# Laboratory SDGs Audit by SAI Thailand: A Design Thinking Approach to Enhance Innovative Auditing for Sustainable Development Goals

Dr. Sutthi Suntharanurak
Director of International Affairs Office
State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand

#### **Discussion Issues**

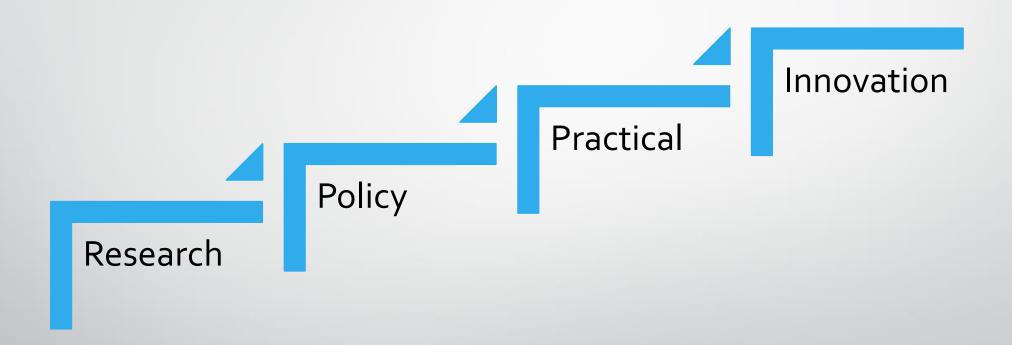
Evolution SDGs Audit in SAI Thailand

Why ISAM

Why Design Thinking

Lesson Learned

## **Evolution SDGs Audit in SAI Thailand**



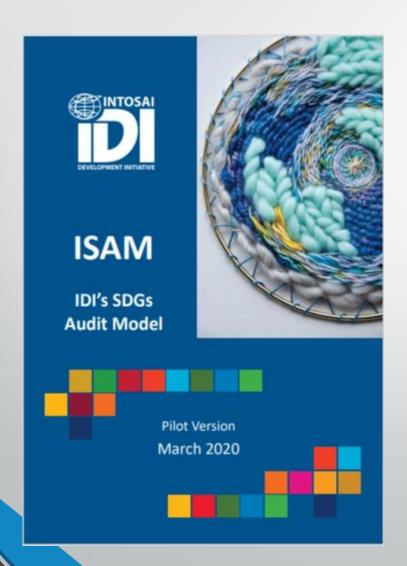
# From Research to Policy

- 2016-2017: Research series on introducing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for auditors.
- 2018: The State Audit Commissioner issued the long-term State Audit Policy, which includes SDG audits within the five-year State Audit Policy (2018-2022).
- 2021-2022: SAI Thailand implemented the IDI SDGs Audit Model (ISAM) to evaluate SDG implementation along the Mekong River.
- 2023: Research on the implementation of ISAM for SDG audits in Thailand.

#### From Practical to Innovation

- Since 2018: SAI Thailand has conducted SDG audits, aimed at enhancing the audit of SDGs.
- 2023: The State Audit Commission issued the second long-term State Audit Policy, which continues to prioritize SDG audits as a key mission in response to the UN SDGs 2030.
- 2023: SAI Thailand began to develop innovative auditing for SDGs by implementing the Design Thinking approach.

