

Dear Reader,

Many interesting things happened in the last quarter, such as study and dialogue tours on various issues, workshops on public participation along the waste issues on Ko Chang islands or the EU-Thai conference on health care. Noteworthy is also the set up of 2 new projects by GTZ with a base in Bangkok; a regional cooperation with ASEAN on "Clean Air for Smaller Cities" and a worldwide "Alliance for Financial Inclusion" to promote financial access for the poor.

The outstanding lesson learned from the last quarter is probably when a Thai delegation of 26 national and provincial scientists and decision makers have visited Germany and Austria and learn about how R&D and applying parties are working together in order to coordinate researches and commercial applications and maintain regional and global competitiveness in certain industries. These kinds of concepts of science-based networks of co-operations between all stakeholders actually stands for all successful development in the past or in the future, whether it's about innovations, energy, environment, health, justice, social equity, poverty reduction, or economic development...finally they all can be boiled down to a sustainability-oriented, knowledge-based and participatory approach. We hope that all Thai-German projects are following this approach well enough.

With best regards!
 Your Newsletter Team

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Seminar: Primary Care and Family Medicine Services: Operational Challenges

On May 8-9, Thai-European Health Care Reform Project, Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), World Health Organization (WHO), National Health Security Office (NHSO) and ASEAN Institute for Health Development (AIHD) held a seminar on “Primary Care and Family Medicine Services: Operational Challenges” to identify approaches to develop high quality primary care and family medicine service in Thailand. This stems from inequitable access to health care in Thailand, where rural populations have less access to health care than city-dwellers. Moreover, the rapidly growing private health care sector has not been systematically integrated into the national healthcare coverage system. To ensure equal access to health care for all, health centres have been upgraded into ‘*Tambol*’ (District) health promotion hospitals. However, it is generally acknowledged that the efficiency of public hospital operations have to be further improved through systematic work plan development, compilation of knowledge and efficient policy development. The objectives of this seminar were to promote sharing of both local and international experiences and knowledge, to establish a technical cooperation network on primary care and medicine service development and to apply research knowledge for medical and public health benefits.



The Health Care Reform programme in Thailand (www.hcrp.or.th) is recognised as one of the most country's ambitious reform programmes, spanning all major aspects of the health system with the goal of achieving universal access to high quality health services for whole whole population. Much of the reform programme was aimed at closing the gap on inequity in access to health care. Its most notable success to date

is the establishment and continuing success of the Universal Coverage Scheme, a scheme which ensures health care for 47 million people, all of those not covered by other schemes.



As well as Universal Coverage (UC), the main threads of the reform programme addressed the establishment of Family Medicine and Primary Care services in communities close to patients homes, and the first point of contact with health services; decentralisation of authority and management; civil society participation in planning and monitoring of health services; accreditation of providers; innovative financing systems; and management reform of hospitals. The reform programme has been internationally acknowledged as being based on sound research and public and professional debate.

The increased involvement of, and funding for local authorities have opened the door to addressing other social determinants of health, in collaboration with the formal health sector. Action is now being taken in some places in a much more concerted way to link the inputs of community opinion, local authority activities and the health sector, specifically in relation to health planning. Primary care teams are being recognised in some places as the key to good primary care and family medicine delivery, and primary care networks are helping to ensure that communities have regular teams to consult on an ongoing basis.

The recent World Health Report 2008, “*Now More Than Ever*”, reiterates the need for health systems to contribute to the achievement of social justice, equity and value for money. Excessive, hospital-based,

specialization discourages a holistic approach to the individual and to continuity of care. While resource allocation focuses on expensive curative care, national health systems are losing out on the health gains which *could* be achieved by providing qualified, professional primary care and family medicine services at much lower cost to the patient and to the health system, while addressing more than 70% of illness and diseases.



This conference addressed the need to shift priorities towards qualified professional family medicine and the challenges Thailand faces in doing so. Experiences from other countries (Australia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and UK) were presented, so that mistakes can be avoided and progress accelerated. During the conference, parallel sessions were held to establish the basis and operating mechanism for an ASEAN network on primary care. Ambassadors from WONCA (the World Organisation of Family Doctors) were available to meet with those interested in professionalizing family medicine.

The sessions dealt with issues such as the political will and momentum necessary to focus health service delivery on primary care and family medicine, converting strategy into real implementation, regulation of services, quality standards for family medicine,

financing, human resources, primary care teams, referral between primary and secondary care, and professional standards and qualifications.

The Thai-European Health Care Reform Project, aiming to support the health care reform in Thailand, was established based on the cooperative agreement between the Thai Government and the European Commission with financial support from the European Commission. GTZ was appointed as the agency responsible for the second phase of the project.

Established in 1996, the project was implemented in 2 phases. The first phase (1996-2001) focused on research and field health-care service model development that is appropriate to the Thai context. Health care reform was the first phase's key implementing strategy. Results from the first phase to some extent contributed to the establishment of the current UC scheme. Due to the success of the first phase, a second phase (2004-2009) was launched, focusing on capacity building of key functions and structures of the health care system. The goal of the second phase was to improve the quality of health services, particularly the primary care services under the UC scheme. This is to ensure equal and convenient access to necessary services, appropriate utilization of the services and efficiency of the healthcare system. Now in its final stages of implementation, the project is scheduled to end in August 2009.



