

Section 6

Government institutions and policies relating to business

Section profile

This section includes the roles and responsibilities of the various government organisations that affect business development in Thailand. In addition, the various government policies and laws relating to investment and development of the country as a whole are overviewed. In addition, the increasing importance of public-private co-operation is examined.

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6.1 Brief overview of the responsibilities of major government institutions

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

- Responsible for foreign policy on issues of international diplomacy and economic relations.
- Provides information on trade and investment opportunities abroad to local companies and provides information on Thailand to foreign investors and traders.
- Assists Thai firms investing and trading abroad by providing information on the enforcement of international agreements and new trade regulations.
- Represents Thai companies in trade and other international disputes.

Board of Investment (BOI)

- Grants a wide range of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives and guarantees to investment projects that meet national economic development goals.
- Offers comprehensive business-related services to investors and potential investors ranging from assistance in obtaining required licences and permits, to the identification of promising investment projects and joint venture partners.
- Provides a wide variety of publications and information including a home page on the Internet.
- Provides support to both foreign and Thai businesses that are either planning to invest, or have already committed to invest in Thailand.
- Assists Thai firms investing overseas, especially in Indochina and ASEAN countries.

Ministry of Industry (MOI)

- Issues industrial policies, plans, and industrial development projects.
- Monitors and inspects industrial factories nation-wide.
- Administers and manages the supply of key mineral resources.
- Promotes productivity upgrading for existing industries.
- Encourages the decentralisation of small and medium-scale industries to the regions.
- Issues industrial products standards and certifies product quality by issuing trademarks and managing product registration.
- Involved in the development of industrial estates throughout the country.

Department of Fisheries, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

- Performs according to the laws concerning fisheries, reservation and protection of wild animals, promotion and maintaining the national environment, hazardous materials and other related laws.
- Studies, researches and experiments on fisheries.
- Surveys, analyses and research on fishery sites in international waters and co-operates on fishery with other countries.
- Promotes and develops the fishery industry.

Royal Forest Department, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

- Performs according to the law concerning reservation and protection of wild animals, forest, national reserved forest, national parks and other related laws.
- Promotes and develops natural resource conservation and environment revival in forests.
- Studies, researches, experiments and develops technology on forests, wild animals and other related issues.
- Other tasks assigned or according to the law.

Department of Agriculture, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

- Studies, researches, experiments and develops technologies relating to plants, silk and agricultural machinery.
- Provides analysis and inspection services and advice on soil, water, fertiliser, plants and other related issues.
- Disseminates research results relating to agriculture to government officers.
- Other tasks assigned or according to the law.

Co-operative Promotion Department, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

- Performs according to the law concerning co-operatives, land allocation (only on co-operative estates) and other related laws.
- Promotes and disseminates information on co-operatives.
- Other tasks assigned or according to the law.

Agricultural Land Reform Office, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

- Performs tasks relating to the distribution of private agricultural land, and the management of farmers on public land.
- Provides land development assistance of reformed land areas through the development of infrastructure and farmers' productivity.

Office of Agriculture Economics, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

- Analyses agricultural policy and agriculture and co-operative development plans for the consideration of the Committee for Agriculture and Co-operative Development on plans and policy.
- Studies and analyses agricultural production plans, plantation and livestock cultivation sites according to the weather, environment, water resources, types of agriculture and market demand to propose to the Committee for specifying economic agricultural zones.
- Studies and analyses marketing, transportation, market development, prices and demand of agricultural products.
- Studies and analyses agricultural resources, resource utilisation, production economics and efficient plantation and cultivation systems.
- Collects all agricultural statistics including production, the agricultural economic situation, income, expenditure, debt status, market status and other related information necessary to analyse agricultural policy and agriculture and co-operative development plans, prepare and publicise documents on agricultural economics statistics.
- Analyses and assesses investment in agricultural projects, monitors and assesses the progress of projects and implementation plans of units under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives and proposes and suggests ways to solve urgent problems or obstacles to the Committee.
- Analyses economic development, including agricultural economics necessary for agriculture and co-operative development planning.
- Prepares an agricultural business directory by agricultural sector.
- Co-ordinates in the development of agricultural policy and agriculture and co-operative development plans with other government agencies, state enterprises and the National Economic and Social Development Board.
- Other tasks according to the law.

The Royal Irrigation Department, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

- Provides water to be kept, controlled and distributed for agriculture, energy, utility and industry.
- Prevents damages from water and water transport within irrigation areas.

Department of Co-operatives Auditing, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

- The main agent for providing auditing, advice and accounting system development services to co-operatives and farmers' groups so that the systems are transparent and efficient.
- Provides and disseminates information relating to financial and accounting to co-operatives and farmers' groups.
- Provides technical assistance and training relating to financial and accounting systems to farmers.

Department of Livestock Development, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

- Performs according to the law concerning animal epidemics, control and treatment of animal epidemics, animal breeding, feed quality control, animal hospitals, rabies and other related laws.
- Produces or procures supplies to prevent and eradicate animal disease and produces or procures semen for artificial insemination.
- Improves and increases animal breeds, animal health, disease treatment and meat processing.
- Promotes the cultivation of economic livestock.
- Controls the quality of meat and meat products.
- Other tasks assigned or according to the law.

Land Development Department, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

- Studies, surveys, analyses and researches soil and land for policy and planning development of land utilisation and land development.
- Provides analysis, inspection and advice services relating to soil, water, plants, fertiliser and other issues relating to land development.
- Disseminates research results and provides land development services to related government agencies and farmers.
- Other tasks assigned or according to the law.

Department of Agricultural Extension, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

- Develops, promotes and transfers technology on plantation and agricultural business to farmers.
- Promotes and supports farmers for the exchange and dissemination of information.
- Other tasks assigned or according to the law.

Ministry of Finance (MOF)

- Collects taxes and manages government revenues.
- Manages public finances and international aid.
- Sets fiscal policy and drafts the government's annual budget.
- Monitors financial institutions and capital markets in tandem with the Bank of Thailand.
- Allocates government budget funds.
- Monitors state enterprises.

Department of Customs, under the Ministry of Finance

- Collects customs.
- Controls and monitors imports and exports to conform to regulations.
- Collects import and export taxes on behalf of other government agencies (such as VAT and excise taxes).
- Prevents and suppresses smuggling, avoidance of customs payment and any actions against customs regulations.
- Develops tax measures to promote exports.

- Suggests and develops policies and tax measures to be in line with the economic situation.
- Prepares and disseminates import and export statistics.

Department of Internal Revenue, under the Ministry of Finance

- Collects tax according to the Revenue Code as follows:
 - Personal income tax
 - Corporate income tax
 - Value-added tax
 - Specific business tax
 - Stamp duty.
- Collects tax according to other laws
 - Petroleum tax
- Bird nest duty
 - Other revenue tax.
- Studies and proposes to the Ministry of Finance improvements of tax collection.
- Other tasks according to the law.

Bank of Thailand

- Formulates monetary policy to maintain monetary stability
- Supervises financial institutions to ensure that they are secure and supportive of economic development
- Acts as banker to the Government and recommend economic policy to the government
- Acts as banker to financial institutions
- Manages the international reserves
- Prints and issues bank notes

Ministry of Commerce

- Negotiates international trade agreements for both bilateral and multinational co-operation to solve problems and maintain trading benefits.
- Inspects, monitors, and provides services on trading registration, accounting, measuring, and fuel trading according to the law.
- Issues regulations and promotion plans for major export and import products and identifies standards for exported products.
- Promotes trading and marketing domestically and internationally.
- Promotes the protection of intellectual property rights.
- Collects, processes, and distributes commercial and statistical information as the central information base on commercial activity for public and private agencies.
- Co-ordinates export promotion activities, including trade and marketing.
- Promotes Thai products overseas, and collects and provides trading information services for Thai producers and exporters and foreign importers.
- Promotes insurance development, manages the operation of insurance companies and brokers, and protects the interests of insured persons.

Department of Commercial Registration, under the Ministry of Commerce

- Provides registration services, and inspection and application services for corporate names.
 - Processes applications for the establishment of alien businesses, agencies of foreign corporations and offices of overseas companies.
 - Provides business information: Record searches, certificates of registration, statistical data on commercial registrations, corporate status and financial statements.
 - Controls business accounting.
 - Issues licences for certified auditors.
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- Improves accounting and auditing techniques and amendments of laws and regulations.
- Organises training in accounting and auditing.
- Provides consultation and advice on accounting for auditors and accountants.
- Sets international standards for weight, volume and length measuring devices and issues licences to producers.
- Inspects and controls measuring devices to ensure compliance with the law.
- Issues licences for oil traders, service stations, and operators involved in fuel oil transportation.
- Sets standards and inspects fuel oil to ensure that consumers receive good quality oil of the standard required by law.
- Prescribes the types and amounts of fuel oil to be reserved for emergencies.
- Improves, amends, revises and drafts laws, ministerial regulations, rules, announcements and orders.
- Inspects draft copies of agreements and other legal acts.
- Takes action against wrongdoers within the scope of its power under the law and files cases to courts.
- Answers legal questions raised by concerned agencies.
- Provides support to the department's divisions on budgeting, personnel management, project planning, supplies management, public relations and publicity of the department's activities.

Department of Export Promotion (DEP), under the Ministry of Commerce

- Conducts research and planning for export development and promotion.
- Provides trade information.
- Promotes international recognition of products made in Thailand.
- Proposes guidelines for solving export problems.
- Assists foreign buyers who want to trade with Thai manufacturers and exporters.

Department of Foreign Trade, under the Ministry of Commerce

- Regulates merchandise importation and exportation.
- Expands markets and improves trade relations.
- Protects trade benefits.
- Monitors and verifies merchandise quality and standard for importation and exportation.
- Provides services to public.

Department of Intellectual Property, under the Ministry of Commerce

- Enforces Intellectual Property law and other related law.
- Disseminates knowledge and information on intellectual property to public.
- Gives advice to the public on trademark, copyrights, patent and other intellectual property related issues.
- Registers intellectual property.

Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment (MOSTE)

- Supports projects in basic sciences and technology to encourage technology transfer and to upgrade technical skills in the labour force.
- Serves as the government's scientific and technological laboratories.
- Makes policy, supports project plans, and monitors efforts of various agencies to wisely utilise natural resources and to dispose of industrial and agricultural waste.
- Supports educational research projects to develop technology for production and marketing of commercial goods.

- Collects, compiles and disseminates the results of research projects and international developments related to science, technology, energy and environment.

National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

- Provides financial support to private companies to increase investment in research and development and education (RD&E) for commercial use.
- Provides services in industrial consulting, technology transfer at the company level, standards and testing, business and technical information, and quality control to raise domestic industrial standards to an international level.
- Assists private companies by identifying opportunities to obtain new technologies from abroad.
- Supports private sector technology investment through its Science and Technology Research and Development Park.
- Provides technical information and support to high-technology industries through its three national centres: The National Centre for Generic Engineering and Biotechnology (NCGEB), the National Metal and Materials Technology Centre (MTEC), and the National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre (NECTEC).

National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)

- Develops five-year economic and social plans in co-operation with other ministries and agencies to provide guidance and direction to government planning and projects across all sectors.
- Monitors progress made on the national five-year economic and social plans.
- Provides analysis and statistical forecasts across a multitude of sectors and industries.
- Analyses world economic trends for possible effects on Thailand.

6.2 National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)

Early attempts at Thailand's development planning started in 1950 when the National Economic Council (NEC) was established to undertake economic studies and give advice to the Thai government on general financial and economic matters. The NEC, chaired by the Prime Minister, divided its work into five sectors, namely: agriculture, finance, commerce, industry, and communications. Members of each sector were appointed by the NEC, and served under the NEC's Secretary-General.

To remedy shortcomings due to a lack of clear and comprehensive national economic objectives, the Thai government asked the World Bank to send a mission to study the economic situation of the Kingdom in 1957. The mission report, entitled *A Public Development Program for Thailand* was finished in 1958. Based on this report, the World Bank recommended that the Thai government set up a central planning agency responsible for drawing up economic development plans.

Following the World Bank's recommendation, the National Economic Development Board (NEDB) was established in 1959. Its name was changed to the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) in 1972 to emphasise the significant role of social development in the country's development process. NESDB is essentially a central planning agency, mainly responsible for drawing up the National Development Plans, along with undertaking continuous studies on the social and economic situation of the country.

The prime duty of the Office of the NESDB is to formulate the National Economic and Social Development Plan. Up to now, NESDB has already put out eight Development Plans; we are now in the period of the Eighth Plan (1997-2001), formulated during 1995-1996.

Other functions of the NESDB are mostly related to the process of planning:

- Survey, study and analyse historical, current, and forecasted data involving economic and social situations at both the macro and the micro level.
- Analyse economic and social development projects as proposed by other government agencies and state enterprises to ensure consistency with the Development Plan framework before submission of the projects to the Cabinet for final approval.
- Monitor and evaluate approved development projects, at both the macro level and the program/project level, at the mid-point and final stage of each National Economic and Social Development Plan.
- Improve communications and the flow of information concerning the Plan in order to disseminate the results to target groups in all occupations to create a common ground of understanding which will lead to co-operation among all parties concerned.

Secretariat for Development

The NESDB plays a role as the secretariat of various national committees which are chaired by the Prime Minister, including, among others, the Co-ordinating Committee for the Royal Development Projects, the Eastern Seaboard Committee, the Southern Seaboard Committee, and the National Rural Development Committee etc.

Provides Information and Forecasts

The NESDB conducts numerous studies and surveys to provide background information for the national plans, and to monitor progress made toward development goals and targets. The NESDB reports are a good source of information, especially forecasts of statistical indicators across a broad range of topics.

6.2.1 Eighth National Plan (1997-2001)

In March 1996, the Cabinet approved the final draft of the Eighth Plan which is more directly focused on increasing the potential of human resources across the board to improve conditions and alternatives, increasing participation in the sustainable development of the country, strengthening economic capability and efficiency, and identifying guidelines for improving the state's administrative management.

Objectives and goals of the Eighth Plan

The trend of change in Thailand's society and development will be unsustainable if the focus remains on economic growth without considering problems of a societal nature. In order to improve the vision of development for the five-year period of the Eighth Plan, the following objectives and goals have been laid out:

Objectives

- 1 Increase the people's potential in terms of physical well-being, intellect, health vocational skills, and ability to adapt to changes in the economy, society, and political administration.
- 2 Develop a stable society, strengthen family and community, support human development, increase quality of life, and increase community participation in national development.
- 3 Achieve balanced economic growth with greater stability and open up opportunities for people to participate in fostering and receiving a fair share of the benefits of growth.
- 4 Utilise, preserve, and rehabilitate the natural resources and environment such that they can advance economic and social development and quality of life.

- 5 Reform the administrative system in order to increase the opportunity for non-governmental organisations, the private sector, community, and individuals to participate in national development.

Targets

To achieve the stated objectives, the following targets will be used as indicators for the achievement and progress toward the main objectives of the Eighth Plan:

- 1 Increase the efforts and quality of the all round preparation for children up to five years of age.
- 2 Increase the quality of the education system at all levels, especially the expansion of nine years basic education to every child. Prepare to extend the basic education requirement to 12 years and continuous training for all teachers.
- 3 Upgrade the skills and knowledge of workers in factories, giving the first priority to the 25-45 years age group.
- 4 Ensure that less fortunate individuals receive the opportunity for self development and good quality social infrastructure services.
- 5 Reduce work-related accidents to the level not exceeding the world standard, and reduce the number of accidents related to traffic, transportation of toxic substances, and fires in tall buildings.
- 6 Maintain the stability of the Thai economy by reducing the current account deficit to a level of 3.6 of GDP in the last year of the Eighth Plan and control inflation at the level which will not cause excessive burden to consumers.
- 7 Mobilise household savings to equal at least 10 percent of GDP in the last year of the Eighth Plan.
- 8 Increase the quantity and quality of basic services to the regional and rural areas.
- 9 Reduce the poverty ratio to less than 10 percent by the end of the Eighth Plan.
- 10 Preserve and rehabilitate conservation forests to at least 25 percent of the total area of the country as well as protect the mangrove area to not less than 1 million rai (400,000 acres) by the end of the Eighth Plan.
- 11 Create opportunities and alternatives in the agricultural sector in forms of natural farming, organic farming, and integrated farming.
- 12 Invest in the control and improvement in the quality of environment in order to increase the quality of life of urban, regional, and rural dwellings.

Major development targets of the Eighth Plan (1997-2001)

	Estimated Averages of the Seventh Plan Period (1992-1996)	Eighth Plan Target Averages (1997-2001)
1. Economic growth (% per year at constant prices)	8.0	4.9
1.1 Agriculture sector	3.3	3.0
1.2 Non-agriculture sector		
- Industry	10.6	10.1
- Construction	10.0	11.3
- Services and others	8.2	7.2
2. Per capita income (baht/year) ^{1/}	62,526	134,277
3. Expenditures (% per year at constant prices)		
3.1 Private sector		
- consumption	8.1	6.8
- Investment	8.3	9.9
3.2 Public sector		
- consumption	7.0	7.3
- Investment	17.4	15.7
4. Exports of goods		
4.1 Average value (billion baht)	1,169	2,551
4.2 Average growth rate per year (%)	17.7	15.1
5. Import of goods		
5.1 Average value (billion baht)	1,442	2,905
5.2 Average growth rate per year (%)	15.7	12.6
6. Trade balance		
6.1 Average Value (Billion baht)	-273	-354
6.2 Trade balance/GDP (%)	-7.3	-5.4
7. Income from tourism		
7.1 Average Value (Billion baht)	154	321
7.2 Average growth (%)	NA	13.8
8. Current account balance		
8.1 Average Value (Billion baht)	-231	-314
8.2 Current account balance/GDP (%)	-6.5	-3.6
9. Inflation (%)	4.8	5.6
10. Number of population (million)	58.9	61.8
Population growth rate (%)	1.05	0.95
11. Employment (million persons)	32.8	33.6
Unemployment rate (%)	0.39	0.38

Source: NESDB

Note: ^{1/} Estimates and targets for the last year of the Seventh and Eighth Plans, respectively.

Revision of the Eighth Plan

Due to the changing economy and current needs of the country since the economic crisis in 1997, it was required to revise the Eighth National Plan. On September 9, 1997, the Cabinet approved a proposal submitted by the NESDB, recommending a revision of the Eighth Plan according to the following guidelines:

- Maintain the Eighth Plan's objective to develop human resource to full potential in order to achieve sustainable development.
- Revise macroeconomic target, taking into account the current economic situation and the agreement between the Thai government and the IMF.
- Revise the investment plan.
- Set up criteria to scale down and re-phase public investment projects.
- Revise the economic structural adjustment part of the Eighth Plan to accommodate the IMF agreement and the structural adjustment loans from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

According to the above guidelines, the main objective to increase people's potential remains unchanged. The committee took into account the agreement between the Thai government and the IMF; the new Constitution; free trade and investment agreements; and economic co-operation at various levels. The revision was mainly focused on a) Economic and financial stability leading to confidence in the country. b) Economic restructuring for self-sufficient production bases to be competitive in world markets. c) Ease the adverse economic and social effects of the crisis. d) Give more importance to the poor and under-privileged groups.

