

Clean Air in Korat – a Campaign to Mitigate Global Warming



GIZ and Nakhon Ratchasima Municipality, in collaboration with local public and private organizations and academic institutions, held a campaign to commemorate World Environment Day 2011 under the theme of “Clean Air in Korat” on June 10, 2011. Mr. Surawut Cherdchai, Mayor of Nakhon Ratchasima Municipality, presided over the opening of the event. About 200

participants took part in the campaign, which aimed to increase public awareness of environmental problems. Besides exhibits to publicize the “Clean Air” project implemented by the Municipality, there were other environmental activities, including automobile exhaust monitoring, engine tuning, changing of engine oil, collection of donated items, and free distribution of saplings.

Trilateral Cooperation as an Emerging Trend of Development Cooperation

Introducing South-South Cooperation (SSC)

South-South Cooperation, which can be defined as an exchange of expertise and resources between governments, organizations and individuals in developing nations, has received considerable attention as far back as the 1960s. Today, the issue has become one of the focal points of discussion in the international development

cooperation sphere. “Traditional” donor-recipient or north-south cooperation (NSC) is viewed as limited in certain contexts, while developing countries themselves promote SSC as partnership and solidarity for development rather than development assistance or aid.

“[SSC] is the expression of collaboration between partner countries, in a fashion that we call the power of double demand: the desire to learn and the desire to share” Task Team on South-South Cooperation

Triangular/Trilateral Cooperation: Creating a Win-Win-Win Situation?

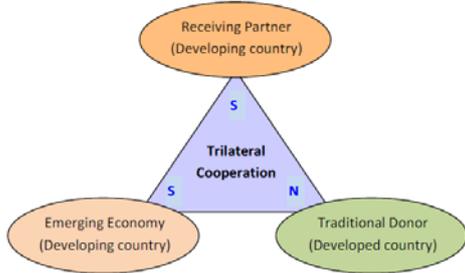
In this context, an intense debate is currently addressing triangular/trilateral cooperation and its capacities to bridge traditional North-South and South-South cooperation. Trilateral cooperation is commonly defined as cooperation between a “traditional donor,” an “emerging economy” and a “receiving country,” making specific contributions that create measurable value added for the receiving country. It entails a great potential to generate horizontal partnerships and win-win-win situations for all stakeholders involved.

For **traditional donors**, trilateral cooperation offers the possibility to strengthen their relationships

and partnership with the emerging economies. **The emerging economies** can profit from capacity-building measures in setting up and developing their own institutions of development cooperation. Finally, the **receiving partners** are expected to benefit from the “scaled-down” and adapted versions of knowledge and technology transferred from the emerging economies. Because of cultural proximity and similar developmental issues, the emerging economies can offer practical solutions and exchange valuable lesson learned with the receiving partners. The cost of services provided also tends to be cheaper than the services of the traditional donors. In general, trilateral cooperation gives the

opportunity of scaling-up successful development projects in third countries. Thereby, it can realize its full potential by utilizing these comparative strengths and complementing on-going NSC and SSC. However, trilateral cooperation is a new trend with complex structure and high coordination efforts between different institutions and partners. While there are some success and failure factors drawn from the current efforts, ‘best practices’ are not yet completely available. Currently, one key feature of trilateral cooperation is the joint formulation of goals and testing of implementation through shared responsibilities among partners – a process characterized by mutual learning and exchange.

Trilateral Cooperation: The Example of Thailand and Germany



Thailand is one of the economically most dynamic nations in the Southeast Asian region. Within the framework of South-South cooperation, the Royal Thai Government, through the Thailand International

Development Cooperation Agency (TICA), has been providing technical assistance to its neighboring countries for more than 30 years. Since 1994, Thailand has also been forging partnerships with a number of traditional donors under trilateral arrangements in order to further Thailand's development efforts.

Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation aims to utilize experiences and knowledge gained from more than five decades of bilateral cooperation as well as from Thailand's geographical and cultural

closeness to its neighbors in order to implement successful development projects in third partner countries. Starting with Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, around 8-12 projects are planned to be carried out under the program. These projects seek to complement bilateral and regional development efforts in the Southeast Asian region and provide an example of how trilateral cooperation can generate benefits for all stakeholders involved.

Nam Xong Sub-River Basin Management Project

Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation with Lao PDR



Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) in partnership with GIZ Thailand conducted a joint project appraisal mission & planning workshop for "Nam Xong Sub-River Basin Management" project in Vang Vieng district, Lao PDR, during 3-5 May 2011.

The project aims to improve water resources management in Nam Xong sub-river basin through establishment of a new sub-river basin organization as well as practical water protection regulations & technical solutions. Nam Ngum River Basin Committee Secretariat

(NNRBCS), under Lao Water Resources and Environment Administration (WREA) is the main implementing agency from the Lao side. The main implementing agency from the Thailand is the Department of Water Resources (DWR) with the involvement of other Thai experts and practitioners in river basin organization (RBO).

The Nam Xong sub-river basin covers an area of 180,434 ha. More than 70% of the sub-basin area is in Vang Vieng district, a district well known for its tourism business and the negative impact it has on the environment. 90% of the population in Nam Xong lives



from farming, fishing and tourism and is therefore highly dependent on sufficient and clean water supplies. In the recent past, its water resources have been threatened by rapid population growth as well as industrial and tourism developments.

The project is part of Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation to support development effort in Lao PDR by bringing in Thailand's long experiences and expertise in RBO and integrated water resources management. The project will operate for 2 years and is supported jointly by the Royal Thai Government and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).