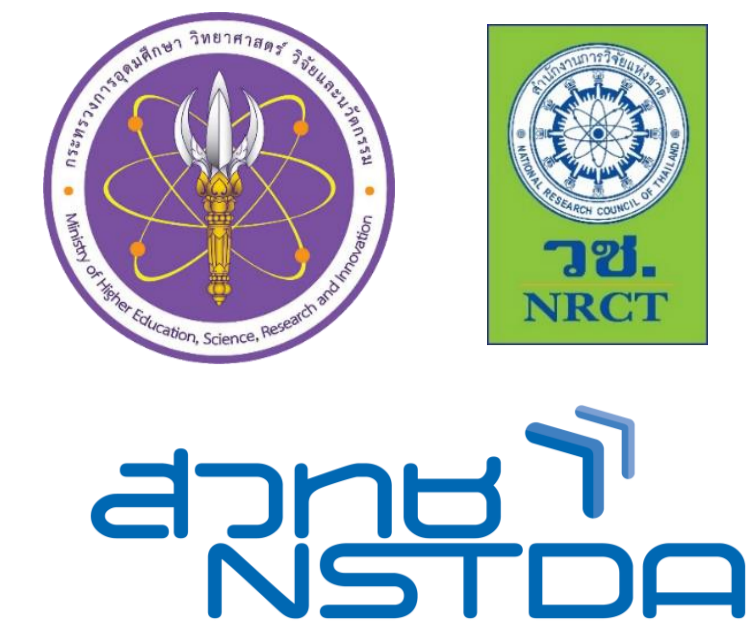


Development of Thailand Research Integrity Network (TH-RIN)



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INTRODUCTION

Research integrity continuously receives attention from many countries. Due to the recent threats to research integrity, especially buying authorship in research, universities, research institutes, and academic community in Thailand begins to emphasize the importance of research integrity and prevention of research misconducts. Sharing knowledge and experiences about research integrity among universities and institutes helps to create a positive culture and environment for research and foster responsible conduct of research (RCR). However, an academic network that have a collaboration for research integrity purpose in Thailand is still limited.

METHODS

Establishing TH-RIN committee

- TH-RIN committee was established for supporting and giving advice to universities about research integrity and creating cooperation at both the national and international levels.
- The committee consists of 19 experts on research integrity and representatives from Thai universities and research institutes.

Conducting the regular and annual committee meetings

- The regular meetings were scheduled for 4 times/year to discuss the important issues about research integrity and developing useful resources for supporting research integrity in Thailand.
- The annual meeting was held on 14 July 2023 at Miracle Grand Convention Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, and through online platform in order to exchange knowledge and understanding about research integrity among universities and research institutes.

Developing documents to support research integrity in Thailand

- The document called “Principles of Research Integrity: Application to Thailand” (Thai version) was created and the public hearing was conducted to receive the opinion from researchers and executives from universities, research institutes, and funding agencies.
- The book about research integrity and case studies was written and planned to distribute to Thai universities and research institutes.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Development of Thailand Research Integrity Network (TH-RIN)

- 128 participants including researchers and executives from universities, research institutes, and funding agencies (e.g. vice president, dean, and director of the institute) attended the 2023 annual meeting. It resulted in the increase of the number of TH-RIN members that expanded from 98 to 109 universities and institutes.
- During the annual meeting, the participants had opportunities to share their idea and strategies about fostering integrity in research. For examples:
 - 1) Emphasizing the importance of teaching and raising awareness about research integrity and ethics since the undergraduate and graduate education.
 - 2) Supporting small universities that are probably lack of resources for promoting research integrity by sharing the resources and knowledge among TH-RIN members.
 - 3) Setting up agencies that have specific responsibilities for promoting and fostering research integrity in their organization and at the national level. National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) was proposed as the organization that have a potential for research integrity promotion in Thailand.
- They were also asked for providing an opinion on the “Principles of Research Integrity: Application to Thailand”. They agreed to the principles and gave interesting suggestions that were already added into the principles.
- The regular and annual meetings will be conducted continually in order to strengthen TH-RIN and development of research integrity in Thai academic community.

OBJECTIVES

To develop Thailand Research Integrity Network (TH-RIN) through various activities, such as establishing committee, conducting the meetings, and creating or sharing resources about research integrity.



Figure 1 The participants of TH-RIN annual meeting



Figure 2 The book about research integrity and case studies

Shared resources for enhancing research integrity in Thailand

- “Principles of Research Integrity: Application to Thailand” was created in Thai version. The principles were developed in order to announce the intention about Thailand research standards and ethics, which is conducting research with integrity and credibility, and to be used as the guiding principles for Thai universities and institutes.
- The book about research integrity and case studies was also created. The book consists of suggestions for promoting research ethics and RCR, research misconduct prevention measures and investigations, as well as interesting case studies with solutions.
- All documents will be published and distributed to TH-RIN members to be used as guidance for their organization. Moreover, the documents will be also uploaded on NRCT’s website for online accessibility.
- Thailand is probably in the early stage for research integrity development. Therefore, the preparation of the important tools, such as the clear policies and documents and guidance about research integrity, is an essential part for supporting good research practices. Many tools are being developed at the national level in order to build shared understanding about research integrity. Lastly, TH-RIN can also play the important role to encourage universities and institutes to apply their knowledge about research integrity into practice.

CONCLUSION

- Building a strong relationship of academic network on research integrity is also important. The existence of TH-RIN provides a space and opportunities for exchanging views and opinions that will lead to the development of research integrity in Thailand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project received financial support from National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)