The Eighth Plan was revised in four major frameworks:

- Macro-economic
- Human resource and social development to ease the adverse effects of the economic crisis
- Economic restructuring for a strong production base
- Management restructuring.

Macro-economic framework

Objectives of the overall economy

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Economic growth	2.5-3.5%	2.5-3.5%	5.5-6.5%	5.5-6.5%	5.5-6.5%
Inflation rate	7.5%	7.5%	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%
Account deficit	5% of GDP	3% of GDP	3.4% of GDP	3.4% of GDP	3.4% of GDP

- Maintain price stability, external stability, current account balance and balance of payments.
- Investment in government projects will be prioritised according to the guidelines of the Eighth Plan. Private investment and foreign loans will be closely monitored in order to generate benefits to the whole economy.
- In order to maintain economic stability, importance will be given to measures controlling the inflation rate and reducing government budgets and expenses. Also, household savings will be promoted and the current account deficit will be reduced.
- Strengthen the financial and banking system and monitoring systems.

Framework of human resource and social development to eliminate the effects of the economic crisis

- Eliminate the rate of total unemployment and unemployment in cities.
- Develop job opportunities in rural areas to absorb returning labour force.
- Develop and assist poor people by providing social security services, and both education and health services.
- Prevent and solve social problems, as well as promote good values.
- Improve budget allocation and management systems for increased efficiency as well as increase decentralisation.

Framework of economic restructuring for a strong production base

- Develop a sustainable agriculture production base for domestic and abroad markets.
- Develop a strong industrial production base in terms of technology development and alliances in the private sector.
- Develop the service sector to generate more income and employment.
- Revise and develop management systems by increasing co-operation between the public and private sector.
- Prioritise infrastructure projects according to investment policy.
- Privatised state enterprises.

Framework of management restructuring

- Restructure government systems by reducing the government's role and the number of employees. Promote continuous restructuring mechanisms and expedite planning processes to raise efficiency in the government sector.
- Increase efficiency in budget management.
- Push for effective decentralisation.
- Increase public participation.
- Develop information systems that assist in policy making and evaluation, such as an Early Warning System.

6.3 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is the principal foreign policy agency. In today's world, trade and diplomacy are no longer considered separate fields of activity. International relations in bilateral, multilateral, and regional settings include discussions of issues of trade, investment, and labour migration, alongside issues of defence, security, and official diplomatic relations. The Ministry is therefore active in negotiations on international agreements, both diplomatic and trade-related, as well as Thailand's activities in ASEAN, APEC, the WTO, and a host of other organisations and initiatives.

The Ministry performs the following functions via its embassies and consulates around the world:

- Providing information on trade and investment opportunities abroad to local companies and providing information on Thailand to foreign investors and traders.
- Assisting Thai firms investing and trading abroad by providing information on the enforcement of international agreements and new trade regulations.
- Assisting Thai companies in trade and other international disputes.

Thai embassies and consulates abroad can be a first stop for business people who are interested in trading with, or investing in, Thailand. Similarly, the embassies and consulates perform a supporting role for Thai companies that invest or trade abroad by providing information, advice, and support.

Department of Economic Affairs

This department is tasked with the responsibility for issues of international trade, investment, and international economic relations.

Departments of International Organisations and Geographic Regions

These departments are separated into geographic regions and include the following: International organisations (such as the United Nations), European affairs, East Asian affairs, America and South Pacific affairs, and South Asia, the Middle East, and African affairs. These "desks" are hubs of information about each of the geographic regions of the world.

Department of ASEAN Affairs

The department is responsible for the promotion of regional relations in ASEAN framework.

Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs

Thailand is a signatory to most of the major conventions and international agreements on trade and international diplomacy. The Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs is the focus for activity which relates to Thailand's compliance with, and point of view on, international agreements.

Department of Information

This department is responsible for the distribution of information to the Thai embassies and consulates abroad, as well as press relations, public relations for Thai cultural events, and distribution of the Ministry's analysis of the local press.

6.4 Board of Investment (BOI)

The Board of Investment is the principal government agency responsible for providing incentives to stimulate investment in Thailand. The BOI also conducts extensive investment promotion activities both in Thailand and abroad.

Although investment promotion in Thailand stretches back more than three decades, the BOI is officially governed by the 1977 Investment Promotion Act. The agency is chaired by the Prime Minister, with economic ministers, senior civil servants, representatives of major private sector organisations, and academicians serving as Board Members or Advisors. The day-to-day investment promotion activities are carried out by the Office of the Board of Investment (OBOI) under the Office of the Prime Minister.

The BOI promotes projects which:

- Strengthen Thailand's industrial and technological capability
- Use domestic resources
- Create employment opportunities
- Develop basic and support industries
- Earn foreign exchange
- Contribute to the economic growth of regions outside Bangkok
- Develop infrastructure
- Conserve natural resources
- Reduce environmental problems.

The BOI is empowered to grant a wide range of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives and guarantees to investment projects which meet national economic development goals. As part of a new strategy, the BOI has begun to promote the existence of regional offices located in Thailand. Eligible regional offices opening in Thailand will be provided with investment promotion which exempts them from the restrictions of the Alien Business Law, allowing them to function more freely in the country.

In addition to investment incentives, the BOI offers comprehensive business-related services to investors and potential investors. These services range from working with investors to help them obtain required licenses and permits, a wide variety of publications including a home page on the Internet, identification of promising investment projects and joint venture partners. In addition, the BOI offers assistance to Thai firms interested in investing overseas, especially in Indochina and ASEAN countries.

The investment services of the Board of Investment

Assistance in setting up a business

The BOI offers a range of valuable business-related services to potential and actual investors in Thailand. The office helps prospective investors and promoted firms in obtaining official permits and documents required for conducting business, including visas, work permits and permanent residency permits. The BOI also assists investors in gaining access to utilities such as water, electricity and telecommunications.

Information on investment opportunities

The Investment Services Centre and the Regional Investment Promotion Division maintain comprehensive information on investment opportunities in Thailand, both by sector and by region. Information and investment advice is readily available to both Thai and foreign investors at no charge.

Industrial sub-contracting

The BOI Unit for Industrial Linkage Development (BUILD) encourages growth in supporting industries in Thailand. BUILD provides information on subcontracting opportunities and offers its support to buyer firms seeking sourcing networks in Thailand. It helps small and medium-sized Thai suppliers achieve standards required to enter into productive subcontracting arrangements. BUILD's extensive database on subcontractors in Thailand provides matchmaking services for firms seeking specific components or raw materials. BUILD recently set up the Vendors Meets Customers Program, which promotes subcontracting by arranging factory visits to electronics and automotive assemblers.

Investment matchmaking

The BOI provides investment matchmaking services to both Thai and foreign investors seeking co-operation in the areas of technology, management and marketing. In addition, the BOI offers a matchmaking service for investors in regional areas looking for joint-venture partners from Bangkok and abroad, as well as for firms that want to invest in provincial areas.

Promoting Thai investment overseas

The BOI also offers assistance to Thai investors looking to venture abroad. The International Affairs Division maintains a library about overseas investment in order to provide Thai businessmen with information to help them make informed decisions about where to invest. In addition, the Division offers Thai investors a consultancy, enabling them to take advantage of the public and private sector contacts obtained by the BOI on their overseas missions.

Investor Club Association

The Investor Club Association is a private membership organisation within the BOI, serving the interests and needs of Thailand's investment community. Providing the most up-to-date information on Thailand's investment environment and rules and procedures concerning investment promotion, the Investor Club Association distributes information and serves as a networking organisation for its members. The club's Raw Material Tracking System allows members to gain customs clearance for importing raw materials duty free within three hours. The Investor Club is located at: TP & T Tower, 16th Floor, 1 Soi 19, Vibhavadee Rangsit Rd. Tel: 936-1429-40.

Foreign Expert Services Unit

In order to facilitate the process of bringing in foreign experts, either to conduct feasibility studies or who are skilled experts or technicians, the BOI has created a unit to expedite the paperwork involved. The Foreign Expert Services Unit works with companies and experts to certify the expertise of the foreign experts and technicians, and advises applicants of documents required by the One-Stop Service Centre for Visas and Work Permits. The Foreign Expert Services Unit is located within the Board of Investment offices.

One-Stop Service Centre for Visas and Work Permits

The BOI co-ordinated the establishment of a One-Stop Service Centre for Visas and Work Permits, jointly with Department Employment and Immigration Bureau. The centre can process applications or renewals of visas and work permits within three hours, assuming all required documents are provided. In addition, the centre handles many other transactions, including changing visa status (to non-immigrant status from tourist or transit), payment of

finer, and processing of re-entry stamps, all within three hours or less. Its service has been run since July 1, 1997 onwards.

Investors or experts granted privileges under the Investment Promotion Act of 1977, the Petroleum Act of 1971, and the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand Act of 1979 who are allowed to stay in the Kingdom of Thailand on a temporary basis to undertake investment or business activities, can have access to the services provided by the One-Stop Centre. Foreigners who work for the international business offices and at the regional offices, including foreign correspondents can also have access to the services. To support science and technology research and development in private sector, foreign scientists and the families are allowed to have access to the services as well.

The One-Stop Service Centre cuts through red tape. The centre is located on the 3rd floor of Krisda Plaza, 207 Rachadapisek Road, Dindaeng, Bangkok 10310. Telephone: (662) 693-9333-9.

6.5 Ministry of Industry (MOI)

The MOI administers industrial economic policies and industrial development projects that are suitable for the economic and social development of the country. The Ministry also monitors industrial factories throughout the country and promotes the decentralisation of small and medium-scale industries to regions outside Bangkok and nearby provinces.

The Ministry consists of offices, departments, institutes and foundations as follows:

Office of the Secretary to the Minister

The office is responsible for the overall activities of the Ministers of Industry which includes:

- Co-ordination with various government agencies and ministries
- Political affairs and general administration; monitoring political movements
- Gathering and processing information for the ministers' meetings
- Making arrangements for the ministerial inspection visits and press conferences
- Conducting complaint investigations
- Scrutinising the issues prior to submission for the ministers' consideration.

Office of the Permanent Secretary

The office has authority and responsibilities for official affairs of the ministry and others that the Cabinet has not assigned to specific departments, supervising and accelerating official performance in line with the MOI's policy measures and action plans. Its responsibilities can be summarised as follows:

- Co-ordinate with organisations and agencies related to industry and mineral resources
- Carry out tasks in accordance with the Sugarcane and Sugar Act
- Direct and execute works of provincial industrial offices in accordance with the Factory Acts and other related laws and regulations.

Department of Mineral Resources

The department is responsible for the supervision, management and development of the mineral, energy and ground water resources of the nation as well as their related metallurgical and mineral base industries. The department's key focus is in ensuring environmental preservation and the efficiency of the industry for the benefit of the entire country.

Department of Industrial Works

The department is responsible for the following:

- Control and oversee businesses in the environmental preservation, sanitation and energy saving sectors
- Enhance the capabilities and efficiency of industrial operations in order to ensure ongoing growth and competitiveness in global markets
- Be a national information resource on industrial machinery, chemicals, and hazardous and toxic materials
- Safeguard the interests of the country in international forums
- Deal with environmental, industrial safety and industrial security issues.

Department of Industrial Promotion

Key responsibilities of this department are:

- Prepare policy guidelines for the development and improvement of the capabilities of small and medium scale industries. An emphasis is placed on upgrading the responsiveness of these industries to changes in both the domestic and international environments and in improving their capability to compete in the global marketplace.
- Cultivate, support and develop small and medium scale industries in accordance with national industrial development policies
- Develop skilled personnel for industry, focusing especially on key management and technological skills, in order to ensure that the industrial outputs of the country are of world class standard.
-

Thai Industrial Standards Institute

Responsible for the administration of the country's industrial standards, with the objective of complying with international standards. Ensures fair trade and eliminate trade barriers. Its main focus is:

- Formulate industrial standards, product standard certification, laboratory accreditation
- Register and test products
- Implement WTO agreements
- Participate in international standards organisations.

Office of Industrial Economics

- Synchronise the ministry's policies in line with those of the National Economic and Social Development Plan, other government policies, and the Minister of Industry's policies
- Establish strategic master plans, co-ordinate action plans and advise on the planning and allocation of the budgets of the various agencies of the ministry
- Monitor and evaluate all plans and projects of the ministry
- Prepare reports on prevailing conditions in the various domestic industrial sectors that can serve as a basis for industrial policy formulation e.g. industrial and technological developments in various industries
- Recommend industrial development and co-operation policies in an international setting
- Inform other agencies in the ministry on the conduct of industrial surveys and the use of industrial data
- Serve as the ministry's industrial information centre.

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand

Responsible for facilitating the government's policy of ensuring an equitable distribution of industry throughout the country. Major responsibility is to establish provincial industrial estates that are fully serviced by proper infrastructure and public utilities.

The Petroleum Authority of Thailand

Serves as the national petroleum company. Its principal focus is the support and development of the petroleum industry and related upstream and downstream businesses. Its operations are focused on the overriding principles of safeguarding the vital interests of the people of Thailand and ensuring maximum prosperity and energy stability. It is also responsible for ensuring full alignment of state and private sector strategies.

Thailand Productivity Institute

It was established with the following objectives:

- Improve the productivity of the industrial sectors
- Strengthen the competitiveness of industries targeted in the international market
- Develop personnel in the industrial sectors at all levels to be more qualified
- Instil a higher and better attitude towards productivity development
- Act as a focal point for promoting productivity nation-wide.

Thai-German Institute

The institute provides practical training for industrial workers in a factory-like working environment both in short term and long term in order to upgrade the manufacturing efficiency of the Thai industrial sector. The institute provides information, technical advisory services on advanced manufacturing technologies and carries out research and development to meet the requirements of the industrial sector and to keep track of technological development on an on-going basis.

National Food Institute

It provides information consultative services, seminars, training courses and quality testing, and technical services for food manufacturers, carries out research and development and monitors transfers of technology.

Thailand Textile Institute

The institute provides technical services, training courses and seminars, research and development and testing services for textile manufacturers. It also provides information and news on trade, production investment, technology, and world textile data.

The Management System Certification Institute

The Management System Certification Institute provides quality certification services in accordance with ISO standards and other future standards, and conducts appraisals in order to maintain the quality of certification.

Foundation for Cane and Sugar Research Institute

- Carries out studies and research
- Disseminates information and data
- Provides analysis and testing services
- Certifies sugar quality
- Gives technical advice on cane and sugar.

Automotive Institute

The institute supervises activities on automobile industrial development by giving consultative services, training and seminars on production, technology, human resource development, standards, product testing, and information services.

Electrical and Electronics Institute

It serves as a centre for the development of the electrical and electronics industry by providing consultative services, HRD training courses and seminars on production technology, product standards, product testing and information services.

6.6 Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

Department of Fisheries, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

Major tasks:

- 1 Develop and propose fishery development plans, monitor and evaluate performance and projects, survey and collect fishery information, study and research on fishery economics (Fishery Planning and Policy Division).
- 2 Study and research on aquatic animals and resources, develop marine fishery, revive coastal resources, study and develop marine fishery machinery and technology (Marine Fisheries Division).
- 3 Survey, analyse and research on oceanic fisheries sites, develop fishery machinery and technology for oceanic fisheries (Oceanic Fisheries Division).
- 4 Study, research and develop fresh water animal cultivation, production, breeding, environment and resources, improve freshwater resources for breeding (Inland Fisheries Division).
- 5 Study, research and experiment on utilisation of aquatic animals, develop equipment to process aquatic animals, analyse, inspect and certify the quality of aquatic animals and products for export (Fishery Technological Development Institute).
- 6 Study, research, experiment and develop coastal aquaculture and the coastal environment and provide information and technical services to interested person (National Institute of Coastal Aquaculture).
- 7 Plan and specify directions and methodology to promote and develop fisheries, aquaculture, aquatic animal processing and marketing, develop curriculum to train farmers and interested person, disseminate information relating to fishery, support and provide aids to fishermen and those relating to fisheries (Fishery Extension Division).
- 8 Specify measures to conserve fishery resources, improve laws and regulations relating to fisheries and prepare and improve a register of ships, fishery equipment and fishery sites (Fisheries Resources Conservation Division).
- 9 Plan and research on fresh water animals and provide information and technical services to interested person (National Inland Fisheries Institute).
- 10 Research and develop feed suitable for aquaculture with high nutrition and low cost, control the quality of feed, issue permits and monitor import, sales and advertisement of feed and feed raw material (Feed Quality Control and Development Division).
- 11 Develop fishery environment plans and co-ordinate with related agencies to control and investigate pollution problems affecting fisheries (Fishery Environment Division).
- 12 Support and facilitate foreign fisheries affairs, fishery trading, joint-venture and international agreements, co-operation and co-ordination, control of oceanic fisheries and protect fishermen's right abroad (Foreign Fisheries Affairs Division).
- 13 Control and inspect fishery products and processing, develop standards for production process, product quality, certification process and regulations relating to export (Fish Inspection and Quality Control Division).
- 14 Study, experiment and research to prevent and eradicate diseases of aquatic animals and provide information relating to aquatic animal diseases (Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute).
- 15 Research to improve breeds of aquatic animals, distribute improved breeds, provide technical assistance relating to breeding to farmers, inspect and certify both domestic and imported aquatic animal breeds and conserve all Thai aquatic animal breeds (Marine Biological and Fishery Research Institute).

Department of Livestock Development, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

The Livestock Development policies and objectives are:

1. Promote export of livestock products
2. Promote import substitution of livestock products, such as milk and meat
3. Promote research and technology transfer relating to livestock.

Directions:

1. Increase the capability to export livestock products
 - 1.1 Specify livestock development zones for export
 - Eastern Region will be specified to be pork export zone by promoting export farm registration, control of livestock movement and establishment of modern slaughterhouses and meat processing factories.
 - Southern Region will be specified to be buffalo, cow, buffalo meat and beef export zone by promoting cultivation of good breeds of buffalo and cow to export them alive to OPEC and establishment of modern slaughterhouses.
 - 1.2 Specify quality standards of livestock products according to international demand and standards and certify private laboratories to test meat quality in order to be accepted by the market.
 - 1.3 Prepare a project to support export of livestock products, increase export market and improve regulations and import tax structure of raw materials. This project will continue for six years (1996-2001) with a budget of 618.3 million baht.
2. Promote research and increase livestock production to substitute imports as follows:
 - 2.1 Production and breed improvement
 - The Department of Livestock Development has a policy to conduct research for new breeds that are suitable for Thailand.
 - Improve and increase breeds by artificial breeding. The Department of Livestock Development has established a frozen semen centre in Nakorn Rachassima to keep semen of good breeds, both from within the country and from abroad

Royal Forestry Department, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

Major tasks:

- 1 Inspect and approve movement of wood and wild products (Permission Division).
- 2 Prevent and subjugate any actions against the law responsible by the department (Forest Protection office).
- 3 Study, plan, co-ordinate, promote and support plantation of forests in the form of community forest, agricultural forest and forest (Reforestation Office).
- 4 Perform tasks relating to conservation of forests and wild animals (Natural Resources Reservation office).
- 5 Survey, prepare a map and perform forestry engineering tasks (Natural Resources Reservation office).
- 6 Control and inspect forest utilisation, allow people to utilise deteriorated forest and maintain forests in good condition (Regional Forest Office).

