

Annual International Training Courses 2014

1. Course Title: Grassroots Economic Development (GED) following Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)

2. Duration: September 8 - October 10, 2014

Closing Date for Applications: June 30, 2014

3. Background and Rational

There has been a recent shift in economic development paradigms from growth-based to community-based development as a mechanism to achieve sustainable development. Experiences have shown that community-based development helps empower communities and strengthening the capabilities of local citizens to undertake self-initiated development activities in response to their needs. The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy formulated by King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand is a means towards community empowerment and strengthening communities, enhancing local economic prosperity.

The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy “stressed the middle path as an overriding principle for appropriate conduct by the populace at all levels”. “Sufficiency” means moderation, reasonableness, and the need of self-immunity for sufficient protection from impact arising from internal and external changes. To achieve this, an application of knowledge with consideration and prudence is essential. At the same time, it is essential to strengthen the moral fiber of the nation so that everyone adheres to the principles of honesty and integrity. In addition, a way of life based on patience, perseverance, diligence, wisdom and prudence is indispensable to create balance and be able to cope with adverse shocks. The principles of SEP can be applied to all levels, i.e. individuals, communities, organizations and nations/global. Numbers of case studies in Thailand have shown a practical of SEP applications as guides of individuals improve quality of life, of communities to develop local productive capabilities and market networks, and of small enterprises and organizations to manage efficiently. Principles of SEP can be applied to developing countries around the world at all levels. Particularly, they can be applied to community development as SEP is fundamental to empowerment and building resilience. The training course “Grassroots Economic Development followed Sufficiency Economy Philosophy” provides knowledge of SEP linking to economic concepts/theories. During the training course, number of case studies will be illustrated to explain what SEP means in practice. In addition, the training course will provide the tools for monitoring and evaluation in understanding the success and challenges of projects following SEP.

4. Objectives

The programme is designed to:

1. provide participants with Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) and related economic theories and concepts
2. explain participants the applications of SEP (individuals, SMEs, communities, organizations and macro policy implication)
3. share experiences among countries on grass-root rural development
4. provide participants in exploring with multiple case studies following SEP
5. equip participants with the practical skills and techniques required for monitoring and evaluation of projects following his Majesty King’s concept

5. Course Contents

5.1 Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction to Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)

- 1.1 Introduction to SEP
- 1.2 Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and related concepts
- 1.3 Applications of SEP

Module 2: Relevant Economic Theories and Concepts to SEP

- 2.1 Economic theories/concepts of resource constraints
- 2.2 Economic theories/concepts of optimizations

Module 3: SEP in Grassroots Economic Development (GED): opportunities and constraints

- 3.1 Introduction to grassroots economic development
- 3.2 Poverty analysis and poverty reduction strategies (poverty measures, income distribution, strategies following SEP to attack poverty)
- 3.3 The role of rural financial institutions with the application of SEP in grassroots economic development (micro finance, saving and credit union and cooperatives)

Module 4: Practical experiences of SEP

- 4.1 Experiences in agricultural sector
- 4.2 Experiences in the business sectors

Module 5: Monitoring and Evaluation tools for projects following SEP

- 5.1 Project appraisal (financial and economic analysis)
- 5.2 Market potential analysis
- 5.3 Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks

Module 6: Practical experience of monitoring and evaluation of projects (Field case studies).

Module 7: Presentation of case studies and country reports

5.2 Study Trips/ Field Trips

- Duration: 1 week field trip (fourth week)
- Place: in the northern/central/northeastern/southern part of Thailand
- The objective of the field trip is to have a lesson learn from various case studies following His Majesty the King's initiatives

5.3 Advance Assignments

1) Country Report

Part 1: Background of your country

- Geography
- Socioeconomic background
- Government policy for socioeconomic development

Part 2: Possibility Application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) to the country (after pasting 4 weeks of training)

Each participant is required to prepare and submit a country report on how to apply the SEP to your country.

The full report including abstract should be approximately 10-15 pages. The outline is as follows.

1. Economic and social development in your country
2. State the problems of your country

Please choose one of the following problems

- Individual/household/Organization level
- Community level

- National level

3. What is the future project that applied the **Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)** to solve the chosen problem.

