



Thailand's Annual International Training Course

(AITC)

Course Information

Theme: Sufficiency Economy Philosophy: SEP: From Sufficiency Economy to a green circular economy and sustainable development (Online Training)

TICA: Thailand International Cooperation Agency is the national focal point for Thailand's International Development Corporation. TICA was established in 2004 to realize Thailand's aspiration to be a contributor of development cooperation. Believing that global changes are best addressed by international and global partnerships, today we continue to strengthen our contribution to achieve global development agenda through various capacity-building and human resources development programs. In response to the recent changes in the global landscape of Development Corporation, especially through the concept of South--South and Triangular Corporations, TICA commitment to realign our focuses in order to deliver Thailand's commitment to be a relevant partner in global agendas including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

AITC: Annual International Training Courses

Was initiated in 1991 as a framework in providing short-term training for developing partners. Today, the AITC remains one of TICA'S flagship programs. It offers not only a training experience, but also a platform in exchanging ideas and establishing professional network among participants from across the developing world. Aiming to sharing Thailand's best practices and experience to the world, the AITC training courses focus on development topics of our expertise currently categorized under five schemes namely: "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" or SEP, Food Security, Public Health, Climate Change, and other topics related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Maejo University

Maejo University (MJU) is one of most reputable agricultural institutions in Thailand that offer study programs and deliver research innovations focused towards development that is sustainable, sufficient and environment friendly. MJU, an agricultural-based higher educational institute, is strategized to be a leading university especially in organic agriculture, and to creation the Organic Agriculture-based Knowledge and Innovation that connects with people, communities and countries in everyday life. Furthermore, MJU has established over 20 learning centers and research achievements by the faculty members that are considered as relevant wisdom. MJU receives at least 30,000 visitors each year that observed these agricultural learning centers and therefore has the capability of giving training courses at the international level.



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Green circular economy and sustainable development

Green circular economy is a concept, which affects all parts of society, including the productive sector, services and private households. Especially in Northern Thailand local development depends to a substantial share on agriculture and food production on the one hand and on services on the other hand, among them tourism to be one of the most important. The socio-economic and bio-physically variable environment is unique in Northern Thailand and since the introduction of Royal Projects based on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in the 1960ies, there was a development of rural areas towards a modern society, which serves as an example for other countries in the region and in the world. Furthermore, a series of environmental challenges, such as a changing climate and periodical occurrence of air pollution have contributed to a dynamic environment and the development of ideas to support sustainable rural development. Maejo University like no other institution for advance learning and research is part of that innovation processes and development of new ideas. When it comes to modern techniques in agricultural production, including organic agriculture and the development of innovative products, Maejo University is the leading university in the North, as well as in the area of research and support of local sustainable tourism development.

Based on that background Maejo integrates ideas of the above-mentioned areas in its annual international training course on Green circular economy and sustainable development. Teachers and researchers work together to present students of the international training course with technology for sustainable food production, as well as with concepts for rural development, including ideas of community tourism. In that way, the TICA Annual International Training Course (AITC) can become a flagship program for government official from all over the world to learn from development concepts of Northern Thailand.

After the first AITC in 2022, follow-up courses will build-up on knowledge related to the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, and contributing elements of rural development, sustainable agricultural production and matter cycles to reduce the destruction of the environment.

Course Objectives

Participants of the project will:

- Learn about aspects of organic agriculture
- Share experiences of local and community development programs
- Learn about the role of sustainable tourism in an ecologically sensitive environment
- Learn about innovative organic products and study the process of product development
- Enable participants to share their local knowledge, culture, belief, tradition, and values.
- Strengthen social networks collaboration of agricultural education.



Course Outline

1. Sustainable food production systems and rural development

The first section of the course will concentrate on sustainable food production systems, starting from the experiences in Northern Thailand. Like no other place in the world, through the introduction of exotic cash crops and the promotion of sustainable local as well as modern cropping systems, the underdeveloped remote upland areas of Northern Thailand have turned from a hot spot of drug production into the nation's most diverse horticultural production area. With lecturers of Maejo University belonging to the first generation of scientists participating in this national development effort, students benefit from their experience as well as from new technologies being developed at MJU nowadays.

2. Sustainable Tourism in a modernizing society

Alongside the improvement of agricultural production, the tourism sector contributed substantially to the development of the region. With the focus on the integration of non-ethnic Thai population in the society and offering ways to progress and at the same time conserving their traditions, the ethnic diversity of Northern Thailand turned into an asset making it a unique spot for sustainable and eco-tourism. With teachers of MJU working in projects which combine rural development and the promotion of tourism, students will benefit from this experience, which can become a development pattern for other countries who deal with the challenges of rural development in ethnic diverse setting

3. Circular economy and Innovative products from organic materials

Finally, the course acknowledges the *status quo* of the development in Northern Thailand in the 21st Century. Having reached a high level of social and economic development Northern Thailand still relies on agricultural production to a much higher extend than other parts of the country. Therefore, the introduction and production of innovative products from organic materials is an important pre-requisite for the continuation of the sustainable path to development. With MJU being a hub for inventions and the development of new products, students will not only study about the importance of innovative products but will also be given the opportunity to learn about concrete example.