

Newsletter of Bangkok-based projects  
by GIZ and partners

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Dear Readers,

Did you know that this year marks 55 years of Thai-German technical cooperation? German development cooperation in Thailand began on 9 October 1956, when the first development and economic cooperation agreement was signed between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of Thailand.

So far the cooperation has covered over 200 projects in almost every field. Today Thailand and Germany have also joined hands to support neighboring countries and also tackle regional issues in Southeast Asia together with other countries.

As the main feature of this edition, we are therefore presenting a glimpse of the initial results of the History Workshop on Thai-German Technical Cooperation. Based on documents, research and interviews conducted over the last 12 months, further publications will be launched this year.

Some of you might remember the one or other project. Although a lot of information has already been gathered and is being analysed, if you have not been contacted yet, but could provide us with stories, documents, photos or other project-related materials, you are most welcome to contact us.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition.

With best regards,  
Your newsletter team

# Special Feature

## 55 Years of Thai-German Technical Cooperation



In 2011, Thailand and Germany are celebrating 55 years of Thai-

German Technical Cooperation (TGTC). The story started on 9 October 1956, when the first agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation was signed between the governments of the two countries. The establishment of a Thai-German Technical School in Bang Sue, which now has become the King Mongkut's University of Technology, North-Bangkok (KMUT-NB), marked the first milestone of cooperation in 1959. Since that time more than 200 projects (including about 80 major ones) have been

implemented in numerous sectors such as Rural Development, Agriculture, Infrastructure and Environment. The shifting focus of the TGTC over time reflects both global developmental trends and the changing priorities of Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP), which demonstrates both the ownership of Thailand as well as the alignment of activities with the local demand.

## The 1960s: Preparing for Economic Take-Off

In its early stages during the 1960s, the activities of Thai-German Technical Cooperation focused on laying the foundations for the country's economic growth by engaging in the fields of education, health and agriculture. The establishment of vocational

schools and the promotion of selected health institutions undertaken during that time illustrate the development model of 'lighthouse institutions' providing examples and incentives for others to follow and therewith initiate development on a broad

basis. Support to the development of the country's power supply system – an indispensable prerequisite for future economic development – formed another major field of intervention during that era.

## The 1970s: Orientation towards Basic Needs

The 1970s saw the beginning of the promotion of integrated rural development with special emphasis on meeting the needs of the poorer strata of the Thai population. Activities were regionally scattered and primarily concentrated on the promotion of several Thai settlements and communities in the North and Northeast of the country (Saraburi, Lamtakhong, Pimai, Lam Dom Noi, Khuan Phumipol, etc.). The projects' focus was on agricultural development, general infrastructure improvement

(health, education, water supply, roads, etc.) and fostering self-help and self-organization among the farmers. Accordingly, activities followed the objective of Thailand's third development plan (1972–76) which set improvements in the rural infrastructure and fostering crop diversification as two of its targets. They also mirrored international development trends which – at that time – were characterized by an orientation towards "basic human



needs" postulated by the World Bank and its then President Robert McNamara.



## The 1980s: Change and Continuity



No overarching theme marked the history of TGTC in the 1980s. However, introduction of the institutional approach into TGTC constituted a major field during this decade, influencing the

approach of TGTC projects in general and also engagement in the field of rural development which was continued in line with the Royal Thai Government's national development goals. As well as integrated projects working "on the ground", TGTC now also started to systematically provide advisory and institutional development services to Thai partner institutions and the respective governmental bodies, for example to the Provincial Waterworks Authority. Nevertheless, development efforts at the grassroots level continued, with one of the major projects of

TGTC – the Thai-German Highland Development Project (1981-1998) – being initiated at that time. Executed jointly with the Thai Office of Narcotics Control Board and a multitude of international donors, it aimed at devising and implementing a strategy to solve, as far as possible, the socio-economic and ecological problems of three project sites in the northern hills of Thailand. In cooperation with a multitude of (inter)national donors a significant reduction of opium poppy cultivation was achieved.

## 1990s and early 2000: Fostering Sustainable Economic Development

Finally, since the 1990s, topics such as state modernization, industrialization process and environmental and climate protection have moved to the forefront of TGTC activities, mirroring the economic advancement of Thailand as well as new global (and local) challenges in the environmental sphere. TGTC's development efforts have come to be guided by the principle of sustainable development and an integrated

approach to fostering economic development without neglecting ecological management. Within this framework, SME promotion has become a major focus of TGTC. By promoting SME competitiveness, while at the same time paying attention to energy efficiency and the sustainable use of natural resources, projects were and are aiming at both fostering and balancing Thailand's economic development as well as bringing



its benefits to the rural areas of the country a well.