Thai-German Study Tour on Climate Protection Policy & Implementation

From 24 to 29 May 2009, GTZ organized a study trip to Germany for its national counterparts in three climate change projects. The delegation held meetings with representatives of the German Federal Ministry for the

Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and its Coordination Unit for the International Climate Change Initiative regarding progress and further cooperation with the Ministry. The delegation

also met with experts from the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Public Health to discuss strategies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. In addition, the delegation also visited a mechanical biological waste treatment plant in Niederlehme and the energy self-sufficiency community of Feldheim in the State of Brandenburg.



The Thai delegation was led by Ms. Chintana Taweema, Deputy Secretary General of the Office of Natural Resources and Environment (ONEP- GTZ's main counterpart for the Thai-German Climate Policy Advisory Project). Also joining the delegation were Dr. Angkana Chalermpong, representing the ONEP's Office of Climate Change Coordination (OCCC), Mr. Sitisak Pathomwaree from the Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (DASTA- GTZ's main counterpart for the Climate Protection in Tourism). Mr. Prasong Norajit (Director of Safety Technology Bureau) and Mr. Supakit Boonsiri (Head of Electrical Engineering Unit) were from the Department of Industrial Works (DIW- GTZ's main counterpart for the Energy Efficiency in Medium Sized Enterprises Project). The BMU dialogue was chaired by Ms. Ursala Mumpho, who recently visited Thailand as part of a BMU delegation. The Thai team briefed BMU on the 3 ongoing cooperation projects, and Ms. Mumpho expressed BMU's interest to intensify the bilateral cooperation, either on policy development and mitigation activities or in implementing "light-house" projects as exemplified by the ongoing tourism project along the Sea of Trat. The possibility of convening a

joint Thai-German international conference on environmental issues, which could be held regularly in Thailand, was also raised. The GTZ team also held discussions to explore cooperation in the fields of fiscal and economic tools for climate change issues. Following the excursion, Dr. Angkana attended a 3-day international workshop on mainstreaming for climate change adaptation in Berlin.

Whilst in Berlin, K. Sittisak (DASTA) met with tourism and regional planning experts from the University of Applied Sciences of Eberswalde (near Berlin) and experts on climate science and environmental consulting from the Berlin-based Adelphi Research Company. It was agreed to jointly develop a tailor-made training curriculum on climate change in tourism for Thailand, and also to send Thai partners to attend short-term courses at the University. (The latter has already been accomplished during June 2009). For tourism planning and monitoring purposes, Adelphi Research Company will conduct a baseline study on the carbon footprint of the tourism industry in the Sea of Trat, to be completed by the year-end. In Munich, the Bavarian State Ministry presented its successful experience in the development and application of Best Available Techniques (BAT) for the textile Industry, as well as on its regional flood management and surveillance system, and development of the Bavarian Climate Change Strategy Plan.



DIW representatives were very much interested in the concept of BAT, which is part of the integrated

permission requirements with which factory owners must comply in order to ensure the factory's performance in energy and resource efficiency as well as in regard to air and water pollution control. The discussion focused on the success and motivation factors for BAT implementation in Germany, and its integrated approach covering all environmental concerns and the differences to the permission system in Thailand. It emerged that key factors for successful implementation of BAT included access to expertise and technology, and close cooperation between the public and private sectors in the area of clean production. The official appointment of environmental officers in factories over the last 2 decades was also noted as one of the key factors enhancing communication and collaboration among investors and the authorities.



The Thai delegation was most interested in Bavaria's regional flood management strategy, which covers flood monitoring, surveillance and early-warning systems, flood adaptation strategies and measurements, as well as compensation schemes for affected people. The management strategy has three main components: natural retention, technical aspects, and a monitoring system. Together, these enable the Ministry to provide a 3-day early warning of flooding. Based on the success of the Bavarian model, the European Union has adopted this plan and warning system as a EU directive- the EU Master Plan for Flood Protection and Management. All information are available for public access from the EU website.

Bavaria's 20-year Climate Change Strategy Plan was submitted to the State Government for approval in June 2009. The plan provides a broad vision and direction for the Bavarian State's level of preparedness for, and responses to climate change impacts. The Plan is the result of many years of consultation with all stakeholders, e.g. energy providers, industrial and service sectors, academic and public organizations. Nevertheless, the plan is still considered as a "living document", whose content is continually subject to adjustment in light of new developments.

Several areas for potential cooperation were identified within the scope of the current Thai-German Climate Change Initiative. As a starting point, an invitation was extended to the Bavarian State Ministry to exchange their experiences and technologies with relevant agencies in Thailand. Furthermore, the City of Munich expressed strong interest in establishing bilateral partnerships with a Thai province or city.

At the waste treatment plant in Niederlehme, close to Berlin, the Thai delegation was briefed on the plant's operations, and procedures. The facility was custom-built to comply with the European BAT standard for waste treatment. The plant was built and is run by a public company funded by a number of neighbouring regional authorities. The plant treats and processes residual and industrial waste according to the Herhof-Dry-Stabilate method, whereby wet waste is biologically dried, crushed, and then processed through density (size and weight) separation filters. The filtered inert materials and metals (ferrous, non-ferrous metals and batteries) are then mostly recycled elsewhere. The remaining light-waste residue is processed into dry-stabilate pellets which serve as a high-class substitute fuel (with lower CO₂ emissions) in coal power plants. Air and water cleaning procedures are incorporated throughout all stages of the process. Discussions with the plant manager revealed that the legal prohibition of open dumping provided the major impetus for Germany to make rapid strides in technologies for waste separation, collection and management.