National forest policies:

- 1 A long-term forest management and development plan shall be specified to the best benefit of the country.
- 2 Promote both the public and the private sector to participate in management and development of forest resources.

- 3 Improve the management and administration of national forests to be in line with changing situations.
- 4 Specify at least 40 percent of the total country's area as forest area as follows:
 - 15 percent shall be assigned as conservation forest to conserve the environment, soil, water, plants and animals, prevent natural disasters such as floods, and for research and relaxation of the people.
 - 25 percent shall be assigned as economic forest to produce wood.
- 5 Utilise science and technology to increase agricultural productivity and reduce deforestation.
- 6 The forest development plan will be a part of the natural resource development plan in the National Economic and Social Development Plan.
- 7 Improve city and town planning and clearly specify forest areas to prevent forest encroachment.
- 8 Disseminate information, educate people and instil a positive attitude about the importance and usefulness of forests.
- 9 Promote reforestation both in the public and the private sector and provide incentives to the private sector.
- 10 Support continuous factories and pulp factories so that all parts of wood can be utilised, and promote wood substitution.
- 11 Improve the law so that forest conservation is effective and efficient.
- 12 Instead of establishing a national forest research institute, the Royal Forest Department should ask for co-operation on forest research from universities and education institutes.
- 13 In order to reduce imports of fuel, reforestation should be promoted so that wood can be used as fuel.
- 14 Specify areas with at least a 35 percent gradient as forest areas and do not allow utilisation of these areas.
- 15 Specify clear and effective ways to reduce deforestation.

Department of Agriculture, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

Policies:

- 1 Improve agricultural technology management utilising agricultural information systems.
- 2 Expedite research and development of quality and standards of agricultural products.
- 3 Support research and development of agricultural products and product processing according to market demand.
- 4 Support research and development for less pollution and energy saving.
- 5 Provide agricultural information to interested persons.
- 6 Establish a unit responsible for training and technology transfer.

The Co-operative Promotion Department, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

Major tasks:

- 1 Establish and promote co-operatives.
- 2 Provide training and public relations on co-operatives.
- 3 Support manufacturing, marketing and finance of co-operatives.

Major activities:

- 1 A project to promote co-operatives and co-operative membership.
- 2 A project to prepare a database of co-operatives and members.
- 3 A project to establish and develop a market for co-operative products.
- 4 A project to develop quality standard and quality certification for co-operative products.
- 5 A project to prepare a co-operative product directory.
- 6 A project to create co-operative network.
- 7 A project to improve and increase production.

Agricultural Land Reform Office, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

The Agricultural Land Reform Office was established in 1975 as a government unit equivalent to a department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives.

The Agricultural Land Reform Office is a unit under the Agricultural Land Reform Board which is responsible for overseeing the Agricultural Land Reform Office, agricultural land reformation and development of policies, measures and regulations relating to agricultural land reformation.

Authority and responsibilities:

Perform tasks relating to improvement of possession of agricultural land by distribution of possession of private land, management of farmer utilisation of public land and providing land development assistance of reformed land area by development of infrastructure and farmers' productivity.

In order that the Agricultural Land Reform Office can perform land reformation in any area, the decree to specify the area to be the land-reformed area has to be issued. At present the Agricultural Land Reform Office has announced land-reformed area in 69 provinces. Of this, 40.16 million rais are government land and 477,361 rais are private land.

Office of Agriculture Economics, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

The Office of Agriculture Economics is equivalent to a department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives. There are two offices in Bangkok and 24 representative offices nation-wide. The Office of Agriculture Economics is assigned to be a centre for agricultural information for the Ministry.

6.7 Ministry of Finance (MOF): including the Department of Customs

The Ministry of Finance has similar functions to government treasuries in other countries. It is the government's financier and manages the allocation of government spending. Ministry officials enforce tax and revenue codes, collect import and export taxes, manage government debt, and administer international aid. The Minister works closely with the governor of the Bank of Thailand and manages several public finance companies such as the Krung Thai Bank, Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Co-operatives, Government Housing Bank, and the EXIM bank.

Important policies and projects of the Ministry of Finance include the following:

1 Financial liberalisation

The MOF continues to liberalise the financial sector, as it has since 1991. Of particular interest are the liberalisation of the banking and insurance industries.

Several new domestic and foreign banks will be licensed. Under the leadership of the MOF and the Bank of Thailand, an online network was established in 1995, the Bahtnet system, to facilitate more efficient transfers of funds from one banking institution to another. The banking sector has also introduced same-day check clearance.

The insurance industry has been opened to greater competition.

2 Improve domestic savings

In order to reduce the savings-investment gap in Thailand, the MOF is restructuring tax rates to promote long-term domestic savings and improving government pension fund management.

3 Decentralisation of financial activity.

Previously most banks were established in Bangkok and then expanded to major provinces as the bank developed. Incomes at the provincial level have expanded

rapidly over the past 10 years, and banking operations are moving to keep up with new opportunities and new demand for project financing.

The MOF is also expanding the scope of business operations of the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Co-operatives (BAAC) to cover non-agriculture credit to farmers. Public financial institutions such as Krung Thai Bank, Housing Support Bank, Government Savings Bank, Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Co-operatives, Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand, Small Industry Finance Corporation and Integrated Fund Security Company are also increasing their role in allocating credits to individuals and industries in the regions outside of Bangkok.

4 *Development of Thailand as a financial centre*

To facilitate trade with neighbouring countries, the MOF has launched an initiative to make Thailand a hub for financial business and transactions in the sub-region. Efforts are underway to improve the necessary procedures and regulations.

Specific fiscal and monetary policies for the year 1997-1998 are as follows:

- Implement fiscal and monetary policies in line with the development policies in other sectors, namely, agriculture, industry, commerce, foreign affairs, transportation and communication, energy, science, technology and environment, education and public health;
- Develop money, capital and foreign exchange markets to achieve greater efficiency and international standards: the supervision of the financial institutions, in which important savings and investment activities of the country are conducted, will be significantly improved;
- Promote investment activity in private and public sectors in order to increase economic efficiency, productivity, and the overall competitiveness of Thailand;
- Mobilise savings in both the private and public sectors in order to reduce the existing savings-investment gap;
- Restore and maintain the stability of the economy by actively implementing policies and measures to control inflation and reduce the current account deficit;
- Liberalise the financial system in an orderly manner to ensure greater efficiency of the system;
- Encourage greater participation by the private sector in the development of public infrastructure;
- Promote a more equitable distribution of income and generate prosperity to all regions of the country;
- Improve budget procedures and management and promote greater fiscal discipline;
- Improve laws and regulations on taxation to ensure greater transparency and flexibility.

Department of Customs, under the Ministry of Finance

It has a five-year implementation plan:

- 1 Procedure Development Plan
 - 1.1 A plan to apply paperless procedures
 - Train officers on computer utilisation
 - Issue laws and regulations relating to paperless procedures
 - 1.2 A plan to develop customs broker system
 - Develop on-line customs broker system
 - Issue laws and regulations to control and support customs broker
- 2 Development Plan for International Standards
 - 2.1 A plan to develop price information system
 - Develop price information system
 - Expedite the issuance of the law to support GATT price information system

- 2.2 A plan to improve customs tariff and tax structure
 - Improve customs tariff and tax structure to facilitate economic development and international agreements
 - Improve classification code system so that they are compatible and can be linked with ASEAN countries system
 - Implement pre-classification information system
- 2.3 A plan to develop procedures according to Kyoto and other agreements
- 2.4 A plan to develop a laboratory according to the World Customs Organisation
- 3 A Plan to Promote Exports
 - 3.1 Modify regulations and improve procedures to facilitate exports
 - 3.2 Establish Customs Free Zone
- 4 A Plan for Administration Development
 - 4.1 Human resources development
 - 4.2 Organisation development
 - 4.3 Public relation development
- 5 A Plan to Prevent and Subjugate Illegal Actions
 - 5.1 Develop intelligence system network
 - 5.2 Develop risk assessment system
 - 5.3 Implement post-auditing

The Customs Department has improved its services by introducing computerization in the execution of Customs procedures between entrepreneurs and the Customs Department, linking the transfer of data regarding Customs entries with exporters or Customs brokers by using the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system. Export via the EDI system can help entrepreneurs save costs and time to a great extent, because they can rapidly file the data concerning Customs entries for preliminary verification by Customs officers, which takes no more than 5 minutes. The most important thing is that the entrepreneurs will have a chance to directly meet the officers only during the verification of documents; the rest will be processed through the EDI system.

The EDI system has been implemented in an effort to develop Thailand's import and export system to meet the international acceptable standard. It is expected to substantially reduce the management and administrative costs of the trading community and to simultaneously expedite the Customs clearance process.

The Department has opened its first EDI service system for export at the Bangkok International Airport Customs Bureau on April 1, 1998. The system involves the following process:

- Exporters/ authorised agents transmit the information concerning their exportation from their computers to the Department's computers.
- The Department's computers will then process the received information. If correct, entry numbers will be issued and the exporters will be notified through computers. If incorrect, correction orders will be transmitted.
- Exporters/ authorised agents will prepare the entries by using the computer data and submit them to certain officials, depending on the types of entries:
 1. The entry that requires no checking (Green Line) must be lodged at the warehouse designated as the port of export. In this case, a warehouse official will record the number of airway bill in the computer, and the computer will automatically specify the name of official for the clearance of goods. A Customs chief inspector stationed at the warehouse will review the completeness of all documents and endorse them prior to the release of goods.

2. The entry that fails under the checking conditions specified in the system must be lodged at the Export Formality Sub-Division. This type of entries consists of less than 1 percent of the total number of entries. After being checked, the entry will be ready for the next step: the release of goods. A warehouse official will record the number of airway bill in the computer.

6.8 Bank of Thailand

According to the Bank of Thailand Act, the Minister of Finance is empowered to oversee the overall affairs of the Bank of Thailand with the general control and direction being entrusted to a Court of Directors which comprises the Governor and Deputy Governors, appointed by His Majesty the King, as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively and at least five other members appointed by the Cabinet.

The Bank is presently organised as follows:

1. The Head Office

1.1 Banking Department

- Conducts monetary and foreign exchange policies related to both the domestic and international money markets
- Manages the international reserves
- Manages domestic and foreign assets of the currency reserve
- Administers foreign currency loans and credit facilities and executes international settlements

1.2 Financial Institutions Policy Department

- Studies, plans and formulates the regulatory policies
- Monitors, conducts research and analyses the development of financial institutions and systems on a macro level

1.3 Deposits and Bonds Department

- Provides depository facilities for the Government, state enterprises, commercial banks and other financial institutions
- Responsible for the transfer of fund between the central region and other parts of the country
- Manages the issue of government, public organisation and Bank of Thailand bonds

1.4 Examination I Department

- Examines, analyses and supervises the operations of commercial banks, finance companies and credit foncier companies by business groups
- Develops efficient procedures for examining and analysing commercial banks, financial companies and credit foncier companies

1.5 Examination II Department

- Examines, analyses and supervises the operations of commercial banks, finance companies and credit foncier companies by business groups
- Develops efficient procedures for examining and analysing commercial banks, financial companies and credit foncier companies

1.6 Note Printing Works

- Designs and prints banknotes and other security papers as assigned by the Bank

1.7 Issue Department

- Oversees the circulation of bank notes and verifies the authenticity of bank notes in circulation
- Maintains the currency reserve and the interest accrued therefrom as well as the special reserves

- 1.8 *Financial Institutions Development Fund Department*
 - Manages the operations of the Financial Institutions Rehabilitation and Development Fund
 - 1.9 *Legal Department*
 - Oversees all legal matters related to the Bank
 - 1.10 *Litigation Department*
 - Undertakes all actions related to litigation under laws and legal practices under the Bank's authority
 - 1.11 *Foreign Department*
 - Supervises foreign exchange transactions as well as monitors and analyses inflows and outflows of foreign exchange related to trade, capital and service transactions
 - Supervises foreign exchange operations and position of authorised agents
 - 1.12 *Accounting and Budget Department*
 - Oversees all matters related to the Bank's accounts and relevant receipts and payments
 - Responsible for budgetary matters
 - 1.13 *Human Resources Department*
 - Responsible for the human resources management, organisation management and staff training
 - 1.14 *Internal Audit Department*
 - Responsible for the internal auditing of the Bank's operations
 - 1.15 *Information Technology Department*
 - In charge of computerisation analysis, planning and development
 - 1.16 *Economic Research Department*
 - Monitors, studies, analyses and researches on domestic and international economic and financial developments
 - 1.17 *Payment System Department*
 - Undertakes the study, analyses, oversees and develops the operations of the country's payment system and Electronic Clearing House
 - 1.18 *Bank of Thailand Museum*
 - Studies the evolution of Thai currency
 - 1.19 *General Administration Office*
 - General Administration Office
 - 1.20 *Bank Building Office*
 - Responsible for all matters related to construction and engineering works
 - 1.21 *Office of the Governor*
 - Acts as secretariat of the Court of Directors and is in charge of public and international relations
 - Provide information related to the Bank
 - In charge of saving promotion, strategic planning, and the Bank's master planning
 - Maintain close liaison between branches and the headquarters
 - 1.22 *Security Office*
 - Responsible for all matters related to security
 - 1.23 *Library and Information Centre*
 - Manage and operates the library, the information system and the activities
- 2 ***Bank of Thailand Regional Branch Offices*** perform central banking activities in areas under their responsibilities throughout the country.

- 3 **Bank of Thailand Provincial Representatives**, except provinces overseen by the regional branch offices, are assigned by the Bank of Thailand to act as the Bank's Provincial/District Representatives responsible for administering the depository function and to facilitate fund transfer for the Government, state enterprises, commercial banks and all other financial institutions. These offices are also assigned to administer the Bank of Thailand's account deposited with them and to make payments against the Bank's bills of exchange, to exchange damaged bank notes, to act as distributing and administering agent for government bonds, and to provide check clearing services in provinces with clearing house facilities.
- 4 **Overseas Representative Offices** are responsible for gathering and compiling information related to the general economic condition and technical developments abroad for the benefit of international reserve management and banking development. These offices also manage international reserves as assigned by the Head Office and act as coordinator with the central banks in the countries where they are located. Moreover, they are in charge of the assessment of the financial institutions with which the Bank of Thailand has business operations. The overseas representative offices are located in New York and London.

6.9 Ministry of Commerce (MOC): including the Department of Commercial Registration

The MOC has the following responsibilities:

- Negotiates international trade agreements for both bilateral and multinational co-operations.
- Monitors and provides services on trading registration, accounting, measuring, and fuel trading.
- Promotes major export and import products and identifies standards for exported products.
- Promotes trading and marketing domestically and internationally.
- Registers companies and promotes the protection of intellectual property rights.
- Distributes statistical information on commercial activity for public and private agencies.

Industry market studies

The MOC has allocated budget funds for studies and surveys of the production and demand of 64 target products raw and processed agricultural products and manufactured products.

Dissemination of price information

The MOC disseminates pricing information and market trend information for farmers and the general public through the mass media at the national and local level. This information is also distributed through special rural commercial reporters.

Participation in the private sector

The MOC has organised its support for co-operation with the private sector at both the national and provincial level by providing marketing information to businessmen and farmers for production decision-making. The MOC also provides support for expanding trade with neighbouring countries.

Provincial development projects

The MOC through its provincial commercial offices supports a variety of projects related to occupational development including installing sub-district and village central weight measurers, establishing commercial centres for trading promotion and export, and organising seminars to provide knowledge on trading and exports.

Problem-solving for agricultural products

The MOC supports various agricultural products by supporting the price of rice, organising government-to-government sales of agricultural products, managing export quotas, restructuring import and export regulations, and negotiating on behalf of Thai agricultural products in international trade agreement discussions.

Export promotion

The MOC operates a number of programs to promote Thai products abroad through the inclusion of Thai products in international procurement agreements, through negotiations with other countries to allow more Thai import products, and the issuance of export-import licenses.

Consumer Protection

The MOC monitors the price movements and production costs of various industrial products to monitor product quantity and to prevent price irregularities. The MOC also designs and implements quality control standards and quality assurance and credibility symbols.

Department of Export Promotion (DEP), under the Ministry of Commerce

The Department of Export Promotion focuses on serving foreign buyers looking to source from Thailand. The majority of the DEP's resources and services are geared to helping the foreign buyer, in Thailand or around the world, source Thai products quickly and cost effectively. In addition, the DEP acts as the Secretariat for the Export Development which is a co-ordinating body representing all major commercial and government agencies involved in export activities.

Access to information services

The DEP's wide-ranging support services can be accessed through a world-wide network of offices. To date, DEP has 19 Thai Centres and operates closely with all Thai Commercial Affairs Offices attached to Royal Thai Embassies.

For the foreign buyer, the typical sequence of inquiry will include information gathering, prior to paying a visit to Thailand, followed by appointment scheduling to meet potential suppliers and then contract negotiations. In all of these areas DEP offers services, mostly free of charge, to facilitate the buyer's goals.

The DEP's Trade Information Division maintains a computerised trade information database which foreign buyers can access either through the overseas Thai Trade Centres, or at its headquarters in Bangkok. Buyers can access the database by means of fax, telex or electronic mail. The database contains current information on export-import statistics by product volume and value, and country of origin; it contains lists of selected exporters and manufacturers and other relevant data useful to foreign buyers. Networking links among DEP offices via electronic mail are available, including access to ITC and APEC Databases in Switzerland and Singapore.

The foreign buyer will also benefit from the DEP's overseas trade promotion activities which include participation in some 30 foreign trade fairs each year where groups of 15-20 Thai exporters will showcase the best of their products. In addition, the DEP organises overseas selling missions which are warmly received.

Buying in Thailand

Product specialists from the DEP's Export Service Division offer advice on market opportunities for a particular product, the capacities of specific manufacturers, as well as the current status of international trade regulations such as tariff and quotas. These product specialists have data on more than 2,000 selected exporters, each of which has been inspected by DEP staff. The DEP also offers business services to foreign buyers such as telephone, photocopying, and meeting rooms for business meetings.

The DEP has established a network of Regional Trade Centres within Thailand in Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Songkhla, Chanthaburi and Surat Thani – all of which can supply buyers with product information and the latest sourcing opportunities.

Increasing competitiveness of Thai suppliers

While serving the needs of foreign importers, in terms of information and access to Thai manufacturers, is the DEP's front-line assistance, the Trade Training Centre provides equally valuable services to Thai exporters by helping them to upgrade specific export-related skills. The centre runs specific courses on such diverse topics as product design development, quality control and trade financing in order to improve the international competitiveness of Thailand's exports. This continuous process of skill-upgrading has played a vital role in the continuing dynamic performance of Thailand's export trade.

Department of Foreign Trade (DFT) (under the Ministry of Commerce)

DFT is responsible to provide services in five main aspects to the public.