## Activities of the History Workshop and Your Contribution

Based on the research and studies already conducted by the History Workshop, the compilation of further information as well as the design of various end products (booklet, short video, brochures) will form the major scope of activities during the following months. We greatly welcome your

contribution to this work, e.g. by the provision of documents, photos or other project-related material. Please contact Ratchanok Suwatthanabunpot, Project Development Officer, Email: [ratchanok.suwatthanabunpot@giz.de](mailto:ratchanok.suwatthanabunpot@giz.de)

## Where the Journey of Thai-German Technical Cooperation Goes Changing Approaches – Recurrent Themes

Due to the rapid and successful transformation of Thailand into a newly-industrialized country, during the 1990s there was a considerable shift of both focus areas and approaches of TGTC. With classical bilateral cooperation coming to an end in 2011, current trends of TGTC include the implementation of regional programs, a

diversification of the donor portfolio and increasing private sector involvement pursued within the framework of Public Private Partnerships. Moreover, a program on Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation with Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam as third partner countries has been started in 2009. Its focus themes *rural development, (vocational)*

*education and health* have been core areas of TGTC for decades. Also many of the current projects and programmes which are being implemented from Bangkok have precursor projects in their respective fields. In this article we will sample the current GIZ-Portfolio and trace some examples that show the historical roots of present-day engagement:

### SME-Promotion as 'Long-Runner' of TGTC



The currently implemented *Thai-German Programme for Enterprise Competitiveness* (T-G PEC), which aims to improve competitiveness of Thai SMEs through business and eco-efficiency services in selected agro-industrial sectors, looks back at a long history of SME promotion within the framework of

TGTC. During the early 1990s projects such as the *Small-Scale Agro-Industrial Development Project* and later the *Small-Scale Industry Promotion Project* had already been implemented with the objective of helping to increase productivity, business and market performances of Thai SMEs.

### Bangkok Port: From 'Building' to 'Capacity Building'

While during the 1960s and 1980s two projects of TGTC increased the capacity of Bangkok Port by the construction of pressure dolphins and berthing facilities,

the current regional project *Sustainable Port Development in the ASEAN Region* focuses on the development and implementation of measures and instruments to

reduce and mitigate safety, health and environmental risks in selected ASEAN ports in accordance with international standards and conventions.

### Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture in the Bilateral and Regional Framework

*ASEAN BIO-Control*, a regional project on the promotion of sustainable agriculture and food production in Southeast Asia which will start in mid-2011, is also drawing from a wide range of experiences made by TGTC since the 1980s. Forerunner projects such as the *Thai-German Plant Protection Programme* (1980-1988) as well as the projects *Integrated Pest Management in Selected Fruit Trees* (1989-1997), *Appropriate Regulatory Measures and Policy Reform for Pesticide*

*Risk Reduction* (1997-2003) and Commercialization of Biopesticides in South East Asia (2003-2009) had already been fostering the economically based use of plant protection measures for the increase of agricultural production under special consideration of environmental and social effects.

These examples of TGTC projects in past and present show that despite of all changes and new themes which have been

introduced into the field of action of TGTC in recent years (e.g. climate protection, tourism), many of the issues taken up by TGTC are long-runners in their respective fields. While the institutional set-up and approaches of projects do change – e.g. from bilateral to trilateral and regional frameworks – many of the current and future projects of TGTC are building on a rich array of past experiences.





## Tracing the Past: The Promotion of the KMUT-NB



After concluding the first intergovernmental agreement between Thailand and the Federal Republic of Germany on “economic and development cooperation” in 1956, a German delegation had come to Thailand in order to investigate the possibilities for developmental assistance. Realizing that the timely training of specialized workers was the most important prerequisite for bringing about industrialization as planned by the Thai Government, the

establishment of a joint vocational school in Bangkok was proposed by this delegation and the Thais readily accepted this suggestion. Finally, in 1959 the **Thai-German Technical School** was officially established as first project of TGTC with the purpose of offering specialized training courses to prepare young Thais for occupations in the locksmith's trade, in electrical engineering, for pipe installation and in the motor car industry.<sup>1</sup>

In 1964 the Thai-German Technical School was upgraded to the **Thai-German Technical Institute** and in 1971 it joined with Thonburi Technical College and Telecommunication College Nonthaburi to become the North Bangkok Campus of **King Mongkut's Institute of Technology (KMUT)**. Today, KMUT is now **King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUT-NB)**. Already at that time the institution was quite well-known in Bangkok. Karin von Herrath, who worked at the KMUT in the 1970s and 1980s, remembers that even when she first came to Thailand in 1967 and she wanted to go to the school, she could just tell the taxi drivers “Thai-German” and they all would

know that it was KMIT in Bang Sue.<sup>2</sup>

At least part of the schools recognition and success can probably be attributed to the educational philosophy followed by the Thai-German Technical Institute: The curricula offered there aimed at training young people to fit the needs of the Thai industry. So the school's objective was not only education for education's sake, but rather education in response to the market and social demand Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somchob Chaiyavej, former Deputy Director of the School and former President of KMUT NB, put it like this: “To develop human capital is not only to educate people, but also to produce economic warriors, not only planners and thinkers.”<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Internal document of the German Embassy, Economic Department

<sup>2</sup> Interview with Karin von Herrath, 28/01/2010

<sup>3</sup> Interview with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somchob Chaiyavej, 28/10/2010

