Bangkok’s National Institute for Development Administration (NIDA) was founded in 1969 with support from the King of Thailand, the Ford Foundation, and Indiana University through the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities (MUCIA). It arose from a project led by IU Bloomington in the early ’50s that established a master’s of public administration at Tommasat University. Since that time, IU has continued to support exchange agreements with NIDA, and dozens of Thai scholars have come to IUB for graduate degrees in public administration, political science, or business. In the 1990s, IUPUI signed an exchange agreement with NIDA extending that agreement to the Indianapolis campus. Most recently, NIDA has been developing educational programs for foundation development and fund raising, inspired by IUPUI’s Center on Philanthropy and its Fund Raising School.

In late November, a team of administrators headed by Dr. Juree Vichit-Vadakan, president of NIDA, and her colleagues, Drs. Chindalak Vadhanasindhu, Wuttithep Indhapanya, and Chirawan Bhakdibutr, vice presidents for administration, academic affairs, and planning, respectively, and including other staff, paid a week-long visit to the IUPUI and IUB campuses. They had meetings with IU administrators and faculty in a broad range of fields, from business, computer and information science, engineering and technology, and informatics to medicine, nursing, philanthropy, public and environmental affairs, and continuing studies. Giles Hoyt, associate dean for International Affairs at IUPUI, and Patrick O’Meara, dean for International Programs, facilitated their visits.

At the Bloomington campus, NIDA President Dr. Juree Vichit-Vadakan took time to pose with the newly unveiled statue of the late IU Chancellor Herman B Wells, under whose leadership so many international programs like the Thailand collaboration began to develop.

“The new century will see even greater globalization for Indiana,” said Reynolds. “This ever-accelerating trend will challenge teachers to find new global education resources. This guide will help them to prepare their students for the international environment they will find in their lives and workplaces.”

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—Richard Doty
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