

60 YEARS : THAI-GERMAN PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.

Albert Einstein

On 9 October 1956, Thai-German cooperation began with the Agreement on Economic and technical cooperation. In its first decades, projects focused primarily on vocational education, rural and agricultural development. With Thailand's rapid and successful transformation into a newly-industrialised country, the focus shifted more towards industrialisation, environmental and climate protection as well as modernisation of the state. Cooperation has covered all major areas of development. Over sixdecades, more than 300 projects have been implemented to meet development goals.



With a shared vision for sustainability, Thailand and Germany today join hands in a strong 'partnership for sustainable development' in the region and worldwide. Various global, regional, and trilateral initiatives are being implemented.This is not limited to financial resources, experiences, know-how in people and Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) institutions, but also of cultures and hearts of human interaction. With its SEP, Thailand possesses a strong approach, which is also utilised by Thai-German trilateral cooperation projects in the region.

After 60 years the cooperation continues to orient itself towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2016-2030) beyond national borders. It continues to strive for climate-friendly societies, in all aspects of life such as education, health, clean energy and innovation, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production.



● EDUCATION



In 1959

Education is the first and longest running subject area of the Thai-German cooperation and a focus for the current regional cooperation.

The Thai-German Technical School was established to respond to huge demands for technicians and skilled workers to serve Thailand's industrialisation processes.

1960s - 2000s

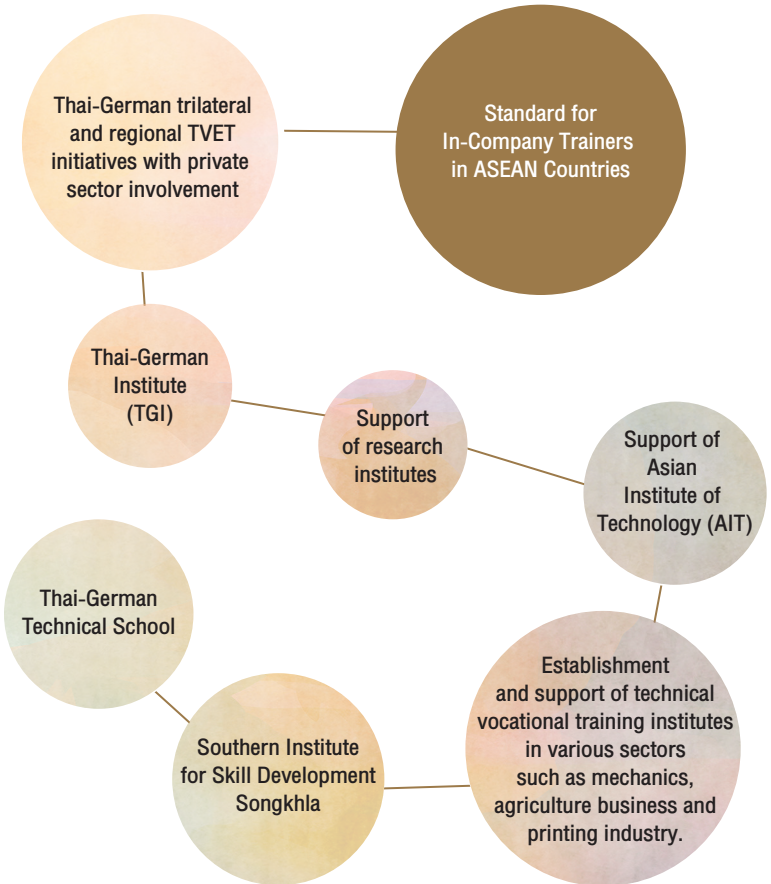
Initially, the German dual vocational training system was adapted, in which students were trained to master both theory and practical skills.

Various important vocational education institutes have been established, and many other institutions have been supported e.g. curricula development and German scholarships offered.

Present

Today scientific and research cooperation continues with the private sector playing a more active role e.g. improving capacities of in-company trainings.

Main Results



● HEALTH



1960s

The Thai-German cooperation first supported selected Thai health institutes with equipment provisions and capacity building for medical and research personnel.