## Timeline of Projects at KMIT

- Vocational training courses, e.g. fitters, plumbers, technicians (1959-1970)
- Thai-German Technical Teacher College (1970-1985)
- Thai-German Teaching Aid Center (1979-1995)
- Promotion of the Engineering Faculty at the KMIT (1981-1993)
- Industry-Oriented Graduate Education and Research in Engineering (2002-2005)

Looking back at the timeline of activities, in retrospect one can state that the projects which were undertaken within the framework of TGTC to promote the KMIT-NB accompanied the institute on its maturation process from a small vocational school for technical subjects to a university – a status which it was awarded in 1986. The shifting focus of cooperation activities from basic vocational training over bachelor programs to graduate education and research clearly reflects the changing

needs of the advancing Thai industry and economy in the course of times. It is, however, equally important to stress that by now cooperation has moved from a classical 'donor-recipient' to partnership, as in 2001 the KMUT-NB and RWTH Aachen jointly founded the **Sirindhorn International Thai-German Graduate School of Engineering (TGGS)** and therewith established a university cooperation based on equal partnership.





# Special Interview

## **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somchob Chaiyavej**

*Former deputy director of Thai-German Technical College and former Rector of King Mongkut's University of Technology, North Bangkok (KMUT-NB)*

### **When did you start working at Thai-German Technical College (now KMUTNB) and could you please tell us about Thai-German technical cooperation for the institute?**

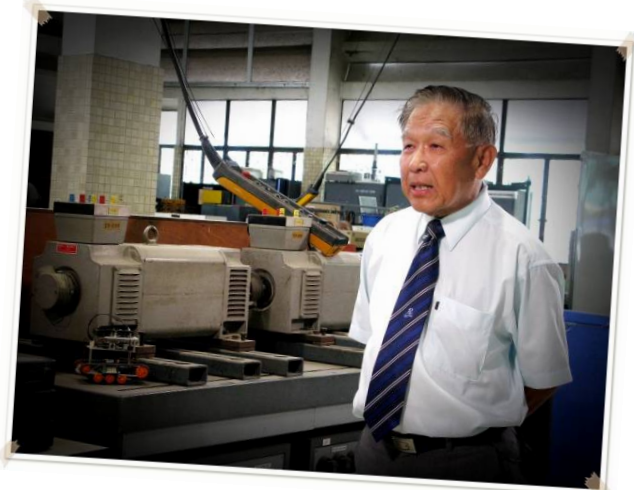
I started working here in 1965. At the college, we employ the German educational principle, with only one day of theoretical training and the rest of the week is set aside for practical training. This is called the so-called "Dual System". This institute was the pioneer of the system in Thailand. The "Thai-German Technical School" Project was the first collaborative project with our German partners. The year 1967 was a boom time for vocational education which led to a nationwide teacher shortage. The Director General of the Department of Vocational Education then asked the

institute's founder to seek cooperation from Germany in the development of the second project, the "Thai-German Technical Teacher College", now the Faculty of Technical Education. About 4-5 years afterwards, stemming from the Institute Director's keen interest in technical education and the need to develop teaching aid, the third project, the Institute for Technical Education Development (ITED), previously the Thai-German Teaching Aids Center (TGTA), was established. The

### **From your experience with the Thai-German Cooperation, which collaborative project is the most successful?**

The "Thai-German Technical School" Project, because it has been widely acclaimed for its excellent achievements. We produce exactly what the industries need: work-ready

graduates with proper attitudes and basic skills. When young people are confident of employment prospects, they enroll here. And, recognizing that we need continuous improvement in



Institute is still active nowadays. Later, around 1979, we developed a project to promote the Engineering Faculty, focusing on two key subjects: Production Engineering (PE) and Electronic Engineering (EE). KMUT-NB is the first academic institution that offers Production Engineering.

industrial works, I regularly bring in external assignments for both our students and teachers to sharpen their working skills. Both sides benefit from this arrangement.

**In your opinion, how has the Thai-German Technical Cooperation influenced the development of this institute?**



Actually, the Thai-German Technical Cooperation has provided support to KMUT-NB for over 40 years, starting with the “Thai-German Technical School” which has laid an important foundation for this institute, particularly the educational principle. Here, besides

theoretical training, we offer practical training or apprenticeships. Another important issue is: performing is not so crucial, but the performance that meets the production standards is. This is the core of practical training in the German educational system.

**In your opinion, what differentiates the Thai-German Technical College from other vocational institutions?**

This has been my challenge since the beginning, because I had no prior experience in education. I started here immediately after graduating from an engineering college. Why is our educational system different from other vocational institutions? I found that each curriculum is based on a different principle. Our

educational principle is independent of the Department of Vocational Education's structure. It was based on the vision of our first Institution Director, Prof. Dr. Boonyasak Jaijongkit, who introduced the German dual system and applied it in the project.



**Please tell us about your memorable moments at KMUT-NB**

My most memorable day here was when H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn together with President Karl Carstens and his wife graciously presided at the

ceremony to lay the foundation stone of this engineering building. The Princess is interested in the German educational system and has initiated vocational training in

Chitralada School, employing similar principles to the German system. This institution has strongly supported her project.