Regulates merchandise importation and exportation

- Recommends policy and issue rules relating to merchandise importation and exportation
- Studies and resolves trade problems
- Coordinates with government and private agencies
- Develops rules and regulations obstructing trade
- Administers and promotes important exports such as rice, textile and tapioca
- Issues import and export authorisation
- Regulates agricultural product import according to WTO rules

Expands markets and improves trade relations

- Study and analyses trade situation and foreign markets including marketing strategies for new market
- Studies and analyses policy, measures and regulations relating to importation of current trading countries and potential markets
- Negotiates to resolve trade issues and to seek new cooperation in order to maintain and expand markets which includes market share increase
- Establishes and organises Joint Trade Committee and other meetings to extend cooperation and resolve trade issues
- Arranges and welcomes trade missions for better trade relationship and mutual trade interests
- Proceeds to trade benefits and promotes the benefits

Protects trade benefits

- Negotiates bilaterally or multi-laterally trade issues and obstacles with trading countries and international trade organisations
- Processes when a trading countries calls for an investigation of dumping action
- Operates agreeable trading between the partners.

Monitors and verifies merchandise quality and standard for importation and exportation

- Recommends policy and standardises import and export products
- Issues regulations and inspection processes for import and export products
- Inspects quality and standard of import and export products
- Provides registration services for exporters who meet the standard, companies carrying out product inspection, and inspectors
- Issues quality and standard certifications for imports and exports

Provides services to public

- Creates and disseminates trade information and services through computer system
- Formulates administration system and certification issuance as well as import/ export authorisation
- Establishes communication and information system that allows information exchange among agencies within the countries and abroad

Department of Intellectual Property (DIP), under the Ministry of Commerce

The Department of Intellectual Property consists of the following:

The Office of the Secretary is responsible for general office works of the Department and other office works which are not specific responsibilities of any division. Administrative work, general support, budget control, finance and accounting, personal administration and public relations also fall under the Office of the Secretary. Moreover, the Office is responsible for planning the works in accordance with the National Economic and Social Development Plan and policies of the government and Ministry of Commerce.

Promotion and Development Division is responsible to provide information and technological knowledge on intellectual property and the intellectual property library. Officers working in the Division also have to educate the target groups on intellectual property as well as study, analyse and develop the system mode and procedures for the protection of intellectual property rights. In addition, they have to enhance cooperation with other countries and develop as well as administrator the information through computerisation.

Legal Affairs and Appeal Division undertakes legal affairs concerning the patent law, trademark law, copyright law and other laws related to the Department. The Division is also responsible for undertaking appeal matters including analysis and development of the system, mode, and procedures of appeal according to the patent law, copyright law and other laws related to the Department.

Patent Office provides advisory registration services on industrial design, patent for invention, utility models in accordance with the patent law as well as layout design and other related intellectual property.

Trademark Office provides advisory and registration services on trademark, service mark, certification mark, collective mark in accordance with the trademark law as well as trade secret, geographical indications and other related intellectual property.

Copyright Office advises and recommends in accordance with the copyright law. The Office also undertakes activities concerning suppression and deterrence of intellectual property rights infringement as well as collective administration.

6.10 Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MOSTE)

MOSTE was established as the Ministry of Science, Technology and Energy in 1979. It brought under its umbrella five government agencies and a state enterprise engaging in science, technology and energy related activities. Since there were many agencies under the jurisdiction of several ministries with responsibilities for carrying out science and technology activities, MOSTE was created as a central co-ordinating agency. In April 1992, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Energy changed its name to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment.

MOSTE has the following functions:

- Supports projects in basic sciences and technology to encourage technology transfer and upgrade technical skills in the labour force.
- Serve as the government's scientific and technological laboratories.
- Makes policy, supports project plans, and monitors efforts to wisely utilise natural resources and dispose of industrial and agricultural wastes.
- Supports educational research projects to develop technology for production and marketing of commercial goods.
- Collects, compiles, and disseminates the results of research projects and international developments related to science, technology, energy and environment.

The Department of Science Service (DSS)

The Department of Science Service is the government's central laboratory. The DSS has the capability to analyse and test a wide range of materials and products for physical, chemical and biological properties such as chemicals, gases, fertiliser, industrial products, car tires, plastics, minerals, metals, car accessories, cement, electrical appliances, construction equipment, food, paper, active carbon, ceramic products, etc.

Its main functions include the following:

- Serves as the government's scientific and technological laboratories.
- Provides chemical, physical and biological analysis services to governmental and private organisations.
- Carries out research on the utilisation of the nation's natural resources and industrial and agricultural wastes for economic benefit.
- Provides analysis and testing services in order to control and certify the quality of industrial products, food and beverages.
- Provides training for students of analytical chemistry of the various governmental and industrial laboratories.
- Provides scientific and technological information services.

The DSS also has its own research projects in both the agricultural and industrial sectors, including pulp and paper, food, plastics and others. Finally, the DSS has a library which collected 384,841 documents on science and technology as well as on patents and standards.

Some of MOSTE's other activities are described below.

1 Office of Science and Technology counsellors

MOSTE has offices of Science and Technology Counsellors in Washington D.C., Tokyo, and Brussels. They have established three associations of Thai S&T personnel in their respective areas with the objective of facilitating information exchange, encouraging research collaboration with Thailand and reversing the brain drain. These counsellors also act as an intermediary for transferring technology, arranging S&T joint ventures, sourcing technological information from overseas, and providing information on scholarships and research grants.

2 Technothani (Technology City)

MOSTE is constructing Technothani in Pathumthani province north of Bangkok. This area of 87 hectares will house a number of buildings for MOSTE agencies and will also be the site of a science museum. For example, the Department of Environmental Quality promotion has built a building for the Centre of Environmental Research and Training, the Office of Atomic Energy for Peace is constructing a building for the Centre of Research and Development on Rare Earth Materials, the Department of Energy Development and Promotion plans to build a model building for energy conservation, and the Thailand Institute for Scientific and Technological Research has completed a building for the Laboratory of Industrial Technology, and for the Centre of Material Development and Analysis.

3 Technology promotion

MOSTE promotes technology transfers through printed and audio-visual media. MOSTE produces a monthly newsletter to promote manufacturing technology, a monthly newsletter to promote rural technology, a quarterly journal, and a number of other publications. Technology databases have been developed for agriculture, for industry, and for five sectoral areas: factories, tool making, food products, metals, and plants.

MOSTE also promotes technology development through research grants. The Revolving Fund for Technology Research and Development provides soft loans for R&D, or for improvement of research or testing laboratories, at not more than 5 million baht per project with an interest rate of 4 percent. The Fund for Technology Development provides soft loans for the improvement of production process and commercialisation of R&D projects at not more than 10 million baht per project with an interest rate of 6 percent. The Inventions for Rural Development Project and the Co-operative Project for Technology Utilisation in Agriculture and Industry provided nearly a dozen grants to universities in the north, northeast, and southern regions of Thailand.

6.11 National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

The National Science And Technology Development Agency was created by the promulgation of the Science and Technology Development Act in December 1991 with a broad mission to develop science and technology, especially in the areas of biotechnology, material, electronics and computer technology. It merged 4 existing agencies, namely the Science and Technology Development Board, National Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC), National Metal and Materials Technology Centre (MTEC) and National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre (NECTEC), into one, the NSTDA.

NSTDA has three major goals:

- Achieve an effective system and program for support of research, development and engineering (RD&E),
- Perform RD&E services within the agency itself, and
- Invest or support the private sector in investment which leads to technological development.

To achieve these goals, the NSTDA has initiated programs to support public and private sector RD&E support in the forms of grants and loans, institutional strengthening, fellowship, training, consulting, technical information access support, establishment of national laboratories, of science and technology research and development park, and commercialisation and investment in science and technology.

In particular, NSTDA has several important projects underway:

1 Private Sector RD&E support

NSTDA provides soft loans and grants to private companies for S&T development projects. The soft loan has a ceiling of 10 million baht and the grant has a ceiling of 3 million baht. For a loan, the receiving company must provide equal matching funds; for a grant, the receiving company must provide matching funds equivalent to one-third the amount of the grant.

2 Industrial consulting services.

NSTDA officials assist small- and medium-size industries improve their product quality and productivity by providing them with experts from universities and research institutes in Thailand as well as foreign experts from agencies such as International Executive Service Corps (USA), Canada Executive Service Organisation (Canada) and Senior Expert Service (Germany). Studies have shown that small- and medium-size companies have significantly improved their products, production processes, and production machinery.

NSTDA's Technical Information Access Centre provides information services to private sector businesses, universities, and government agencies. The development of databases received contributions from 121 institutions, and has over 40,000 records. A large number of public and private agencies have on-line access to the database.

3 Activities in standards, testing and quality control

NSTDA has contracted a number of foreign experts to provide consulting services to various government agencies in order to improve agency capability in standards, testing and quality control. In some cases, items of equipment were donated to these agencies. The NSTDA also organises conferences and seminars on standards, testing, and quality control.

4 Science and Technology manpower development

NSTDA provides several hundred overseas scholarships each year for students pursuing higher education in the areas of biotechnology, materials and electronics and computer science. Scholarship recipients have returned to work in government agencies, research institutes and universities.

Scholarships are also granted for study in local universities for students pursuing Ph.D. and Masters degrees in science and technology fields.

5 Science and Technology Research and Development Park (STRDP)

STRDP is located between Thammasat University and the Asian Institute of Technology in the Rangsit area outside Bangkok. Its construction began at the end of 1995. The first phase will occupy an area of about 18 hectares. The next phase is expected to occupy an additional 12 hectares. A major objective of the Park is to promote and facilitate tripartite co-operation between the private sector the academic institutions and NSTDA. The park will be equipped with techno-business incubators, the main NSTDA office building, the three National Research Centres, and will provide base camp for NSTDA operations and activities.

STRDP will also provide business area rental services for small and medium size companies with research and development activities as well as for large or multi-national corporations who can either rent or construct their own R&D facilities on long-term leased land. This is a unique opportunity for private sector since NSTDA offers tax incentives for companies with R&D facilities interested in establishing offices in the STRDP which are:

- Import tax exemption for machines, equipment and materials for R&D
- Exemption of corporate income tax for eight years
- 200 percent deduction of research expenses
- Accelerated depreciation of machinery and equipment
- Working permit and visa for foreign researchers and experts
- Allowance for foreign ownership.

Due to the economic crisis in 1997, the construction was ceased but re-continued in July 1999. The four buildings in the first phase can be fully operated in early 2001. NSTDA, with its three National Research Centres, namely the National Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC), the National Metal and Materials Technology Centre (MTEC), and the National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre (NECTEC), will move their offices to the new building at that time. Currently, NSTDA is recruiting a partner establishing a joint-venture company to manage the STRDP, expected to be successful by the end of 1999. Major task of the new established company will be heavily marketing of the STRDP.

6.12 Ministry of University Affairs (MUA)

Prior to 1972, state universities were administered under the Office of the Prime Minister until the Office of State Universities was established. Subsequently the administration of private colleges was added to the Office of State Universities in 1974 and it was raised to ministerial status and named the Office of University Affairs. In 1982, the name was changed to the Ministry of University Affairs. The MUA administers institutions and programs of higher education and the Ministry of Education administers primary, secondary, and vocational education.

The main activities of the MUA are as follows:

1 Administration of State and Private Universities and Colleges

For state institutions of higher education, the MUA administers all aspects of policy-making and planning relative to institutions throughout Thailand, including the areas of organisation and expansion, curriculum development and evaluation, university personnel administration, budget allocations, institutional research to support policy planning.

For private institutions of higher education, the MUA is responsible for accreditation, supervision and monitoring of educational standards, consideration of requests to establish new institutions, compilation of statistical data, and inspections and evaluations according to the Private Higher Education Institution Act.

2 Support for education and research

MUA offers financial support for faculty research projects, development of new research degree programs, and student scholarships. MUA promotes international educational co-operation with other countries as well as joint academic research projects.

3 National education development

MUA planners continually seek to improve the standards of higher education in Thailand by establishing requirements and guidelines that will improve educational institutions and practices. International co-operation and aid is actively pursued. Specifically, the University Development Commission was formed in the late 1960s to improve the supply of capable and qualified staff and to generally improve the quality of teaching in institutions of higher education, particularly in the fields of English, mathematics, sciences and economics. The Commission supports programs for short-term faculty exchange, and the dissemination of academic information. The Commission serves as an intermediary for international co-operation and faculty exchange.

6.13 Ministry of Education (MOE)

The Ministry of Education is responsible for primary, secondary, and vocational education nation-wide. The MOE also includes the Fine Arts and Religious Affairs departments. Ministry staff are responsible for curriculum development, production of textbooks and supplementary materials, evaluation, and provision of support services aimed at promoting qualitative aspects of education such as educational research and innovation.

1 General education

The MOE staff under the Department of General Education organise, administer, and promote primary and secondary education, as well as special and welfare education. The MOE staff monitor both public and private schools.

2 Vocational and non-formal education

The Department of Vocational Education was formed in 1941 and its main focus is to provide various types of vocational education and training to the general public. The Department organises a three-year course in five major areas: Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Home Economics, Arts and Crafts, and Commerce for students who have completed lower secondary education. After this three-year course, students who wish to continue their studies at a higher level can take a two-year Diploma course in the following areas: Agriculture, Industrial Technology, Home Economics, Arts and Crafts and Business Administration. Additionally, the Department is responsible for various short courses, both formal and non-formal, and a 1-year skill-training certificate course for those who have completed grade 9.

The Department of Non-Formal Education is responsible for providing general education for the out-of-school and underprivileged population in order to give people of all ages opportunities to study and improve their occupations and living conditions. Programs are offered in basic literacy and vocational skills through radio, correspondence, and skills training centres.

3 The Fine Arts Department

The Fine Arts Department was established in 1933 and is responsible for the restoration and promotion of artistic and cultural subjects which include the arts, literature, classical dance, history, and archaeology. The Department staff also organise educational programs and presentations of cultural arts for the general public. The Department administers the National Library, National Archives, National Museum, and National Theatre.

4 Religious affairs

The staff of the MOE's Religious Affairs Department administers and registers religious organisations and manages policy issues that deal with the practices and proselytising of religions in Thailand. This department also has a committee that administers and receives reports related to the sangha of Buddhist monks.

6.14 Ministry of Public Health

The Ministry of Health has important responsibilities to promote and coordinate activities relating to physical and mental health as well as public good living conditions. Health services provided by the Ministry have the following objectives:

1. To strengthen physical and mental healthiness in order to live in the society happily
2. To prevent sickness and disease that cause labour loss or inability
3. To extend living span and prevent death before appropriate age
4. To protect people from pollution and poisonous substances

The Ministry consists of the following agencies:

- Office of the Permanent Secretary
- Department of Medical Services
- Department of Communicable Disease Control
- Department of Health
- Department of Medical Sciences
- The Food and Drug Administration
- Department of Mental Health
- The Government Pharmaceutical Organisation (State Enterprise)
- Health System Research Institute (State Enterprise)

Food and Drug Administration (under Ministry of Health)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is a unit under the Ministry of Public Health. The FDA consists of 10 divisions, one unit and two centres:

- Office of the Secretary
- Medical Device Control Division
- Cosmetic Control Division
- Drug Control Division
- Toxic and Hazardous Substance Control Division
- Narcotic Control Division
- Food Control Division
- Public Relations and Advertisement Control Division
- Technical Division
- Inspection Division
- Legal Affairs Task Group
- FDA Information Technology Centre.

The FDA is responsible for consumer protection in public health and supports all activities regarding consumer protection and promotes quality of life for all people. The FDA complies with eight Acts and six conventions or international agreements to set standards and regulations. These cover safety surveillance of the health products, food, drugs, cosmetics, hazardous substances, narcotics and psychotherapeutic substances, and medical devices. Its activities are undertaken under the supervision of six committees appointed by the Minister of Public Health:

- Food Committee
- Drug Committee
- Cosmetic Committee
- Psychotropic Substance Committee
- Narcotic Control Committee
- Medical Device Committee.

In addition, another three committees co-operate with other government agencies to support development in public health:

- National Drug Committee
- National Food Committee
- National Chemical Safety Committee.

6.15 One-Stop Service Centre

The establishment of the One-Stop Service Centre for Visas and Work Permits resulted from cooperation between the Board of Investment of Thailand, the Department of Immigration and the Alien Occupational Control Division. The centre can process applications or renewals of visas and work permits within three hours, assuming all required documents are provided. In addition, the centre handles many other transactions, including changing visa status (to non-immigrant status from tourist or transit), payment of fines, and processing of re-entry stamps, all within three hours or less. Investors or experts granted privileges under the Investment Promotion Act of 1997 who are allowed to stay in the Kingdom of Thailand on a temporary basis to undertake investment or business activities, can also have access to the services provided by the One-Stop Centre.

The One-Stop Service Centre cuts through red-tape. The centre is located on the 3rd floor of Krisda Plaza, 207 Rachadapisek Road, Dindaeng, Bangkok 10310. The telephone number is (662)693-9333-9.

6.16 Department of Immigration

The Immigration Bureau falls under the Royal Thai Police Department, Ministry of Interior. It is responsible for the inspection of persons and conveyances coming in and going out of the Kingdom in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Law, including the investigation, suppression and detention of offenders against woman and young girls who are the victims of white slave trafficking and other criminal offences which lead to illegal immigration. The bureau is divided into four divisions and one sub-division level unit :

1. The General Staff Division

The division is responsible for central administration of the bureau for correspondence, personnel administration, public and foreign relations, technical and planning, finance and budget, office supplies, transportation, communication, data preparation, statistics and records, the supervising immigration doctor, taking action against aliens who have their permission to enter or stay in the Kingdom revoked, including detention and deportation matters, and it is in charge of the Immigration Detention Centre.

2. The Immigration Division I

The division is responsible for the procedures of permanent residence, residential certificates, alien registration, re-entry permits, extension of stay, issuance of permits, registration and carrying out all matters which are under the authority of the Immigration Commission.

3. The Immigration Division II

The division is responsible for air transport control in order to inspect persons and all air transport entering and leaving the Kingdom through Bangkok International Airport, and other matters.

4. The Immigration Division III

The division is responsible for supervising the official activities of immigration officials attached to immigration check points in rural areas to ensure their strict compliance with the laws, regulations, orders and notices concerned. A rural administration is divided into four levels of 52 check points. It is also responsible for the procedures of immigration activities, inspection of persons and entering and leaving the Kingdom by air, on land, and is responsible for the investigation and suppression of violators against the Immigration or Anti-White Slavery Laws and other criminal offences which lead to illegal immigration.

5. *The Investigation and Interrogation Group*

This is a sub-division level unit which reports direct to the Commissioner and is responsible for the inspection of illegal aliens, investigation and suppression of violators against the Immigration or Anti-White Slavery Laws and other criminal offences which lead to illegal immigration.

6.17 Export-Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM Bank)

The Export-Import Bank of Thailand was established in September 1993 with an initial fund of 2,500 million baht and a 30,000 million baht loan from the Bank of Thailand. Subsequently, the Bank has sourced operational funding through loans from domestic and foreign financial institutions and the issuance of short-term bonds that are sold to financial institutes and the general public.

The EXIM Bank provides trade financing, particularly letter of credit acceptance and confirmation, financial services for Thai investment overseas, export insurance, credit for supporting the export of agricultural products or machinery, and financial arrangement for large projects in neighbouring countries. Since the bank is exposed to high risk in most of its operations, the Ministry of Finance allocates funds from the annual budget to compensate for losses incurred through those operations.