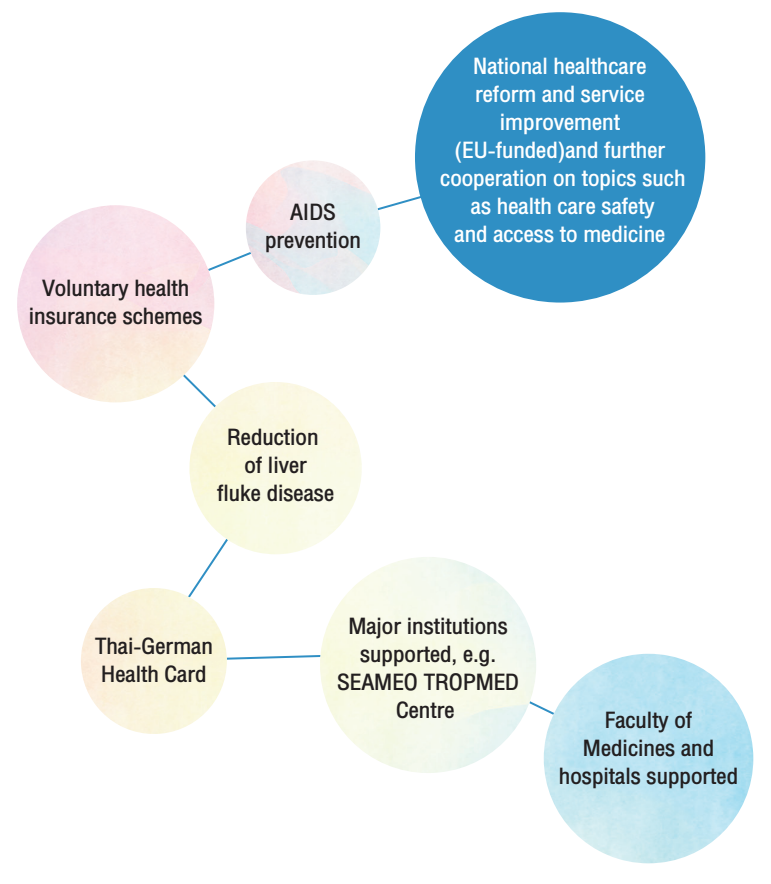
1970s -1990s

Later projects aimed to improve rural healthcare and deal with specific health challenges such as AIDS, drug abuse, and occupational health. Health issues were also an integrated theme in many other projects in the fields of agriculture, and rural and industrial development.

2000 - Present

The Thai-German cooperation has contributed to lay a solid foundation and improve the national healthcare system. Now that Thailand has launched a universal health coverage for all Thais, the country has become a case study for a number of countries and cooperation in the future.

Main Results



● AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



1960s - 1970s

The cooperation focused on supporting Thailand's plan for rural development and economic growth. At the early stage, it focused on agricultural production improvement, infrastructure development, supporting land-settlement communities in the North and Northeast.

