



THAILAND'S VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

on the Implementation
of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development 2019

Executive Summary

Four years on from the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Thailand continues to stress the importance of and press ahead with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To emphasize the level of national commitment attached to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the country has ensured the integration of all the Goals into the 20-Year National Strategy, comprising the main development framework through which the country strives to attain security, prosperity, and sustainability. The Goals also dovetail perfectly with the principles of His Majesty the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), which remains the heart and soul of Thailand's path to sustainable development. As such, Thailand has promoted SEP as the country's homegrown approach to the achievement of the Global Goals and as a pathway to Sustainable Development through the SEP for SDGs framework.

This year, Thailand has prioritized the empowerment of people and communities as the main theme. This advance unedited version of the Voluntary National Review, conducted every year as part of the strategy established by the National Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD), chaired by the Prime Minister, examines Thailand's current progress towards each Goal. Crucially, it underlines key highlights achieved between the government, the private sector, and civil society, and identifies the next steps and areas to address going forward.

**Thailand’s Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2019**
**Advance Unedited Version*

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Overview

According to the World Bank, Thailand has experienced significant success in social and economic development over the last four decades, progressing from a low-income country to an upper-income country with an economy that continues to expand steadily. The 2017 Report on Poverty and Inequality in Thailand by the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) found that, as a result of economic growth and government policies specially designed for the poor, **poverty levels have decreased over the last 30 years from 67 per cent in 1986 to 5.3 per cent in 2017**. However, the Government continues to prioritize raising the quality of life in order to address the issue of poverty and to achieve targets set in the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan, particularly with regards to creating income opportunities for the poor. Due to the slowing down and instability of agricultural product prices and the continued problem of natural disasters, inequality remains a major obstacle to economic growth in the country.

Building on the “**One Tambon¹, One Product**” (OTOP) initiative, the Government launched the “**Nawatwithi² OTOP Community Tourism**” project in 2017, following the “**Thai Niyom Yangyeun**” (Sustainable Thainess) project, to create and redistribute income to local communities through local tourism. By capitalizing on current trends towards tourism in small, local areas, the project aims to boost tourism within local communities in order to generate income through tourist activities, local products, and services. In addition, raising the quality and standard of locally-produced products serves to generate more income for local communities.

Way Forward

Addressing poverty through tourism, in particular through **community-based tourism (CBT)**, has helped to redistribute economic benefits throughout communities in line with Thailand’s people-centered approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **This approach not only focuses on building resilience, but also on community empowerment** which makes it a means through which Thailand can continue to address the issue of poverty. Initial results from the project show that 3,273 moo-ban³ in 76 provinces have significantly improved their tourism management capacities, with an average 10 per cent increase in income from tourism. 58,330 local products have been improved and further developed to increase local incomes. The number of new entrepreneurs in these communities has also increased to 1,640,000 from an original 60,000 (who were limited to members of OTOP). According to a study conducted by the Thammasat University Research and Consultancy Institute, **the project led to an increased income per head of 5,115 THB per**

¹ sub-district

² integrating innovation into local lifestyles

³ village

month to **10,040 THB per month**, equivalent to a 96 per cent increase. **Employment rates within the communities also increased by 61.76 per cent**, with the number of tourists increasing by up to 75 per cent.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Overview

Thailand aims to achieve food security through the framework of the **Food Security Strategy** developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (2017-2031), with targets of ensuring that the population receives safe, sufficient, and sustainable food all year round; promoting quality food production and reduced waste; promoting balanced and sustainable food production; and improving food security.

In the elimination of hunger, Thailand supports the **raising of nutritional standards and reducing malnourishment and stunted growth in all ages**, with a particular focus on babies and pre-primary school children. Led by the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, a project aimed at supporting adequate growth through sufficient nutrition for primary school children achieved a 50.69 per cent success rate in 2018, a marked improvement from the previous year.

Thailand has endeavored to **elevate the quality of life of agricultural food producers** in order to lift them out of poverty and increase household incomes. This is particularly aimed at **small farmers with small landholdings**, who produce on a smaller basis, and experience limitations over funds, fertilizers, pesticides, and adequate labor, as well as marketing knowledge. As such, Thailand aims to encourage small farmers to gather together as group and cultivate agricultural products in high market demand under the scheme “**National Agricultural Production Plan**” which is a market-led production approach. A key example of this is the “**Comprehensive Rice Production and Marketing Plan**”, which reduced off-season rice farming and promoted alternative crops. The project prevented the oversupply of rice for domestic consumption and export, while also maintaining its high market price.

A similar effect can be seen through a project, running from 2016-2019, that supported **producers with large landholdings**. As of 2019, the project has involved 4,663 landholdings, 315,897 agricultural producers, and a total agricultural land area of 5,410,472 rai⁴ (8,656.76 square kilometers). The project promoted 11 types of agricultural produce, including rice, other field crops, herbs, fruits, silk, ornamental plants and flowers, livestock products, fish, and edible insects. The project successfully met its targets of reducing initial costs for producers and improving agricultural production efficiency. This has resulted in agricultural production worth over 6,075 million THB in 2016 and 5,111 million THB in 2017. In terms of improving the quality and standards of agricultural produce, Thailand aims to push for agricultural products to be certified by international standards such as “Good Agricultural Standards” (GAP), the “Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil” (RSPO) and the “Participatory Guarantee System” (PGS).

⁴ 1 rai = 1600 sq.m.

However, external factors continue to pose challenges to the achievement of SDG 2. In particular, the instability of the global economy and current trade war might impact the prices of agricultural products, and alter the nature of services provided. Moreover, other factor such as droughts and climate change might hinder agricultural production, affect market prices, and give effect to the domestic economic situation and human development targets.

Way Forward

Dealing with future challenges will require a unified and integrated approach. Achieving food security, raising nutrition standards, and promoting sustainable agriculture all require cooperation and partnership across agencies and across sectors. Food security does not only comprise food and nutrition, but also the raising of living standards through a bottom-up approach. Given this approach, local government agencies will be at the forefront of this challenge.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Overview

Thailand has already achieved key targets in ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being of all at all ages. In 2018, the national maternal mortality rate stood at 17.33 deaths per 100,000 maternal lives, the neonatal mortality rate was 4.46 per 1,000 lives, and the under-5 mortality rate was 8.8 per 100,000 lives. Targets yet to be achieved include ending the epidemic of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combatting hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases (target 3.3). In addition, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) remain a challenge for the country, where the number of deaths from circulatory system diseases stands at 103.7 per 100,000 lives.

Thailand's achievement in public health is underlined by numerous projects that have delivered concrete outcomes. For example, the "**First 1,000 Days of Life**" project promoted the protection and nurturing of the children from the time of their conception until they are two years old. Moreover, Parliament recently passed the "**Control on Marketing of Infant and Young Child Food Act 2017**" which seeks to promote proper child development.

On tackling teenage pregnancy, Thailand issued a specific action plan under the "**Second National Reproductive Health Development Strategic Plan B.E. 2560-2561 (2017-2018)**" and implemented the "**Prevention and Remedies for Teenage Pregnancy Act B.E. 2559 (2016)**". "**Youth Friendly Health Service**" (YFHS) clinics have also been established to provide counseling for teenagers and parenting advice for parents. These clinics are now operational at 726 out of 877 hospitals nation-wide, which is the equivalent of 82.78 per cent of the total hospitals in the country.

Way Forward

On non-communicable diseases (NCDs) prevention, Thailand's policy implementation is guided by the national control, prevention and risk reduction plan. NCDs

projects include the screening and risk assessment of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in patients with diabetes and high blood pressure. In addition, the government has conducted a project entitled “**Save Thais from Heart Diseases**” to improve access to services and reduce the mortality rate of patients with acute ischemic heart disease.

On public health and hygiene, Thailand faces challenges on drug and alcohol abuse. This issue calls for the implementation of preventive work and the promotion of access to treatment and rehabilitation. Concerning the availability and capacity of medical and public health personnel, despite a recent improvement, the urban-rural disparity and the shortage of staff in the latter is still apparent throughout different regions. This thus requires national planning on public health personnel to address both the quantity and distributional dimensions.

Thailand stresses its commitment to the implementation of the **Masterplan on public health under the 20-year national strategy** by aiming to accelerate progress in 5 areas, namely:

1. The development of the national primary health care system through the establishment of the “**quality of life development committee**” at district level which aims to promote partnerships with all sectors at the district level to improve medical well-being for all; increase the number of “**primary care clusters**” (PCC); improve the quality of the sub-district hospitals and primary health care services; and develop an appropriate assessment criteria.

2. The promotion of proper drug usage to prevent and control antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

3. Establish tuberculosis control with the goal of ultimately eradicating the disease from the country.

4. Reform public health personnel management through the analysis of personnel data to reflect the state of national health care human resources which will aid effective human capital management. This should also be accompanied by the decentralization of power to allow public health district centers to manage and develop their human resources according to their needs.

5. Health information technology systems reform by consolidating the different databases within the Ministry of Public Health.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Overview

As education plays a vital role in the overall development of the country, Thailand has designated lifelong human development as a key target of the Education Masterplan, which forms a part of the **20-Year National Strategy (2018-2037)**. Thailand attaches great importance to pre-primary school children, recognizing that the development of children from

womb-to-school represents a crucial age. Agencies such as the “**Miracle of the First 1000 Days**” Foundation and the “**Early Moments Matter**” Foundation (a partner of UNICEF Thailand) have cooperated on issues such as the promotion of the development of primary school children; online training on mathematics, technology, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education for primary school teachers; development of a women and children database, IT information for primary school children, and creating standards for the national primary school child development center. This has led to significant progress: 92.6 per cent of children aged 3-5 years entered into primary education (1.73 million children from a total of 2.3 million) and 97.1 per cent of children aged 0-5 years displayed age-appropriate development.