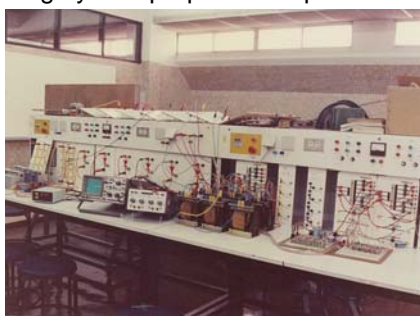
**Mr. Woravit Tearwattanarattikul**

*Former student of Thai-German Technical College and King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, North Bangkok Campus (KMITNB)*

*Currently the Engineering Director of A.P.Y. Engineering Co., Ltd. and Heat Intertrade Co., Ltd.*

**When did you enroll in the Thai-German Technical College and how did you start to study in Faculty of Engineering at KMITNB?**

I enrolled in the electrical technician course at the Thai-German Technical College, which leads to a vocational certificate, in 1981. At the time, the entrance examination was very difficult and students who wished to enroll in the college had to go through lengthy a preparation process.



The curriculum had both theoretical and practical aspects, but focused more on the latter. Students were required to study every subject, and each term we rotated from one department to another. As a result, we gained comprehensive basic technical knowledge and skills in all fields. After graduation, I took the entrance examination for the Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering at KMITNB, which was very difficult. Despite graduating from Thai-German Technical College, we had to take the entrance examination in the same way as students from other college, even though our college



and KMITNB is more or less same institute. I got the highest score in my vocational certificate class because the curriculum focused on practical training. If the institute had offered only theoretical training, I wouldn't have done so well.

**By completing the vocational certificate course that requires intensive practical training, did you have any advantage over your peers from other institutions when you enrolled in the undergraduate program here at KMITNB?**

In my opinion, ex-Thai-German Technical College students had stronger basic knowledge than students from other institutions. Among my peers in the undergraduate program, we were aware that we had different backgrounds. During the vocational certificate course we had more opportunities to practice than our peers, which was

certainly due to the support received from Germany. For example, we had an unlimited supply of materials for soldering practice, but we learned from our peers that they had limited materials to work with and hand-on practice. We were fortunate to have better supplies and moreover, a lot of equipment in our laboratories.



**What did you do right after graduation? How did you start your business?**

It stemmed from my college background, actually. Because of my technical background and the apprenticeship during the vocational certificate course, I had been working since then, starting from ordinary jobs. My background was in electrical engineering; therefore, I could do

residential and factory wiring. I was always engaged during my college years and during the summer school break I could take on extensive assignments. After graduation I worked with an industrial goods importer, importing mostly electronics devices from abroad. During my

three years there, my responsibility was to provide technical advices to the sales and service departments. After that I jointly launched the APY Engineering Co. Ltd. with my older colleague from KMIT Ladkrabang.

**What kind of business are you in?**

My two main businesses are mostly related with electrical and electronics instruments. For example, APY Engineering Co. Ltd. produces the Inverter Driver, a device for motor speed adjustment. The Heat Intertrade

Co. Ltd. produces machineries for the automotive part industry: hardening, metal working and melting equipments, or even small appliances, such as the stoves for MK Sukiyaki.

**In your opinion, are there any practical lesson-learned from your College years? Can you apply any in your business?**



A combination of theoretical and hands-on training gave me sufficient practical experiences for my career. Strong basic knowledge and skills are essential in the industrial sector and in

product development. For example, if I were to design and produce a product, I would need complete understanding of the product and its parts, and production of the parts requires broad knowledge. As an electrical technician, besides complete understanding about the product, I have to understand how to assemble, design, produce and pack the product in a box or a case. I learned the aforementioned basic knowledge from my college years. The only option to create a product from zero knowledge is to purchase



costly comprehensive equipment, and I cannot allow such a high production cost. With strong basic knowledge, I can produce my own equipment. That translates to production cost reductions, and the only purchase required is the raw material.





# Tips & Tricks

Did you know that...



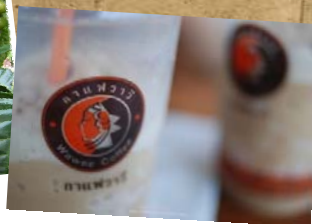
... the saving scheme Om Sap Thawi Choke, Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) originated from a project of TGTC?

... before the '30 Baht Gold Health Card' there was also a 'GTZ Health Card'?



... the 'smiling cow' was the symbol of Thai-German Dairy?

... millions of rats formerly destroying the harvests of whole regions were killed during the Thai-German Rodent Control Project (1975-1979)?



... the first coffee tree ever planted in the area of Wawee belongs to Thai-German Highland Development Project (1981-1998)?

.... The early batches of Thai-German Technical School students, boys or girls, need to weigh at least 45 Kg. with at least 150 Cm. height? This is because the school applies German standard in the training, for example, the height of the table used for filing work is German standard, which is applied throughout the whole working system as a solid foundation. Nowadays, if the students are not tall enough, there is a platform for them to step on to be able to work?