The EXIM Bank also provides financial services to increase the competitive capabilities of Thai businessmen in the world market. These services include efforts to promote and support exports, investment and promotion of imports of inputs for exports, as well as promotion of investment overseas which will influence the expansion of the trading base of Thailand.

The Bank avoids competition with commercial banks. In fact it invites co-operation in providing services to exporters by arranging for exporters to receive credit from commercial banks through the guarantee of EXIM bank. The EXIM Bank aims to fill the current gap between the needs of small and new exporters and the supply of trade finance available from commercial sector banks.

6.18 Joint Public-Private Sector Consultative Committee (JPPCC)

Co-operation between the public and private sectors under the present process and structure has a long history under the concept and structure of the Joint Public-Private Sector Consultative Committee or the JPPSCC.

In the past, when the Thai economy was not so complicated and was growing relatively slowly, fewer conflicts within the economic system existed between the public and private sectors. During this time the relationship between the public and private sectors primarily involved rather basic issues. That is, the government took the responsibility of developing the essential economic infrastructure that would help improve public welfare. Subsequently, the private sector responded by increasing its investment activities into various sectors. Public-private sector relationships were mostly at a personal level rather than at an institutional one. Furthermore, at this stage, the development of private institutions was just beginning.

As the pioneering stage of development passed, the country's economy and society moved towards more sophisticated production, trade and finance systems. Also, as the population multiplied, increased constraints were placed on natural resources. Some government regulations and administrative procedures with regard to business had failed to evolve to meet the rapidly changing economic situations, subsequently hampering the business operations of

the private sector. This problem was furthered by a tumultuous world economy – including both severe international trade competition and financial crises. For these reasons, if Thailand had not sought a new system, but rather continued to let its public and private sectors run separately, it would have been difficult to contend with these mounting internal and external problems. These pressures induced the government and private sectors to seek co-operative measures whereby each side could actively consult with the other to work out problems and conflicts.

The beginning of the JPPSCC

Many attempts to organise a system of closer co-operation between the public and private sectors were made and incorporated into the Third National Economic and Social Development Plan (1972-1976). The Third Plan's primary objective centred on encouraging the development of greater private sector participation. The efforts, however, were unsuccessful. In 1981, during the Fourth National Economic and Social Development Plan, the government, led by General Prem Tinsulanond, initiated a serious plan to systematise co-operation between the public and private sectors. On June 30th 1981, according to a Cabinet resolution, the Joint Public-Private Sector Consultative Committee chaired by the Prime Minister was established. The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (ONESDB) was assigned as the secretariat.

Representatives in the committee from the public sector comprised economic ministers and heads of related government agencies; those from the private sector included the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Thai Industries (which is now the Federation of Thai Industries) and the Thai Bankers Association. Later, on March 5th 1990, the Prime Minister made a key structural change to the JPPSCC. The change called for the appointment of the Board of Trade of Thailand to replace the Thai Chamber of Commerce on the committee.

Gen. Prem Tinsulanond, head of the Privy Council and statesman, was the Prime Minister who initiated and pushed forward the establishment of the JPPSCC. During the first meeting of the JPPSCC, which he chaired in August 1981, he said, "... *The establishment of JPPSCC confirms the government's determination to solve economic problems hand in hand with the private sector. If problems arise, we should consult with each other. Apart from that, the government has the policy to develop a private sector on which the government can depend. It should become responsible to society, publicly reliable, and co-operative in eradicating corrupt and exploitative people...* "

The objective of setting up the JPPSCC was to establish guidelines for the public-private sectors' consultative advisory body, with the objective of identifying and solving economic problems. The JPPSCC further aims to implement policies on public/private sector co-operation at the central and provincial levels. Finally, it aims to actively disseminate knowledge and understanding about the public interest, which has flourished as a result of this co-operation. The JPPSCC has a duty to put forward policies and guidelines on solving economic problems. *It does not, however, possess any direct authority to make a policy decision.*

At the beginning, the Prime Minister focused on enhancing the co-operative environment by creating faith and trust among the leaders of the public and private sectors. The public sector chose to direct its attention towards supporting private sector institutions to become more efficient and capable, thus allowing them better to represent business at large. The rules and regulations on collaboration were made clear, transparent and beneficial to the public; also, they did not reflect a bias towards any particular group of people or businesses.

For almost eight years (1981-1989) of his administration as Prime Minister, Gen. Prem Tinsulanond set a priority to develop the co-operation process of the JPPSCC. Except when matters of state drew him abroad, the Committee's work continued unabated, as can be seen from the regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the JPPSCC.

Once the public and private sectors had the opportunity to directly interface with each other, problems that occurred in the past were identified and solved more efficiently and in a timely manner. Since the Prime Minister himself gave priority to the JPPSCC process, additional dynamism was given to the co-operative system between the public and private sectors. More continuity was given to public and private sector interaction, which in turn led to wide-ranging accomplishments.

The provincial JPPSCC

Due to the success of the JPPSCC in identifying ways and means to solve economic problems, the Committee then decided to expand the concept to the provincial level.

The main objectives were to:

- **Support** the development and co-operation of regional private organisations and businessmen as well as to increase their responsibility beyond their own business to the public;
- **Develop** economic-related government agencies willing to co-ordinate with the provincial private sector (e.g. Provincial Industrial Office and Provincial Agricultural Extension Office etc.) and which will – with a high degree of efficiency – solve problems and help people in provincial areas;
- **Create** a provincial co-operative organisation similar to that at the national level.

In order to implement the policy, the JPPSCC assigned the Ministry of Interior to establish Provincial JPPSCC to cover all provinces in Thailand. Each Provincial JPPSCC is a joint committee, using the National JPPSCC as a model, with the Ministry of Interior as the main co-ordinator and the provincial governor as chairman. Its duty is to advance policies, guidelines and measures that address provincial economic problems, thereby helping to develop the provincial economy.

Organisation and operation of the JPPSCC

Since the primary objective of the JPPSCC is to facilitate co-operation between the public and private sectors in working towards solving economic problems, it is imperative that the Committee comprise representatives from both the public and private sectors. The public representatives are those with high responsibility in economic areas; the private representatives are those who are prominent businessmen and women from leading private institutions, namely, the Board of Trade of Thailand, The Federation of Thai Industries and the Thai Bankers Association.

The main objectives of the JPPSCC are to:

- Expand the scope of policy implementation
- Strengthen the private sector's institutions
- Mobilise co-operation from the private sector and expand the public and private sectors' co-operation to the regions
- Widely disseminate knowledge and understanding on public interest gained from public and private sector co-operation.

Structure of the JPPSCC

The Prime Minister, who appoints Committee members from the three main private institutions, also chairs the JPPSCC and can appoint additional members he deems appropriate.

The National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) serves as secretariat and is also a Committee member. Additionally, the director of the Office of the Joint Public-Private Sector Consultative Committee is a Committee member and assistant secretary. It should be noted that the number of Committee members and assistant secretaries may vary according to necessity.

Responsibilities of the JPPSCC

The Joint Public-Private Sector Consultative Committee has the responsibility to:

- Speed up solutions to problems caused by economic crises and their concrete actions.
- Encourage foreign exchange earnings through export development and acceleration, especially in agricultural and industrial sectors.
- Develop human resources to support regional investment.
- Support and promote regional job creation.
- Act within the scope of authorities specified in the Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister Governing the Development of Public-Private Sector Co-operation to Solve Economic Problems, B.E. 2539 (1996), in order to:
 - *Contemplate* problems and obstacles to the private sector's economic operations at the national, regional and local levels in order to speed up the problem-solving process;
 - *Co-ordinate* the establishment of joint public-private sector programs in major economic sectors in order to enhance the country's economic potential and growth, as well as strengthen the country's competitiveness at the international level;
 - *Promote* and support the private sector in decentralising production, trade, investment and employment to the regional areas;
 - *Support* greater participation of national and provincial private sector economic institutions in local development;
 - *Follow up* the implementation of measures and keep them in line with the Committee's guidelines and measures;
 - *appoint* subcommittees and working groups to assist with operations as deemed necessary; and
 - *Maximise* the Committee's capacity by calling upon related government agencies, persons and documents to provide information or consultancy in related matters as deemed necessary

Procedures of the JPPSCC:

Lodging an issue to the JPPSCC

In principle, the JPPSCC will consider policy matters that involve the public and private sectors and/or problems that involve the public at large. Public sector agencies that can lodge issues to the JPPSCC in the public sector are government agencies or committees, the Cabinet and Provincial JPPSCC; those in the private sector include the Board of Trade of Thailand, the Federation of Thai Industries and the Thai Bankers Association.

The process of lodging issues is outlined below:

- **The public sector:** Any matter involving the operation of both the public and private sectors will be lodged with the secretariat of the JPPSCC, which will then proceed to address the matter.
- **The private sector:** Any private business unit which is a member of any of the three private institutions represented in the JPPSCC must submit its concerns to the respective institution for initial screening. If approved, the matter is turned over to the joint committee of the three institutions for secondary screening. Finally, it reaches the secretariat of the JPPSCC that is responsible for taking action on the issue.

The operation of the JPPSCC Secretariat

Once the JPPSCC secretariat receives a complaint or proposal, it will study the issue, collect information, co-ordinate with related agencies in the public and private sectors, and then pass the subject on to the Subcommittee on Screening Agenda and Following up on JPPSCC Meeting Resolutions for further consideration.

The operation of the Sub-committee on Screening Agenda and following up on JPPSCC meeting resolutions

This sub-committee will consider the issues presented by the JPPSCC secretariat. It is responsible for studying the facts and problem-solving approaches in order to present the issue to the JPPSCC for further consideration. If it is a practical problem under the responsibility of a related agency, the subcommittee will assign that agency to take further action.

Consideration of issues by the JPPSCC

Since the JPPSCC is a consultative body providing advice on solutions to economic problems to the government; it does not have the authority to directly command any agency. JPPSCC advice comes from meeting resolutions that are presented to economic ministers and the Cabinet for further consideration. After they agree to this advice, the related agencies will be assigned to implement the measures.

Practical problems will be dealt with in two main ways:

- When appropriate, the problem will be assigned to the related agencies to take action on the matter.
- In the case that further facts or clarification are needed beyond what is provided, the JPPSCC will appoint an ad-hoc subcommittee or task force to consider the matter and develop guidelines for a practical solution.

Structure of the provincial JPPSCC

Each Provincial Joint Public-Private Sector Consultative Committee is a joint committee that uses the National JPPSCC as a model. It is chaired by the provincial governor. Public sector committee members consist of heads of provincial government agencies and state enterprises. These members, who must be selected by the governor, must have experience both in solving economic problems and with developing provincial economies. From the private sector, committee members include representatives from the Provincial Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Provincial Industries, and the Provincial Commercial Bankers Club. As before the governor may choose (in this case up to three) representatives from major provincial business groups, academics in an economic field or representatives from other private economic development organisations.

The Chief of the Provincial Office holds the position of Committee member and secretary, while the Secretary-General of the Provincial Chamber of Commerce, the Secretary-General of the Federation of Provincial Industries, the Secretary of Provincial Commercial Bankers Club and the Assistant Provincial Economic Counsellor serve as committee members and assistant secretaries.

Responsibilities of the provincial JPPSCC

The provincial JPPSCC have the responsibilities to:

- Provide consultancy and advisory services to the governor, expeditiously solve problems regarding investor's business operations and public living standards, and participate in the formulation of provincial economic development policies, guidelines and measures;

- Under the provincial investment and development framework, co-ordinate the establishment of joint public-private sector co-operative programs in major economic areas;
- Promote and support the roles of the private sector in production, trade, investment and employment within the province in close co-operation with the public sector;
- Promote and support private economic institutions at the provincial level to achieve greater levels of participation in local development;
- Publish economic, investment and career information to support the roles of the private sector in solving economic problems as well as in developing the provincial economy;
- Appoint subcommittees or working groups to assist with operations as necessary; and
- Use the given authority to call upon related government agencies, persons and documents to provide information or consultancy in related matters as deemed necessary.

Operations of the provincial JPPSCC

Proposal of issues

When facing a problem, local entrepreneurs are directed to bring matters to the attention of the Provincial JPPSCC. If the Committee can find a solution and the matter falls under the power of the provincial office, then direct action can be taken. In the case that a particular problem or suggestion falls outside the authority of the provincial office, and a committee or agency has been assigned by the government to directly take care of the issue, the Provincial JPPSCC will act as a co-ordinator. For problems and suggestions that involve many agencies, the Provincial JPPSCC will submit them either to the JPPSCC and its secretariat or through the three private institutions.

Performance reports of the provincial JPPSCC

According to the order of the Ministry of Interior, which is responsible for the establishment of the Provincial JPPSCC, the provinces are required to report on the performance and operations of the Provincial JPPSCC.

Linkages and co-operation between the provincial JPPSCC and central institutions

In the past, with regards to issues brought up by the Provincial JPPSCC, there were guiding principles governing the operation and co-ordination between the Provincial JPPSCC, the Ministry of Interior and the National JPPSCC. That is, if any issue was within the authority of the governor, the governor should take action to solve the problem.

If, however, the issues were beyond the governor's authority but within the power of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Interior should take the responsibility for solving the problems. Issues at the policy level, involving many ministries or provinces beyond the Ministry of Interior's authority, should be brought to the National JPPSCC for consideration and action.

While many of the issues and suggestions raised by the Provincial JPPSCC are similar, they generally vary in terms of scope and quality. For instance most of these include requests for additional infrastructure construction such as road expansion, and the construction of new roads, airports and industrial estates in the province. In the past, with limited staff and budget and no specific organisation to handle proposals from the Provincial JPPSCC, the Ministry of Interior only acted as a co-ordinator, sending the proposals to related ministries, bureaus and departments. Most of the proposals, if they did not simply disappear, invariably were rejected on the grounds that they were not included in the respective agency's plan or that there were not enough budgetary resources to cover the additional expenses.

For this reason, there was only a slim chance for issues raised by the Provincial JPPSCC to be considered by the National JPPSCC. Moreover, most of the issues discussed in the National JPPSCC focused on solutions to central economic problems.

However, during the Administration of H.E. Banharn Silpa-Archa, there was a restructuring of the JPPSCC system both at the national and provincial levels. The Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister Governing the Development of Public and Private Sector Co-operation to Solve Economic Problems, B.E. 2539 (1996) dated June 6, 1996 established the Provincial JPPSCC Promotion Committee at the Ministry of Interior. This was designed to consider and support Provincial JPPSCC proposals, to develop the process of public-private sector co-operation at the provincial level, and to follow up and evaluate the performance of the Provincial JPPSCC, reporting to the National JPPSCC. This committee was also granted manpower and budgets for supporting the operations of the Provincial JPPSCC. This development has supported continuity in the operations of the Provincial JPPSCC, enhanced linkages between the Provincial JPPSCC and central institutions, and enabled a greater role for the Provincial JPPSCC.

The roles of the JPPSCC

Before examining the roles of the JPPSCC in solving economic problems, it should be understood that the JPPSCC is a process to create understanding and co-operation at the policy level between the public and private sectors. There are a number of important characteristics that make the JPPSCC successful and beneficial to the country, namely socio-psychological factors, organisational factors, administrative factors and political factors.

Socio-psychological factors

A reason why the JPPSCC process has, heretofore, worked and continues to evolve to the present day is that Gen. Prem Tinsulanond, the first JPPSCC chairman, emphasised the significance of the JPPSCC. During the early stages of its development, the JPPSCC focused on building faith and confidence in its efforts to co-operate and work for the public interest. The creation of faith and confidence requires both continuity and concrete outputs. Without concrete outputs to prove that the JPPSCC is worthwhile, the initial faith and confidence would soon vanish. In short, even though the JPPSCC succeeded in creating faith and confidence, it is of no less importance to nurture these sentiments and feed them constantly with tangible outcomes.

Organisational factors

The second element of success has been the strengthening of public and private institutions, especially those in the private sector. As for the public sector, the country's administrative system has been continuously developing, but also has a clear regulatory framework. However, at the same time the integration of the private sector in the form of associations, federations or clubs representing and protecting the member's interest, was relatively weak.

The institutions represented in the JPPSCC, namely, the Board of Trade of Thailand, the Federation of Thai Industries and the Thai Bankers Association, must do their best to be a true representative of the private sector; they must be able to reflect the interests, problems, limitations and expectations of the majority of their members. The operation of these institutions must be professional, and must also utilise modern administrative systems with adequate staff and budgets to support operations.

There are several ways in which proposals may be undermined in this process. One way is if the Board of Trade of Thailand cannot compromise with the interests of its members, or cannot reconcile various conflicting proposals. Another way is if the Federation of Thai Industries does not seek commonly-agreed proposals. Finally, and most importantly,

proposals may be undermined if the three private institutions do not have common proposals that represent the majority's interests.

Administrative factors

This aspect of success covers the framework and regulations regarding co-operation, which are the rules to be abided by under the JPPSCC process. That is, economic problems brought to consideration must pass two levels of screening mechanisms. The first one is the screening process of the private sector that helps select urgent and commonly-faced problems. The second one is the public-private sector screening process that focuses on problems at the policy level, multi-agency problems and common interest problems. If the screening process works efficiently, the consideration given by the JPPSCC should yield concrete outcomes that benefit all parties involved.

Political factors

The last element of success is political. In other words, the JPPSCC process owes its success to the support of the head of the government. The Prime Minister, as the JPPSCC chairman, must recognise the importance of the work performed by the JPPSCC and push for continuous and concrete outputs. Apart from the Prime Minister's interest in and recognition of the significance of the JPPSCC, political stability and the integrity and continuity of political leaders also contribute to the ability of the JPPSCC in solving economic problems.

Since its inception, the JPPSCC has continuously played the role of solving the country's economic problems and obstacles as well as creating a positive trade and investment environment for private sector business operations. However, JPPSCC operations are still limited. Most of the solutions concern immediate problems and lack continuity from one government to another. This occurs because the Committee is appointed by the Prime Minister, and therefore depends heavily on how much attention is placed on the role of the JPPSCC.

In 1996, the government led by Banharn Silpa-Archa enhanced the flexibility and continuity of the JPPSCC structure at both the central and provincial levels through the enactment of the Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister Governing the Development of Public-Private Sector Co-operation to Solve Economic Problems, B.E. 2539 (1996) dated June 6, 1996. This was revised by the government of General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh in Regulation B.E. 2540 (1997) dated April 10, 1997. Under the regulation, the JPPSCC was provided with the Office of the Joint Public-Private Sector Consultative Committee (OJPPSCC), an agency in the Office of National Economic and Social Development Board that works as the JPPSCC secretariat. At the provincial level, the Committee to Promote the Provincial JPPSCC operations was set up under the Ministry of Interior to co-ordinate with the related agencies in solving provincial economic problems as well as in developing the provincial economy.