Thailand is likely to see an improved gross enrolment ratio (GER), with a 100 per cent admission rate at primary-school level, a 90.6 percent admission rate at lower secondary-school level, and 71.1 percent at upper secondary school level in 2018. However, once taking into account an adjusted net enrollment rate (ANER), the rate fell to 94 per cent and 77.9 per cent for primary and lower secondary school children respectively. For upper secondary school children, this rate fell to 54.3 per cent. This illustrates that, even when the education system (comprising 15 years of basic education), is free, there are still students who experience obstacles in continuing their formal education. Therefore, an **equitable education fund (EEF)** was set up in accordance with the Thai Constitution of 2017 to aid in the education of underprivileged students (those in the last 20 percent of society) from birth until they enter the workforce. 2018 represented the first year in which Thailand reformed its financial support scheme through the creation of **an education equality fund for demand-side financing (DSF)** and outlined clear targets to the achievement of SDG 4. Target groups were identified through the use of an information system for equitable education (iSEE). The use of Proxy Means Tests (PMT) further identified 2 million poor students at primary and lower secondary school level, and 600,000 (30 per cent) severely underprivileged students were conditional cash transfers (CCT) to continue their education. The Royal Thai Government has also provided basic education for over 78,000 stateless children and migrant youth, as well as full education for over 230,000 foreign children.

On the quality of education, Thailand puts great importance on education that concurrence with global trend. As a result, we include computing science as a compulsory subject for early-primary, mid-primary, early-secondary, and late-secondary school levels. We also use **active learning approach** with students. In 2018, Thailand integrated STEM education to basic-level schools and later expanding this initiative to 7,083 local schools with 2 million students. This has been conducted in tandem with the training of 129,664 teachers in science, mathematics, and technology in all provinces. Thailand has also expanded the “**Partnership Schools**” project, an innovative model that allows for increased flexibility in school management, from 50 schools in 34 provinces in 2018 to 134 schools in 54 provinces in 2019. These partnership schools are supported by 27 private sector organizations, with the private sector and civil society given a role in aiding the management of the institutions. Moreover, Thailand has focused on bridging the gap between education and work. Thai schools have provided information and guidance for students on jobs market and skill required, and have developed education plans to cater the needs of each province. We also prepared students with in-depth knowledge of sustainable development and social resilience. Furthermore, a **Yutitham Upatham School project** (Ministry of Justice network schools)” also raised awareness on crime, common threats within society, and drugs, while creating self-discipline and anti-corruption awareness, in students in 1,127 schools. Lastly, a project

entitled “**Sufficiency Schools**” sought to apply the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy into school management and education, as part of a whole school approach in 23,796 schools. As a result, 20,000 schools displayed exceptional performance in this field, with 205 schools developing into **Sufficiency Economy Philosophy education centers**.

Thailand endeavors to produce and develop human resources in line with the country’s labor requirements. The government has set up 18 “**Technical and Vocational Education and Training Career Centers**” (TVET Career Centers) in 6 regions. Each center utilized **big data** to analyze labor requirements by specific labor fields, and has designated 32 new labor fields unique to various provinces. A new vocational training project, aiming to produce workers for key target industries, has provided training in 11 crucial subjects at 66 institutions. Thailand has also initiated a pilot project to teach the British Business and Technician Education Council (BTEC) vocational qualification in 4 centers, specializing in intensive vocational training. 556 state and private sector entrepreneur “incubation centers” have also been set up, offering short vocational courses to 100,000 students a year and driving innovation in vocational products. 21.32 per cent of products developed by their students were successfully purchased and further developed.

With regards to higher education, Thailand has successfully revised its production of quality workers for the workforce to support target industries with a project aimed at improving 235 courses in 20 universities. Titled “**New Breed of Graduates**”, this project has supported 8,337 students at non-degree level and 6,829 at degree level. The “**Premium Graduates**” project, another positive example of public-private partnership, enlisted the support of the private sector in providing complete financial assistance to students from Rajaprachanukroh Schools and partial (70 per cent) financial assistance to general students, while also ensuring the provision of jobs for each student. This project encompassed 70 schools and 5,100 students in total. E-training has been utilized to develop the capacities of students in over 10 subjects and 134 vocational skills. Thailand has also supported educational centers for learners at every age. Key examples include 30 provincial education parks (TK parks) in 23 provinces, *FabLab* innovation centers aimed at fostering innovation and engineering skills, 7,083 community digital centers at district-level, and 23 district vocational training schools. To promote lifelong learning and access to education for all, Thailand has developed “**Thai Massive Open Online Course**” (Thai MOOC), an open cyber university project, which offers 300 courses provided by 60 universities from across the country.

Quality teachers remain an integral aspect of human resources development in Thailand. Thailand has experienced significant progress in reducing shortages of quality teachers in remote areas. This initiative is executed by appointing students with high potential who show interest in teaching profession as teachers in their local areas. After the appointment, these teachers will continue to receive additional training for two years to further develop their capacity. The project has set an initial target of producing 48,374 local teachers, of which 9,067 have already been appointed to their positions. Thailand has also developed a “**teacher development coupon**” initiative, which allows teachers to study online courses according their unique needs and personal development plans, and links their progress to official academic evaluations. This initiative aims to provide coupons at the value of 10,000 THB per individual, and the online learning system offers over 1,405 courses certified by education training institutions. Approximately 282,267 teachers have already enrolled in the initiative. Thailand has also promoted a “**community of learning**” in terms of

vocational training through an electronic system called “**Ethics in Professional Learning Community**” (e-PLCO). Finally, Thailand has sought to lessen the burden put on teachers by hiring 14,363 administration support staff in 2017, a figure which rose to 11,801 in 2019. This, coupled with a change in regulations allowing teachers to spend more time in the classroom with students, has allowed for more teaching time for students.

Way Forward

Thailand still put great importance on tackling the school dropout problem. Currently, the country is developing an online database to apply national ID card number in tracking students who have dropped out from the education system which is amount to 15 million students. Thailand will also expand the existing system of providing conditional financial assistance to underprivileged students in several types of schools managed by local governments, border patrol police, and Buddhist temples. This will also include the development of education equality fund models, such as a higher education innovation fund, in cooperation with 36 professional education centers in 26 provinces, which aims to assist 2,000 underprivileged students in studying for professional certificates. Two other key examples consist of a pilot initiative to support underprivileged labor by transforming them into new generation entrepreneurs and skilled labor in over 50 areas across the country, and a fund to train 300 new teachers a year to develop schools in hard to reach areas for 5 years. Another challenge is the smaller schools with less than 120 students. Currently, half of the 15,000 schools under the administration of local governments are of this size, with over 1,000 schools containing less than 40 students. A total of 100 smaller-sized schools have already closed due to a lack of students. It is imperative that they are not closed down. As such, the provision of quality education under budgets allocated per head remains a challenge in school management. This has necessitated partnerships between small schools within the same area. This initiative covers 294 magnet schools and 474 network schools. Another means of addressing the challenge is the use of ICT and provision of experts to smaller schools, as well as combining smaller schools with local schools of a similar size (with approval from parents and school boards).

Thailand recognizes the importance of the provision of education that reflects and responds to the local needs, and intends to create province-specific development plans for pre-primary school children (at Kindergarten 1-3 level). Thailand also intends to promote pilot education innovation areas in 6 regions, including five provinces and one administrative area, to reform and decentralize education management to give local authorities more flexibility. This will be achieved through the development of pragmatic action plans to adapt education courses and education plans and free up regulations with regards to funds management and the recruitment of education executives. A future project also aims to increase the number of vocational training courses available to students according to the capacities of training centers and the needs of local industries. Thailand will also endeavor to address the shortage in vocational training practitioners by creating a database of 4.0 industry teachers, aiming to cover 10 industries across the country.

Thailand also supports the alternative education provided by civil society. We allow them to provide curriculum which is consistent to the basic education system. We also continue to expand education accessibility in remote areas. Despite state assistance in providing financial and other means of assistance to these schools, universal access to education in these areas remains a key challenge. Quality evaluation is also a problem, and

Thailand intends to focus its efforts on addressing these issues in partnership with civil society.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Overview

Thailand attaches importance to the promotion of gender equality and protection of women's rights on the basis of values and dignity as enshrined in universally recognized principles, namely, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Thailand strives to achieve SDG 5 through the incorporation of these universal values into the **Women Development Strategy (2017-2021)** and has developed an **Action Plan on the Women Development Strategy** as a guideline for effective implementation.

On gender equality, Thailand is currently developing an **Action Plan on the Elimination of Violence against Women** and relevant agencies are reviewing current laws and regulations. Thailand also promotes women's empowerment, pushing a large role for women in the judicial system and supporting access to justice for women with regards to harassment and violations. In addition, women and men have equal access to education in Thailand. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) illustrates the growing number of women and girls with access to education at pre-elementary school to high school level. Based on the GPI, the index of girls attending pre-elementary school is higher than boys, increasing from 0.93 in 2015 to 1.05 in 2017. The GPI also shows the same pattern for elementary and middle schools. This is consistent with the report of the Multiple Indicator Survey (MICS) 2015-2016 which indicates the gender parity for primary school attendance rate (GPI = 0) while girls have a higher secondary school attendance rate (GPI = 1.10)

Thailand strives for the elimination of all forms of harmful treatment. The Government implemented a protection program to protect the vulnerable and their families with social immunity. The program is aimed at people prone to migration in the community, and equips them with skill sets necessary for living. It also aids them in building resilience and immunity from the changing social environment. The project is targeted to reach 3,400 persons in the 2018 fiscal year. At present, there are 1,658 women who have joined the project.

On ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life, Thailand has implemented a plan to promote the role of female civil servants in the decision-making process of organizations in order to ensure full and equitable participation. Several examples clearly illustrate that the plan has shown tangible results. In 2017, percentage of women employed in the government sector stood at 66.25 per cent (254,842 persons), compared to men at 33.75 per cent (129,811 persons). However, challenges remain at the political level. The general election in March 2019 showed that, out of 498 members of the House of Representatives, only 78 women were elected, equivalent to 15.8 per cent of the total number. The number of female senators was 26 out of a total of 250 senators, which is equal to 10.4 per cent of the total number. Nevertheless, women have been seen to play a more active role in leading the private sector. The Grant Thornton International Business Report (IBR)

indicated in 2016 that 37 per cent of executives in Thai companies were female, a figure which rose to 52 per cent in 2018.

On ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, Thailand initiated a number of projects and measures, for example, project to improve women and children's health, project to prevent adolescent pregnancy as well as making guidelines for gender study and life skills.

Way Forward

Thailand is currently working to ensure the equal rights of women in access to economic resources, land ownership, and other forms of assets. This includes access to financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, subject to relevant laws and regulations. At present, there are 27,004 farmers, (of whom 15,824 are women) in possession of the land use certificate (Sor Por Kor 4-01 or ALRO 4-01) issued by the Agricultural Land Reform Office (ALRO) which entitles them to the land use rights. In addition, the Annual Budget Expenditures Fiscal Year 2019 requires that resources be allocated equally, taking into account the different needs of women, men, elder, and other social groups.

The use of big data, as well as the expansion of community mechanisms to prevent and resolve violence at the local level, is vital to the promotion of gender equality. Knowledge development through e-learning and stakeholder cooperation also complement gender equality efforts and work towards the achievement of the goal.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Overview

Thailand strives to improve the country's water management. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand (2017) mandates a reform of the water resource management system with a goal of becoming more efficient, fair and sustainable, taking into account the demand for water in all dimensions as well as the changes in climate and environmental conditions. Thailand's 20-year National Strategy (2018-2037) also sets a goal to strengthen the country's water, energy and agriculture security in an environmentally-friendly fashion.

Thailand's progress in the implementation in each of the SDG 6 targets is underscored by the following key achievements:

1. Expanding access to drinking water for all

The Government aims for all villages and urban communities to have clean water for consumption. One of the important projects in this endeavor includes supplying water to villages that do not have a water supply system and areas with water shortages.

2. Expanding access to sanitation and hygiene for all

71.04 per cent of public toilets in Thailand meet the HAS (Healthy Accessibility Safety) standard, while 50 per cent of Thai households possess a sitting toilet.

3. Improving water quality by reducing pollution

Thailand aims to reduce waste water at its source, increasing the efficiency of wastewater treatment systems and ensuring that household wastewater receives proper treatment. In 2018, Thailand had a total of 105 operational community wastewater treatment systems capable of handling 3.27 million cubic meters of wastewater per day, accounting for 33.50 per cent of the total household wastewater. In addition, in 2017, the quality of 83 per cent of the number of surface water resources examined, as well as 95.7 per cent of the number of coastal sea water evaluating stations examined, was above moderate. In comparison with 2016, surface water sources and coastal sea water quality have improved.

4. Ensuring a sustainable supply of freshwater

Thailand has continuously implemented water development projects since 2014. At present, the total irrigation area has increased by 2.58 million *rai* (4,128 square kilometers), equivalent to about 1,483 million cubic meters of water. The efficiency of the original water source has also increased by 4.72 million *rai* (7,552 square kilometers). Thailand also seeks to facilitate at least one cultivation circle during the rainy season in rainwater harvesting areas. This has been done through the development and rehabilitation of small water reserves, natural water sources, and groundwater, as well as through the system of soil and water conservation. This operation has already been carried out in 6,896 locations, accounting for 2,229 million cubic meters of water.

5. Integrating water resource management at all levels

Thailand attaches great importance to water management at all levels, as well as the participation of people and local communities, which is an essential driving force in integrated water resources management. To this light, Thailand has established a national water resource management mechanism that comprises:

(1) *National level* - the **National Water Resources Committee** (NWRC) presided by the Prime Minister. It administers water resource management in an integrated and holistic manner.

(2) *River basin level* -the **River Basin Committee**, serves to support participatory water management in watershed areas.

(3) *Water user association level*—which is civilian associations with common benefits concerning water usage, water development, management, treatment, and conservation. Moreover, for an integrated, systematic and sustainable operation, the Government established the **Office of the National Water Resources** (ONWR) to supervise the operations of agencies involved in the country's water management.

In addition, following King Rama IX's guidelines for water resource management, Thailand adopted the **Water Resources Act B.E. 2561** on 27 December 2018, which ensured access to sufficient and stable water resources for all and recalibrated water resource management to be more adaptive to the changing environment.

6. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems

Thailand prioritizes the conservation and restoration of degrading upstream forests, which prove vital in the maintenance of the ecosystem and natural balance. The Government has set a goal to make at least 40 per cent of the country a forest area. Subsequently, 0.49 million *rai* (784 square kilometers) of upstream forests have been rehabilitated and 1.435 million *rai* (2,296 square kilometers) saved from erosion.

During the first phase of SDG 6 implementation, the Government has focused on the implementation at regional and local levels, as well as the promotion of local community's participation in improving water quality and sanitation management. The Government continues to ensure that all villages are supplied with clean water for consumption in order to reduce inequality in accessing basic public goods. In 2018, 7,321 villages without waterworks systems and areas with water shortages were supplied with clean water for consumption. The remaining 169 villages will be serviced in 2019.

Way Forward

The Government has issued a **20-year Master Plan on Water Resource Management (2018-2037)** which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 6. To further advance SDG 6, the Government plans to focus on realizing the following missions;

1. To supply people in both urban and rural areas with enough reasonably-priced quality water for consumption and drinking. Water is to be conserved by both the industrial and household sectors, while the village and local governments are able to efficiently manage their own water resource.

2. To appropriately supply water for industrial and agriculture production considering the balance between supplying ability and the demand for consumption. Water is to be efficiently and productively used, conserved as well as to be sufficiently allocated to the rainwater harvesting areas in order to mitigate the effects of water shortages on farming and general livelihood during the dry rainy season.

3. To provide effective flood prevention systems, that is to have structural and management plans for drainage at all administrative levels, as well as to have an effective management of flooding area and water retardation area.

4. To improve the water quality of rivers, canals and natural water sources to meet the standards. Large communities are to treat wastewater before reintroducing it to the environment. Wastewater is also to be preventively treated at the polluting source.

5. To restore the watershed forest to decelerate the flood flow by utilizing water basin in accordance with the plan as well as conserving water and soil in the sloping landscape.

6. To have a modern water resource management system with good governance, law and regulation as well as standards related to water resources, and appropriate organizational structure for water resources management at every administrative level to enable the effective management and execution in accordance with the strategic plan, master plan, action plan, system and mechanisms of water allocation. The Government also aims to establish adequate database, human resources and research work to support the decision making and management.

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Overview

Thailand promotes inclusive access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for the entire populace. Thailand's progress on SDG 7 was reported at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2018 by Dr. Siri Jirapongphan, Minister of Energy of Thailand. The Minister noted that, although households across the country were able to access almost 100 per cent of electricity and that renewable energy makes up a satisfying higher proportion of the final energy consumption, the ratio of energy consumption to GDP - i.e. energy intensity - has increased compared to the previous year. This reflects the fact that Thailand still falls short of its goal of reducing the intensity of energy consumption annually. Therefore, the government is dedicated to the implementation of measures that will help realize greater energy efficiency, especially in electricity consumption. To this light, the **Power Development Plan 2018 – 2037** (PDP), which was approved by the Cabinet on 30 April 2019, sets a goal to save and cut the demand for electricity by 4,000 megawatts by 2037, based on the base case of 5.2 per cent of the total demand for electricity.

Participation from all sectors is foundational to a successful promotion of energy conservation and renewable energy. It is especially so for a country like Thailand that is challenged by increasing energy production and consumption propelled by the country's economic growth. Therefore, Thailand seeks to engage the community and private sector in the implementation of PDP which Thailand views to be of paramount importance in realizing SDG 7. A key strategic factor in achieving this is through providing knowledge about energy conservation and renewable energy that is area-appropriate.

Pursuant to this, the Ministry of Energy and the Office of the Non-Formal and Informal Education Promotion under the Ministry of Education jointly launched the “**Energy for Life**” program to develop energy knowledge for students in the non-formal education system, as well as to create energy ideas and promote energy-related professions. Main activities in the program include:

- (1) The development of energy content consistent with the local environment in the formal, informal and non-formal education system;
- (2) The development of learning materials on energy topics, such as energy production technology and energy consumption in daily life, etc;
- (3) The creation of a permanent exhibition in regional Science Centers for Education to instill public awareness about energy;

The Energy for Life project has been launched since 2014. The project drew up a community energy awareness guideline, which is currently being applied in pilot areas throughout 12 provinces nationwide. It has also promoted awareness-raising on energy for the younger generation. For example, the program promoted content on daily electrical energy consumption for primary and secondary school students which provides opportunities for non-formal students to learn about electrical generators and the high-performance electrical selection. The course material has been taught to over 500 non-formal education teachers and is expected to reach over 970,000 primary and secondary students in the non-formal

education system. Moreover, specific geographical areas have been designated as a developing ground for energy courses and to host permanent energy exhibitions. The program is currently being implemented in the Northern, North Eastern and Southern regions, which have displayed significant economic potential and are part of the energy development plan. The energy course structure has already been completed for those areas.