# Roundup

## New Partnerships in a Changing World – GIZ Promotes New Modes of Cooperation in the Region



GIZ convened a workshop on “New Partnerships in a Changing World: Opportunities and Challenges for Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand” in Bangkok, Thailand recently. The workshop aimed at exploring the role that emerging economies of

Southeast Asia like Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand can play in advancing new modalities of global governance and development cooperation partnerships in a rapidly changing world. Dr. Suthad Setboonsarng from Thailand Trade Representative, in his key note speech on the first day, stressed that “a new business arrangement between private and public sectors is needed to help solve global and regional issues”. Other participants of the forum came from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the three indicated countries together with representatives from UNDP, GIZ, several Thai partners, think tanks, foundations and the private sector

active in the region. The forum provided an opportunity to exchange views on experiences in various modes of international cooperation and the need to look at innovative and flexible mechanisms in light of the changing global architecture. Mr. Stefan Duppel from the German Embassy in Bangkok emphasized the increasing involvement of Germany in international cooperation and its growing interest in cooperating with South East Asian countries. He added that “new types of partnerships need to be considered and forged that would produce useful and sustainable results to the people and societies of South East Asia leading to win-win solutions.”

## Thai Representatives Attend Training Course on Biogas Purification Technology in Qingdao, China

During 16-20 May 2011, the Methane-to-Power from Agricultural Waste Biogas Project (M2P Biogas) provided scholarships for 10 Thai representatives to attend the “**International Best Practice Biogas Purification Technology and Bio-Methane Use**” in Qingdao, China. The representatives from PTT, ERDI-Nakornping, Prince Songkla University, Silpakorn University, and Chulalongkorn University travelled to Qingdao to learn about the most up-to-date biogas purification technologies from Europe, the current status of bio-methane uses in China and also

visited biogas technology showcase at the Bio-energy Expo. The 5 days of training in Qingdao concluded with an excursion to three biogas plants; Shandong Minhe 3MW, Jimo Yifeng and Jimo Gaojiawa.

The training event was designed for experts involved in the planning and implementation of medium and large-scale biogas plants. Topics included both technical and policy aspects such as strategies and policy for bio-methane development in Germany and European countries and purification technologies. The trainers comprised of experts from



Germany such as Krieg&Fisher, Gewitra, Arcanum and Chinese experts from the University of Petroleum, China Agricultural University, HEE, Tienren and Shandong Xinneng.



## Biogas Seminar in Celebration of 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Thai-German Biogas Cooperation



On May 23-24, 2011, the Methane-to-Power from Agricultural Waste Biogas Project (M2P Biogas) organized a seminar on **“Biogas Technology: Status and Trend in Asia”** at the Windsor Suites Hotel in Bangkok. Nearly 150 participants, drawn from biogas developers, suppliers, research institutes, biogas plant owners and policy makers, participated in the event co-organized by ERDI-Nakornping and GIZ in celebration of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Thai-German Biogas Programme (TG-BP). In 1988, GIZ in partnership with Chiang Mai University and Department of Agricultural Extension (DoAE) of the Ministry

of Agriculture and Cooperatives began cooperation on dissemination of biogas plant for pig farms in the Northern provinces. Currently there are more than 1,000 biogas plants not only in pig farms but also in other sectors such as tapioca, palm oil mills, and food factories in Thailand.

The seminar featured a wide range of speakers from five countries in Asia (China, Vietnam, the Philippines, India and Thailand) to provide updates on the current status of biogas markets, country policy and incentives for biogas technology. A presentation on trends in utilization of purified biogas in transportation sector or bio-methane was made by researchers from ERDI-Nakornping and PTT. The current production cost of compressed biogas (CBG), which is higher than those of NGV and LPG, still represents a challenge for researchers and policy makers to bring the cost of CBG down by either improving upgrading and

compressing technologies or subsidizing this renewable gas source in a similar way to feed-in tariff schemes. Other topics of interest included biogas from latex, biogas from landfills, hybrid reactor, optimization of large scale biogas plant and biogas PoA.

The seminar concluded with a half-day visit to Veerachai pig farm in Ratchburi province. The farm raises nearly 200,000 pigs and produces biogas for generation of 2 MW of electricity.

To view photos of the activity and download presentation documents, please visit [www.m2p.erd.or.th](http://www.m2p.erd.or.th)



## GIZ and NSTDA Jointly Strengthen Tapioca Starch Industry



On May 25, 2011, GIZ and the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) successfully implemented the project on “Capacity Building of Energy and Resource Personnel in the Tapioca Starch Industry”. Among the 28 participating factories, 16 became pilot factories for resource and energy efficiency improvement. They were able to reduce water consumption in the production process by 14.5%, heat output in the drying process by 6.6% and tapioca starch loss by 17%. As a result, total production costs were reduced by 112 million baht, or about 7 million baht per factory.

“Thailand is the world’s largest tapioca starch producer and a major exporter. With increasing competition in the global market, we need to continuously strengthen the tapioca starch industry. One important aspect is to improve production efficiency to achieve maximum yields and reduce production costs.