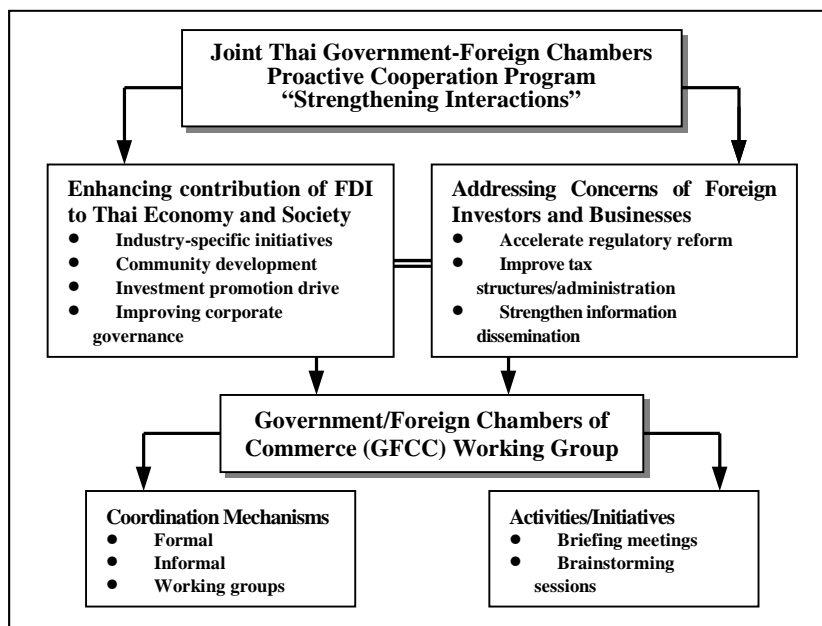
This regulation contributes to the continuity of JPPSCC operations and budgetary support, which in turn helps promote organisational efficiency.

The government and foreign chambers of commerce working group (GFCCWG)

Inception and initial activities

In July 1998, the Thai government launched an innovative initiative by appointing a Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Dr. Savit Bhotiwihok) to co-ordinate with the foreign business community in Thailand through the existing foreign chambers of commerce and four major business associations.

In the Cabinet resolution appointing the Minister, it was announced that communications between the Thai government and the foreign business community would be two-way. On the one hand, the Minister will listen to the concerns, problems, and suggestions of foreign business people and will co-ordinate proactive measures to address the problems. On the other hand, the Minister will use the established communication channels to inform foreign business people of policy developments and any other urgent items that need their co-operation and support. It was explicitly stated in the announcement that issues resulting from consultations between the two sides and requiring policy decisions would be forwarded either to the (JPPSCC), or to the Economic Cabinet, both of which are chaired by the Prime Minister, with the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) serving as the office of the secretariat.



The Government and Foreign Chambers of Commerce Working Group (GFCCWG) was established in July 1998, chaired by the designated Minister with the office of the JPPSCC at the NESDB serving as secretariat. This structure is appropriate since the office of the JPPSCC already deals with all members of the JPPSCC, including the economic ministers and the leaders of the three principal private sector institutions – the Board of Trade of Thailand, the Federation of Thai Industries, and the Thai Bankers’ Association. Since all FCC are also members of the Board of Trade, they may submit their agendas for government action through the Board of Trade, which will table it at a meeting of the JPPSCC.

In August 1998, the GFCCWG convened with the goal of establishing a framework with which to further promote co-operation between the government and private sector in order to promote the positive effects of foreign direct investment in Thailand.

The following key areas were examined:

1. **Community Development.** The role of FDI in addressing the needs of local communities and the poor is not well understood. However, there have been several initiatives in Thailand aimed at strengthening the links between foreign investors and local communities – including various chamber programs and foreign participation in the TBIRD project (Thai Business Initiative for Rural Development of the *Population and Community Development Association*). In light of the present financial crisis and the accompanying social disruptions, it would be useful to explore the potential for the foreign investment community to play an active part in meeting Thailand’s social sector challenges. Such activities could cover employment creation, human capital formation, employment practices, and environmental policies.
2. **Investment Promotion Drive.** Foreign investment is a key element of Thailand’s economic recovery. And prospective foreign investors listen first to the experiences and advice of other foreign investors already in the market. High-level promotion efforts in

the major foreign investment markets for Thailand are called for to improve understanding and perceptions of the Thai business climate – involving joint road shows of senior representatives from the foreign business community in Thailand, the Thai business community, and key policy makers. To support this effort, innovative presentation materials, including a refined “investment pitch” that provides an up-beat but realistic picture of business opportunities in Thailand, must be prepared to support the road shows.

3. **Improving Corporate Governance.** Concerted efforts are underway by the Thai government to improve the effectiveness with which Thai companies are managed, the regulatory framework within which they operate, and the general level of ethics of the corporate sector. The foreign business community can support these efforts by providing information on successful programs in their home countries, and by actively supporting certain initiatives. One example would be to create a strong linkage between the foreign business community in Thailand and the Thai Chapter of Transparency International (an international organisation promoting measures and activities to reduce corruption and increase transparency in governmental and private sector decision-making). Another would be to support a series of workshops on the meaning of “corporate governance” and the ways in which it has been fostered and improved in other countries.
4. **Training and Technology Upgrading.** It is generally recognised that Thai firms need to devote much more attention to training and technology upgrading efforts to be able to compete effectively in international markets. Foreign investors in Thailand, particularly in the rather slow business climate, could play an important role in supporting efforts to inject technical and managerial expertise into small and medium Thai suppliers and related industries. This could take the form of a government program to provide out-of-pocket expense support to enable engineers and managers of Thai-based foreign companies to spend time in Thai factories, working with Thai entrepreneurs to develop restructuring plans to support future competitiveness. These kinds of activities are particularly appropriate as the Thai government seeks to promote exports and foreign exchange generation.
5. **Impact of Foreign Investment.** Foreign investment data in Thailand are relatively weak and few studies in recent years have attempted to identify the importance and contribution of foreign investment to the Thai economy. In light of the financial crisis, it would seem a good time to work to understand better the role of FDI in Thailand and its changing nature, and to educate the public on these matters. The foreign chambers of commerce could assist in carrying out a survey among their members, both to measure present levels of activities, but also to assess more broadly the impact of their members on Thailand.

Since its establishment, the GFCCWG has dealt with a broad range of issues of mutual concern. On the economic front, it has served as an effective sounding board for proposed modifications and amendments of certain key economic reform bills, notably the new Alien Business Law, the Labour Protection Law, the new Condominium Law, and amendments to the Land Code. All these key reform bills are required to speed up the settlement of debts, to support the sale of assets, and to facilitate foreign participation in Thai businesses. The Minister chairing the GFCCWG has used the forum both to clarify the rationale and objectives of key amendments and to solicit comments and suggestions from the foreign business community.

In response to the request from the Thai government for support from the foreign business community in the time of crisis, the foreign chambers responded with an unprecedented statement in December 1998 outlining seven potential roles of the foreign chambers of commerce in revitalising the Thai economy:

- **Community services and charities.** The foreign chambers expressed their willingness and support for community services and charity functions as ways to improve the living conditions of the Thai population. Several chambers have explicit work programs and budgets for such activities.
- **Trade missions.** The foreign chambers will encourage the Thai government to participate in trade missions organised by the chambers and related associations.
- **Information dissemination.** The foreign chambers can serve as channels to disseminate accurate, timely, and positive information to business persons from all member countries.
- **Participation in policy-making.** The foreign chambers will make themselves available to provide feedback and comments on proposed legal and regulatory reforms dealing with business issues.
- **Foreign lobbying.** The foreign chambers will assist in lobbying for trade reforms that will promote free trade in Thailand and its trading partners.
- **The provision of expertise.** The foreign chambers, through their vast networks of contacts and specialised resources, can provide technical expertise in areas ranging from judicial reform to investment promotion, privatisation, and corporate restructuring.
- **The voice of foreign chambers.** The foreign chambers view the Foreign Chambers of Commerce Co-ordinating Committee (FCCCC) as a forum whereby business concerns can be brought to the attention of the relevant government agencies

The GFCCWG was tasked to proactively explore ways and means of enhancing the contribution of FDI to the Thai economy and society through programs to develop industry-specific initiatives, improve corporate governance, and promote training and technology upgrading, especially in small and medium scale Thai producers.

However, the GFCCWG is not just a forum to facilitate the business activities of the foreign business community. It also serves as an important social gathering where business people can express their corporate responsibility through various social activities.

Towards enhancing Thailand's investment climate

As the crisis continued, and more and more groups became susceptible to economic and social problems, further steps needed to be taken throughout the region to ensure that development issues with respect to foreign firms continue to be emphasised. This not only includes programs to attract foreign firms (to poorer regions, for example), but also programs that to ensure that foreign firms can instigate and strengthen longer and closer relationships with the domestic economy.

Greater co-operation between the private and public sectors in such areas as information dissemination, laws and regulations, human resource needs, as well as the development of local supplier capabilities, will allow for a greater maximisation of the synergies between domestic and foreign business communities and the positive spillovers of FDI, which in turn will help facilitate the expansion and development of crucial technologies, human resources, and management skills.

Recognising this, the FCC submitted to the Thai government on May 27, 1999 (the Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Dr. Savit Bhotiwihok) a report entitled: *Toward Enhancing Thailand's Investment Climate: Progress Report and Recommendations*. The report identified the main areas of potential inputs from the foreign business community, as well as concrete suggestions on solutions and next steps.

Matrix of operating issues	
Extracted from the FCC report: <i>Toward Enhancing Thailand's Investment Climate: Progress Report and Recommendations: Progress Report and Recommendations, May 27, 1999</i>	
1	Regional headquarter and representative office establishment
2	Overhaul import/export structures and procedures
3	Improve auditing standards in Thailand
4	Review investment policies and promotion activities
5	Enhance the productivity and efficiency of Thai labour
6	Alien Business Law
7	Liability of directors
8	Review and modernise the Chambers of Commerce Act
9	Improve the VAT refund system
10	Expand the scope of services provided by the Visa and Work Permit Centre (One Stop Service)
11	Strengthen the "Buy Made in Thailand" campaign
12	Consideration of the G-FCC and F4C as permanent bodies
13	Information dissemination regarding benefits of foreign investment
14	Bankruptcy Law
15	Forms of security for lenders
16	Enforcement of legal rights
17	Develop improved arbitration rules for private and government contracts
18	Improve public procurement processes

Following the submission of the report by the Foreign Chambers of Commerce, extensive meetings and discussions were held between representatives of the foreign chambers, Thai government agencies, and the secretariat to the Joint Public-Private Sector Consultative Committee to prepare the issues raised by the foreign chambers for more detailed consideration.

On July 5, 1999: The Government and Foreign Chambers of Commerce Working Group Conference on "Toward Enhancing Thailand's Investment Climate" was held at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel, chaired by the Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Dr. Savit Bhotiwihok. The meeting was attended by representatives from all business-related government agencies and representatives from all foreign chambers of commerce and Thai private sector organisations. The meeting was extremely productive and considered all the issues raised in the FCC report: *Toward Enhancing Thailand's Investment Climate: Progress Report and Recommendations: Progress Report and Recommendations*.

On July 19, 1999, the conclusions/recommendations from the GFCCWG Conference on July 5 were tabled at the meeting of the JPPSCC, chaired by the Prime Minister, for report on progress on the latest status of the various issues.

Remarks of the JPPSCC meeting

1. The document *Toward Enhancing Thailand's Investment Climate* by the FCC was recognised as a constructive initiative of the FCC. The paper presented recommendations for revitalisation of the Thai economy, supporting foreign investment, and promoting international competitiveness. The paper should receive support from both the Thai government and Thai private sector institutions.
2. For recommendations that do not specifically concern the Thai private sector, the Government may proceed with further actions. For those that directly concern the Thai

private sector, the Board of Trade and the Joint Standing Committee of the Thai Private Sector should first be consulted.

3. For most of the recommendations, appropriate actions by government agencies will create a more positive investment environment and a good image for Thailand in the international community. Such actions will demonstrate to the foreign business community that the Thai government understands the key concerns and obstacles facing foreign investors and is determined to make all efforts to bring about the most favourable investment environment for the benefits of all, both Thai and foreign.

Resolutions of the JPPSCC

1. Acknowledge progress report as presented by the Minister to the Prime Minister's Office (Dr. Savit Bhotiwihok).
2. Acknowledge the remarks made by the JPPSCC.
3. The Board of Trade and the Joint Standing Committee of the Thai Private Sector should consider the proposals of the FCC and table them with any additional comments for consideration by the JPPSCC.

On July 26, 1999, the conclusions/recommendations from the GFCCWG Conference on July 5 were tabled at the meeting of the Economic Cabinet for acknowledgement and for transmission to the Full Cabinet for acknowledgement.

On July 30, 1999, the conclusions/recommendations from the GFCCWG Conference on July 5 were officially submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking for consideration at their meeting planned for August 2, 1999 (further to the request of the JPPSCC meeting on July 19).

On August 2, 1999, the conclusions/recommendations from the GFCCWG Conference on July 5 were acknowledged in full by the Cabinet with the following remark:

“Following co-ordinated efforts with the FCC, the Minister to the Prime Minister's Office (Dr. Savit Bhotiwihok) stated at the Economic Cabinet Meeting on July 26 1999 that all the Foreign Chambers of Commerce have demonstrated the sincere intention to propose recommendations which are valuable for the revitalisation of the Thai economy. These efforts should receive the full support from all authorities concerned. For issues which have impacts on the Thai private sector, the FCC should consult with the Board of Trade and the Joint Standing Committee of the Thai Private Sector.”

Next steps following Cabinet acknowledgement

Each of the issues raised will be followed up on, with a specific strategy being mapped out for each item for concrete next steps. Some actions may require more preparation than others may. Some may require further Cabinet endorsement. Some may require law changes.

The Secretariat of the JPPSCC will take responsibility to ensure that actions are taken on each issue in an expeditious manner. The Foreign Chambers of Commerce Co-ordinating Committee will be involved closely at all stages of the process of follow up and action.

Future directions of the JPPSCC

Since its inception, the JPPSCC has succeeded in addressing problems and obstacles of the private sector both in the central region and in the provinces. However, in order to be consistent with Thailand's aspirations, both in the global marketplace and in Southeast Asia, enhanced co-operation between the public and private sectors has become increasingly critical.

Accordingly, the JPPSCC must increase its activities in the following areas:

- Development of economic co-operation with neighbouring countries
- Decentralisation of economic progress towards the provinces and rural areas
- Development of technology and human resources
- Improvement of environmental protection in the provinces
- Development of strategies for various sectors.

In order to further develop co-operation at the provincial level, there is a need to promote integration of groups of provinces (or sub-regions) through sub-regional JPPSCC activities. This is expected to increase the role of provincial private and public sectors in jointly addressing economic problems. Those involved in the JPPSCC process will be able to co-operate more closely in order to successfully achieve objectives as well as building confidence, strengthening public and private institutions in the JPPSCC and generating support from the top political leaders.

The JPPSCC process is critical for the development of the Thai economy. It will enable the Thai economy better to face global competition, and the future of the JPPSCC will clearly depend on its current operations. Critical issues in this regard are: the need to continuously work to strengthen the process; the extent to which political leaders are truly committed to solving problems in accordance with the JPPSCC framework or simply to creating an illusion of co-operation; and the ability of the public sector to efficiently deliver quality measures to tackle new challenges in a timely and appropriate manner. If the public sector is not able to reduce its size and increase its efficiency, productivity, flexibility, honour, and integrity, and to receive comparable compensation as the private sector, then public institutions will remain an obstacle to the work of the private sector and an impediment to the progress of the country as a whole.

From the private sector perspective, the strength of the JPPSCC draws heavily on the joint confidence and co-operation of the private and public sector with mutual benefit in mind. This is partly dependent on whether the public sector has proven itself by producing satisfactory results. At the same time, the private sector is challenged with developing all three key institutions to a more professional level, to serve as true representatives of the business, trade, industrial, agricultural, financial, banking, and various service sectors. These private sector institutions must represent the private sector at large, from the central region and the provinces, and from both large and small enterprises.

The role of co-operation between the public and private sectors under the Constitution of 1998
The Constitution of 1998 aims to reform and develop the political system in order to promote freedom and participation of the general public in governing the country. It also gives rights to the people to assess and control the government's use of power; to ensure good governance that is transparent, open to investigation, and has the ability to solve problems.

In this process, there will be the need to adapt co-operation between the public and private sectors. Accordingly, the JPPSCC guidelines need to be modified to be consistent with the Constitution in the following areas:

- 1 Under Section 76 of the new Constitution, the role of public and private sector co-operation, especially the JPPSCC, will need to be enhanced as follows:
 - Adjust the mindset of JPPSCC process to emphasise solving economic problems in parallel with enhanced public participation, and also to focus more on tackling long-run economic concerns by co-operating more closely with the National Economic and Social Advisory Council.

- Restructure the JPPSCC by increasing the role and representation of people and private sector in solving economic problems in a transparent manner.
 - Working Mechanism. In the future the JPPSCC Secretariat will be the Office of the Joint Public-Private Sector Consultative Committee (OJPPSCC). Aside from promoting participation of the general public in the implementation of the JPPSCC, the OJPPSCC must emphasise the development of information systems and the readiness of the information technology network to relay information to the private sector. The OJPPSCC must also increase efficiency in offering services and should develop an information exchange system between the public and the private sectors to serve as economic early warning system.
- 2 The role of the Provincial JPPSCC as a part of the decentralisation of power to local authorities and communities:
- Attitudes will need to be refocussed and changes be made to increase the role of local administration representatives in the process of co-operation between the provincial government, local administrations, and representatives of people's organisations. This will support the role of the Provincial JPPSCC to serve as a platform for enhancing understanding and mobilising the resources of the public sector, the private sector, and the local communities to: address the economic problems of the regional areas; to increase linkages and co-ordination between local and provincial economic development agents to ensure maximum efficiency; and to generate the greatest benefits for local communities. Local leaders must play a major role in dealing with provincial economic problems, initially by developing the capacity of the Provincial JPPSCC in tackling economic problems. In time, local administrations will be given an increasing role, greater budgets, and much more say in developing and implementing development activities.
 - Changes in jurisdiction. The Provincial JPPSCC will strengthen its role as a consulting institution, advising governors and local administrations in matters of provincial economic development. This will facilitate consistency between provincial and local administration goals and activities.
 - The Secretariats of the Provincial JPPSCC. The Secretariats must develop information and economic data systems of the provinces to respond to the data needs of the private sector and other outside investors. They must emphasise management efficiency in offering services and co-ordinating with other local administrations with similar responsibilities. At the same time they must promote information exchange to strengthen provincial Chambers of Commerce and branches of the Federation of Thai industries as well as local groups, thus promoting enhanced co-operation between the provincial public and private sectors.

Accordingly, the new Constitution will require certain changes in the attitudes, approaches, organisation structures and working mechanisms of the National JPPSCC and Provincial JPPSCC as outlined above.

However, it must always be emphasised that co-operation between the public and private sectors will depend on the expected future role of such co-operation in meeting the challenges and solving the problems faced by the private sector, taking into account the needs of the general public and the views of the academics and policy makers. The whole process must incorporate all these views in a transparent manner, must undertake activities for the benefit of the public at large, and must actively monitor its operations and be monitored by others.

