

**OECD/DAC Donor-Developing Country Dialogues on National Strategies
for Sustainable Development**

DRAFT: 31 May 2000

**REPORT OF THE
FIRST PLANNING WORKSHOP, ARUSHA
AND
SUPPLEMENTARY FIRST PLANNING WORKSHOP, LONDON**

APPENDIX 3

Thailand: Summary of Draft Work Plan

Government commitment, Steering Committee and Lead Team

The National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) has formally written committing the government to the project. NESDB and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MOSTE) has given its support and will work closely with the lead team to execute the dialogues.

A Steering Committee is being established and will be chaired by an eminent (independent) person. Other members will include representatives of civil society, public sector, private sector, politicians, academics and NGOs, as well as stakeholders.

The Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) has been appointed as the lead team (team leader: Dr Nipon Poaponsakorn).

Overall objectives

- To review the current status of the planning process of the NESDB with special reference to the existing poverty alleviation strategy. The review will cover the process of formulating the 8th and 9th national economic and social development plans, and the impact of the 8th plan
- To develop an appropriate process for formulating a poverty reduction strategy in line with the concept of sustainable development. Lessons will be drawn from: existing strategies, and areas of best practice and common constraints will be identified.

Note: In Arusha, the Thai delegates suggested that the focus of the dialogue might be on credit. But after further reflection, it has been decided to focus on poverty reduction.

Status review (May – August 2000)

Tasks (and executing institutions):

- Identify core group of participating institutions, steering committee members and resource persons (TDRI, NESDB, MOSTE: May);
- Review existing studies on nssd processes (current and past work over last 10 yrs), with special emphasis on 8th national plan (NESDB: June-July)
- Review literature on poverty and poverty alleviation strategies in Thailand (TDRI: June-July)
- Interview key informants (TDRI: June-July);
- Participating institutions, steering committee and resource persons to identify key stakeholders (government, NGOs, community leaders, academics). Review extent of their involvement in the 8th national plan) through consultative approach (TDRI, NESDB);
- Academic workshop (with commissioned papers) to address participatory planning process for nssd and poverty reduction. Summary report of results to input into a status review workshop (TDRI: July-August);
- Status review workshop for stakeholders (organised by NESDB and TDRI: August-September) to: identify nssd processes, strengths and weaknesses; assess the impact of the existing 8th national plan; and draw lessons from existing strategic processes.

- Prepare status review report (NESDB/TDRI: September).

Dialogues on poverty reduction strategy (June 2000 – May 2001)

Issued to be debated will follow those listed in Topic Guide 2

Tasks (and executing institutions):

- Commissioning 2 papers for *poverty review*:
 - Review paper on existing literature on poverty and processes of poverty reduction (TDRI: June-July 2000);
 - Nssd process (September-October 2000);
 - Interviews with 4-5 key informants (TDRI: October 2000)
 - Academic-technical workshop (TDRI: November: 30 participants) on *poverty reduction strategy* – to identify the causes of poverty, assess existing policies of poverty reduction, and examine processes of poverty reduction strategy (academics and stakeholders). Three papers to be commissioned and presented:
 - Summary of the status and causes of poverty;
 - Assessment of existing policies on poverty reduction;
 - The SD process of poverty reduction strategy;
 - Interviews with 20-25 key informants familiar with the process of SD and poverty (academics, outstanding politicians - both ministers and opposition politicians, newly elected senators, outstanding NGO leaders, community leaders, and prominent civil servants who have been involving with the poverty policy) (TDRI: October-November 2000);
 - Focus group interviews with urban and rural community leaders familiar with government-sponsored poverty reduction projects and with NGO-sponsored or civil society-sponsored projects (TDRI: December 2000).
 - Dialogue workshop for NGOs and community leaders (December: 30-40 participants) to respond to the findings of the technical workshop, and to assess independently the processes of a poverty reduction strategy in Thailand (organised by leading institutes on local development, e.g., the Local Development Institute);
 - Preparation of synthesis report on 2 workshops, technical studies and interviews – to be used to define issues for the discussion in the national seminar (TDRI: January 2001);
 - 2-day National seminar on the nssd (for poverty reduction) (70–80 participants - prominent politicians, high ranking government officials, outstanding community leaders, academics and leading NGOs). The seminar will employ the approach of Appreciation–Influence-Control (AIC) (TDRI/NESDB/MOSTE: Jan-Feb 2001);
 - Final draft on nssds and best practices (February 2001).
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- Quality control monitoring throughout by the Steering Committee (every other month)
 - A series of press conference will be organised to disseminate the work of this project. The work will also appear in the TDRI Website.