The team also visited Feldheim, Treuenbrietzen Municipality, which aims to be an energy self-sufficient community. In order to accomplish this goal, a company (Energiequelle GmbH) has been established to provide energy generated from mixed sources, e.g. solar, wind, and biogas from agricultural residues. This visit inspired a lively discussion on the benefits, impacts and incentives for decentralized off-grid renewable energy production, and its applicability for Thailand. Last but not least, over the 5-day visit, the Thai

delegation from 3 different fields and GTZ project staff learned a great deal about the work of the other teams, and discussed how the projects might be more mutually supportive in contributing effectively to help implement the Thai national strategies and action plans on climate change.

Climate Change Policy Project – a Stakeholder Dialogue



On April 27, GTZ and the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) held a workshop on “Stakeholders’ Dialogue on Development and Implementation of a Climate Change Policy

in Thailand” at Swissotel Nai Lert Park, Bangkok. The three year (January 2009 – December 2011) project is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

Ms. Chintana Thaweema, Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) explained the project’s background and broader significance. She emphasized active participation from stakeholders, particularly representatives from organizations with missions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

The project aimed to strengthen ONEP capacities as the national coordinating centre, liaising with foreign governments and institutions on climate change. After the opening address, Ms. Aree Wattana Tummakird, an environmental specialist at the Office of Climate Change Coordination (OCCC), presented the project’s four components:

1. Developing institutional and personnel capacities
2. Developing and implementing climate change policy
3. Strengthening the capability for international cooperation and
4. Promoting public awareness and participation.

The project will provide opportunities for international experts and Thai counterparts to share information and experiences. After the presentation, participants requested that the project support local organizations and NGOs to implement climate change policy and measures efficiently. The key is to ensure that the policy and measures are tailored to the local context, business model, as well as the economic and cultural context.

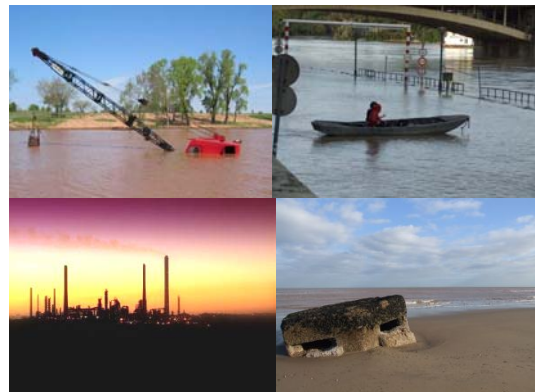
Drafting the National Climate Change Master Plan 2010-2019

The Public Policy Study Institute (PPSI), Chiang Mai University has been commissioned by the Office of

Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Ministry of Natural Resources and

Environment (MoNRE) to draft the National Climate Change Master Plan. This master plan provides national implementation guidelines to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and prepare relevant organizations and institutions for climate change adaptation over the next ten years (2010-2019). The master plan aims to provide a framework for capacity building approaches. The drafting committee and ONEP place great emphasis on stakeholder participation, and the drafting process thus brings together relevant institutions in order to promote understanding and cooperation to ensure efficient implementation of the final Master Plan. During the past three months, regular consultative meetings were held to inform and seek advice from key stakeholders, those with potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as those likely to be adversely impacted by climate change, (particularly the energy and tourism sectors). GTZ staff was regularly represented in these meetings,

and, on June 3 a meeting was held at the Miracle Grand Hotel in Bangkok to review the draft Master Plan. Mr. Franz Ellermann, Director of the Thai-German Climate Protection Programme informed ONEP and the committee that GTZ would be willing to consider any request to support a keynote international speaker (European expert) for future meetings, as agreed upon by the Thai counterpart.



Start With A Good Public Participation Approach on Ko Chang Along Its Waste Problems

One expected output of the GTZ-DASTA Project on Climate Protection in Tourism is to improve effectiveness of solid waste management in the Sea of Trat. This and other outputs can not be achieved without full participation by the communities. The project team has visited the Municipality of Pitsanulok in January 2009, where lessons on failures and success stories in waste management were shared openly. DASTA then brought all the key local authorities in the Sea of Trat Designated Area to visit Pitsanulok Municipality on 24-26 March 2009. This visit opened up the mind of several local authorities that appropriate solid waste management concept is an income-generating business at the same time help to solve waste problems satisfying all parties It has not to be the wide-spread “waste dumping and land polluting”! With the same concept like in Phitsanulok, GTZ and DASTA agreed to conduct hand-on trainings on community-based solid waste management (CBM) in the Sea of Trat.

GTZ contracts the Thai “Dr. Walter Schoell Foundation” based in Phitsanulok to organize trainer teams from the Municipality and the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion to conduct 2 trainings for both local authorities and community leaders. The trainings were conducted twice:



GTZ Signs MOU on Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Tourism

GTZ marked this year's World Environment Day (June 5) by announcing an ambitious collaborative initiative to promote sustainable tourism in Thailand.