Way Forward

Energy for Life's plan in the next phase consists of organizing meetings with stakeholders in the area, discussing and improving the curriculum structure, training of education personnel in the area to further multiply the results, developing teaching mediums, and selecting science centers to develop permanent energy exhibitions. The plan and the assessment meeting is expected to be completed within the fiscal year of 2019, which ends in September.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
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Overview

Thai economy has expanded steadily in recent years, growing from 3.4 per cent in 2016 to 4 per cent in 2017 and 4.1 per cent in 2018. Balanced and sustainable economic growth currently stems from all sectors, including agriculture, industry, and services. While increasing incomes, providing jobs, and improving workforce productivity are crucial, it is vital to also focus on worker safety and labor welfare as well. As such, Thailand has pursued several policies in support of this goal.

In terms of increasing incomes in order to boost economic growth, the Government initiated a number of policies in the industrial sector. An initiative was launched to develop capacities in the agricultural processing industry, with participating businesses coming from all 76 provinces. An SME network was also developed to improve business capacity. This project comprised 34 networks and 4,679 individuals. Another important project sought to raise the standard of products in local communities, with 55 product standards created (out of a targeted 48, equivalent to 115 per cent). The project also certified the quality of 5,082 products and developed 2,834 local producers.

A number of projects were launched to boost employment, improve workforce productivity, and address worker safety. Firstly, one project promoted and supported large-scale businesses in enhancing their workers' skills by providing incentives, such as the possibility of increasing their tax returns, through enrolling in the training. 10,720 businesses participated in the project, with 4,391,901 workers trained. This comprised 25.8 per cent of the intended target of 17 million workers to be trained within 2017-2021. The second project, entitled "Safety Thailand", supported worker safety in 2,769 businesses, totaling 210,498 workers. Lastly, the "Smart Job Center" provided a comprehensive service to all Thais in finding jobs. In the 2018 fiscal year, 87 centers nationwide provided assistance to 153,168 people, of which 128,571, or 83.94 per cent, successfully found employment.

A project was also launched to improve the capacities of financial institutions according to the **3rd Financial Institution Development Plan (2016-2020)**. The project

promoted electronic transactions and payments to increase efficiency and reduce transaction costs. During the period 2010-2017, the number of bank accounts using internet banking and mobile banking rose by 23 per cent and 108 per cent per year respectively as a result.

Way Forward

To stimulate higher income and more economic growth, the industrial sector should endeavor to promote creativity and apply high technology and innovation to create added value in Thai industries, especially in high-potential industries such as automobiles, smart electronics, high-value and medical tourism, agriculture and biotechnology, and food processing. Focus should also be placed upon future industries such as robotics, aviation and logistics, biofuel and biochemistry, the digital industry, comprehensive medical services, and energy storage. In addition, Thailand should develop industries that strengthen national security, the space industry, and industries that boost the development of the country such as the aviation parts industry and train track industry. The services industry has worked together with the private sector in developing grass-roots economies to create opportunities for communities and community enterprises to receive stable incomes. This initiative has involved the private sector in helping to facilitate knowledge transfers and providing buyers for local products at first, but then supporting local producers to have the means to continue selling in the market without assistance. This project especially promotes the development of trade and investment in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) and special border development areas.

To promote employment, labor productivity, safety, and workers' safety and standard, Thailand aims to develop and raise the potential of workers to increase labor productivity, quality, and standards. This includes raising the standard of labor skills and setting pay to reflect the work conducted. Thailand also intends to develop systems for experience sharing and the development and improvement of skills for target industries with potential. Skills to be improved include digital technology skills, thinking and analysis skills, innovation skills, and any other skills that may be required in the future. Thailand also intends to facilitate an employment market for specific groups, such as the elderly, the disabled, new graduates, or the unemployed. The development of the potential of labor to cope with industry 4.0 is also a priority, with a system and mechanism in place for public-private sector cooperation to develop highly-skilled workers who are able to apply their knowledge and skills in solving problems. Creating new innovation is a vital aspect in supporting SMEs to raise their capacity in conducting business and developing entrepreneurs to be more effective. In addition, Thailand aims to support businesses in providing training for their workers, with the aim of training 17,000,000 workers from 2017-2021. Thailand will also ensure that businesses follow business law and regulations by supporting workers' health and safety in the workplace, with targets set to support 14,000 businesses and 600,000 workers on this issue.

To support financial institutions, Thailand aims to further aid Thai financial institutions to adapt to competition and changes in international regulations, which will serve to enhance the overall investment environment. Thailand will also prioritize ensuring access to financial services for all, alongside the provision of financial knowledge and support for the development of a database to increase the changes of low-income individuals or small and medium-sized enterprises of getting credit. This will also improve credit management efficiency in the country.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Overview

In its efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and to ensure that Thai industries are driven by intellect and are well connected with the global economy, Thailand is currently using three types of ‘growth engines’.

Productive Growth Engine - Thailand attaches great importance on the use of innovation and technology to drive industries. Various measures being taken along this line include:

(1) Measures to promote electronic vehicle production in Thailand - this includes the manufacture of electronic vehicles in its entirety as well as spare parts;

(2) Measures to promote robotics and automated systems industries - in the previous year, a Center of Robotics Excellence (CoRE) was established to house the various networks of cooperation among relevant agencies across the country, with the aim of improving the technologies and the capacity of personnel within the robotics and automated systems industries;

(3) Measures to promote bio-industries in Thailand - From 2018 - 2027, the country’s primary strategy is to motivate the private sector to scale up investment in industries such as biochemicals and bioplastics, food and feed ingredients, and biopharmaceuticals;

(4) Projects to build and link future industry cluster networks - many such projects are underway to promote capacity development and the leveraging of modern technologies to create added value to products, to prepare for future industries as well as to strengthen upstream, midstream, and downstream industries;

(5) Establishment of the Industry Transformation Center (ITC) - the Center’s work is focused on strengthening Thai industries in terms of innovation, products, production processes, and personnel, to ensure their ability to adapt to the changing, disruptive technologies of today’s world.

Inclusive Growth Engine - Thailand attaches importance to industrialization, which generates widespread income distribution. Various projects being undertaken along this line include:

(1) Community-enterprise product development - projects are underway to promote the use of Thai traditions and local wisdoms to improve production capacity and create added value to community products;

(2) Establishment of the SME Development Fund - in line with the government’s Public-Private-People Partnership initiative, the Fund was established to

provide assistance capital to SMEs to help them develop into high-value industries, and to help those unable to access conventional sources of finance to develop to a status where they could take advantage of the funding options normally offered by private financial institutions, with the aim of raising local products' added value in the economy and, through strengthening the country's local economy, to raise the national income. So far, the Fund has approved facilities for 1,751 SMEs countrywide, amounting to 7.88 billion THB out of a total of 18 billion THB available.

(3) Creative Industry Village (CIV) project - applying the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, the project aims to elevate the status of grassroots economies through the use of technologies, community products, and local knowledge, with financial support from the SME Development Fund and machinery support from the Industry Transformation Center; the current target is to help 160 communities countrywide to become creative industry villages.

(4) Promoting the creation of processed agricultural products SMEs - in line with the government's Public-Private-People Partnership initiative, the project is being undertaken as a community well-being promotion initiative under the national development plan.

Green Growth Engine - Thailand attaches importance to industrialization which uses environmentally friendly technologies. Various projects being undertaken along this line include:

(1) Green Industry project - the project supports and promotes the transition of processing plants and industry workspaces to become part of a green industry, by using environmentally friendly technologies, using resources efficiently, and using clean technologies to prevent or reduce pollution.

(2) Development of eco-industrial cities - the project aims to address environmental pollution in areas with dense industrial activities and to ensure the prevention of environmental impacts for areas targeted for industrial development in the future

Way Forward

Thailand recognizes the importance of building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. The country is presently pursuing efforts to leverage innovation as the primary means of developing its industrial sector. It has also implemented plans and projects to develop industrial areas and infrastructures to accommodate industrial sector investments across all regions of the country. Furthermore, Thailand has been encouraging and supporting businesses at all levels - including SMEs, start-ups, and community - enterprises - to apply technologies and innovations in their production processes in order to raise their products' added value.

The country will pursue efforts to carry its industrial sector forward to the next stage of industrial revolution, the fourth industrial revolution for the country. This revolutionary process will encompass businesses of all sizes, including start-ups, and will be achieved through the government's Factory 4.0 and SMEs 4.0 policies. Significant efforts will also go to the country's work at the local level. The Creative Industry Villages (CIVs) will be

developed into CIVs 4.0, with established links to tourism and online marketing. Thailand envisions that the implementation of its policies and projects in the foregoing manner will help to develop and advance the country's industries sustainably across all supply chains.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Overview

Thailand aims to reduce poverty and income inequality among people with different socioeconomic status. The country's goal is to increase the average income per capita of the bottom 40 by 15 per cent per annum, as well as to lower the proportion of those below the poverty line to 6.5 per cent by 2021 (or the end of the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan 2017-2021). It is also envisioned that access to basic social services be expanded. In this endeavor, based on the latest data in 2017, Thailand's per capita income growth rate of the bottom 40 has already increased by an average of 0.82 per cent from that of 2015 (Source: National Economic and Social Development Council). Overall, the government has undertaken key measures to achieving SDG 10 as follows:

1. Reducing social inequality and providing fair and appropriate welfare systems. The government has identified target groups, especially those poorest 40 per cent, to be the beneficiaries of the employment promotion and income generation programs. Key measures for this endeavor include: **(1) the State Welfare Registration Program** which covers 14.5 million qualified registers as of 20 November 2018 **(2) accommodative measures for urban community in line with the Pracharath (civil state) policy** which includes credit lines to promote self-employment, as well as the easing of household debt through repayment extension for the Government Savings Bank clients; **(3) nation-wide disability ID cards promotion** which has now covered 2,041,159 disabled persons (1,068,145 males, 973,014 females), or the equivalent of 55.2 per cent of the total of 7 million people with disabilities (source: National Statistical Office); **(4) the elderly wisdom and education project** that establishes 167 elderly schools within the premises of the centers for elderly living quality and occupation promotion as well as the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's offices. So far, 15,460 elderly persons have been enlisted as wisdom elders.