6.19 Policy statement of the Council of Ministers of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai delivered to Parliament Thursday, 20 November 1997

Mr. President,

Pursuant to His Majesty the King's gracious appointment of myself as Prime Minister, per Royal Command dated 9 November 1997, and the appointment of the Council of Ministers, per Royal Command dated 14 November 1997.

The Council of Ministers has now formulated a policy for the administration of state affairs, abiding by the rule of parliamentary democracy with the King as Head of State; and with consideration for the provisions under section 5 on basic state policy according to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand; and with a key objective being to expedite political reform, civil service reform, decentralisation of authority and popular participation according to the provisions of the Constitution, as well as to promote civil and human rights and freedoms, and ensure the enforcement of the law as set forth in the Constitution, to form the basis for long-term development as soon as possible.

Under present circumstances, the Council of Ministers well recognises that the urgent problem which need to be promptly addressed by the government is the economic predicament which is severely affecting the well-being of people all over the country, resulting in social problems and falling living standards, and which, if not promptly resolved or alleviated, may undermine nationality security. The government is therefore resolved to tackling the economic problem swiftly as the first priority, through the mobilisation of co-operation of all parties in the nation, to generate strength towards a comprehensive solution, as the government alone cannot achieve-success quickly , but require a shared perception of and agreement on the approach to solving the problems, and serious co-operation among the state-sector, private sector and the people, with the interest and future of the nation as the main objectives. If this can be accomplished, it is believed that the country may be returned to normalcy in due course. The government is prepared to serve as co-ordinator in the advancement of all mechanisms, whether in the public or private sector, to solve all problems concurrently in a co-ordinated manner.

However, the national economy is by no means completely damaged. Some sectors are in sufficiently good condition to move forward efficiently, if properly adjustment.

The government has therefore formulated a policy to rehabilitate all sectors of the national economy and stands ready to be motivating force for full-capacity development in the future. The government is well aware that this undertaking is fraught with difficulty and falls under the conditions of a stringent deadline and tight fiscal limitations. The government is nevertheless confident that the wholehearted co-operation of the entire populace of the nation, and the government's principles of efficient, swift, honest, and transparent administration should enable the solution of the economic problems currently facing the nation and the people.

For clarity in carrying out the work of the government in a systematic manner, the Council of Ministers has formulated its policy on the administration of state affairs in two parts. Part 1 consists of policy on the political system, governance, civil service administration, security, and foreign affairs; Part 2 consists of policy on economy and social development, comprising two time frames -- the immediate and intermediate terms -- to respond to the gravity of the problems being faced, and to make clear each step towards the objectives being urgently purposed, as follows:

PART 1. Policy On Political Affairs, Governance, Civil Service Administration, Security and Foreign Affairs

This government intends to uphold and protect the institutions of Nation, Religion, Monarchy, democratic rule with the King as Head of State, independence and territorial integrity through the following actions:

1. Policy on Political Affairs, Governance, and Civil Service Administration

1.1 Political Reform

1.1.1 Expedite the passage of legislation supporting the Constitution, other laws, rules, regulations, and other actions to implement the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, in order that the provisions of the Constitution may be complete and yield practical results, with the drawing up of an action plan determining the time frame and the agencies responsible for carrying them out. The passage of legislation, rules and regulations on the part of the Council of Ministers shall also be expedited.

The government considers the laws under this heading to be laws necessary for the administration of state affairs pursuant to Article 173 of the Constitution.

1.1.2 Support the activities of organisations newly formed or in the process of being formed under the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, in terms of staffing, budgets, and other facilities, to enable them to function independently and efficiently as regulatory or auditing organisations for politics, government and public administration, protection of the rights and liberties of the people, and the management of national communications resources, according to the Constitution and related laws.

1.1.3 Protect the rights and freedoms of academics and mass media, both state-owned and privately owned, to educate, conduct research or carry out their duties, as well as promote their role in imparting knowledge and understanding of the form, process and substance of democracy with the King as Head of State, so that the political reform process may proceed more concretely and completely.

1.1.4 Encourage the people to know and understand their rights, freedoms and duties as set forth in the Constitution, as well as determine measures to review and confirm such understanding with state officials so that they do not violate such rights, with the participation of educational institutions and mass media, both state-owned and privately-owned.

1.1.5 Promote public participation in policymaking, important political decisions, planning on economic, social and political development, including scrutiny of the exercise of state authority through meetings and consultation with concerned individuals and communities, and through public hearings or referenda, as the case may be, with the participation of academic institutions, mass media, private-sector professional organisations, and public interest non-governmental organisations.

1.1.6 Establish a national-level committee, through a selection process free of political interference, to work in conjunction with the Counter-Corruption Commission; draw up a blueprint for the development of politics and ethical standards for political office-holders, civil servants, and state officers or employees, to prevent corruption and malfeasance, improve the efficacy of their performance, and implement the blueprint.

1.2 Reform of Civil Service Administration

1.2.1 Improve and expedite the restructuring of the legal framework and process in accordance with the Constitution, in order to protect the people's rights and freedoms and carry out justice for the people in an efficient, prompt and equitable manner.

1.2.2 Introduce greater openness into the work process of the public sector and state enterprises, with public participation, the elimination of unnecessary procedures and discrimination, an efficient and just system, by drawing up a blueprint for the development of the civil service and performance quality standards in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution.

1.2.3 Improve the quality of civil servants' work, with emphasis on results, quality, honesty, public-mindedness, and neutrality in the performance of their duties, with work commensurate to their pay, by drawing up a blueprint for quality development and boosting the morale of civil servants.

1.2.4 Prevent and suppress corruption and malfeasance in both the civil service and political circles, by expediting legislation to establish a National Counter-Corruption Commission and laws on criminal proceedings against offending political office-holders, as specified in the Constitution. In the meantime, the existing administrative structures of government agencies shall be adjusted to enhance preparedness and efficient co-operation among personnel.

The government considers the laws under this heading to be laws necessary for the administration of state affairs pursuant to Article 173 of the Constitution.

1.2.5 Expedite legislation to decentralise administrative authority to local communities according to the provisions of the Constitution, by determining a plan and steps for action forthwith; clearly delineate the duties and responsibilities between the central authority and local administrative bodies, as well as among local administrative bodies themselves, in order to elevate the role and authority of local administrative bodies; and increase the proportion of tax revenues allocated to local communities. Moreover, local administrative bodies shall be adjusted to come under four categories:

- (1) Provincial administrative organisations;
- (2) Municipalities;
- (3) Tambon administrative organisations; and
- (4) Special administrative bodies

Local assembly members must come from direct popular elections. Local administrators or administrative teams may come from direct popular elections or upon the approval of the local assemblies, depending on the appropriate format and timing.

The government considers the laws under this heading to be laws necessary for the administration of state affairs pursuant to Article 173 of the Constitution.

1.2.6 Reduce state involvement in various enterprises, while encouraging the partial or complete privatisation of such enterprises in a systematic and tangible manner, with the goal of upgrading the efficiency of public service and reducing the investment burden of the state sector, while at the same time refraining from any action that would create monopoly. Legal measures shall be employed to open up opportunities to facilitate the subcontracting of public-service work to the private sector. At the same time, consumers shall be protected to ensure the adequacy, quality and fair prices of the services provided. A master plan shall also be drawn up as guidance for systematically raising the role of the private sector in line with the country's development goals and economic policy.

1.2.7 Expedite the passage of new legislation or amend existing laws, through systematic legal reform, to expand measures for the protection of children, youth and women; the welfare of the elderly, the indigent, the handicapped or disabled, and the underprivileged; public health and the environment; the protection of consumers; eradication of social injustice and unfair competition and investment; land reform or land use, solving problems in the economy, trade and investment, and safeguarding life and property.

The government considers the laws under this heading to be laws necessary for the administration of state affairs pursuant to Article 173 of the Constitution.

2. Policy on Security

The government intends to maintain the security policies already in place, with additional policies and adjustments to conform with the regional and global security situations, as well as economic and social conditions, as follows:

2.1 Promote and support the role of the military in efficiently carrying out its mission as specified in the Constitution, including the strengthening of relations and security ties with neighbouring countries and partners, by using the potential the military already possesses.

2.2 Promote and support the military to improve and develop its structure into a compact but modern force, through the development of military doctrine, force preparedness, reserves structuring, development of an industry for the production and maintenance of armaments, in order to optimise the preparedness and capabilities of servicemen.

2.3 Promote and support the armed forces to develop its welfare system and other potentialities for the servicemen, veterans, and their families, in terms of health, sports, vocational training, so that they enjoy status, honour, and esteem, and the ability to perform other useful public activities to the best of their potential.

2.4 Promote and support the military to develop its servicemen at all levels, to apply knowledge and skills, particularly in engineering, science and technology, medicine, nursing, and discipline, towards developing the military and participation in economic problem-solving and development, producing qualified personnel where most needed, providing public health services to the people, maintaining discipline in society, disaster relief, safeguarding life and property, conserving natural resources, resolving environment problems, and working with the private sector on other matters.

3. Foreign Policy

The government shall uphold all commitments under the UN Charter, various treaties and agreements to which Thailand is party, and shall promote a more prominent role on the part of Thailand in actively assuming its responsibilities toward the international community, as follows:

3.1 Promote friendship, amity and co-operation with neighbouring countries and other countries in the Asia- Pacific region by utilising Thailand's diplomatic capability and experience efficiently and effectively.

3.2 Strengthen and develop relations and co-operation with fellow ASEAN member countries in political, economic, social and cultural fields, including support for the successful implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, with coverage to include agricultural products and services, as well as support the conclusion of an agreement on

co-operation in the production of industrial goods, investment and human resources management.

3.3 Promote economic relations and co-operation with important trading partners under a free trading system with fair competition, as well as actively participate in efforts to reduce international conflict resulting from disputes related to trade, investment, technology transfer and protection of intellectual property rights, by taking into primary account the country's preparedness.

3.4 Promote economic, technical, cultural, tourism and human resources development co-operation, particularly with neighbouring countries and with emphasis on co-operation within a sub-regional framework.

3.5 Promote Thailand's role in international fora in the fields of environmental conservation as well as sustainable and balanced development.

3.6 Facilitate, protect and promote the rights and interests of Thai citizens, Thai workers and Thai businesses abroad.

3.7 Participate jointly in international fora in protecting and promoting democratic values and human rights.

Part 2. Economic and Social Development Policy

As Thailand's economy is now in critical condition, beset all around by financial, fiscal, trade, investment, and cost of living problems, the floating of the exchange rate which caused substantial devaluation of the baht has contributed to higher commodity prices. Furthermore, efforts to resolve the economic problems with assistance from the International Monetary Fund have not yet restored confidence in the Thai economy, which is in a period of severe stagnation. This has brought about unemployment and social problems, compounding the crisis to affect the people's livelihood even more severely. Recognising the severity of this economic crisis, the government has established urgent plans of action to attack the problems on all fronts to see the economy through this crisis. The policies to be implemented may be classified into two phases, i.e., the immediate term, with measures to be taken within the shortest period of time, and the medium term, with measures to be taken within 6 months to 1 year. The policies aim to bring about continuous improvement and the restoration of the Thai economy back to normalcy within a reasonable period, as follows:

1. Immediate-term policy: strengthening stability and confidence in the economic system

1.1 Expediting the strengthening of economic stability

1.1.1 Solving the problems of the financial sector and boosting liquidity

(1) The government regards as a matter of utmost urgency the immediate action to solve the problem of the 58 suspended financial institutions by having the Financial Restructuring Authority act expeditiously in accordance with the following approach:

- Those financial institutions able to increase capital and resume operations shall be released from supervision and permitted to reopen immediately.
- Those financial institutions needing to be merged shall carry out the mergers immediately.

•Those financial institutions in poor shape which require dissolution shall sort out their good assets and allow domestic and international financial institutions to take over their management. The bad assets, meanwhile, shall be managed by the Asset Management Corporation.

(2) The government shall support the remaining financial institutions and banks that are able to resume operations in a direction that will create lasting stability for the financial system.

(3) The government shall expedite the securitisation of assets in order to boost liquidity in the financial system.

(4) The government shall promote the freeing of foreign investment from obstructive regulations that have yet to be amended.

1.1.2. Sustaining international reserves at a level sufficient to build confidence

(1) Establish a plan of action and system to monitor closely all foreign exchange revenues and expenditures in both public and private sectors.

(2) Support the advancing of and co-operation with the private sector on barter trade in major imports, such as petroleum, armaments, and telecommunications equipment in order to conserve foreign exchange.

1.1.3. Increasing foreign exchange revenues

(1) Expedite the boosting of liquidity for export businesses and industries, especially small and medium-sized industries, through state financial institutions such as the Exim Bank and private financial institutions.

(2) Eliminate obstacles to exports related to customs and value-added tax, and reduce cost by amending customs laws and upgrading the efficiency of cargo transportation.

(3) Co-operate with the private sector in establishing plans and goals in order to enhance consistency between the domestic production system and the direction of international trade.

(4) Accelerate the expansion of tourism and eradicate impediments thereto through close co-operation with the private sector, as well as promote the "Thais travel Thailand" campaign in order to save foreign exchange.

1.1.4. National Budget Management

(1) On the management of the budget outlay, the government shall abide by the conditions agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund, but shall not allow the management of the budget outlay to affect the provision of education and basic public health services.

(2) The government shall encourage a greater role for the private sector in state enterprises, with priority given to those already listed on the Stock Exchange and which have the potential to issue increased capital shares on the Stock Exchange, in order to ease the burden of public sector investment.

1.1.5. Promoting thriftiness

(1) The government will be the leader on thriftiness by monitoring and regulating budget expenditures for maximum efficiency to prevent waste and eliminate extravagance.

(2) Campaign jointly with non-governmental organisations and the public to limit spending, increase savings, and conserve energy.

1.1.6. Creating unity and efficiency in overall economic policy management

(1) Arrange for the overall economic policy management system to have a unified decision-making process, clarity and transparency.

(2) Restructure existing agencies responsible for overall economic management to enable them to function efficiently, with a work process that is open to public scrutiny.

1.2 Alleviation of economic impact

1.2.1 Alleviating the unemployment problem

(1) Have state agencies take a role in expending the current budget to expand employment, particularly in the rural areas.

(2) Assist businesses with a large employee base to continue operations through various means of support, such as reduction of production costs, marketing promotion, and improved production technology.

(3) Address the problem of laid-off workers by expediting new job placement, new skills training, and co-ordinating assistance for laid-off workers through a network linking every province.

1.2.2 Alleviating the cost of living problem

(1) Minimise the impact on the cost of living, particularly that of low-income earners, by monitoring and investigating the cost of basic necessities and reducing monopolistic middleman behaviour.

(2) Increase the role of agencies responsible for consumer protection in monitoring and investigating exploitative business practices regarding product quality and prices.

(3) Expedite an increase in the supply of basic necessities, especially products for low-income earners. Monitor and ensure that product quality and prices fall within an appropriate range, and prevent shortages of supply.

1.2.3 Alleviating social problems

(1) Guarantee education opportunities for Thai youth whose families are affected by the economic recession by providing assistance in the form of student loans.

(2) Provide health and sanitation services, including rehabilitation for people affected by the economic crisis, by expanding health insurance for low-income earners to gain access to comprehensive health services, especially while unemployed or seeking employment.

(3) Improve efficiency in crime prevention and suppression as well as the judicial system to render justice and safeguard the life and property of citizens, particularly in the prevention and suppression of crime, drug trafficking and reducing the number of illegal foreign workers.

2. Medium-term policy: structural adjustment and social development

The government aims to lay the foundation for fostering economic strength and increasing competitiveness as well as promoting economic stability in continuation from the immediate phase, by emphasising economic restructuring and social development in every aspect to cope with rapid changes, and continue with the policy of thorough distribution of income and progress to the rural areas. Nonetheless, due to budget constraints, the government is required to set priorities and a clear direction for implementation, as follows:

2.1 Strengthening sources of funds for economic restructuring

2.1.1 Develop key financial instruments, especially long-term instruments and bonds, to mobilise funds for use in key development areas.

2.1.2 Increase the role of the private sector by ensuring that strong state enterprises, or those with the status of limited companies or companies registered with the stock exchange, dispense shares to interested local and foreign investors.

2.1.3 Ensure that the loans from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank are put to the most efficacious use to bring about adjustment of the production structure and an efficient and internationally competitive trading sector.

2.2 Restructuring the production system

2.2.1 Restructuring the agricultural sector

(1) Adjust the agricultural production system to comply with market demand. Use appropriate technology to increase production output and trim production costs, by expanding the volume of capital distributed to farmers through co-operatives, from existing funding sources in state-owned banks such as the Government Savings Bank, in order to quickly reduce production costs incurred by informal interest payments.

(2) Expand investment opportunities for farmers, agricultural institutes and the private sector in post-harvest activities; promote the creation of an agro-processing industry and processing of agricultural produce to boost exports; step up the country's role in international negotiations and co-operation at the bilateral and multilateral levels to promote Thai agricultural exports in the world market.

(3) Support and promote research and development in the distribution of seeds for cultivation, livestock breeding and fisheries of good quality and high standard to farmers, in order to improve quality, increase output and reduce production costs in the agricultural sector, livestock and fisheries, including prevention of crop and animal epidemics.

(4) Encourage and reinvigorate agricultural production based on sustainable use of natural resources, with minimal impact on ecosystems and the environment, according to His Majesty the King's new theory, including the completion on schedule of royally-initiated projects.

(5) Bolster the capacity of farmers, agricultural institutes and co-operatives, through the systematic transfer of knowledge, technology and key information so that farmers, agricultural institutes and co-operatives can be self-reliant in terms of production, marketing and agro-processing, as well as serve as learning centres for rural communities.

(6) Ensure that farmers enjoy fair and stable prices for agricultural products, to raise incomes through boosting output, product quality improvement, development of production technology and marketing. At the same time, the irrigation system shall be completely linked up in line with the existing Master Plan, including the continuous implementation of land reform and addressing the problem of farmers' land to help adjust the structure for faster output growth.

2.2.2 Restructuring the industrial sector

(1) Encourage the Exim Bank to expand its credit services and locate sources of funding to support export-oriented manufacturing activities.

(2) Promote integrated industrial production by encouraging the continuous expansion in each industrial sector, by increasing the efficiency of technology utilisation, and expanding foreign investment, as well as making use of investment guarantees in investor countries.

(3) Develop the linkage of production systems among large, medium and small-scale enterprises within each major industry, especially in the agro-processing, textiles, electronics, iron and steel, and petrochemical industries.

(4) Expedite industrial standardisation, testing and standards certification to promote confidence in buyer countries, and provide advice for exporters by expanding the scope of specialised industrial institutes and research and development institutions.

2.2.3 Restructuring the service sector

(1) Tourism - improve the quality of tourist sites to promote in-country tourism by Thais and attract foreign tourists to visit Thailand again by decentralising administrative authority on budget management, revenue allocation, and tourism industry personnel, while increasing the role of communities and non-governmental organisations in the preservation, restoration and development of local tourist sites.

(2) International education service - set policy, goals promoting international education, including co-operation between Thai and foreign institutions, and provide facilities to accommodate foreign students studying in Thailand.