Mr. David Oberhuber, Country Director of GTZ Thailand, executives of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (DASTA) and more than 20 public and private tourism operators and media representatives signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the *Declaration to Promote Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Tourism Project*. The MOU signaled the group's determination to steer the Thai tourism industry towards sustainability – actively participating in joint initiatives to combat and mitigate climate change through more efficient use of natural resources and energy, reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adoption of social and environmentally responsible practices. As well as directly helping to conserve Thailand's natural environment, sustainable practices will bring economic benefits by strengthening the long term competitiveness of Thailand's tourism industry.

The MOU is an intervention under the TAT's "Declaration to Promote Environmental Preservation and Sustainable Tourism" Project. The project will implement "**Seven Green Concepts**" to enhance understanding and promote sustainable, socially and

environmentally responsible tourism within the tourism industry. The "Seven Green Concepts" are as follows:

1. **Green Heart:** Promoting environmental awareness and reduction of GHG emissions
2. **Green Logistics:** Promoting energy efficient transportation and the use of renewable energy
3. **Green Attraction:** Responsible management of tourist sites focusing on environmental conservation and reduction of GHG emissions
4. **Green Community:** Proper management of urban and rural community-based tourist sites by promoting the conservation of the environment, local culture and way of life
5. **Green Activity:** Suitable tourism activities for conservation of the tourist sites.
6. **Green Service:** Exceptional, environmentally friendly services and GHG emissions reduction to create positive impressions for tourists
7. **Green Plus:** Adoption of corporate social and environmental responsibility practices. Tourism operators and their staff take active participation in efforts to conserve and rehabilitate tourist sites.



The "Seven Green Concepts" will help create a positive image, in the area of environmental awareness and active participation in global warming mitigation, for Thai tourism products and services and will also help differentiate them from those offered elsewhere. TAT has already employed the "Seven Green Concepts" as

its marketing theme for both domestic and international tourism markets.

The framework of the “Seven Green Concepts” partially supports and corresponds with GTZ’s “Climate Protection in Tourism” project goal. The signing of the

MOU is a collaborative activity by GTZ and other tourism stakeholders to demonstrate to the world that the Thai tourism sector is committed to GHG emissions reduction and the principles and practices of sustainable tourism.

GTZ and Counterpart Join Training Programme on Tourism and Climate Change in Germany

As an activity under the “Climate Protection in Tourism” project, GTZ and the Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (DASTA) selected 4 delegates from the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University (KU), the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), DASTA and GTZ to participate in a training course under the Master’s Degree Programme in Climate Change and Sustainable Tourism at the University of Applied Sciences of Eberswalde (nearby Berlin) in Germany, from June 15-19, 2009.



The goal of participating in this training program was to provide recommendations to the “Climate Protection in Tourism” project and the suitability of the application of the university’s curriculum in Thailand. A second objective was to jointly develop training curricula on climate change and sustainable tourism for Thailand. The project will invite the Thai project team and experts to join a brainstorming workshop to draft and develop the curricula with technical assistance from experts and a team from the University of Applied Sciences of Eberswalde, planned for July-August, 2009. The project team will first collect, develop presentation topics and analyze suitable Thai case studies. GTZ has



proposed 3 training curricula for 3 target groups: tourism management officials (central and local), tourism operators and community groups and tour guides. The draft curricula will be pre-tested in actual training programmes in the designated area of Ko Chang and the surrounding coastal zone, to be held in September 2009.

The training curriculum at the University in Eberswalde focused on knowledge transfer through participatory trainings. The curriculum aims to build an understanding of the relationship between global warming and tourism, enhance awareness on viable approaches and measures in the tourism industry, and suggest approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, preserve existing and develop new carbon sinks. In addition, the curriculum focuses on the need for stakeholder participation - including public policy executives, tourism operators, tourists and communities - in the management of tourist sites and operations. Most importantly, such measures can reduce both operating costs and pollution emissions. GTZ aims to retain the key contents and participatory approaches in

the development of the training curriculum for Thailand and anticipates that after completing the development and testing of the curricula, DASTA, responsible agencies and institutions will adopt the 3 curricula for their future training programmes, and also disseminate them more broadly to improve tourist site management.

Besides gaining additional knowledge from participating in the training program in Germany, the Thai delegates from KU, TAT and DASTA was able to strengthen the Thai-German relationship and develop a direct cooperative network for technical and academic exchanges with responsible agencies. Examples are the collaboration between KU and the University of Applied Sciences of Eberswalde on lecturer and student exchange programmes and participation in the joint international curriculum by TAT and DASTA staff.

Experts from the University of Applied Sciences of Eberswalde will be invited to provide lectures and share experiences on tourist site management, global warming and tourism. This will provide a technical forum where relevant agencies and interested public may participate in the project in the future.



Palm oil cultivation expert visit Krabi pilot scheme

Dr. Thomas Fairhurst, an internationally known expert in oil palm cultivation paid a visit to support the GTZ project on Sustainable Palm Oil Production for Bioenergy. Dr. Thomas and the GTZ project team visited the pilot area in Krabi province on June 9-18, 2009. The group held discussions and interviews with a range of stakeholders, including small farmers, cooperatives, ramps, and mills in order to gain a better understanding of the oil palm sector in Thailand and to define concrete activities in support of the project's goals.

During the field activities, it became clear that the Oil Extraction Rate (OER), which describes the amount of palm oil that is extracted from fresh fruit branches, is critical to the sector's competitiveness. Dr. Thomas revealed that the average OER in Thailand, at 17%, is far below the rate achieved in many other countries. An increase in OER of 3% by applying appropriate harvesting practices could lead to estimated increases in net earnings of approximately 1.5 billion baht per annum for Krabi province alone.