Machinery modernization alone is insufficient; we have to build personnel capacity, strengthening both their knowledge and skills. During the past two years, 343 participants from the raw tapioca



manufacturing industry, from both executive and operational levels, have participated in the training courses. Moreover, the project conducted training for two additional groups to provide support mechanisms for the



industry. A total of 70 technical and engineering consultants and engineering graduates were specifically trained on resource and energy efficiency in the tapioca starch industry to

strengthen their knowledge and skills,” said Dr. Thaweesak Koanantakool, NSTDA Director.

“Since 2006, GIZ has implemented programs to strengthen the competitiveness of the Thai tapioca starch industry. The project ‘Capacity Building of Energy and Resource Personnel in the Tapioca Starch Industry’ is the compilation of knowledge from our previous pilot projects and latest techniques to improve tapioca starch production efficiency and transferring them to personnel in the tapioca starch industry and relevant parties. During the past two years, the project facilitated reduction of resource and energy consumption by 14.5% and 6.6%, respectively. Moreover, the loss of tapioca starch in the production process was reduced by 17%, corresponding to a 112 million baht reduction in production costs. Besides saving resources and energy and increasing the yield of quality tapioca starch, the project has also promoted employment. This is clearly evident in the capacity building of technical and engineering consultants and engineering graduates for the Thai tapioca starch industry. The activity will positively contribute to Thailand’s economic development,” added Mr. David Oberhuber, Country Director, GIZ Thailand.



## Solar Heat Business Match-making Trip to Germany



From 5-11 June 2011, GIZ and the Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency (DEDE) jointly organized a solar heat delegation/business match-making trip to Munich, Germany. The purpose was to facilitate business partnerships and cooperation between German and Thai solar thermal (ST) organisations, in order to encourage transfer of Germany's highly advanced ST technology and know-how to Thailand. Such cooperation would help to foster development of the ST industry in Thailand.

The 10 participants taking part in the trip consisted of four representatives from solar innovation group DEDE, two from private Thai ST companies, three from Thai academic institutions, and one from GIZ. Highlights of the trip included visits to the world's largest solar industry exhibition, "Intersolar Europe 2011"; Europe's largest research and testing centre for ST systems (TZS) at the Institute for Thermodynamics and Thermal Engineering (ITW), University of

Stuttgart; and to manufacturing facilities of two leading German ST companies; as well as meetings with representatives of the German Solar Industry Association (BSW-Solar).

At Intersolar, the participants had opportunities to explore advanced ST products from leading companies from Germany, Europe and all over the world. Contacts and information were exchanged as a starting point for further communication and possible cooperation. During the visit to TZS at ITW, University of Stuttgart, the participants learned



of the centre's state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor testing facilities and its comprehensive research and development programs. The delegates also discussed possible cooperation with TZS on training programs and testing unit inspection.

At the meeting with BSW-Solar, the participants were given an overview of the German ST industry, market development and Government support policy and regulation on ST systems. Likewise, the Thai delegates

presented similar topics for Thailand. Such information will be disseminated further to interested parties in both countries.

The participants were given a warm welcome during their visits to manufacturing facilities of two leading German ST component manufacturers: Wolf GmbH in Mainburg and Wikora GmbH in Hermaringen. Among other energy-saving, heating technology, ventilation and HVAC products, Wolf GmbH manufactures flat plate solar collectors, while Wikora GmbH is a specialist in solar storage tanks and also manufactures flat plate solar collectors. Highly impressed by the high-quality manufacturing processes and facilities at both companies, the participants from Thai ST businesses expressed interest in exploring further possibilities in cooperating with them.



## GIZ Led a Media Trip to Chong Mu Hang Organic Farm and an Organic Coconut Processing Plant



On June 8-9, 2011, as part of the Promotion of Thai Organic Fruit and Vegetable Industry Project, GIZ led a media trip to the organic “Chong Mu Hang” Farm in Chantaburi. Mr. Sawat Khumcharoen and Mrs. Patayawadee Jangchue, leaders of the “Chong Mu Hang” farmers group, were there to greet the participants.

“Chong Mu Hang” is a pilot farmer group whose organic production and marketing, both locally and internationally, is being supported by GIZ. The project has helped group members to improve the quality of their products in order to meet the requirements of both Thai and international organic certification systems. “Chong Mu Hang” group was formed when the Office of Agricultural Research and Development Region 6, Chantaburi, convened a meeting for farmers, who were keen to cultivate organic fruits and vegetables, in the organic farming area development project. The agency is aware of the growing demand for safe and healthy fruits and vegetables and is dedicated to the comprehensive promotion of organic products. “Chong Mu Hang” has 8 members, with 40

hectares of growing area. Their main crops are rambutan, durian, mangosteen, longan, sunny bunch banana and pepper. Currently two group members have been certified to the Department of Agriculture’s “Organic Thailand” standards.

After the Chong Mu Hang Organic Farm, GIZ and the reporters visited Merit Food Products Co.