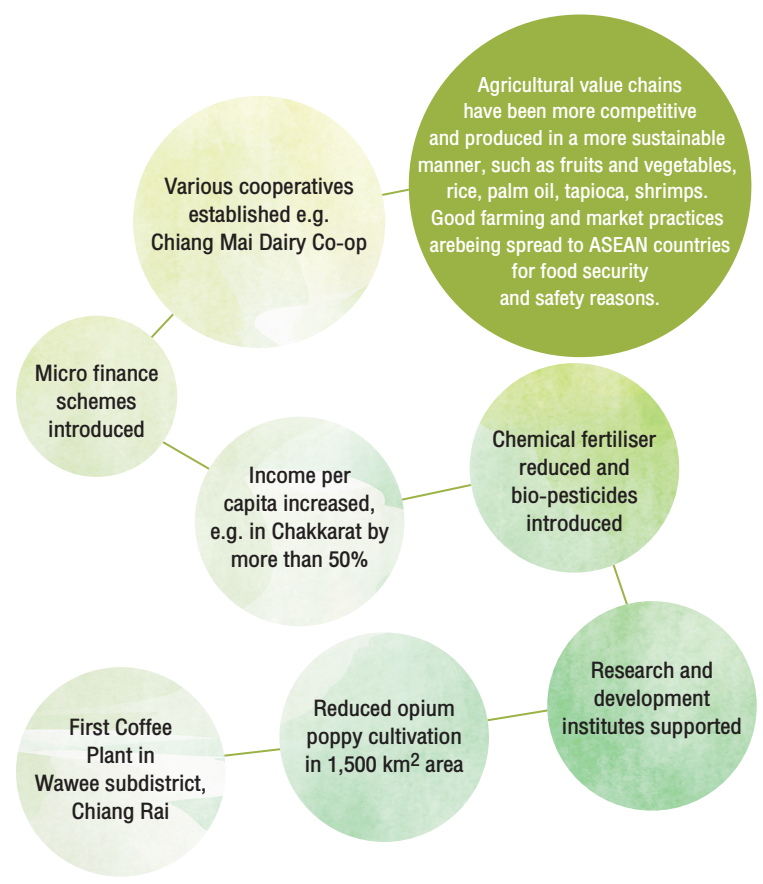
1980s

An integrated rural development approach was introduced as a means to achieve more efficient and sustainable impact. The activities involved multiple disciplines and partners addressing issues such as environment, health, finance and credit schemes as well as smallholder and rural entrepreneurship.

1990 - Present

New standards and value added were introduced to boost the global competitiveness of Thai agricultural products. Agriculture and rural development remain a focal theme for the Thai-German trilateral and regional cooperation.

Main Results



● ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE



1960s - 1970s

The focus was first to strengthen agencies responsible for basic infrastructure such as power supply, transportation, traffic regulation, port facilities, state railway, weir construction and irrigation.

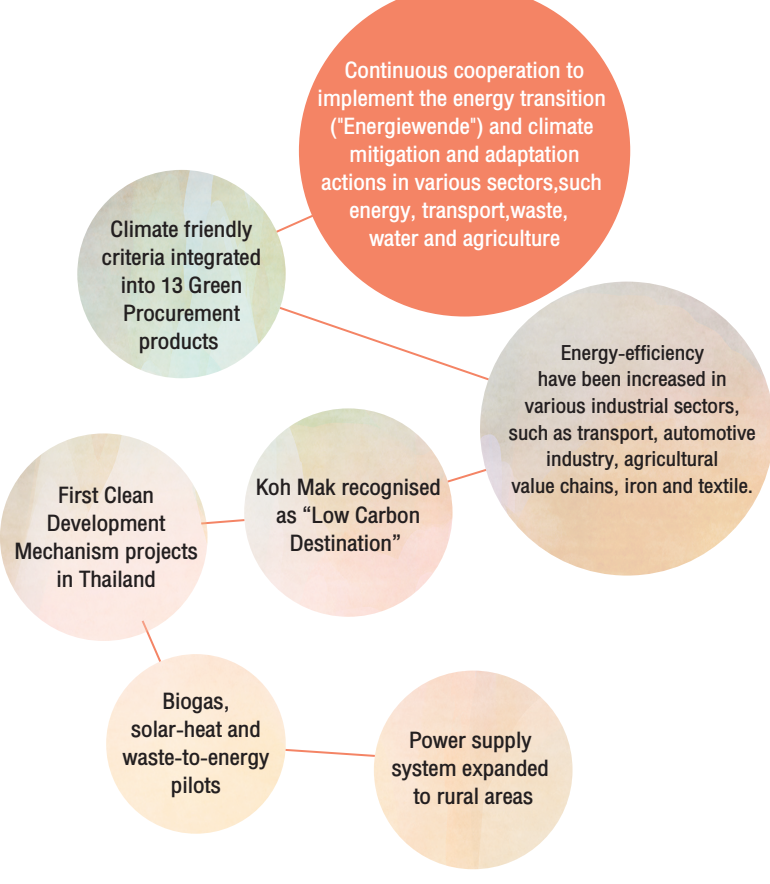
1980s - 2000s

Thailand and Germany started to explore and promote energy alternatives such as biogas, hydropower and solar energy. Since then, the cooperation also tackled energy saving and energy efficiency issues amidst the economic boom and further modernisation process. This also led to efforts in promoting sustainable urban planning, transport and tourism.

2010 - Present

Many projects have addressed energy and climate change as underlying cross-cutting issues. Currently, more than half of all on-going projects provide support at the national and regional policy levels to raise awareness, promote, integrate, and implement climate mitigation and adaptation.

Main Results



● ENVIRONMENT



1970s - 1980s

The rapid economic growth of Thailand since the 1970s and 1980s led to environmental problems, e.g. air and water pollution, hazardous and solid waste issues. Environmental activities became an integral part of many Thai-German projects, especially in the fields of economic, urban and industrial development.

