

# Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand

To support the implementation of Thailand's 20-Year National Strategy (2018 - 2037), which aims to move Thailand towards greater stability, prosperity, and sustainability based on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) and with a key priority to enhance human resource development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand has developed its own "5S" 20-Year Foreign Affairs Master Plan (2018 - 2037). As the name suggests, the plan has five key strategic priorities, namely: Security, Sustainability, Standard, Status, and Synergy.

The Ministry recognises that human resource development, diplomacy and the ability to cultivate public-private-people partnerships will be fundamental in driving achievements across all five areas. The Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs or DVIFA, which serves as Thailand's leading training centre for diplomatic excellence, has a key role in building the core competencies and developing the knowledge and specialised skills that will enable the Ministry to meet its planned objectives. Beyond knowledge and skills, the DVIFA also nurtures people to be caring and responsible.

The DVIFA has a long history. It began in 1962 as the training unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was established as an institute in 1974, and assumed its current name in 2006 when the Ministry was granted permission to adopt the name of His Royal Highness Prince Devawongse Varopakarn, the Father of Thai Diplomacy. These changes in status reflect the Ministry's increasing commitment to human resource development over time.

To realise the DVIFA's vision of being a paragon of diplomatic excellence, the Institute promotes lifelong learning using inclusive, holistic and integrated approaches. Its core mission is to deliver capacity building programmes, language training and testing for foreign service officials at all levels; provide support services to stakeholders in various sectors; as well as manage and disseminate knowledge of diplomacy and international affairs among the Ministry's foreign service officials and other government agencies, the Thai civil service, relevant stakeholders and members of the public.



# Towards Diplomatic Excellence

## The Training and Development Division

offers a range of programmes to enhance the core competencies of foreign service officials, officials from other government agencies in Thailand and abroad, and private sector representatives whose work concerns diplomacy, international affairs and foreign policy. The tailor-made courses are designed to meet the particular needs of officials at different stages in the career.

### Diplomatic Training Skills and Programmes

- Strategic Policy and Planning
- Political, Economic and Social Analysis
- Leadership and Management
- Crisis Management
- Multilateral Diplomacy
- Digital Diplomacy
- Public Diplomacy
- Cultural Diplomacy

## The Scholarships and International Cooperation Division

is continuously expanding its areas of cooperation with other diplomatic academies and academic institutions both at home and abroad. It works with selected partners on a range of activities to enhance the knowledge, skills, and capacities of the Ministry's diplomats and officials in order to manage issues and challenges of multilateral diplomacy on a global level. In addition, it supports the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) by providing tailor-made courses for foreign diplomats and officials through various frameworks of cooperation

### Fellowships for MFA Officials

- Diplomatic Exchange Programme
- Diplomatic Skills Development Programme
- Exchange of Junior Diplomats

### International Cooperation

- Memoranda of Understanding on Diplomatic Training with different Institutes/Academies
- Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of International Relations (IFDT)
- Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Training Institutes of ASEAN+3
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

## The Strategic Research Centre

### The Knowledge of Diplomacy and Academic Services

collaborates with the Thai diplomatic missions abroad and foreign diplomatic missions in Thailand to organise open sessions, special lectures, seminars, roundtable talks and discussions on a wide-range of issues related to international affairs, foreign policy, international economics, international law, and regional/international organisations. The DVIFA collates, publishes and disseminates materials from these activities in various formats.

## The Language Centre

provides language skills training (English and other foreign languages) both in-house as well as for officials from other government agencies. While the general programmes focus on enhancing overall linguistic proficiency, there are also specific work-related skills courses for example interpreting skills. The Centre has developed strategic partnerships with relevant institutions overseas.

### English Language Courses

- Intensive Language Course - ILC
- Oral Communication Course - OCC
- Advanced Oral Communication Course - AOCC

### English Language

- Advanced Diplomatic Writing
- Speech Writing
- Interpretation Skills

### Other Languages

- Pre-overseas Posting Languages
- Second Foreign Languages
- Neighbouring Countries Languages

## The Standards and Assessment Centre

adopts an inclusive approach to language testing, ensuring those with physical impairments have equal access to recognised international standard tests. Its portfolio of tests includes two English language proficiency tests, based on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), that were developed in collaboration with an internationally renowned testing expert. For the testing of other foreign languages, the Centre liaises with relevant partner institutions and experts. In addition to measuring proficiency, the Centre offers tests to facilitate screening and recruitment processes.

### DIFA TES - IH

Diplomats and Thailand International  
Cooperation Agency  
(TICA) Officials

Reading Test  
Listening Test  
Writing Test  
Speaking Test

### DIFA TES

Government Officials and  
State Enterprise Employees

Reading Test  
Listening Test  
Writing Test  
Speaking Test

### Placement Test

Government Officials and  
State Enterprise Employees

Reading Test  
Listening Test

## The International Studies Center (ISC)

was reactivated in August 2019 to serve as the Thai Foreign Ministry's link with the existing network of national and international think-tanks and institutes. With a multi-disciplinary approach, the ISC aims to forge links with affiliated experts from multiple fields, whether academics, policy-makers, diplomats or members of civil society. In addition, the ISC serves as an arena where knowledge and ideas can be exchanged and sharpened as input for foreign policy-making. One of the key activities of the ISC is to organize academic forums, conferences, lectures, and seminars as well as carry out research / studies on various topics of international affairs as to raise awareness of the public through publications.

## CONTACT

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