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**Thailand toward Sustainable Environment and Natural Resources**

The Royal Thai Government vision on the environment is to return the natural environment to the Thai society and work towards to inclusion of natural resources and the environment in the national agenda.

To get to that vision, our major Mission is to preserve, conserve, develop, and rehabilitate natural resources and the environment to ensure their sustainable use, with active participation and support of the public and all stakeholders.

As addressed in the Constitution and the 9<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan, the Royal Thai Government set different policies on preserve, conserve, and protect natural resources and the environment, together with preventing all form of pollutions.

Those policies are as follows:

**1. Policy on Natural Resources**

- (1) Assess the status and potential of all natural resource sectors including bio-diversity. Preserve, conserve, develop and rehabilitate natural resources to maintain their availability and manage their use to satisfy the need for sustainable development, including promoting the implementation of Royal Development Projects.
- (2) Place added value associated with economic, social and environmental impacts resulting from the profitable use natural resources.
- (3) Efficiently formulate rules, criteria and procedures for accessing natural resources by the local community and people's groups, ensuring fairness in distributing benefits. This includes providing recommendations, guidelines and measures for all natural resource sectors suited to Thailand's situation based on research and development data.

**2. Policy on Environment**

- (1) Encourage rural and urban communities to seek a better environment and better quality of life by coordinating efforts to formulate city plans and community rules that suit the potential of concerned areas.
- (2) Protect, maintain and rehabilitate environmental quality to keep it at a standard suitable for human health and to use appropriate technology for managing environmental quality.
- (3) Prevent and control risks to human health that affect the livelihood of the people and improve environmental quality and the quality of life.
- (4) Enhance the learning process to increase the community's capability to protect, maintain and rehabilitate the environment, community, ancient arts, natural beauty, archaeological significance, historical monuments, ancient national treasures, traditional beliefs, lifestyles and local knowledge as national heritage, for the benefit of future generations.

**3. Policy on Administrative Management**

- (1) Integrate the management of natural resources conservation and environmental protection, based on the principle of good governance centered at local area management, participation and decentralization.

- (2) Extend knowledge to the people and continuously enhance institutional capability at all levels.
- (3) Enable concerned people to gain skills and efficiency in using the body of knowledge and techniques required by their ministerial roles and missions.
- (4) Develop systems and standards for administrative management and database development to allow updated GIS networking with the national GIS database mainframe.
- (5) Promote research and development that support policy development, plan formulation and implementation at all levels.
- (6) Campaign and encourage public awareness for all groups of people, including building participation networks to facilitate careful and continuous implementation.
- (7) Respond to issues concerning natural resources and the environment and build tools and mechanisms for managing the environment efficiently, such as Environmental Impact Assessments, the Environment Fund and Environmental Standards.
- (8) Provide incentives based on economic, social and legal measures.
- (9) Develop mechanisms to reduce conflict over natural resource use and to mitigate environmental problems. These would include market mechanisms to help maintain a balance between demand and supply and encourage responsible use of natural resources and the environment.
- (10) Amend and rectify existing laws and propose new laws to be used as tools to ensure compliance and enforcement. Related laws would be adapted and effectively implemented to respond to the existing situation.
- (11) Increase Thailand's role in addressing international issues on natural resources and the environment to develop collaborative development and to protect public interests.
- (12) Monitor, inspect and give performance measurements, using result-based indicators.

## **Strategies and Approaches**

### **Strategy 1 - Preserve, protect, conserve, use and rehabilitate the natural environment and biological diversity through public participation.**

**Approach 1** - Reduce conflict and increase cooperation.

**Approach 2** - Preserve, conserve and develop sustainable resource use and rehabilitate natural resources on a community basis.

**Approach 3** – Maintain a balance between economic and social development and environmental impacts.

### **Strategy 2 - Supervise, monitor and rehabilitate the environment and mitigate pollution.**

**Approach 4** - Prevent, control and mitigate pollution.

**Approach 5** - Promote positive environmental quality activities to foster participation by the people and local organizations in maintaining, protecting and rehabilitating the natural environment and community environments.

### **Strategy 3 - Support learning processes and people's access to natural resources based on equity.**

**Approach 6** – Strengthen the readiness of communities and local organizations to access natural resources based on equity.

**Approach 7** - Develop sources of knowledge and promote local knowledge regarding conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

**Strategy 4 - Proactive and integrated administrative management.**

**Approach 8** - Expedite the amendment and updating of laws to make them respond to the current situation and to enable their effective enforcement.

**Approach 9** – Area-based administrative management with stakeholder participation.

**Approach 10** - Enhance and develop the capacity of concerned officials and organizations.

**Approach 11** - Research and develop natural resources and manage the environment using GIS and communications technology to enhance effective management and improve public services.

**Approach 12** - Holistic and proactive public involvement that promotes understanding of general issues and local area management.

**Approach 13** - Enhance Thailand's role in the international stage.

**Approach 14** - Build mechanisms to systematically monitor and measure performance using key performance indicators.

In order to serve those governmental policies and strategies, the Environmental Research and Training Centre (ERTC), which is under the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, has major responsibilities for carrying out research and development in environmental and natural resources technology and management. Another major activity is to provide environmental training courses for both central and local government agencies and private sector. Moreover, ERTC has been assigned to set up Environmental Reference Laboratory, and Cleaner Technology Centre.

The purpose of research at ERTC is to support policy makers in formulating plans and policies. The results of ERTC research are submitted to the Pollution Control Committee and the Subcommittee on Environmental and Industrial Management Coordination. Certain research results will also be reported directly to the concerned implementing agencies such as the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA). Parts of the research will be published in national and international scientific journals.

ERTC has carried out many research projects collaboration with Japan, Sweden, United Kingdom, United State of America, and neighboring countries. With China, we have arranged many meeting, workshop activities with Chinese organization.

As a Director of ERTC, I strongly believe that the outcome of this important meeting will lead to future technical collaboration among us, that we could share our knowledge and know-how to help tackling environmental problems in our countries for the same target goal of better life quality for our people, and sustainable environment and natural resources.

Thank you very much.