

Managing innovation in Thailand – selected initiatives

National Innovation Agency (NIA), Thailand

<https://nia.or.th>

Innovation diplomacy

National Innovation Agency (Public Organization) or NIA of Thailand has developed a conceptual framework “Innovation Diplomacy,” based on the strategic cooperation with innovative organizations worldwide. The mission is to enhance National Innovation System (NIS) of Thailand to international level, as well as to promote the image of Thailand to become “Innovation Nation.”

Innovation and Diplomacy, the two words that could be allied so well for the global affairs in the 21st Century. Innovation Diplomacy will focus more on the commercialization of innovation rather than mainly focus in R&D; therefore, Innovation Diplomacy will be another solution to creating significant economic impacts while strengthening international relations at the same time. NIA, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of Thailand and Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Thailand, together will provide the pathway to success for those aims by bringing more and more international partners to work with related Thai public and private sectors as Thailand is now growing extensively and sustainably.

Innovation diplomacy framework

Exploring & informing:

- Explore to understand the innovation systems in foreign countries
- Spot opportunities and barriers for collaboration
- Communicate with the relevant organizations

Influencing & promoting:

- Influence policies/framework to improve the wider conditions for collaboration with innovative companies
- Promote NIA as collaborator and Thailand as a destination for foreign technology-based investment

Cultivating & connecting:

- Build relationships with decision-makers, design targeted events, and workshops to create new international partnerships
- Organize missions to match companies/institutions with appropriate international partners

Activating & scaling:

- Develop, co-develop, or identify external resources to help secure and scale promising collaborations
- Find ways to help accelerate the commercialization or diffusion of innovation
- Build international partnerships that transform global opportunities for innovative firms

Project and activities

Project and activities in each stage of operation are divided into 7 areas.

1. Entrepreneurial Discovery
2. Knowledge Development
3. Knowledge Diffusion
4. Data Driven Innovation
5. Market Innovation
6. Resource Mobilization
7. Transformation of Ideas into Reality

Targeted innovation

Thematic Innovation is the development of projects that focus on innovation. To support the development of the country and enhance innovation capability at the industrial level. Leading to the change in the targeted industries of the country through the pursuit of real problems shared by the private sector, the social sector and the academic sector. To carry out a prototype innovation project for solving problems and upgrading the country's development to an innovation-based country.

Mind Credit

A mechanism to support innovation capacity building (Managing Innovation Development Credit) or “MIND CREDIT” is a new form of support for the NIA for Thai entrepreneurs to be able to access and use services from consulting firms with expertise in various fields that are important and necessary for the development or expansion of innovative business to elevate Thai entrepreneurs to be ready for competition and stimulate the development of innovative business effectively and lead to the creation of economic value from the country's innovation base. Those wishing to apply for funding under the MIND CREDIT mechanism must submit a project proposal to the Office for approval and the consulting company that the applicant will use the service must pass the qualification examination. Selected and registered by the office according to the criteria for selecting MIND CREDIT consulting firms set by the Office.

The MIND CREDIT support mechanism is intended to allow Thai entrepreneurs to access and use services from consulting firms with expertise in various fields (4 branches within 2017–2018 and expanding to 10 branches in the long term) that are important and necessary for developing or expanding innovative business results to elevate Thai entrepreneurs to be ready for competition and stimulate the development of innovative business effectively.

Open data innovation in Malaysia

The Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit, Government of Malaysia

<https://www.malaysia.gov.my>

What are Data products?

Data Products are the outputs of innovations developed based on Open Data. Open Data pioneering countries such as Great Britain and the European Union have successfully developed high-quality data products that enhance the efficiency of service delivery as well as generate a data-driven digital economy while enhancing the well-being of the people. In addition, data products are also generated by academics, students, and the business community through the publication of research findings, mobile application development, websites, and Open Data-driven computer applications. In Malaysia, applications such as Dengue Alert that provide information on dengue threats as well as EZ4OKU application that is an application to help people with disabilities are among the data product innovations generated through the Open Data initiative.

Why are Data products developed?

The government in particular Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) has organized various engagement programs, seminars, and exhibitions to provide information and awareness to government agencies, the private sector, academics, communities, and citizens regarding Open Data. The involvement of groups outside government agencies has increased based on observation of increase in the number of data sets accessed, downloads, applications for new data sets, and application to hold interviews with the government on this subject. All of these initiatives were implemented in accordance with the Public Sector ICT Strategic Plan (PSICTSA) 2016–2020 which was developed to support the successful implementation of the National Transformation Program and to enhance the public sector agency delivery system. The National Key Economy Area (NKEA) Communications Content and Infrastructure (CCI) Steering Committee meeting chaired by the YB Minister of Communications and Multimedia held on May 29, 2014 decided that

the MAMPU shall lead the Public Sector Open Data Platform Development. In line with this, to realize the Government's aspirations, the Cabinet Meeting on August 20, 2014 agreed that public sector agencies implement open data initiatives. Data Products are outputs that can accelerate the economic, social, and environmental benefits derived from Open Data.

The objectives of Data Product Development are as follows:

- i. To promote development of creative, quality and innovative data products
- ii. To capitalize on Open Data capabilities in creation of data products
- iii. To promote Open Data innovations in the public service delivery system
- iv. To improve ranking of the Online Service Index (OSI) through sponsorship of crowdfunding programs in collaboration with strategic partners.

What are the impacts obtained from Data Product development?

The implementation of the Open Data Initiative is outlined in the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (RMK 11) in Chapter 9, Strategy A3: capitalizing on data to improve outcomes and reduce costs. Implementation of Open Data among agencies enables data to be used for more effective analysis, obtaining public feedback interactively and promoting innovative use of government data.

Way forward

Malaysia is moving towards Open Government digital centric technology to enhance people-centered service delivery by eliminating bureaucracy, expand service coverage, and improve accountability. Accordingly, the Government through MAMPU has introduced three (3) Open Data 2019 key performance indicators (KPI) emphasizing on improvement of quality of published data.

Patent Information Tool

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has expanded its suite of online services with an online platform providing free access to comprehensive, unbiased, and structured reports on many patent databases. WIPO INSPIRE (Index of Specialized Patent Information Reports) will help a range of stakeholders in searching the myriad of patent databases around the world.

WIPO INSPIRE offers a range of powerful but easy-to-use functionalities for both novice and expert patent information users in mind. They include:

- a comparison of features for up to four patent databases,
- an interactive world database coverage map, allowing users to determine, at a glance, which patent databases offer coverage of a specific jurisdiction.

For more information, access:

<https://inspire.wipo.int/>