- Project Title
- Project Objectives
- Project activities
- Practical project of the SEP
- Challenges

2) Reading Assignment

Book: Inside Thailand Review: Sufficiency Economy

<http://thailand.prd.go.th/ebook/review/content.php?chapterID=33>

3) Project Assignment

- group case study report and presentation (last week of the programme)
- individual country report presentation (last week of the programme)

6. Number of Participants: 20 persons

7. Participants Criteria

All applicants must meet the minimum requirements listed below in order to be eligible to apply for this training programme

- between 30 - 55 years old
- have English proficiency tests
- have a recommendation from superior
- have minimum 5 years working experience
- preferable for those who working in rural development area

8. Eligible Countries:

Asia & Middle East: Bangladesh, Jordan, Maldives, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste

Oceania (Pacific Islands): Palau, Cook Island, Solomon Island, Marshall Island, Samoa, and Vanuatu

Africa: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Zambia

Latin America & others: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Suriname

9. Venue

Building 5 (Room 5607) and Building 3 (Room 3209), Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University, 50 Ngam Wong Wan Rd. Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900 THAILAND

10. Expected Results

- ability to apply SEP and monitoring and evaluation tools for implementing rural development projects
- ability to work under international groupings
- create networking among participants

11. Evaluation

- class participation
- case studies and country report
- training attendance (attend 80% of the training programme)

Fellowship Arrangements:

1. Application Procedures

- Applicants interested in participating in the course must be nominated by their government and must submit three (3) completed nomination forms to the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate in their respective countries before the closing date of application.
- In general, each country may nominate up to four (4) nominees for the course. However, nomination for certain courses may be limited to one or two nominees from each country due to limited seat available for participation.
- The Royal Thai Government will inform the nominating government (or relevant authority) whether or not nominee(s) have been accepted for the course, normally three weeks before the course starts.
- Further information about training courses held under AITC can be obtained from TICA's website: <http://tica.thaigov.net/main/>

2. Allowances and Expenses

The Royal Thai Government will be responsible for the following allowances and expenses:

- An economy class electronic ticket (e-ticket) will be issued to each participant via email. Each of the participants is not allowed to change the flights route and schedules. Participants should not buy air tickets by themselves and should be advised that if they do so, the cost cannot be reimbursed from the Royal Thai Government. The Royal Thai Government will also arrange the domestic flight in Thailand for participants, if any.
- Each participant will receive a living allowance of 500 Baht (US\$17) per day to cover meals, local transportation and other personal daily expenses. Accommodation will be arranged by the Royal Thai Government and all participants will stay at the same place. It is suggested that each participant should bring some pocket money approximately US\$100 to cover the expenses before the allowance is paid.
- Minor medical treatment will be provided for participants who become ill during their stay in Thailand.
- The Royal Thai Government will provide transportation for the authorized field trips undertaken as part of the course.

3. Regulations

Participants are required to observe the following regulations:

- Participants must only stay at the places designated by the Royal Thai Government.
- Participants must strictly attend classes as scheduled and should not change their training subjects.
- Participants must not extend the training period.
- Participants must not bring any family members with them to Thailand.
- Participants must return to their home countries after the course completion (at the date as scheduled by the Royal Thai Government).
- Participants are required to travel only on the route designated by the Royal Thai Government and must not make any alterations. Please also be informed that the maximum allowable baggage that can be loaded on flights is 20 kilograms. Participants will be responsible for any cost incurred in exceeding this limit.
- Participants must observe rules and regulations of training institute(s).

- Participants must refrain from engaging in political activities, or any form of employment for profit or gain.

4. Visa Procedures

Prior to departure from their home country to Thailand, all participants must first obtain the appropriate visa from the Royal Thai Embassy or Consular representative in their countries. Presentation of the acceptance letter is required when applying for VISA. A maximum of 2,000 Baht VISA fee (approximately US\$ 60) must be paid by a participant to the Royal Thai Embassy or Consular representative. Participants must request for the original receipt which could be later on reimbursed from the Royal Thai Government upon presenting the original receipt.

Further relevant information is available at the following addresses:

Human Resource Development Bureau (HRD Branch 2)

Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency
The Government Complex
Building B (South Zone) 8th Floor,
Chaengwattana Road, Lak Si, Bangkok 10210
Tel (662)203-5000 ext 43305
E-mail: tica@mfa.go.th
Website: <http://tica.thaigov.net/main/>

Institution

1. Executing/Implementing Agency

The course will be conducted by Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University, 50 Ngam Wong Wan Rd. Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900 THAILAND Tel. (66-2)579-9579 Ext. 5602

Contact person: Prapinwadee Sirisupluxana
e-mail address: fecopds@gmail.com

Trainers: Lecturers from the Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University and experts from Mahidol University, private organizations and government officials who have a theoretical and practical experiences relating to sufficiency economy concept.

Training Equipments: PowerPoint, Case Study
Accommodation: will be arranged by the organizer

2. Collaborative Organizations

Unit of Agricultural Strategy Research (UASR), Center for Applied Economic Research (CAER), Kasetsart University, 50 Ngam Wong Wan Rd. Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900 THAILAND Tel. (66-2)561-5037 Ext. 11

Contact persons: Prapinwadee Sirisupluxana and Sukanya Khongtong
e-mail address: fecopds@gmail.com; fecoskk@ku.ac.th