

## INTRODUCTION TO NIDA\*

Unlike a work of art, the creation of a complex institution can rarely if ever be attributed to a single individual. Or precisely delimited in time. So it is with the genesis of the National Institute of Development Administration.

In the largest sense, the creation of NIDA is but another example of Thailand's commitment to education as the single indispensable factor in the transition from underdeveloped to developed. It represents, as well, a logical evolution in the nation's efforts to provide the kind of progressive and responsible government administration and business leadership requisite to successful accomplishment in the contemporary world.

The NIDA complex rests upon a solid base of proven accomplishment. The consolidation of existing academic and training programs in public administration, applied statistics, and development economics has the obvious merit of making it possible to rationalize the employment of faculty competencies, library facilities, and classroom space. More important, it makes possible, as well, to upgrade the quality of instruction and research through the cross-fertilization of these allied disciplines deemed to be of particular strategic importance to national development. And to this is added a wholly new dimension, a graduate program in business administration designed to correct the conspicuous shortage of trained management personnel in the private sector.

The focal aims of the NIDA program are distinct from anything now being offered in the curricula of Thailand's universities. Indeed the integration of academic and professionally-oriented education in economic and the administrative sciences is perhaps unique to education anywhere. The first requirement of success—sound planning and the support of the political leadership—is present. The job now is to move ahead and grasp the opportunity to set new and promising precedents.

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\*Modified from *National Institute of Development Administration*, Inaugural Edition (July 22, 1966), p. 13.