2. Strengthening social protection. The government has implemented numerous projects to safeguard social welfare, namely, **(1) the labor standards skill test** which has conducted testing for 19,885 skilled laborers, raising the level of their knowledge and skills standards which will assist the mobilization of labor into the industrial sector; **(2) the increase of business oversights and advocating for workers' rights protection**, the implementation of which has now covered 15,478 businesses and 636,342 employees; **(3) the management of the Social Security System**, especially by ensuring inclusive coverage of entitled beneficiaries according to the social security and compensation laws. There are now 12,214,174 insured persons according to the Social Security Law (Section 33 and Section 39) or the equivalent of 100.86 per cent of the annual target of 12,110,000 persons; **(4) the increase of the daily minimum wage** from 300 to a bracket of 305-310 baht per day, effective since 1 January 2018 in 69 provinces. Additionally, the government has also promoted employment for the elderly by establishing employment service centers for the elderly to expand jobs and income opportunities for all.

Way Forward

1. On reducing social inequality and providing fair and appropriate welfare systems, Thailand plans to (1) continue the State Welfare Registration program to improve the quality of life for holders of the state welfare cards; (2) expand access to arable land for low-income farmers by providing funding, infrastructure and various production factors, utilizing the mechanism under *the National Land Allocation Committee* and along with other mechanisms nested under other relevant committees. The goal will also be achieved through the promotion of home-grown Sufficiency Economy principles to be applied in daily life and agricultural practices so that farmers are self-reliant and a foundation for collective sustainable economic and social development; (3) implement grassroots economic development and the Pracharath policy by developing the capacity of high potential groups, community, and local tourism attractions in the grassroots economy in all provinces; (4) expand the disabled ID cards registration to cover all disabled people across the country; (5) realize the elderly basic income insurance project with a goal to allocate the budget to 8,122,225 beneficiaries.

2. **On ensuring equal opportunity and reducing inequality**, the government plans to (1) **prompt quality healthcare services for all** by equalizing the quality of healthcare services across the different health care coverage schemes, as well as by improving the efficiency of public health management through upgrading the Village Health Volunteer (VHV) and the remote medical systems to promote equal and quick access to service for all, especially the elderly; (2) **reduce educational disparity** by promoting operational coordination between the education units and the newly established Equitable Educational Funds. Special emphasis will be placed on the operations that target the same group, disadvantaged children, students in the non-formal education, as well as the adjustment of budget allocation to match the real needs of the students and the condition of the schools.

3. **On strengthening social protection**, relevant agencies plan to (1) **conduct a national labor standards testing** to ensure standard wages payment that are appropriate to the skill level, as well as to achieve the goal of enhancing the knowledge and standard skills for 120,000 workers in 5 years, or an average of 24,000 workers per year; (2) **tighten the enforcement of labor protection laws** on the labor rights violators. This is aimed at ensuring fair and equitable wages for the 1,082,000 target workers in 40,000 workplaces.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Overview

The Government has developed fundamental services, aiming to enhance quality of life. This goes in line with the New Urban Agenda (NUA), which emphasizes stakeholder engagement in establishing sustainable housing and cities for all. The progress made is as follows:

1. Housing security

The Government considers housing development for low-income population a matter of urgency. Since 2015, the Government has worked with relevant stakeholders to resolve low-income housing problems in a comprehensive manner in order to achieve

effective and sustainable solutions. Thailand also believes that finding solutions to the issue of informal settlements, both in the urban and provincial areas, will be keys to land and housing securities. Thus, on 6 July 2018, the Government established working groups on the implementation of the provincial-level housing development policies and strategies as a policy organ to address these issues. Each working group, chaired by provincial Governor and comprises of representatives from relevant agencies, is tasked to oversee data collection of provincial housing and develop housing development plans. Furthermore, the National Housing Authority (NHA) has been implementing capacity development programs for local administrations under a project on the drafting of a housing development plan and a plan on the prevention of and solution to informal settlements from 2004 to 2018. This program aims to enhance the local administrations' capacities in housing development, enabling them to serve as key facilitators in housing development. It is also expected that local administrations will be able to independently manage all aspects of local public services based on the urban and housing development plan that addresses different needs of each city and takes into account specific context and capability of the city.

2. Integrated and Disaster-Preparedness Urban Planning

The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation has formulated the National Disaster Risk Management Plan B.E. 2558 (2015) as a national strategy for disaster risk reduction. This includes a disaster risk reduction plan for each province, cluster of provinces and district as well as the local administrative organization. The Local Administration has implemented the Action Plan to Prevent and Mitigate Disaster Risk, B.E. 2560 (2017), which includes disaster risk reduction and mitigation exercises and exercises for flooding situation in 70 provinces. Furthermore, the Department of Public Works and Town Planning is currently revising the provincial comprehensive plans to ensure connectivity and disaster preparedness of the overall plans. 71 out of 77 provincial plans have already been completed.

3. Environmental improvement

Thailand continues to manage its solid waste based on the objectives set out under the National Solid Waste Management Master Plan B.E. 2559 - 2564 (2016 - 2021). The Department of Local Administration has translated the National Master Plan into community solid waste management plan called "**Clean Province**" **Action Plan**, which is in line with the Government's Pracharath⁵ Policy B.E. 2561 (2018). The Plan involves 3 phases: 1) *origin*, the reduction of waste and the promotion of waste sorting at the source, 2) *intermediate*, the systematic and efficient collection and transportation of waste, and 3) *destination*, the proper disposal of waste. The plan is also executed under the principle of 3Rs, or "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle".

4. Creating opportunity and equal access to services and facilities

The Government has been working to improve services and facilities for persons with disabilities. Completed projects are, for instance, the installation of lamps and street crossing speakers at 84 locations around Bangkok as well as the installation of elevators throughout the mass transit system in Bangkok. Furthermore, the Department of Airports is currently undergoing preparation for the establishment of basic infrastructure and facilities to

⁵ civil state

support seniors and persons with disabilities at the airports. This includes a procurement plan (2018 - 2021) for tactile paving for the blind at 20 airports nationwide.

Way Forward

To solve problem of slums along the line of the Baan Mankong⁶ Project, the Government will focus on the implementation of the 20-Year Master Plan for Housing Development B.E. 2560 - 2579 (2017 - 2036). The works will include survey on those who have housing problems and formulation of housing development plan. The plan will then be linked to the Master Plan in order to create synergy among local authorities for effective implementation. Furthermore, the National Housing Authority has developed a revised strategy for B.E. 2561 - 2565 (2018 -2022). The Government's development policy and directive as well as policies of related agencies will also be incorporated into the revised strategy in order to effectively address the need of target population. Highlights of 2019 projects include: (1) housing development projects for lower and middle income groups, which provide access to adequate housing; (2) public-private partnership (PPP) housing development projects; (3) environmentally-friendly village housing projects; (4) establishment of housing development funds for lower income groups, providing special housing loans to those without access to credit facilities offered by financial institutions; and (5) updating of the schematic diagram of the drainage basin to cover all 22 basins in the new drainage basin area in order to enhance water management and land utilization according to the Water Resource Act B.E. 2561 (2018) by B.E. 2565 (2022).

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Overview

Thailand has put in place the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Roadmap 2017-2036 as a guideline on the promotion of SCP. The 5-year Action Plan on the SCP has also been developed as a part of the 10-Year Plan on SCP to reinforce and enhance existing intra-agency mechanism and cooperation in this regard. Furthermore, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has developed the Plan for the Promotion of Environmentally-Friendly Procurement 2017-2021, aiming to promote behavioral changes in production and consumption towards a more environmentally-friendly pattern. The plan targets various stakeholders, including central and regional government agencies, local administrative organizations, state enterprises, universities as well as other agencies under government's administration. By 2021, Thailand believes that 380 governmental agencies, 2,519 local administrative organizations and 876 private entities will be part of the process. It is also expected that the plan will be expanded to the private sector and civil society, which will be instrumental in driving forward SCP in all aspects.

In the industrial sector, the Ministry of Industry has promoted the Green Industry policy. The objectives of the policy include the reduction of adverse impacts on the environment and local communities, the reduction of resources and energy use, and the creation of market opportunities, especially opportunities for green products. The plan also emphasizes environmentally-friendly operations, continuous improvement and cooperate and

⁶ Secure Housing

social responsibilities. At present, there are 34,491 certified green industry operations, consisting of 20,079 “Green Commitments,” 7,682 “Green Activities,” 6,304 “Green Systems,” 378 “Green Cultures,” and 48 “Green Networks.”