For more than 20 years, Thailand has faced this problem, caused mainly by harvesting unripe fruits and using inappropriate planting material. In order to address these problems and increase the fruit yield per rai as well as the OER of smallholder-grown fruits, Dr. Thomas recommended a higher level of cooperation among farmers, private sector stakeholders and the government. Such cooperation will help improve productivity for many smallholders who often lack important knowledge of farm management, and ultimately enhance supply chain efficiency.

From his visit to Krabi, Dr.Thomas offered three specific recommendations to the project team;

1. Provide a training programme for farmers in topics such as such as leaf and soil analysis, weeding, pruning technique, nutrient management, and harvesting techniques.
2. Establish a preliminary quality control system before delivery to either ramps or mills. The current quality control system also merits further study.

Provide facilities for grading fruit quality based on ripeness and OER in order to estimate the fruit price fairly and properly.



Roundtable / Workshop on Sustainable Palm Oil



The Sustainable Palm Oil for Bioenergy Project, implemented jointly by GTZ and the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE) held a workshop on “Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)” in Krabi on June 1 and Bangkok on June 2, respectively. The workshop was aimed to promote understanding on RSPO sustainable palm oil production among oil palm farmers and stakeholders of the oil palm industry.

Approximately 400 public and private sector representatives and oil palm farmers participated in the workshop, led by a Malaysian expert on sustainable natural resource management of oil palm plantations and forest areas. Participants heard presentations on RSPO standards, and participated in a panel discussion led by senior representatives from Shell Thailand, Pathum Vegetable Oil Co. Ltd., Univanich Plc., Lamsong (Thailand) Plc., Thailand Environmental Institute and representatives of oil palm farmers. Panel members shared their organizations’ viewpoints on the RSPO standard and the benefits of joining the RSPO certification scheme for Thailand. The programme

aimed to create awareness of this global standard for sustainable palm oil production. Compliance with the RSPO standard is increasingly required by foreign markets requirements, and could open the door to more export opportunities and expansion of Thailand’s palm oil sector.

RSPO, a globally accepted standard, is the result of collaborative efforts from more than 340 organizations throughout the world. The standard addresses both social and environmental aspects of palm oil production including how local communities, plantation workers, smallholders are affected, as well as issues such as forest encroachment. Since the production process both at the mill and at the plantation must comply with social and environmental sustainability criteria, RSPO plays a key role in building understanding and a positive public perception of palm oil production. By complying with the RSPO standard, farmers are able to increase yield/rai of palm oil and improve efficiency and production capacity. Ultimately therefore, promotion of certified sustainable palm oil production will help minimize the impact of market volatility, and enhance the industry’s long-term competitiveness.



Energy Efficiency in SMEs: Stakeholder Workshop on Project Implementation, Approaches and Tools



GTZ and the Department of Industrial Works (DIW) held a workshop on 21 April 2009 to review the implementation plan for their joint project “Capacity Development for Increasing of Energy-Efficiency in Medium Sized Enterprises (EE in SMEs)”. Participants included representatives from government agencies, industry, energy and environmental consulting agencies, academic institutions and other relevant agencies.

The workshop focused on development and application of integrated approaches to energy efficiency, pollution

prevention and control, and work safety for SMEs. In addition, the workshop covered development of supporting tools and strategies, including new training curricula for SMEs in the 5 pilot sectors: glass, ferrous casting, non-ferrous casting (aluminum), canned food, and textiles.

Besides aiming to build capacity of key SME personnel, the implementation plan focuses on improving organizational capacities of agencies responsible for policy development and implementation of energy and environment policies, consulting agencies, universities and other institutions.

Finally, another key project activity is to establish an Efficiency Service Unit (ESU) whose remit will be to disseminate information, knowledge and appropriate technologies to SMEs to help them comply with existing laws on energy, environmental and industrial workplace safety.

GTZ and Thai Organic Trade Association Join Hands to Expand Thai Organic Exports to EU



On May 15, 2009 GTZ and the Thai Organic Trade Association (TOTA) inked an implementation agreement on the “Promotion of Thai Organic Fruit and Vegetable Industry” project. The two-year project aims to increase the number of certified organic fruit and vegetable farms and producers as well as to expand exports of Thai organic fruits and vegetables to the

international market. The project aims to increase exports to the EU market by 20%. It is expected that over 300 farmers will participate in the project.

Organic products are increasingly popular among consumers worldwide due to concerns over food safety and the environment impacts of agrochemical use in agriculture. The demand for organic products has increased sharply in the EU market. However, Thailand still cannot produce enough organic food to supply the market and many producers are not yet certified. The Promotion of Thai Organic Fruit and Vegetable Industry project aims to promote organic fruit and vegetable farming as well as support organic farmers in gaining certification. GTZ and TOTA will jointly organize seminars and trainings as well as provide in-depth

consultancy to support Thai organic producers to reach compliance with stringent standards imposed by importing countries.

Farmers will also be supported in their preparations to apply for certification, and will join international organic fairs to gain a better understanding of international markets. The project will also offer a matching role

between sellers and buyers. Ultimately it is anticipated that these activities will help add value to Thai fruit and vegetable and expand the export market. In addition, the project will help to collect research data and knowledge on global organic market developments in order to assist stakeholders target their resources effectively.

