kaen University. The main purpose of the curriculum is to increase knowledge and experiences in management focus to rural society which are mostly located in rural region or some part of cities or towns. The curriculum emphasizes on community analysis, leadership, factors to drive change, tools to manage and tackle the problems, and how to approach the community, which respects people ability and social value. The field trip experiences to understand difficulties of work and management style are important to create atmosphere for learning and discussion. The key areas of study – human resource, social - cultural aspect, economic aspect and ecology/environmental aspect.

Committee and teaching staffs come from related faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Agriculture, Public Health, Education Nursing, Engineering, Science, Pharmacy and Management Science. We assure that our expertise, and excellence of academic and research knowledge, and facilities resources have been operated in Rural Development Management Program for 27 years.

Program Proficiency

Khon Kaen University recognizes the importance and necessity of personnel development in rural development management, as to promote and support countries' development on policy plan and provide guidelines for suitable and successful rural development projects for international students' great experience. From the past, the program has produced numerous graduates from different parts of the world such as Asian countries that are Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Bhutan, Pakistan; African countries that are Gambia, Kenya, Namibia, Tanzania, Vanuatu, Lesotho, South Sudan, Cameroon, Malawi, and Eritrea and the north America – the USA. In 2018, the program has produced 166 graduates who will be involved in rural development work in their countries and international organizations for the consistent and suitable for political, economic, social and cultural changes.

Objectives:

The Master's program in Rural Development Management intends to produce post-graduates who are qualified as follows:

1. Being able to understand principles and theories of rural development as a multi-disciplinary science, and able to apply the principles and theories of rural development management by inculcating knowledge and experience from former careers.

2. Skilled in management, development plan establishment, development project settlement, as well as skilled in conducting and analyzing research on the physical circumstances, society, economy, culture, technology and environment of an individual locality.

3. Have good attitudes towards rural development management and have a sense of initiative about self-development, as well as well-defined social skills in the areas of human interaction and leadership.

Course Synopsis and Methodology:

Study plan

This program is one year and three-month full-time program, divided into three semesters, 12-15 weeks per each semester. The program plan study can be as follows:

First Semester: (14 credits)

No.	Course Title	Number of Credits
1.	Theories and Approaches in Rural Development	3
2.	Economics and Politics of Rural Development	3
3.	Applied Statistics for Rural Development	3
4.	Research Methodology for Rural Development	3
5.	Field Study Experience in Rural Development	2

Second Semester: (12 credits)

No.	Course Title	Number of Credits
1.	Local Institutional Development	3
2.	Management of Rural Development Project	3
3.	Rural Resource Systems Analysis	3
4.	Seminar in Rural Development Management	1
5.	Independent Study	2

Third Semester: (10 credits)

No.	Course Title	Number of Credits
1.	Conflict Resolution in Community and Environment	3
2.	Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainable Rural Development Management	3
3.	Independent Study	4
	Total	36

Course Content

Plan A	Categories of Courses	Courses	Credits
Type A1	Major Required Courses	117 711 Theories and Approaches in Rural Development	3 (Non-credits)
		117 723 Research Methodology for Rural Development	3 (Non-credits)
		117 892 Seminar in Rural Development Management	1 (Non-credits)
	Thesis	117 898 Thesis	36
Total			36
Plan A Type A2, Plan B	Major Required Courses	117 711 Theories and Approaches in Rural Development	3
		117 723 Research Methodology for Rural Development	3
		117 724 Management of Rural Development Project	3
		117 725 Rural Resources System Analysis	3
		117 715 Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainable Rural Development Management	3
		117 891 Seminar on Field Study Experiences in Rural Development	2

	117 892 Seminar in Rural Development Management	1
Total		18
Major Elective Courses	117 712 Economics and Politics of Rural Development	3
	117 713 Local Institutional Development	3
	117 714 Comparative Studies in Rural Development	3
	117 721 Evidence-based Practices in Rural Development	3
	117 722 Applied Social Statistics for Rural Development	3
	117 726 Knowledge Management in Rural Development	3
	117 727 Conflict Management in Rural Development	3
	117 728 Specific Topics in Rural Development	3
Total		(A2=10) (B=22)
Thesis	117 899 Thesis	12
	117 897 Independent Study	6
Total		(A2=12) (B=6)

Graduation Conditions:

Adherence to the Regulations of Khon Kaen University

1. Earn all credits required by the program and obtain a cumulative GPA not lower than 3.00
2. Pass the Comprehensive Examination and Independent Study examination as applicable
3. Must have paid all fees and not be indebted to the University or the department.
4. Has submitted the IS report and other related materials according to the format and the date set by the Graduate School.
5. Has passed the English proficiency test as required by the University
6. Has published or presented research work at research conference or journal

Applicant Qualifications

Applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Possess a bachelor's degree or equivalent in any related field
2. Proficiency in English
3. At least three (3) years of professional experience in rural development
4. Preferably not over 45 years of age

Document Required

- TIPP application form (Download here:
<http://www.tica.thaigov.net/main/en/relation/75500-TIPP-Application-form.html>)

- Medical Report

- Transcript

- Recommendation Letter

- English Test

- A brief proposal for an independent study, including a topic, statement of the problems, objectives and expectations

Contact:

Graduate School

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***The application procedure will complete when TICA has received the hard copy of the application form and other related documents through the Royal Thai Embassy/Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations/Royal Thai Consulate – General accredited to eligible countries/ territories.