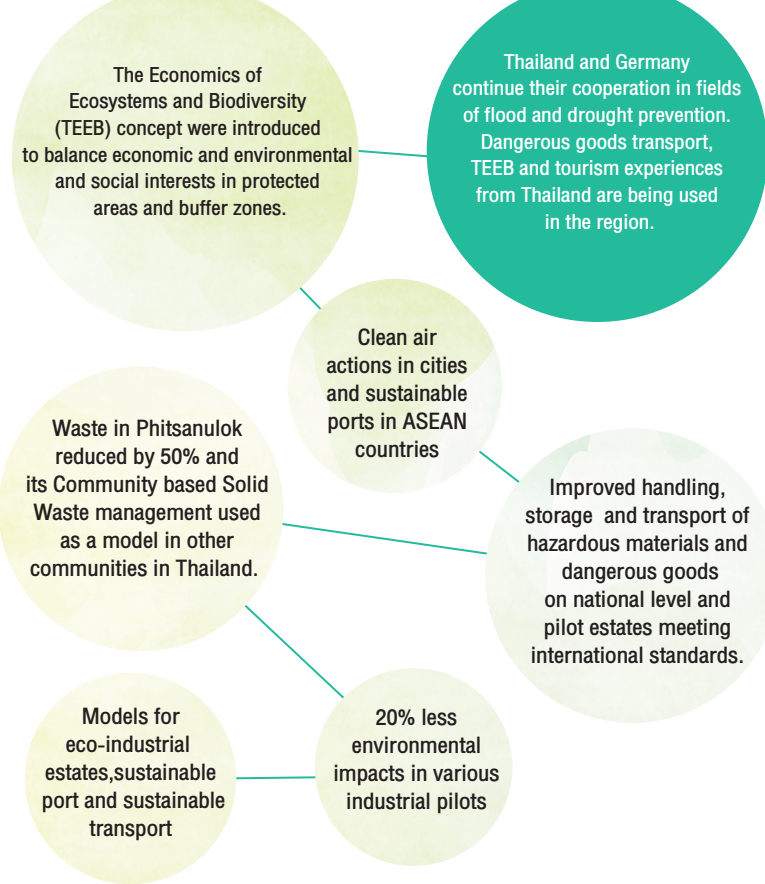
1990s - 2000s

Later projects addressed specific environmental issues, e.g. eco-efficiency and chemicals risk management in industrial estates, solid-waste management in municipalities and dangerous goods in the transport sector.

2010 - Present

In the context of combating the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and non-sustainable consumption and production, the Thai-German cooperation today is engaged in national and regional policy support in the region.

Main Results



● ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



1960s - 1980s

The Thai-German cooperation started with trade and investment facilitation activities between the two countries, at the time when Thailand's 1960s economy predominantly depended on the agricultural sector.