Way Forward

Relevant agencies have continuously and collaboratively worked to accomplish the SCP goal. Five operating priorities include (1) the implementation of the Plan for the Promotion of Environmentally-friendly Procurement 2017–2021, which aims for the participation of 3,775 agencies (380 governmental agencies, 2,519 local administrative organizations and 876 private companies) by 2021; (2) the 5-year Industrial Waste Disposal Plan 2015 – 2021; (3) the Know-How and Innovative Agricultural Product Promotion Project, which aims to expand markets for agricultural products and build on agricultural research work; (4) the comprehensive development of organic agriculture and sustainable agriculture, while working to adjust chemical usage patterns of farmers and improve processing of agricultural products and green packaging; and (5) encouraging registered companies to disclose sustainability information through their sustainability and annual reports. In the past, 639 companies have declared their sustainability, or 98 per cent of the total registered companies, while another 14 per cent of companies have reported on their sustainability based on the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

At present, Thailand is working to establish a reporting mechanism on the country’s sustainable consumption and production 2018 - 2020, while also studying food loss management for sustainable consumption 2019. It is expected that the outcomes will benefit future follow-up and reporting on the progress by various parties and will be used for future planning to achieve the SDG 12.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Overview

For Thailand, climate change is a priority issue which has been mainstreamed into all relevant national development plans and policies, including the country’s 20-year National Strategy for 2018 - 2037.

On the mitigation front, Thailand managed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector by 45.68 Mt-CO₂e in 2016. This constituted a 12 per cent decrease from the business-as-usual scenario and exceeded the country’s target of achieving at least 7 per cent emissions reduction for the sector by 2020 pursuant to its voluntarily submitted Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA). Most recently, the government has formulated various national plans aimed at delivering further concrete and effective climate action in line with the country’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). These include action plans to support the implementation of Thailand’s NDC Roadmap on Mitigation 2021 - 2030, and sector-specific action plans on mitigation covering the same period for the energy, transport, industrial processes and product use, and waste management sectors.

As for adaptation, Thailand’s National Adaptation Plan now serves to guide actions being undertaken by various parts of society to build resilience and prepare for the adverse impacts of climate change. As of present, the country has various adaptation projects underway in 4 pilot areas - Chiang Rai, Udon Thani, the Chao Phraya river basin provinces,

and the Andaman Sea coastal provinces. The government has also been working to mainstream adaptation considerations into sector-specific plans and policies - starting with 3 pilot sectors, namely public health, migration and human security, and tourism - as well as into local development plans, recognizing that local adaptation action is a key to enhancing Thailand's climate resilience. Additionally, the country has national and provincial disaster prevention and mitigation plans in place to serve as policy frameworks for disaster risk reduction activities, including those related to disasters induced or exacerbated by climate change. In this respect, the Government is working to ensure that the local disaster prevention and mitigation plans being developed will bring about effective and coordinated local disaster management. The Government attaches great importance to promoting climate change education and awareness among local people and communities, in order to enlist their participation in climate action and ensure effective implementation of climate policies at the local level.

During 2015 - 2017, Thailand, in cooperation with Germany, conducted training programs on mainstreaming climate issues into provincial and local planning processes for pilot areas in 17 provinces and 32 municipalities. The programs' main purpose was to help local personnel in those areas better understand climate-related issues and help develop their capacities and skills in integrating into their development plans climate-related factors that are relevant to their respective locality's context. The project met with considerable success, and the government is planning to expand the implementation of such programs to cover areas in the other 60 provinces of Thailand. In addition to this, Thailand and Germany have also been collaborating on other climate policy projects with a view to supporting subnational implementation of climate policies during 2018 – 2021.

Way Forward

Thailand is in the process of revising its Climate Change Master Plan for 2015 – 2050 to be in line with contemporary circumstances and developments, taking into account *inter alia* efforts being undertaken in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
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Overview

As of present, Thailand has around 18,136 square kilometers of marine and coastal protected areas, constituting around 5.6 per cent of the country's total marine and coastal areas (323,488 square kilometers). The protected areas cover 22 marine parks, 6 non-hunting coastal areas, 160 mangrove forest reserves, 56 marine and coastal flora biosphere reserves, and 6 environmental protection reserves.

In its determination to achieve the targets under Goal 14, Thailand has undertaken various measures and activities, which include the following:

- Activities to help reduce the impact of waste on ecosystems and marine and coastal resources in coastal areas of 24 provinces include: (1) collection of around 33 metric tons of residual waste in significant ecosystems; (2) implementation of measures in 10 coastal

provinces to reduce waste generation, in order to reduce the release of waste into the marine environment; and (3) exploration and study of the marine debris situation around 5 significant river deltas, as well as analysis on the dispersion of residual microplastics in beach silts along the Gulf of Thailand coast.

- Measures to protect marine and coastal ecosystems include: (1) management of marine living resources during spawning seasons and juvenile periods, for coastal areas on both the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman sides; (2) closing of bay areas in 8 provinces; (3) designation of marine life reserves; (4) installation of integrated artificial reefs in marine areas of 9 provinces; and (5) restoration of seagrass, and cultivation of seagrass for research.

- Addressing ocean acidification - Thailand has ocean pH value monitoring stations which are capable of conducting analyzes per internationally accepted standards. The country also became a member of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON). Per the latest findings, the average pH values for the Andaman Sea and the eastern and southwestern parts of the Gulf of Thailand are lower than the global average.

- Addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU) - Designated as a priority issue for the government, IUU is comprehensively tackled from all dimensions. Key measures undertaken include the establishment of 32 port-in/port-out control centers and 19 forward inspection points to control fishing vessels' entry and exit; the installation of vessel monitoring systems on all commercial fishing vessels of 30 gross tonnage and above; and the organization of patrol vessel units to control, inspect, and monitor illegal fishing activities, as well as to prevent and protect against actions that are harmful to marine and coastal ecosystems and resources. As a result of these measures, 235 IUU cases were brought and resolved during 2017 - 2018.

Recognizing that local people and local communities are key actors in the implementation of its policies, the government has continuously been promoting their participation in marine and coastal resources management. In 2018, the government helped to form a coastal community network comprising 11,412 members, and to enlist 11,782 local people as marine ranger volunteers. In doing so, the aim was also to help develop and strengthen their capacities, their learning processes, and their respective self-reliance ability. As stakeholders in the locality who would directly be affected by the harm caused to local marine and coastal resources, such network members and volunteers are in ideal positions to provide due oversight and ensure sustainable management of such resources.

Underlining the importance of traditional fishing, the government has helped to ensure traditional fishermen's access to marine resources and fisheries product markets. Further, it has been encouraging and supporting small local fishermen groups' participation in the consideration of policies, measures, and activities to manage their local resources.

Way Forward

The government will be pursuing its targets to conserve at least 10 per cent of the country's coastal and marine areas and to reduce at least 70 per cent of the existing marine debris. It will also expand its efforts to protect marine and coastal ecosystems, which include coral reefs, mangrove forests, and rare marine life. In carrying out such tasks, the government

will be conducting studies on the people's needs, and will invite participation by the public, local communities, and civil society during policy determination.

Thailand notes that some of its laws and regulations may need revision to suit the contemporary circumstances, recognizing that any such revision will need to be in line with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which Thailand is a party. In addition, consideration is being given into possible accession of the country to other international legal instruments, such as those concluded under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, although relevant legislations may need to be revised and new implementing legislations enacted, since Thailand is a country with a dualist system.

Goal 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Overview

Thailand has focused on the management of forest resources, an important part of the country's production, by protecting and revitalising forest areas to protect natural resources and wildlife. This has been achieved through the management and control of forest areas in the country. In 2017, Thailand contained a total forest area of 102.49 million *rai* (163,984 square kilometers) equivalent to 31.68 per cent of the country's total land area. This was an improvement from the previous year, with the country's forest area at 102.16 million *rai*, (163,456 square kilometers) or 31.58 per cent of the total land area. The country has also promoted forest protection by designating areas as legally-protected forest areas, which included national parks, wildlife protection areas, and hunting ban areas. Currently, 280 legally-protected forest areas have been declared, including 133 national parks, 60 wildfire protection areas, and 87 hunting ban areas with a total land area of 69.14 million *rai*, or 21.37 per cent of the country's land area. Thailand aims to increase this to 25 per cent of the country's total land area.

The country has encouraged the role of local communities in the management of forest areas since 2000, and aims to implement this in villages surrounding protected forest areas. This is intended to promote local communities to a central role in the management, control, and revitalisation of forests and the development of forest resources, and the protection of the environment. It is envisioned that this will also strengthen community resilience as well along the principles of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. 14,852 villages have participated in this "Community Forest" project, which covers 7,310,000 *rai* of forest land, with the target of expanding the project to 21,850 villages throughout the country, covering 10 million *rai* (16,000 square kilometers).

Thailand has put the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) into practice by supporting the creation of the Thai Soil Partnership, which consists of several agencies involved in land management. This includes 7 networks and sectors, namely the state sector, private sector education sector, religious sector, civil society, local farmers, and the local population. This partnership is intended as a platform to exchange views, knowledge, and experiences in land management, and to plan activities and models with regards to sustainable land management.

The Government has acted in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and has supported the convention at policy-level to encourage international cooperation in dealing with its associated issues. Ministerial-level meetings have been organised, including the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Illegal Wildlife Trade (SAMM-IWT), to find means of cooperation to prevent illegal trade in fauna and flora in the region. An important example of success has been in solving the issue of illegal trade in elephants. Thailand was moved from being a country of primary concern in the illegal ivory trade to that of secondary concern in the 17th Conference of Parties (CoP) to CITES in 2016, and was not included in the provision of national action plans to combat illegal ivory in the 70th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in 2017. Lastly, it will be suggested that Thailand be removed from a list of countries with involvement in the illegal ivory trade at the 18th Conference of Parties to CITES in 2019.