(3) Public health and health care services - promote Thailand as a regional hub for health care services, by setting standards, quality certification of hospitals, developing the competence of health care personnel as well as using both direct and indirect public relations.

2.3. Increasing the potential of Special Economic Zones to enhance competitiveness

2.3.1 Continuously work to increase the potential of special economic zones, especially the Eastern Seaboard, into the country's main industrial production base, in order to support higher-technology industries and attract investment and collective integrated industrial development to save production costs and enhance industrial competitiveness.

Moreover, domestic and foreign investment shall be given incentives under the Southern Seaboard development scheme.

2.3.2 Expedite the development of border and contiguous areas to support the growth generated by sub-regional co-operation with neighbouring countries.

2.4. Infrastructural adjustment

2.4.1 Transportation

(1) Land Transport – increase private sector participation in the development of land transport routes, including both road and railway, to expand and link all regions of the country, to promote industrial development and the distribution of progress to the outlying provinces.

(2) Marine Transport – improve and unify the policy-making mechanisms on the merchant marine industry to take Thailand to a new dimension of international transportation, as well as seriously promote a national shipping line and the completion of Step 2 of Phase 1 of the construction of Laem Chabang seaport according to target in order to support the expansion of international trade, reduce shipping costs and the dependency on foreign shipping, as well as improve the coastal shipping system to provide another alternative for transportation and alleviate the congestion of land transport.

(3) Air Transport – expedite the development of the New Bangkok International Airport into the country's main international airport to support the country's status as an aviation hub, and develop regional airports to accommodate air cargo transportation.

2.4.2 Communications

Improve the country's communications management by expediting the passage of legislation to abolish state monopolies and encourage free competition in providing services, together with the establishment of a neutral, transparent, and unified body to oversee communications, with the foremost consideration being the target of improving service efficiency and benefit to consumers. The government considers the laws under this heading to be laws necessary for the administration of state affairs pursuant to Article 173 of the Constitution.

2.4.3 Energy

(1) Expedite the exploration and development of domestic and foreign energy sources to ensure supplies are stable and adequate to meet demand, at appropriate prices and quality.

(2) Promote efficient and economical energy usage, and continuously expedite energy conservation in accordance with the law on the promotion of energy conservation.

(3) Encourage competition in the energy industry and expedite privatisation of state enterprises to lead to the efficient procurement, usage and distribution of energy.

2.4.4 Public utilities

(1) Tap water - ensure that the development of the national waterworks proceeds in an appropriate and systematic manner, with greater private sector participation in providing services.

(2) Housing - expedite the implementation of measures to solve the problem of inner-city slums in a tangible and integrated manner, including improvement of environmental quality and enhancement of job and income security, together with taking measures to prevent the expansion of slums, through permanent mechanisms for effective, unified co-ordination and supervision. In addition, ensure that private housing development projects measure up to standards and comply with contracts, in particular projects for low and medium income earners, in order to ensure fairness.

2.5 Development of science and technology

2.5.1 Promote the use of technology as a tool to boost the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector, by emphasising the development of appropriate technologies that are consistent with workers' capacity to learn, while bearing in mind the economic returns from the adoption of new technology. Moreover, the government shall promote the methodical development of technology to reduce imports of and dependency on foreign technology.

2.5.2 Promote private sector participation in the development of science and technology and technology transfer, by granting tax privileges and promoting investment in research and development, so that research is consistent with the demands of business establishments.

2.5.3 Continuously expedite the production and development of personnel in science and technology, as well as encourage the private sector to play a greater role in this connection.

2.5.4 Expedite the development of measurement sciences to promote exports to enhance private sector competitiveness in international markets.

2.6. Human and social development

2.6.1 Labour

(1) Improve labour laws, rules and regulations, and enforce them effectively to protect labour, especially women and children, so that they enjoy fair wages, safety and a good working environment.

(2) Prepare to absorb workers returning to their domiciles and laid-off workers under the present economic situation, so that they may be gainfully employed in agriculture and household industries, while promoting training and skills development to prepare them for entry into the skilled labour market.

(3) Expedite and expand the production of manpower in fields where most needed, both within and outside the formal education system. Expand training services and standards testing for labour skills by encouraging greater private sector participation, and expedite the implementation of the labour skills development fund.

(4) Promote bipartite and tripartite labour relations to enhance the investment atmosphere and expand employment opportunities in general.

2.6.2 Education

(1) Devise a plan to expand basic education opportunities to no less than 12 years, to be provided by the state throughout the country, with good quality and at no expense.

(2) Arrange for a national education law, as well as adjust the education system at all levels to conform with economic and social change, by using education as a medium to promote knowledge and instil political consciousness of democracy with the King as Head of State. Support research on the arts and sciences. Expedite the development of science and technology for national development, and promote local wisdom, arts and national culture. The government considers the laws under this heading to be laws necessary for the administration of state affairs pursuant to Article 173 of the Constitution.

(3) Support the private sector, professional organisations and local administrative bodies to participate in education management by emphasising knowledge coupled with ethics, especially in the provision of professional training and education and education for the underprivileged, as well as look after student welfare in terms of medical care, nutritional supplements, milk and lunch.

(4) Educate parents and families on providing the basic foundations of life and preparing children at the pre-elementary school level while promoting pre-school education.

(5) Promote independent high-quality management in private educational institutions, with the state playing a supportive and promotive role, and introduce the coupon system to subsidise private education.

(6) Expedite the development of educational quality so that students enjoy learning and well-rounded development, especially in ethics and the capacity for lifelong self-learning. Set national education standards and evaluation system while guaranteeing educational quality for Thai education to meet standards of excellence.

(7) Expedite the development of the teaching profession into a highly regarded profession so that teachers can work with honour, by reforming the process of turning out and developing teachers, emphasising the production of teachers in fields where most needed. Set standards and criteria to honour and reward good and capable teachers with career advancement by promoting the welfare of teachers.

(8) Encourage budgetary and administrative independence at state institutions of higher education that are ready, possibly beginning with functional areas that are ready.

(9) Expand opportunities for higher education through the formulation of 3 interlinked systems, i.e., the community college system, which turns out mainly medium-level personnel at short periods or in response to community needs; the college system, which focuses on turning out bachelor's degree graduates and the provision of academic services to society; and the university system, which focuses on graduate studies and advanced research.

(10) Expand opportunities for higher education to the provinces through the use of information technology.

2.6.3. Religion, Art and Culture

- (1) Promote the role of religious organisations in propagating religious teachings to cultivate ethics and improve quality of life.
- (2) Protect the Buddhist religion by working with the Sangha administrative bodies to improve related laws, rules and regulations for the stability of the religion. Support the education of monks and the establishment of a Buddhist promotion unit that enjoys broad acceptance and functions on a continuing basis.
- (3) Support the participation of the public, organisations, institutions and communities in activities to preserve, promote, and disseminate Thai arts and culture.
- (4) Promote Thailand as the centre of co-operation on education, research, and the preservation of archaeological sites and artefacts, as well as the development of regional arts and culture.

2.6.4 Sports Policy

- (1) Promote and expedite the public utility projects concerned to be ready in time for the Asian Games XIII to be hosted by Thailand.
- (2) Set measures to systematically raise the standards of the country's sports, as well as build sports facilities and provide enough equipment for practice and play to the maximum ability.
- (3) Strengthen welfare to boost the morale of athletes, as well as support the private sector to play a role in raising the level of national sports to international standards.
- (4) Promote and support an increase in the number of professional athletes in various kinds of sports.
- (5) Promote and support children, youth and the general public to develop their health and fitness through exercise and sports by providing adequate and widely available sports facilities and equipment as a basis for development of quality of life and for excellence in national and international competition.

2.6.5 Public Health Policy

- (1) Support the development of healthy practices by focusing on providing health education and expanding fundamental public health services to the family level, so as to improve the ability to take suitable health care for oneself, one's family and community.
- (2) Expedite the solution of problems with serious trends such as AIDS, accidents, cancer, cardiovascular disease, narcotics, as well as occupational and environmental ailments, and diseases brought in by foreign migrant workers.
- (3) Improve health care management by the cost-effective use of limited resources for the greatest public benefit, by promoting the use of appropriate medical and public health technologies in conjunction with the private sector, as well as the development of Thai traditional medicine.

(4) Expedite the production of public health personnel in sufficient numbers, with widespread distribution, particularly to rural areas, and promote their effective existence in the system.

(5) Expedite research and development in medical and public health technologies to contribute to the production of foodstuffs, drugs, medical supplies, and other health products for export and import substitution, as well as control the quality and standards of the products.

(6) Monitor and conduct quality checks of the environment which may pose a hazard to public health to remain at standard levels, and protect occupational safety as well as universally provide potable water for people in the rural areas.

2.6.6 Policy on Security and Safety of Life and Property

(1) Conduct campaigns to instil within the public an awareness and sense of respect for the law, in conjunction with law enforcement to maintain peace and order by expediting and supervising state officials at all levels to observe the law strictly and fairly.

(2) Develop the quality of officials, procure equipment and develop necessary technologies to increase the efficiency of crime prevention and suppression, as well as the prevention of accidents and public calamities to ensure the safety of the lives and property of citizens everywhere.

2.6.7 Policy on Consumer Protection

(1) Set measures to expedite protection of consumers so that they enjoy products and services that are good, safe, of good quality and fairly priced through consumer education, checks on quality and standards, as well as strict enforcement of the law to punish offenders who take advantage of consumers.

(2) Promote suitable and correct production technologies, and ensure that advertisements for goods and services are truthful.

(3) Promote the private sectors to jointly set up central and provincial bodies to play a role in the protection of consumer interests.

2.6.8 Other Policies

(1) Expedite the prevention and resolution of the problems of narcotic drugs and substances through legal, educational, sports and music measures, strengthening of the family institution, communities, educational institutions and religious institutions to take a role in addressing the drug problem; expedite the suppression of drug offenders, including users, sellers and producers, by concentrating on the financiers and influential figures behind the business; and expand therapy and rehabilitation for drug addicts as well as expedite the passage of the law on the laundering of money derived from the drug trade.

The government considers the laws under this heading to be laws necessary for the administration of state affairs pursuant to Article 173 of the Constitution.

(2) Care for, rehabilitate and develop the underprivileged and groups deserving special care, such as the elderly, the indigent, the handicapped or disabled, by encouraging them

to obtain education, job training, employment and recreation as the case may be, so that they may become proudly self-reliant and live happily in society.

(3) Encourage the family institution, religious institutions, the mass media and public interest non-governmental organisations to participate in solving problems of wandering children, child labour and prostitution.

(4) Promote equality between men and women by amending laws, rules and regulations to offer equal opportunity for men and women in terms of employment, or an equal role in management or decision-making, both in the public and private sectors, within the limits of the constitution.

(5) Instil basic values to children and juveniles on reason, openness to others' ideas, respecting others' rights and freedoms, sportsmanship, discipline, faith in democracy with the King as Head of State, self-reliance, thrift, adherence to the Thai identity, national arts and culture as well as the customs and traditions of one's birthplace and community, scientific thinking, knowing the value of natural resources and the environment, steering clear of vice, drugs, addictive substances, cigarettes and intoxicants.

2.7 The Management of Natural Resources and the Environment

2.7.1 Support zoning measures to determine the appropriate use of land, taking into consideration soil fertility and site potential, e.g., agricultural, commercial, industrial, community and protected forest zones.

2.7.2 Promote the conservation and rehabilitation of land and mangrove forest resources, by encouraging local administrative bodies and local citizens to participate in forest conservation and cultivation of community forests, as well as by strictly enforcing the law to prevent and suppress log poaching.

2.7.3 Expedite the conservation, control and protection of water sources to avoid environmental problems, by ensuring that the responsible units strictly implement water quality control and increasing the capacity for wastewater recycling before release into water sources and major riverways throughout the country, as well as by promoting joint ventures between public and private sectors in building integrated wastewater treatment systems.

2.7.4 Expedite the decentralisation of environmental management authority to the provinces and local communities by supporting communities and citizens to participate in creating environmental action plans at the provincial level.

2.7.5 Set measures to compel strict compliance with the law to control the exploitation of and rehabilitate natural resources, by designating environmentally-protected and pollution-restricted zones.

2.7.6 Instil awareness of the importance of natural resource and environmental conservation into the minds of children, youth, and the general public; and encourage the public sector, communities and NGOs to participate.

2.7.7 Support an increase of green areas in communities or cities that are densely populated or expanding economically.

2.8 Developing Bangkok Metropolis

The government shall expedite the revitalisation of Bangkok Metropolis under the existing budget according to the following approaches:

2.8.1 Expedite the co-ordination between Bangkok Metropolis and related agencies on the transportation network projects under construction to be completed on time, to link Bangkok with the new economic zone on the Eastern Seaboard, and the western central and upper central region in order to expand the boundary of the Metropolis and to stipulate plans for the development of satellite towns and suburban communities of Bangkok in the long term.

2.8.2 Arrange for feasibility studies on the development of modern transportation networks between Bangkok and its satellite towns and suburbs, to relieve Bangkok's congestion in the long term.

2.8.3 Expedite the resolution of the traffic problem according to the master plan.

2.8.4 Expedite the implementation of the permanent flood prevention plan.

6.20 Thai Government Websites

The King of Thailand	http://www.kanchanapisek.or.th
/	
Parliament	http://www.parliament.go.th/
Royal Thai Government	http://www.thaigov.go.th/
Office of the Prime Minister	http://www.pmoffice.go.th/
Public Relations Department	http://www.prd.go.th/
Radio Thailand	http:// www.
radiothailand.com	
Television of Thailand	http://www.tv11.iirt.net/
Royal Thai Police Department	http://www.police.go.th/
National Statistical Office	http://www.nso.go.th/
National Energy Policy Office	http://www.nepo.go.th/
Office of the Council of State	http://www.krisdika.go.th/
Office of the National Security Council	http://www.nsc.go.th/
Office of the Board of Investment	http://www.boi.go.th/
Office of the Narcotics Control Board	http://www.oncb.go.th/
Office of the National Education Commission	http://www.onec.go.th/
National Economic and Social Development Board	http://www.nesdb.go.th/
Royal Development Projects Board (RDPB)	http://www.rdpb.go.th/
Civil Service Commission	http://www.infonews.co.th/CS
C/	
Thailand National Commission on Women's Affairs	http://www.inet.co.th/org/ncwa
/	
Tourism Authority of Thailand	http://www.tat.or.th/
Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives	http://www.moac.go.th/
Department of Agriculture	http://www.doa.go.th/
Department of Agricultural Extension	http://www.doae.go.th/
Department of Fisheries	http://rahu.fisheries.go.th/
Royal Forestry Department	http://www.forest.go.th/
Royal Irrigation Department	http://www.rid.go.th/
Department of Land Development	http://www.ldd.go.th/
Ministry of Commerce	http://www.moc.go.th/
Department of Business Economics	http://www.dbe.moc.go.th/
Department of Export Promotion	http://www.dep.moc.go.th/
Department of Foreign Trade	http://www.thaitrade.com/
http://www.dft.moc.go.th/normal.htm	
Department of Intellectual Property	
http://www.dbe.moc.go.th/DIP/index.html	
Department of Internal Trade	http://www.dit.go.th/
Ministry of Defence	http://www.mod.go.th/
Supreme Command Headquarters	http://www.schq.mi.th/
Royal Thai Army	http://www.rta.mi.th/
Royal Thai Air Force	http://www.rtaf.mi.th/
Royal Thai Navy	http://www.navy.mi.th/
Ministry of Education	http://www.moe.go.th/
Department of Vocational Education	http://www.moe.go.th/webdove/

Department of Non-Formal Education	http://www.nfe.go.th
Department of Curriculum Instruction Development	
http://www.moe.go.th/webdcid/dcid/	
Fine Arts Department	
http://www.moe.go.th/finearts/	
Office of the National Culture Commission	http://oncc.moe.go.th/
Office of the Private Education Commission	http://www.opec.go.th/
Ministry of Finance	http://www.mof.go.th/
Treasury Department	http://www.trd.mof.go.th/
Customs Department	http://www.customs.go.th/
Excise Department	http://www.exd.mog.go.th
Revenue Department	http://www.rd.go.th/
Fiscal Policy Office	http://www.fpo.mof.go.th/
Financial Sector Restructuring Authority	http://203.150.12.87/
Securities and Exchange Commission	http://203.154.201.9/
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	http://www.mfa.go.th
Department of ASEAN Affairs	
http://www.mfa.go.th/asean/department/	
Ministry of Industry	http://www.industry.go.th
Department of Industrial Promotion	http://www.dip.go.th/
Department of Industrial Works	http://www.diw.go.th/
Department of Mineral Resources	http://www.dmr.go.th/
Office of Industrial Economics	http://www.oie.go.th/
Thai Industrial Standards Institute	http://www.tisi.go.th/
Ministry of the Interior	http://www.moi.go.th
Department of Local Administration	http://www.dola.go.th/
Department of Town and Country Planning	http://www.dtcp.go.th/
Public Works Department	http://www.pwd.go.th/
Ministry of Justice	http://www.moj.go.th
Office of the Judicial Affairs	http://www.oja.go.th/oja/
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare	http://www.molew.go.th
Department of Employment	http://www.doe.go.th/
Department of Labour Protection and Welfare	http://www.dlpw.go.th/
National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment	
	http://www.inet.co.th/org/nic
e/	
Department of Public Welfare	
http://www.infonews.co.th/DPW/	
Department of Skill Development	http://www.dsd.go.th/
Ministry of Public Health	http://www.moph.go.th/
Food and Drug Administration	
http://www.fda.moph.go.th/fdaindex.htm	
Department of Health	http://www.anamai.moph.go.th/
Department of Medical Services	http://www.dms.moph.go.th/
Department of Mental Health	http://www.moph.go.th/mdh/
Department of Communicable Disease Control	http://203.157.40.2/skt/
Department of Medical Sciences	
http://www.dmsc.moph.go.th/	
Health Systems Research Institute	http://www.moph.go.th/hsri/
Nursing Council of Thailand	
http://www.moph.go.th/nursec/	
Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment	http://www.moste.go.th/
Pollution Control Department	http://www.pcd.go.th/

Department of Environmental Quality Promotion	http://www.deqp.go.th/
Office of Atomic Energy for Peace	http://www.oaep.go.th/
National Science and Technology Development Agency	http://www.nstda.or.th/
National Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology	http://www.biotec.or.th/
National Metal and Materials Technology Centre	http://www.mtec.or.th/
National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre	
http://www.nectec.or.th/home/	
High Performance Computing Centre	http://www.hpcc.nectec.or.th/
Technical Information Access Centre	http://www.tiac.or.th/
National Research Council of Thailand	http://www.nrct.go.th/
National Information Technology Committee	http://www.nitc.go.th/
Ministry of Transport and Communications	http://www.motc.go.th/
Department of Highways	http://www.doh.motc.go.th
Department of Land Transport	http://www.dlt.motc.go.th
Post and Telegraph Department	http://www.ptd.go.th
Thai Meteorological Department	http://www.thaimet.tmd.go.th
Ministry of University Affairs	http://www.inter.mua.go.th
Office of the Attorney General	http://www.inet.co.th/org/oag
Bank of Thailand	http://www.bot.or.th