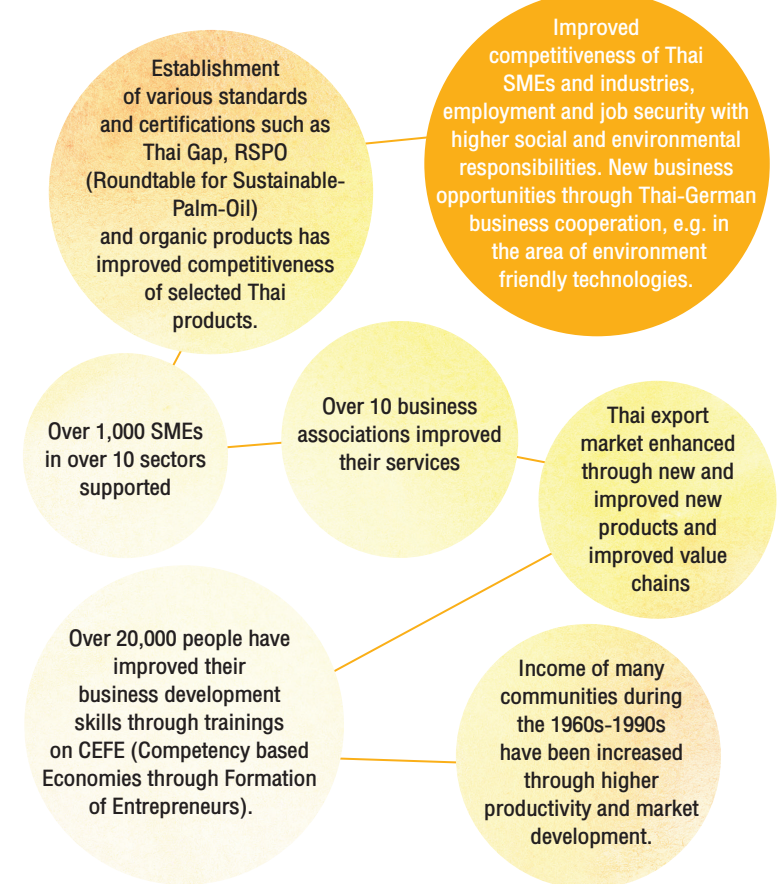
In 1990s

Small and medium enterprise (SME) promotion became a major field of cooperation. Its main aim was to reduce economic and social imbalances among different regions in the country.

2000s - Present

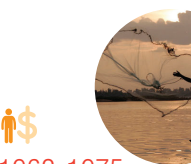
For almost a decade, the cooperation helped to improve Thai SMEs through its large Programme for Enterprise Competitiveness. It was one of the first programmes to combine economic, environmental and social aspects as one large programme to promote Thai value chains. Today many projects are addressing economic, environmental and social benefits in an integrated manner.

Main Results





1959-1970
Thai-German Technical School was established as the first project to produce skilled industrial technicians (now King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUTNB)).



1962-1975
Marine Fisheries Laboratory Project. In cooperation with Department of Fisheries, it introduced the trawling method to Thai fishing industry and provided training courses to local fishermen.



1963
Thai-German Technical Institute Khon Kaen was established following the demand in vocational training (now Rajamangala University of Technology Isan, Khonkaen Campus).



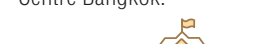
1962
H.M. King Bhumibol visited Thai-German Technical School on 7 February 1962 welcomed by Dipl.ing Karl Stützel and Prof. Dr. Boonyasak Jaijongkit, the school's founding management team.



1965-1977
Thai-German Livestock and Farming Project in Chiangmai improved dairy and meat production. The project later established Chiang Mai Dairy Cooperative.



1965-1968
Prasat Neurological Hospital Project supported the installation and equipping of central diagnostic laboratory of the hospital.



1966-1975
SEAMEO TROPMED Centre Bangkok.



1969-1985
Thai-German Technical Teacher College Project aimed to strengthen teaching personnel. The college became "Faculty of Technical Education" of KMUTNB in 1988.



1975-1977
Thai-German Agricultural Development Project Pimai



1976-1980
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1976-1983
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1978-1992
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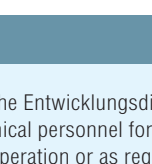
1967-1971
The Construction of Mooring Posts at the Port of Bangkok. Project constructed 36 pressure dolphins in the Chao Phraya River.