GTZ and NSTDA Jointly Implement “Capacity Building on Energy and Resource Efficiency for Thai Native Starch Industry” Project



On April 28, 2009 GTZ and the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) signed an implementing agreement for the “Capacity Building on Energy and Resource Efficiency for Thai Native Starch Industry” project. The two-year project aims to improve the production efficiency of native tapioca starch factories by reducing energy and resource consumption in the production process, strengthening the capacity of key personnel and reducing greenhouse gas emission through energy efficiency improvement.

The project is an approach to develop and strengthen the capacities of the local workforce, enabling them to develop professional and technical skills, becoming specialists or entrepreneurs and preparing engineering graduates for the labour market. The project anticipates that at least 30 factories will participate in the project, reducing energy and resource consumption by up to 10 %, and trimming waste during the production process by at least 5 %. This will result in significant financial and environmental benefits- production costs reduced by 540 million baht per annum and greenhouse gas emissions down by 100,000 tons per year.

By reducing energy and resource consumption during the production process whilst increasing the yield of quality tapioca starch, this project will help increase the industry’s competitiveness, thus stimulating the sector’s growth and generating new employment - both beneficial to Thailand’s long-term economic development.

Enhancing the Competitiveness of Marine Shrimp Aquaculture Sector: GTZ and DOF Implement Phase II

On May 29, GTZ and the Department of Fisheries (DOF) jointly signed an implementation agreement of the Competitiveness of Marine Shrimp Aquaculture Sector Project, Phase II. The two year project, from May 2009 to April 2011, was aimed to strengthen the competitiveness of SMEs in Thailand's marine shrimp aquaculture sector.

To ensure continuity and reach out to more SMEs and shrimp farmers, the project focuses on 3 main interventions:

- 1) increasing the production and export of organic shrimps by promoting the establishment of the Eastern Organic Prawn Alliance (EOPA) and increasing EOPA's members in Chantaburi province to promote global acceptance and export of organic shrimps;

- 2) promoting international standards in shrimp production by benchmarking Thai against international standards; and

- 3) promoting eco-efficiency in shrimp production through efficient technology and management. Three commercial pilot farms, one each in the Eastern Coast, the Andaman Coast and the Gulf of Thailand will be established to demonstrate appropriate farm and

energy management utilizing suitable technology and efficient engines in shrimp farms.



Phase II's main goal is to increase Thailand's market share in the European market from 4% to 9% by 2011, increase certified organic shrimp exports and the production of certified shrimps (organic standards and other standards) to 7.5% of total exports to the European market, reduce the energy cost in shrimp production and strengthen the capacity of shrimp farmers to ensure sustainability of the shrimp aquaculture sector.

Thai Delegation to Germany and Austria on Regional Innovation Development and Networks



The EU has played a seminal role in the theory and practice of regional innovation systems, and continues to lead the way in establishing support networks to

stimulate regional economies as well as specific industry sectors.

A joint project entitled "Mapping and Matching Innovation in Selected Agro-Subsectors" aims to support regional innovation networks in key agro-industrial sectors in Thailand. The project is implemented by the Technology Management Center (TMC) of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) under the Thai-German Programme for Enterprise Competitiveness.

In order to learn more about the European experience in this area, a Thai delegation of 26 researchers and decision makers visited leading German and Austrian institutions involved in innovation support services, i.e. in the fields of regional innovation strategies, cluster



development, business incubation, technology transfer and commercialization of research. This mission, which took place from 13-20 June 2009, also received support from the German-Thai Chamber of Commerce.

The delegation gained a in-depth insight into German and Austrian best practice, including tools for fostering regional innovation systems. These lessons are expected to prove useful to the delegates for further development of their own respective innovation strategies and sector-level action plans. Longer-term cooperation, including exchanges of scientists and experts, was also agreed with several institutions. During August, the project will conduct a methodology workshop and Roundtable for the delegates, in order to further support the development of regional innovation action plans.

The delegation comprised members of the Industrial Technology Assistance Program (iTAP) of TMC, including 4 pilot multi-stakeholder teams from Prince of Songkhla University, King Mongkut University of

Technology Thonburi, Silpakorn University and the Federation of Thai Industries: Songkhla Provincial Chapter. The group was led by Prof. Dr. Chachanart Thebtaranont, Director of TMC, and Mr. David Oberhuber, GTZ Country Director, Thailand.

Against the Thai background the general objective of this mission was to understand the different roles public and private institutions (industrial, R&D and administrations as well as policy) need to play, in order to optimize the process of applied R&D, from idea to prototype licensing/commercialization of innovations. The mission resulted in a better understanding of the intervention logic and potential benefits by the joint project. During the visits participants received valuable



inputs for preparing their own innovation strategies and action plans, the elaboration of which will be supported by the project in the next step. The teams met and exchanged with representatives of German and Austrian organizations involved in regional innovation strategies, and learnt a great deal about best practice and tools for fostering regional innovation systems. It is hoped that these lessons can offer inspiration for the teams' own respective regional innovation strategies and action plans for their selected agro sub-sectors

The visited institutions and main themes of discussions are show below.