Ltd. (MFP) in Chonburi, the only manufacturer and exporter of organic coconut products in Thailand. MFP has been awarded a number of certifications for its compliance with international organic standards, both for cultivation and processing, including, AOS, EC8341/2007, IFOAM, JAS, and USDA NOP. The company is able to meet the required production and distribution standards, from field production to distribution of its quality organic products from the factory directly to its consumers.

MFP originated with the company’s own coconut



plantation, covering 352 hectares of a valley in Chantaburi. The company’s largest source of raw materials is also the largest organic coconut plantation in Thailand. Subsequently MFP developed an extensive product line and become Thailand’s leading manufacturer and exporter of quality organic coconut products, including food and beverages. Its product line includes coconut milk, coconut juice, coconut drinks (coconut juice blended with tropical fruit juices), tropical juices, coconut cream and organic coconut oil. MFP focuses mainly on the export market, with almost 100% of its products being exported to international markets in Europe, Australia, the Middle East and North America.



The field trip was able to convince participating reporters of the importance of organic produce. They have expressed their hope that the project will strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium sized organic producers and those manufacturers would continue to gain governmental support. This collaborative project by GIZ is aimed at promoting production and expanding market opportunities for Thai organic fruits and vegetables on the global market. It is anticipated that the export value of Thai organic produce will increase by more than 20%.



## 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?

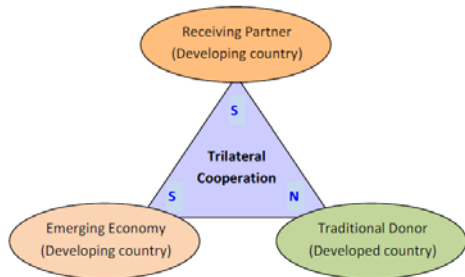
In this context, an intense debate is currently addressing triangular/trilateral cooperation and its capacities to bridge traditional North-South and South-South cooperation. Trilateral cooperation is commonly defined as cooperation between a “traditional donor,” an “emerging economy” and a “receiving 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).



## GIZ-DASTA Jointly Staged an Exhibition at the ITB 2011 Travel Trade Fair



From 9-13 March, 2011, the Climate Protection in Tourism Project, a collaborative initiative between GIZ and Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Public

Organization) or DASTA, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Green Leaf Foundation and Thai Trat Tourism Association jointly staged an exhibition to present project activities at the ITB Travel Trade Fair in Berlin, Germany. A public seminar on "Climate Friendly Tourism Development: A Case from Ko Chang and Clustering Area, Thailand" was also held to share experiences of the project, which was cooperatively implemented with partners from the Thai Tourism Networks. The project aimed to develop knowledge on sustainable

tourism, efficient resource use and carbon footprint reduction. Mrs. Kulpramote Wannalert, Director of the TAT's Attractions Promotion Division, Dr. Chirapol Sintunawa, Chairman of Green Leaf Foundation, Mr. Dhanant Chatrakul Na Ayudhya, DASTA and Ms. Wipa Sunetr, Vice President of Thai Trat Tourism Association jointly presented the project's achievements and lessons-learned.

## A German Expert Shared Experiences and Recommendations on Low Carbon Tourism

From 1-5 April, 2011, Mr. Burghard Rauschelbach, a German expert, applied low carbon tourism experiences to facilitate implementation of Climate Protection in Tourism Project in Ko Chang and Clustering Area, Trat Province and recommended climate friendly tourism approaches to Trat Governor, DASTA executives and key project partners in Ko Chang Archipelagoes and Trat Province. He presented practical approaches and measures to develop climate friendly tourism and to reduce carbon dioxide

emissions from tourism activities into the atmosphere, e.g. introduction of a garbage tax, setting limits on the number of tourists and automobiles, and the use of renewable energy. These measures will make Ko Chang a model for sustainable, low carbon tourism. In addition, Mr. Rauschelbach participated in an event to release sea turtles into the Sea of Trat organized by project partners at Ko Wai, Trat. The event was aimed at enhancing sea turtle conservation awareness among tourists and to increase the population of sea



turtle parent stock in the Thai Sea from near-extinction levels. This is seen as another approach to promote eco-tourism.

## GIZ Introduced ESCO (Energy Service Company) Fund and Clean Technology to Hotel Operators in Ko Chang



Due to rising energy needs and limited natural resources in the Ko Chang Archipelago, the Climate Protection in Tourism Project, a collaborative initiative between GIZ and Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Public Organization) or DASTA, Ministry of Energy, Thai Trat Tourism Association and GIZ's Solar Water

Heater Project, jointly held a forum on 20 April, 2011 to inform hotel and restaurant operators in Ko Chang about renewable energy. Besides promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency improvement, the event was aimed at instructing the target groups on developing appropriate measures to monitor energy use.