Way Forward

The Royal Thai Government will push a number of plans to achieve SDG 15, including:

1. Revising and adapting relevant laws such as the Forest Act of 2019, adapted to promote easier access to forest resources and opened up opportunities for the private sector and local population. The revised Community Forest Act of 2019 has promoted the role of local communities in the protection and revitalisation of forests as well as promotion of biodiversity. This thus ensures that the forest resources and the environment in those areas will become more sustainable. The Wildlife Protection Act of 2019 has helped to update relevant laws to the current context. Finally, the National Parks Act of 2019 was adapted to reflect the current situation in protecting and revitalising forest resources such as wood and wildlife, as well as the preserving the local landscape such as forests and mountains. This was intended to aid in providing access to these resources for all, protecting biodiversity, and ensuring the sustainability of forest areas in accordance with conventions in which Thailand is a signatory.

2. Creating a national committee for forest policy, aimed at revising and projecting a unified approach to all policies to ensure that they reflect the current economic, social, and national security situation with regards to the management of forest resources. The committee should also ensure the participation of all sectors in the policy decision-making process.

3. Restoring and revitalising highland watershed forest areas, aiming to address forest areas in 13 provinces. This will be conducted through the creation of a database in order to identify crisis areas in those provinces, and to establish a plan to patrol and encourage the public to plant more trees. From 2027-2035, this will be expanded to other areas.

4. Acting in accordance with the Convention on the Illegal Trade in Fauna and Flora (CITES) by improving the capacities of agencies tasked with protecting wildlife. Currently, Thailand operates 53 wildlife checkpoints at land, air, and sea border crossings, and has set up a project to promote “Combatting Wildlife Tracking” with support from the Wildlife Conservation Society Thailand and the United States Department of State using smart border patrols. Thailand has also initiated a project entitled “Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade, Focusing on Ivory, Rhino Horn, Tigers, and Pangolins” in cooperation with the Royal Thai

Police, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The country will also develop a national plan to protect 13 endangered species, including gorals, Gurney's pitta, wild buffalo, tapirs, Fea's muntjac, dugongs, tigers, Hume's pheasant, banteng, fresh-water crocodiles, hog deer, Eld's deer, and Thai peacocks.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Overview

The Government is determined to develop effective justice strategies and measures that seek to reduce crime, create safe environments, and ensure people's sense of safety in their lives as well as to reduce people's fear of crime. The Cabinet approved the **Framework for Effective Crime Prevention** that comprises 6 aspects of crime prevention: (1) Crime prevention by means of creating safe environment; (2) Crime prevention by means of promoting people's participation; (3) Crime prevention by means of reducing recidivism; (4) Crime prevention by means of monitoring the high risk groups that may commit crimes; (5) Crime prevention by means of reducing the probability to fall victims of crimes; and (6) Development and efficiency enhancement of justice personnel for crime prevention. This Framework served as guidance for all relevant agencies in the area of crime prevention.

Since the Framework has been enforced, government agencies have implemented crime prevention measures in several areas by designing and/or modifying the physical environment to eliminate risk factors and create safer places that are less prone to crime. Measures have included installing Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance cameras and street lighting in risk areas, increasing the number of police support volunteers to assist police in peacekeeping, community surveillance, as well as reporting of crimes and incidents. As a result, 81.9 per cent of people feel safer walking alone in public area (higher than the initial estimation at 57.57 per cent) in 2018. In addition, criminal records of the past two years (2017 to 2018) collected by the Royal Thai Police database, or CRIMES, revealed a decrease in violent crime and property crime by 4.21 per cent or 768 cases, and by 5.23 per cent or 3,051 cases, respectively. However, the number of special crimes increased by 1,695 cases or 7.63 per cent and crimes in which the state is a victim accounted for 80,230 persons, increased by 20.19 per cent.

On youth crime prevention, in 2018 Thailand developed a youth education extra-curriculum program called **Yutitham Upatham School project** (Ministry of Justice network schools) which is a partnership between the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) and Ministry of Justice. This project seeks to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness among young people through educational activities using academic resources, training programs and etc. Currently, there are 1,127 primary and secondary schools across the country under this project, which is higher than last year's total (881 schools), which accounted for 27.92 per cent.

In addition, the Government has promoted equal **access to justice** by launching the "**Community Justice**" initiative whereby the community can work in partnership with the government. 7,783 Justice Provincial Offices and Community Justice Centers have been

established in 77 provinces of Thailand with the aim to mediate and resolve problems at the community level. In 2018, community justice committees were made up of 116,745 representatives from government agencies, police officers, and community leaders. These committees sought to work together to deliver justice services to people. When comparing the number of services/activities provided by the Community Justice Center in 2017-2018, the record reveals an increase in services provided. Providing assistance and legal counseling is ranked 1st at 89.81 per cent; the 2nd is receiving complaints at 52.08 and providing justice fund at 19.95 per cent. The establishment of the “**Justice Fund Thailand**” is an important step with the objective of providing financial support to the general public for legal costs, interim bail for eligible people, helping those who receive unfair treatment and have been affected by human rights violations, as well as providing legal counsel. The Fund has been granted to 9,066 people, which indicates a 16.45 per cent increase when compared to previous years (2017-2018). 94 per cent of people who requested assistance from the Justice Fund Thailand received financial support in time, and 89.91 per cent of people satisfied with the Justice Fund. Moreover, the Government also launched the “Justice Care” mobile application and Kiosk GovChannel under the concept of “**Justice Care**” in order to provide people with more channels for access to justice. Those who also wish to seek legal assistance from the Justice Care services may call the 24-hour hotline at 1111 (extension 77).

The fight against corruption is a national priority agenda. The 2018 Corruption Perception Index ranked Thailand 99th out of 180 countries, three lower than the year before. The number of new corruption cases in the fiscal year 2017-2018 totaled 4,622 cases, which represents a decrease of 5.59 per cent, according to the National Anti-Corruption Committee (NACC) statistics. The Government has multiplied efforts to expedite various anti-corruption measures to improve national anti-corruption performance, namely an **inspection of assets and liabilities** of persons holding political positions, local administrators, as well as state officials who have the duty to submit to the N.C.C. Commission an account showing particulars of their assets and liabilities and those of their spouses and children who have not yet become *sui juris* upon taking office; **the enforcement of the Organic Act on Counter Corruption B.E. 2561 (2018)** to comply with international obligations on the prevention of corruption under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC); the issuance of Notification of the N.C.C. Commission, the establishment of Anti-Bribery Advisory Service, as well as the launch of “**a society with zero tolerance for corruption campaign**” to share knowledge for the public and private sectors, and civil society across the country.

The **eradication of human-trafficking** has long been pursued as a national agenda. In the U.S. Department of State’s Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2018, Thailand was promoted from a Tier 2 watch list to Tier 2. This demonstrated the Government’s strong commitment to and continued progress in preventing and suppressing all forms of human trafficking. The Government has continuously increased the allocation of the budget for operational costs to prosecute, protect and prevent human trafficking, a 4.53 per cent increase from 2018-2019. Victims of trafficking received additional financial compensation and restitution from the Anti-Human Trafficking Fund. Moreover, the Government has published a Guideline on Claims for Compensation and distributed to relevant agencies and officials, to standardise the practice of filing claims for compensation for every human trafficking case. 77.56 million baht comprised the amount of compensation that relevant agencies could claim for victims. The Government has also undertaken efforts to speed up the duration of judicial proceedings for trafficking cases, 96.39 per cent of cases were completed within one year.

In addition, Thailand has put into place various measures to prevent migrant workers from being exploited, namely the legalisation of undocumented migrant workers; the measures to address organised begging; the issuance of two-language standard employment contracts for fishery workers, one of which must be in the language that the employee understands; the establishment of the Post-Arrival and Reintegration Center for Migrant Workers in Mukdahan and Ranong provinces to accommodate foreign workers who have entered Thailand to work under the MOU-based system. The Government has also imposed severe punishment and strict law enforcement against government officials complicit in human trafficking. Consequently, from 2013 to 2016, the number of criminal charges for their alleged involvement in trafficking decreased sharply from 45 persons to 2 persons, or by 95.45 per cent. Moreover, the Government emphasizes the importance of private sector engagement in contributing to awareness-raising as well as preventing and suppressing of prostitution since businesses also have a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that all aspects of their operations are clean and free from trafficking.

Way Forward

Develop a plan of action to mobilize the Framework for Effective Crime Prevention by setting clear targets and establishing a follow-up of the implementation of the Framework. These targets consist of (1) a decrease in recidivism of no less than 5 per cent in comparison with the previous years; (2) a minimum of 80 per cent of people feeling safe in life and property; (3) 80 per cent of people satisfied with crime prevention system and; (4) reducing people's fear of crime by 40 per cent, and also launching the 3rd Master Plan for National Justice Administration (2019-2022) by aiming to reduce the number of crime victims by 5 per cent by 2022.

Promote community involvement in criminal justice and develop legal and justice services in all provinces nationwide. **Thailand aims to increase more than 5 per cent/year of participating schools in Yutitham Upatham School project** to cultivate good behaviour and promote a culture of lawfulness at school-level for all children. The project aims to provide children self-immunity and intellectual virtue, therefore children can live prudently and do not easily fall victims.

Carry out **the STRONG project** in all provinces nationwide. Currently, the project has been carried out in 27 provinces and **50 more are aimed for this year**. This project aims to create a network to fight against corruption in communities by setting up "STRONG Clubs", with the support of provincial offices of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC). Members of various communities participating in the club will monitor risks to any corruption in their provinces as well as develop communities by applying the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy as guidance in terms of how one is to live one's life within one's means and in moderation, which, in itself, is a very strong counter-incentive to corruption and illegal means of seeking self-enrichment.