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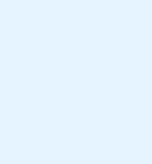
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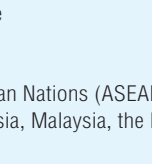
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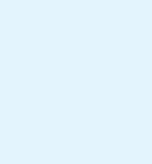
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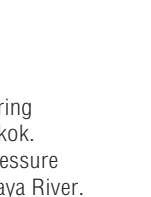
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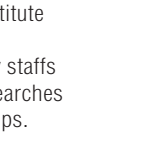
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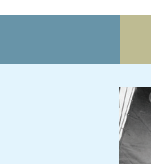
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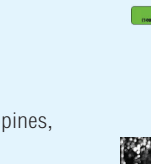
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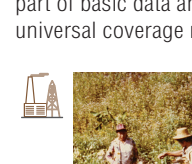
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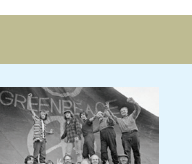
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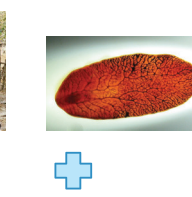
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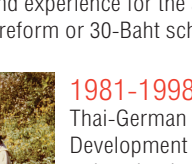
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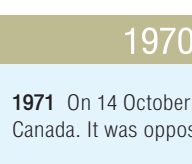
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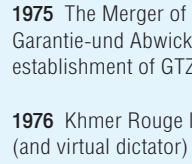
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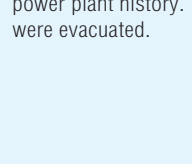
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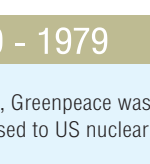
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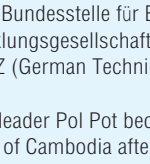
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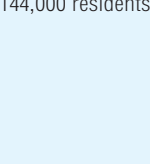
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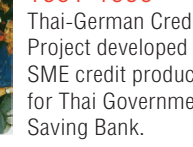
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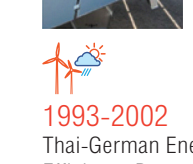
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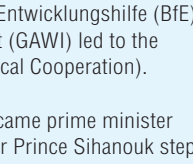
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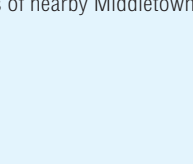
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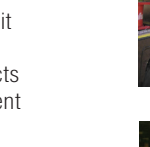
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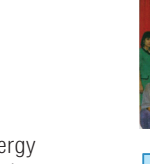
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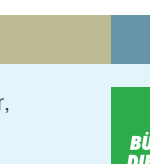
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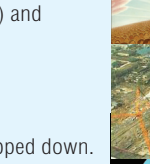
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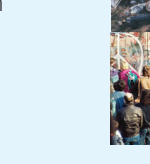
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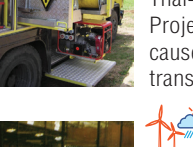
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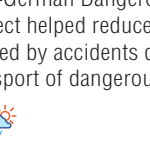
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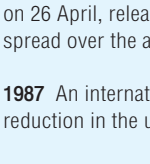
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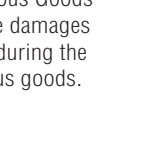
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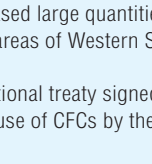
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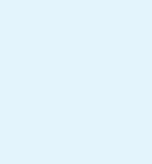
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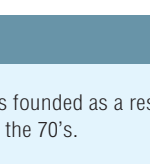
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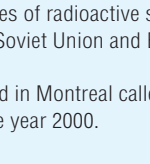
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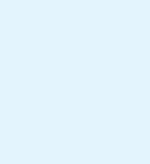
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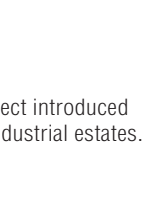
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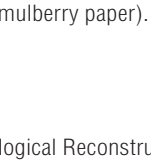
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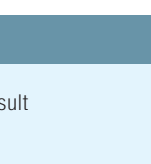
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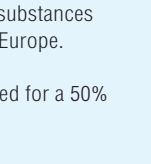
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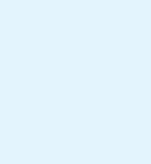
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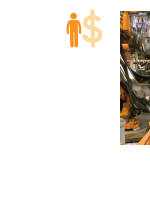
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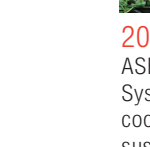
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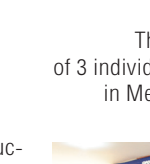
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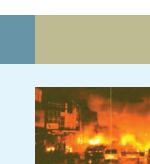
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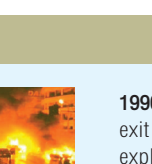
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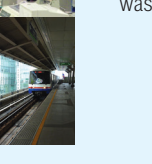
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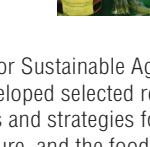
1976-1983
Thailand and Germany promoted the Medical Faculty of Khon Kaen University.



1978-1992
Thai-German Animal Health Project



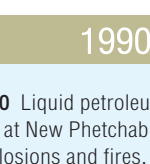
1969-1985
Thai-German Technical Teacher College Project aimed to strengthen teaching personnel. The college became "Faculty of Technical Education" of KMUTNB in 1988.



1975-1977
Thai-German Agricultural Development Project Pimai



1976-1980
Thai-German Rodent Control Project



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