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O44 - Raising Dark Sky tourism and Light pollution awareness : The Amazing Dark Sky in Thailand

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Since 2021, over 110 sites in Thailand have been designated as dark sky areas by the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT). In addition to the focus on preserving pristine and pollution-free sky, Amazing Dark Sky in Thailand project also focus on the raising awareness on the issue of light pollution and promoting "Dark Sky tourism" as an engine for sustainable socio-economic development. To support these goals NARIT also launches other programs aimed to compliment these effort. The "astro guide" training program seek to train, evaluate, and certify astronomy outreach personnels that will operate in these dark sky areas that is vital to the sustainability of the tourism of the dark sky preserves. In order to promote the dark sky projects and raising awareness in the public sector, "Dark Sky Star Party" are held annually receiving around 2,000-3,000 visitors. The success of this program is a testament to how public institution can play a privotal role in promotion dark sky awareness and bring economical development to rural areas via astrotourism.

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