Land Salzburg - Dept. Economy, Tourism, Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Program "Strengthening the regional competitiveness of Salzburg 2007-2013" ▪ Regional policy and governance in Austria, innovation support schemes in Salzburg ▪ Samples: Creative Industries, Tourism, Health Services, Logistics, Food, Wood
ITG-Innovations- & Technologietransfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projects "Food Industry EuRegio Salzburg - Berchtesgadener Land -Traunstein" and "Innovation- and Technology Transfer in Salzburg"

Salzburg GmbH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food value chain development and on its business incubation service Role of not-for-profit organizations
OÖ. Technologie- und Marketinggesellschaft m.b.H (TMG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Austria's Innovation Agenda 2010 7 promoted clusters include automotives, mechatronics, plastics, furniture and timber construction, health technology, food and eco-energy
LC – Lebensmittel-Cluster OÖ Service Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of the Upper Austrian Chamber of Commerce Food cluster management and financing, food cluster cooperation networks
Fraunhofer Venture Gruppe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology transfer by the spin off support program Commercialization, business administration and contracting Sample: Food ingredients
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge based cluster and network support in the field of nanoscience International cooperation of LMU/Munich, including Thai universities
University of Augsburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology transfer process and policy Knowledge transfer in applied material and environmental research
Allianz Bayern Innovativ - Bavarian State Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cluster Initiative and Regional Marketing Role of Bavarian State Ministry for Economy, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology Sample: Food and nutrition cluster
Strascheg Center for Entrepreneurship (SCE) GmbH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incubation program of the Munich University of Applied Science Entrepreneurial culture and incubation business

GTZ helps farmers keep financial records

Mr. Jim Tomecko, Director of Business and Financial Service Component, recently provided training for GLOBALGAP farm advisors in the principles of basic record-keeping.



The objective was to build up the capacity of farm advisors so they can understand what financial records are needed and apply this understanding to the existing records of QMS for farmers. The training focused on 2

fundamental components of financial records - the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement.

The Balance Sheet is a snap shot of the financial statement that summarizes the assets, liabilities and shareholders' equity at a specific point in time. These three balance sheet segments give farmers an idea as to what they own, what they owe, as well as the amount invested by every shareholder.

The income statement, also called Profit and Loss statement or Statement of Operations, indicates how revenue is transformed into net income (after all expenses have been deducted). The purpose of the income statement is to show the farmer whether they have made or lost money from their investment in GLOBALGAP during the specified period.

Participants had a chance to practice recording the transactions and understand how to allocate

transactions to the balance sheet and the P&L statement.

This knowledge will be widely disseminated to all farmers who participate in GLOBALGAP Option 2 Scaling Up project so they can integrate this model as part of their QMS document. It is a valuable tool for

Improvement of Longan Drying Technique

During the second quarter of 2009, the Industrial Promotion Region 1 (IPC1) and GTZ requested cooperation from the Office of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) in Chiang Mai, the Agricultural Offices in Chiang Mai and Lamphun to organize a workshop on “Longan Dryer Development” for more than 428 dried longan producers and longan farmers to introduce new dryers for both peeled and pitted longan and unpeeled whole longan. The workshop was aimed to enable them to improve their existing dryers by themselves, reducing their energy and labour costs and improving the quality of the processed longan. DOA developed new dryer models to replace the widely used but inefficient conventional dryers, and in parallel developed a new drying technique. GTZ was responsible for coordinating research and development with the production development teams from Chiang Mai and Mae Jo Universities and for consulting with GTZ experts in food drying technology.

For peeled pitted longan, the team designed a sealed dryer with adjustable temperature control. The drying temperature is maintained at 100°C for the first hour, then reduced to 90°C for the second hour, and further reduced to 65 °C for the next 7 hours. The 9-hour total drying time is thus 25% quicker than the conventional drying method, which requires 12 hours. Moreover, the quality of the processed longan is significantly improved; the new method results in fruit flesh which is dry with better colour retention, and also drastically reduces microbial count, with no fungal growth. These simple improvements help the product meet stringent food safety standards.

farmers to monitor their operations themselves. A regularly prepared P & L will give farmers timely and important information regarding revenues and expenses and tell them whether adjustments might be necessary to recoup losses or reduce expenses.



For unpeeled whole longan, the DOA team designed a new model that is rather unconventional. Unlike the open-tray dryer, it has a cover to minimize loss of heated air and permit bi-directional air flow: from top to bottom and *vice versa*. This design allows continuous drying and eliminates the shifting process. The drying temperature is maintained at 110°C for the first six hours and then reduced to 90°C for the second six hours. The temperature for the remaining 28 hours is maintained at 70°C. The total drying time is 40 hours, a significant reduction from the 48-50 hours required by the conventional method. Shorter drying time leads to 17-20% fuel and labour cost reduction. If all 428 workshop participants improve their existing 1,736 dryers, production costs can be reduced by 25 million baht for this season alone. (This calculation excludes estimated savings from adoption by producers and farmers, the owners of 18,200 dryers, who did not attend the training programme). GTZ anticipates that higher temperature and shorter drying times will lead to increased profits and now plans to collect data from farmers adopting this drying technique, during July and August 2009.

