

NSTDA Partners with Thailand Research Integrity Network (TH-RIN) and Asia and Pacific Rim Research Integrity Network (APRI) to Advance Thailand's Research Ethics Standards Highlighting Global Benchmarks to Safeguard Research Quality and Combat AI-driven Fraud



On 2 December 2025, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), through the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), in collaboration with the Thailand Research Integrity Network (TH-RIN) and the Asia and Pacific Rim Research Integrity Network (APRI), organized an international round-table meeting entitled “Bridging Borders for Research Integrity: APRI & TH-RIN Collaboration Forum.” The event was held at the Press Conference Room, 1st Floor, King Mongkut Building, MHESI, with distinguished experts and representatives from more than 25 leading academic and research institutions from Thailand and abroad. Participants exchanged insights and discussed strategies to establish international collaborative mechanisms aimed at enhancing Thailand's research integrity standards and strengthening its readiness to address emerging challenges in the digital era.



Professor Dr. Yongyuth Yuthavong, Chair of the TH-RIN Committee and Senior Advisor of NSTDA, delivered the opening remarks, stating: *“Trust is the fundamental pillar of the research ecosystem. Today’s global research landscape is facing increasingly complex ethical challenges. Thailand therefore needs a strong and systematic governance framework to build confidence within the international community and to enhance the competitiveness of Thai researchers on the global stage.”*



Understanding “Paper Mills” and Artificial Intelligence: Emerging Challenges for the Academic Community

Professor Dr. Tirayut Vilaivan from Chulalongkorn University delivered a special lecture titled “Paper Mills: A New Challenge for Research and Academic Publishing.” The presentation highlighted the growing issue of paper mills or the commercialized production and sale of low-quality or fabricated research, which has become a matter of global concern. It was noted that financial incentive systems that emphasize publication

quantity may inadvertently encourage unethical practices. In Thailand. Investigations have been initiated into researchers with abnormal patterns of excessively high numbers of publication to safeguard academic standards.



In addition, the meeting discussed the impact of Generative AI, which is now capable of producing realistic scientific images and datasets. Such technology could potentially be misused to fabricate experimental results, posing a new challenge for regulatory agencies. This issue underscores the urgent need to develop advanced tools and verification measures to keep pace with rapid technological advancements.



Proposed Shift in Evaluation Criteria Toward “Quality Over Quantity”

Professor Dr. Watchara Kasinrerak from Chiang Mai University delivered a presentation entitled “The Quantity Over Quality Trap,” highlighting perspectives on the prevailing publication culture. The presentation recommended that funding agencies and

academic institutions revise their researcher evaluation criteria by shifting the focus from publication quantity to genuine research quality and impact.



During the discussion session, participants reflected on international best practices, such as adopting a portfolio-based system or allowing researchers to submit a limited selection of best papers for grant or promotion consideration, rather than relying on total publication counts. Such approaches can help reduce pressure on researchers and encourage the production of higher-quality scientific work.



TH-RIN Accelerates Efforts to Drive Mechanisms “From Policy to Practice”

Professor Dr. Supa Hannongbua from Kasetsart University and Dr. Phanarat Phanuschutabool from the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) presented the strategic direction and progress of TH-RIN. The presentation highlighted Thailand's concrete advancements in strengthening research ethics awareness.



NRCT has established mandatory research ethics training as a key requirement for research funding applications, with more than 6,000 researchers certified in the past year. TH-RIN is also actively encouraging higher education institutions to establish Offices of Research Integrity (ORI) as core mechanisms to ensure transparent, fair, and effective oversight, consultation, and internal investigation within their institutions.



In closing, **Professor M.D. Prasit Palittapongarnpim** of the Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, and a committee member of both APRI and TH-RIN, outlined the future direction of the collaboration. The remarks emphasized that international research partnerships are built on trust, and Thailand's commitment to strengthening research integrity standards will be a key factor in earning global confidence and recognition. This

foundation will support sustained knowledge exchange and long-term collaborative research between TH-RIN and APRI in the years ahead.



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