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Overview

Thailand is determined to encourage both national and international partnerships for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the national level, Thailand aims to promote management in various areas, such as statistical data collection, fundraising, empowering partnerships from all sectors and supporting international trade in foreign countries. Thailand has also continued its role as a responsible partner at both bilateral and multilateral levels. Moreover, Thailand has shared best practices related to sustainable development and the application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), which represents one of the key achievements in the implementation of SDGs in developing countries through South-South and tripartite cooperation. SEP will aid Thailand in achieving the 20-year National Strategic Plan and the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan B.E. 2560-2564 (2017-2021) which aims to develop Thailand into a country of stability, prosperity, and sustainability.

To enhance community partnerships, Thailand has supported the application of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI). The country has sought to increase understanding of online business so that local entrepreneurs can expand their marketing channels and generate income within their communities. At the international level, Thailand has developed international development cooperation projects to promote the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) as a people-centered pathway to sustainable development in other countries. These community development projects can sustainability targets in 4 dimensions, namely economy, society, environment, and culture.

Thailand has significantly strengthened its domestic resource mobilization. Government income as a percentage of GDP rose from 20.87 per cent in 2018 to 21.46 per cent in 2019. This can be further divided into: (1) taxes, which rose from 16.31 per cent of GDP in 2018 to 16.52 per cent in 2019; (2) social contributions, which rose from 16.31 per cent to 16.52 per cent in 2019; (3) donations, which remained at 0.02 per cent and; (4) other income, which stood at 3.93 per cent, a rise from 3.55 per cent in 2018. The percentage of government expenditure which came from tax income also rose from 75.50 per in 2018 to 76.03 per cent in 2019.

In terms of technical assistance, Thailand's total official development assistance was 4,508 million THB in 2017. This could be further divided into technical cooperation and grants (1.215 billion THB), contributions to international organizations (2.460 billion THB), and soft loans (832 million THB).

To improve financing for international development, the government has reformed the taxation system, introduced an e-payment process, improved the tax structure, and updated the Customs Act. Innovative financing has also been promoted, and the Government passed the Social Enterprise Promotion Act of 2019 to strengthen the role of social enterprises and provide benefits in fundraising.

Thailand has suggested the creation of an ACMECS Fund, in order to support development projects in areas such as public infrastructure and employment promotion. This

suggestion was taken up and approved at the 8th ACMECS Summit on 16 June 2018. Thailand has also invested in the Asian Development Fund (ADF), including a total of 34,071,800 THB to ADF 11 and ADF 12. Thailand has also contributed to the International Development Association (IDA 17 and IDA 18), a part of the World Bank, to the tune of 27,150,000 THB. Lastly, the country has given 57.1 million USD to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Thailand has promoted multilateral trade and investment with neighboring countries, especially the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam). Several programs have promoted knowledge-sharing in various areas, such as Sustainable Transport and Logistics Planning and Management, Leveraging Competencies of Entrepreneurship in the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), as well as in executive directors, the Building of Digital Mindset and Trust, Human Capital Development, Digital Economy Ecosystem & Harmonization Development, and Public-Private Collaboration and Inclusiveness.

Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) continue to be a priority for Thailand. The Government has expanded access to digital technology to generate more income within communities through a digital community project. This project, titled “Village E-Commerce”, has proposed three business models for digital community centers including: (1) Business centers with potential in electronic commerce or e-commerce; (2) Business centers with potential in information technology; and (3) Business centers with specified skilled speakers. In 2018, there were 643 community e-commerce trainers who helped push local entrepreneurs into online trade creating 4,578 online stores and resulting in for 216,752,654 THB of turnover.

To drive partnerships for the Goals, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand has established the Open-Ended Working Group for SDGs (OEWG for SDGs). In 2018, OEWG met four times, with meetings attended by representatives from the public sector and civil society organizations (CSOs). Attendees exchanged their views on issues related sustainable development such as women and girls’ empowerment, the role of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), cooperation between the UNCT and CSOs, Business and Human rights, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) of mega projects, public space for all, fundraising for sustainable energy, and inclusive education. Furthermore, the OEWG agreed that cooperation multi-stakeholder cooperation was essential to the advancement of the SDGs, while the Goals could serve as a catalyst to forge the said cooperation. This platform would additionally encourage thoughts and opportunities to engage stakeholders in order to use their knowledge and experience, as well as being a discussion panel that is relevant to sustainable development issues.

The role of the private sector in sustainable development was emphasized by the official launch of the Global Compact Network Thailand (GCNT) in December 2018. Unofficially founded in 2015 by 15 companies, the network is currently comprised of 40 leading Thai companies whose common purpose is to facilitate balanced and sustainable economic, social, and environmental development. GCNT has reiterated its aim to implement the 10 principles of UN Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption. Moreover, the establishment of the GCNT ensured the cooperation among the private sector, public sector and, civil societies for mutually building trust.

In 2018, Thailand invited two members of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (UNWG on BHR) on an official visit from 26 March to 4 April. The experts met with all key stakeholders, including state agencies, the private sector, and civil society. The Working Group commended Thailand's high-level political will in pursuing the Business and Human Rights agenda and its cooperation with international organizations, as the International Labor Organizations (ILO), in driving implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Working Group also noted Thailand's commitment to the protection of vulnerable and marginalized groups, as shown by policies to boost employment of disabled persons and the Gender Equality Act of 2015. The experts particularly underlined Thailand's efforts to eradicate statelessness within the country by 2024. The involvement of local communities in Strategic Environmental Assessments (EAS) was also cited as a positive by the Working Group. Thailand is currently finalizing a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP). Once launched, this will comprise the first of its kind in Asia.

Thailand hosted the "Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific: Towards the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 40th Anniversary", which was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) on 27 - 29 June 2018 in Bangkok. The conference reviewed South-South cooperation trends, challenges and opportunities in the region in achieving the SDGs. The outcome of the conference supported the negotiation of the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, between 20-22 March 2019, with an aim to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), has promoted the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) as a pathway towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through the **SEP for SDGs partnership**. Several crucial successes have been achieved in promoting the knowledge, understanding, and use of SEP in other countries. Firstly, scholarships were provided for 155 students from 67 developing countries to study and train on SEP principles in Thailand. SEP development programs have been expanded to 25 countries (from 20 in 2017), including the development of SEP community learning centers. These community-development programs have addressed sustainability issues in four dimensions: (1) in economic terms by increasing incomes and lowering costs for members of the centers through diversification of agricultural production; (2) the social dimension, through the improvement of community cohesion and participation, with the centers acting as a platform for community activities, meetings, and learning; (3) In the environmental dimension, the centers have had a positive effect. Due to the promotion of sustainable agriculture practices and organic farming, adverse effects on the environment have been reduced, the use of harmful chemicals has lowered, and local public health has been improved; (4) The centers have had a positive effect in terms of the cultural dimension, with more cooperation and unity in families and local communities, while local traditional products have become more varied and have experienced a resurgence.

To improve data and statistics, Thailand has focused on strengthening statistical data storage. The country is currently in the process of implementing the 2nd Statistical Master Plan (2017-2021), under which the National Statistical Office has proposed the "Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics" to the Subcommittee on Quality and Statistics Development for consideration. The draft is currently in the process of awaiting cabinet

approval. In addition, a standard of classification has been established for use by various agencies, with classifications such as age, gender, occupation, urban/rural.

The National Office of Statistics is currently developing a set of national indicators on sustainable development, with the participation of all stakeholders, which will dovetail with the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan, the 20-Year Strategy, and the Thailand 4.0. This set of indicators will include global indicators, proxy indicators, and additional indicators to reflect progress made on sustainable development at both national and international levels. These indicators will be further adapted and improved, while trainings will be organized at provincial level to raise awareness on their use. Thailand will also develop a national statistics development plan.

Way Forward

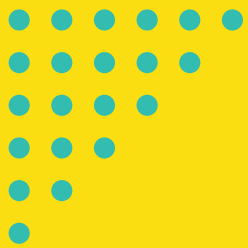
The national competency-based human resource management holds particular significance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes fundraising, the application of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), international trade, and statistical procedures. However, many operations have suffered from a lack of integration and unity. For example, statistical capacity building among public agencies needs to be unified within a centralized statistical system.

In addition, Thailand will continue its role in enhancing partnerships for sustainable development through the promotion of the participation of all countries and all stakeholders to share experiences and best practices. Thailand will also support policies for the developing countries to engage in South-South and triangular cooperation.

The development of indicators for the SDGs at the international level faces several challenges. Primarily, in several cases, a lead agency has yet to be designated by the government. Furthermore, a lack of metadata means that information is unclear and incomplete, especially for Tier III indicators. Some terms, such as “social protection”, remain unclear within the Thai context, and as such have yet to have a line agency assigned. Crucially, a system for the monitoring and evaluation of SDG indicators is still lacking.

Currently, the National Statistical Office of Thailand is preparing a population census for 2020. Thailand, represented by the National Statistical Office, will also participate as a pilot country for the World Health Organization’s Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, with Thai representatives present in the working group. The National Statistical Office, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Public Health, as part of this project, also plans to publish a report on the degree of coverage of Thailand’s birth and death certificate system. Thailand will also cooperate with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in studying the use of Big Data in Thailand, in tandem with survey and census information, in estimating sub-indicators using small area estimation. Thailand will also continue to partner with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in producing an information development and capacity building plan for statistics over a period of 5 years (2017-2021), prioritizing data on children’s equality. The National Statistical Office also intends to address the issue of a lack of metadata and indicators for certain goals. For example, Thailand will attempt to improve the system for data management on indicator 2.1.2 on food security using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) developed by the Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO).

Thailand will also monitor and share information on indicator 10.7.1 on recruitment costs borne by employees using information from the ILO.



**Department of International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand**