# Why ISAM

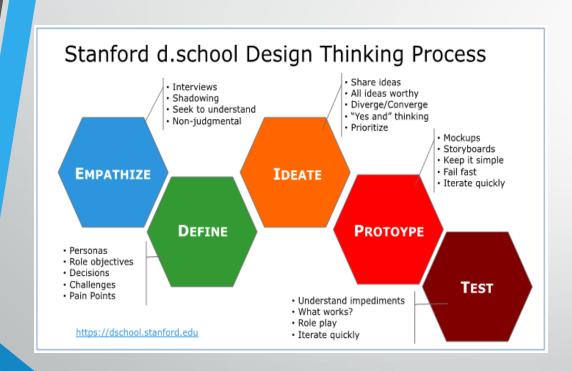


Comprehensive and Focused Outcome of audit

Flexibility and Adaptability

Promotion of Inclusiveness and Stakeholder Engagement

# Why Design Thinking Approach



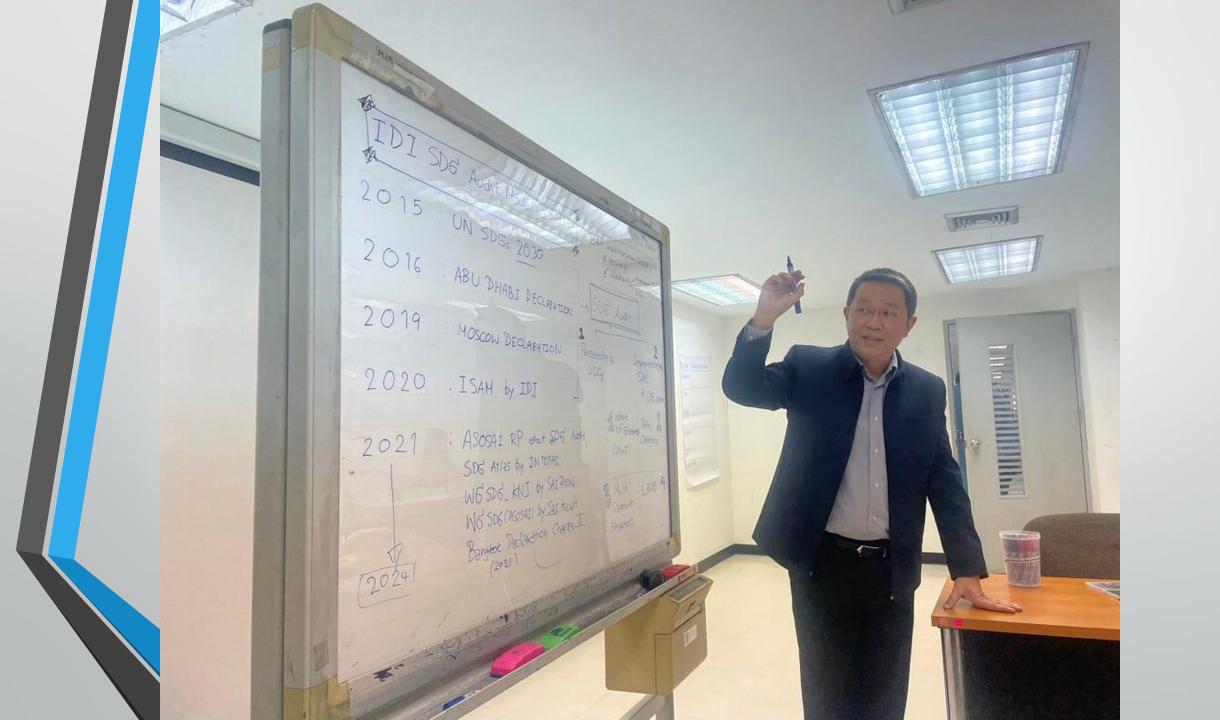
Source: https://www.theagileelephant.com/what-isdesign-thinking/ User-Centricity and Empathy Iterative Problem-Solving

**Encourages Innovation and Creativity** 

CrossDisciplinary
Collaboration

Focus on Actionable Solutions





#### **Empathize: Understanding Local Challenges**

**Cultural Strengths** 

Blending
Traditional Audits
with SDG Goals

Regional Sustainability Priorities

# Define: From Pain point to Pinpoint and Clarifying for Localizing Audit Focus

**Prioritization of relevant SDGs** 

**Streamlining Audit Processes** 

**Clarifying Audit Objectives** 



#### Ideate: Idea + Create and Crafting Tailored Solution

Developing the Audit Design Matrix (ADM) Utilizing
Simulation
Cases

Encouraging
Creative Audit
Methods

### **Prototype: Building and Test Audit Tools**

Development of Audit Tools

Iterative Testing and Refinement Customization for Local Relevance





# **Test: Piloting and Refining Method**

Pilot Audit Execution

Gathering and Analyzing Feedback

Refinement and Finalization

# Continuous Learning: Post Pandemic and SDGs audit Sandbox

Dynamic Testing Environment

Iterative Improvement Process Adaptation to Emerging Trends

#### Lesson Learned from our Humble view

# Key Success Factors

- Support from State Audit Policy
- Growth mindset of auditors
- Deep listening Skill

# Challenges

- Dealing with fixed mindset
- How to convince for opening mindset

# Room for Improvement

- Gamification, Board Game for SDGs audit Simulation
- Improve future skills, e.g., systematic thinking, forward thinking, problem-solving

"Design Thinking in SDG audits fosters creativity and user-centric solutions, ensuring that our strategies are as dynamic and diverse as the challenges they aim to address."

Dr. Sutthi Suntharanurak

Further discussion: <a href="mailto:sutthisun@gmail.com">sutthisun@gmail.com</a>