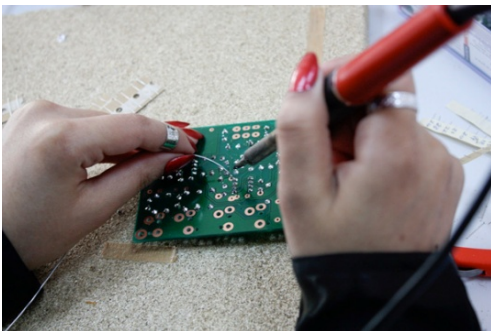
GTZ Expands Services on Vocational Training in the Middle East

Vocational Education and Training Institutes in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Since September 2008, GTZ International Services (IS) has been commissioned by the Abu Dhabi Education Council to implement a project entitled “Vocational Education and Training Institutes in Al Ain & Al Gharbia”.

The project aims to prepare young Emiratis to perform more effectively in the UAE workforce. The project aims to enhance the ‘job readiness’ of graduates, through a series of hands-on vocational education and training programmes linked to the globally renowned German dual system.

In September 2008, two Vocational Education and Training Institutes (VETI) were established in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Due to GTZ’s vast experience in the field of vocational education, GTZ International Services was contracted to manage and staff these Institutes for three years. The Institutes provide a wide range of diplomas for Emirati students in four vocational



fields: Information Technology, Design & Applied Management, Industrial Technology and Medical & Health Care. The diplomas will be taught and offered

based on existing German standards in vocational education.

University For Vocational Teacher Training in Saudi Arabia



On 20 May, the Vocational Training Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, TVTC, and GTZ International Services (IS) signed a contract for a new project for vocational teacher training. The project will train qualified teachers and trainers who represent the key to building the capabilities of young people to perform effectively in the workforce of the future.

From September 2009, GTZ International Services will establish and put into operation a new university for vocational teacher training in Riyadh. Over 1,000 young Saudi Arabians will take a three-year course taught in English to become vocational school teachers, mainly in technical subjects such as electronics and electrical engineering, information technology, process engineering and mechanics, management and business administration. GTZ IS will also provide the teaching and managerial staff recruited in Saudi Arabia, in other Arabic-speaking countries and in Europe, including Germany. The project has an initial term of three years.

Announcement

Clean Air for Smaller Cities under the BMZ and ASEAN framework

Target Group/Country: Smaller Cities in seven ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam)

Partner: ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC)

Objective: To empower smaller cities to develop and implement “Clean Air Action Plans” with the participation of civil society and the private sector

Approaches/Measures/Activities: Notional workshops will be held in seven ASEAN countries. Civil society, private sectors and other stakeholders shall be involved in the development and execution of cleaner air measures. This helps in creating awareness and triggers the motivation of the public to support these measures. Trainings for public and private sectors, including NGOs will be organized and sustainably established at regional, national and local levels. The national level will be involved to support cities with the relevant legal and institutional framework. International conferences at ASEAN level will take place once a year with the purpose of disseminating experience gained from the selected cities to others.

Duration: 2009 to 2012

Financier: German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI)

Target Group/Country: Global (75 developing countries)

Partner: Central Banks, Ministries of Finance

Objective: To support all policies that have been shown by independent evidence to increase access to financial services for the poor. By 2012, the goal is to enable an additional 50 million people living on less than \$2 a day to have access to formal financial services (a 50% increase on current levels).

Approaches/Measures/Activities: AFI is a network of policymakers in developing countries that provides its members with the tools and resources to share and implement their knowledge of policies that increase access to financial services for people. Although AFI is managed by GTZ (German Technical Cooperation), it is an independent network. Policymakers choose and control their own solutions, free of any vested external interests and based on independent evidence. Grant applications are also independently assessed. AFI offers its members three core services.

- Organising and funding face-to-face and online exchange activities between policymakers so that they can share their knowledge of financial inclusion solutions that deliver tangible, evidence-based results.
- Providing short- and long-term grants for policymakers to develop, pilot and implement the most appropriate solutions for their countries' individual circumstances.
- Linking policymakers to the right strategic partners at the right time, from research institutes and technical experts to international standard setters, donors and private sector partners.

Duration: 2009-2012 (1st phase)

Financier: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Change of Management at GTZ Bangkok Office

After the retirement of Khun Tanida Chiravachradej, Khun Petchada Usanapong has officially been promoted to be her successor as GTZ Country Deputy Director from 1 July 2009. Khun Petchada first joined GTZ in 1983 as a secretary for several projects such as Thai-German Plant Protection Project, Parasite Control Project and later on took over responsibilities in accounting matters. In 1990, she was promoted to be the Finance and Internal Controller. In the new position Khun Petchada will be in charge for all administrative departments within the GTZ Bangkok Office, including the finance section

TO DO! 2009 – International Contest Socially Responsible Tourism by the Institute for Tourism and Development, Ammerland, Germany.

The TO DO! is going in search of projects and measures which prove that sustainable course of action in tourism is possible. Of special importance: The interests and needs of the local people have to be considered and safeguarded through their participation. Public and private institutions and organizations active in tourism may apply for the TO DO! 2009. The deadline for entries is 31 August 2009! The award ceremony is going to take place at the International Tourism Exchange (ITB) 2010 in Berlin. Participation information and application forms can be downloaded from www.to-do-contest.org. For advice, please contact Mr. Burghard Rauschelbach (burghard.rauschelbach@gtz.de)



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GTZ is part of the German Development Cooperation



- Thai-German Programme for Enterprise Competitiveness
- Sustainable Urban Transport Project in Asia
- Commercialisation of Biopesticides in Southeast Asia



- Thai-German Climate Protection Programme
- Sustainable Palm Oil for Bioenergy