## Strengthening Thai-German Cooperation on Sustainable Energy Policy

At the beginning of 2011, GIZ and Thai environmental delegates, comprising Mr. Suphot Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE); Mrs. Nisakorn Kositratna, Secretary General of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP); Senator Vira Mavichak; Mrs. Anik Amranand, a Member of the House of Representatives; Mr. Jariwat Santabutr, the Thai Ambassador to Germany, MONRE senior executives and senior officials of the Royal Thai Embassy in Berlin visited senior executives of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) to share experiences and ideas on sustainable energy policy to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The dialogue between the Thai delegates and BMU executives lasted two days.



The Thai delegates and GIZ met with Ms. Ursula Heinen-Esser, BMU Parliamentary State Secretary, who is keen to strengthen bilateral strategic environmental cooperation between the two countries and to provide advisory support on the formulation of effective sustainable energy and other environmental frameworks to Thailand. During the two-day

dialogue, BMU representatives explained Germany's Energy Concept, which was approved by the German parliament in October 2010. Drafting of the Concept was carried out by BMU with stakeholder engagement and consultation, in particular with private electricity producers and grid operators. By 2050, the Energy Concept targets that 80% of energy is to be produced from renewable sources (increasing from 17% in 2010) and renewable energy accounts for 60% of total energy consumption (increasing from 9% in 2010). Both parties shared ideas and discussed the feasibility of improving energy efficiency (both in energy production and consumption). Topics discussed included the upgrading of the power grid to handle renewable energy, capacity building of various target groups (e.g. small scale operators, engineers and skilled technicians in downstream industries of renewable energy source development), revision and formulation coherent laws and economic systems to support the German sustainable energy policy, as well as conducting comparative analysis of strengths, weaknesses, costs and benefits of conventional energy sources (fossil fuels and nuclear power). The Thai delegates inquired about the German nuclear policy, guidelines, safety measures and the problems in nuclear waste disposal and transportation in details.

The German representatives shared lessons-learned from the drafting of the sustainable energy plan and the formulation of regulations and implementation mechanisms, which was carried out with participation of stakeholders, researchers and technology developers. Moreover, they outlined limitations and opportunities of their



participation in the capacity building of personnel and institutions in Thailand.

Besides information sharing between the two governmental counterparts, the Thai delegates visited two German conglomerates to observe their production processes: *EnerCon GmbH*, the market and technology leader in wind turbine manufacturing and installation, and *Siemens AG*, the leading provider of hydropower equipment and services. Representatives of the two businesses stated that Germany became the global leader in renewable energy business and industry because relevant governmental policies were formulated with comprehensive stakeholder consultation. This has contributed to active and continuous implementation of policies and measures. Moreover, *EnerCon* representatives said that Thailand has significant potential for renewable energy and the company is keen to identify a business partner in wind turbine installation and power generation in Thailand. However, the company has yet to conduct a study on the Thai renewable energy policies and incentives to determine whether they are clear and solid or not. To ensure continuity of the development under the Thai-German sustainable energy policy, GIZ, MONRE and BMU will jointly hold a colloquium on "Sustainable Energy Concept: the Germany Case Study" in June 2011.



## GIZ and Eastern Oil Palm Growers Joined Hands to Help Flood-Afflicted Southern Counterparts



In late March 2011, the Sustainable Palm Oil Production for Bio-Energy Project, Krabi

Province, together with pilot project participants in Khlong Hat and Bo Rai Districts, Eastern Oil Palm Farmers Cooperative, Mr. Sura Tanviset, coordinator of Suksumboon Palm Oil, Co. Ltd. and relevant agencies, including GIZ, and the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE) joined hands to coordinate donations, both in cash and in kind, for people and mills affected by the recent floods and mudslides: the United Palm Oil Industry Public Company Limited (UPOIC) in Nuea Khlong District

(the Na Khao Group and some other groups in the vicinity of the mill) and the Univanich Palm Oil Public Company Limited, Plai Phraya in Krabi; and the Thaksin Palm Oil Mill in Phunphin and Ban Na Doem Districts, Surat Thani. The sum of 62,500 Baht was donated to the 3 mills and heads of farmers groups for distribution to affected members in the areas. This effort was aimed at providing moral support to the affected members and strengthening the farmers groups.

## Voice from the Field>>>Public Hearings of the “RSPO Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production for Smallholders”

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Thailand National Interpretation Working Group (RSPO TH-NIWG) appointed a special task force to develop certification standards and procedures for smallholders and to review the draft of the certification standards for Thai smallholders under group certification between October 2010 and February 2011. The draft is now completed. To ensure that implementation of the Thai RSPO certification is appropriate, transparent and in harmony with national regulations,



the task force launched web-based public hearings on the draft. In addition, the task force held public hearings in two southern provinces: Surat Thani on May 9, 2011 and Krabi on May 10, 2011.

Although the two public hearings were held shortly after the southern floods and mudslides, around 250 farmers and representatives of mills, ramps and relevant agencies participated in the event to share their ideas. Most of the questions and comments were on smallholders' involvement, particularly on open and transparent announcement of fresh fruit bunches (FFB) prices and quality improvement of FFB that affects the palm oil quality.

From participants' questions and comments, it was obvious that farmers in the project area were aware of the significance of palm plantation management on



product yield and price, e.g., fertilization, yield, frond and soil analysis records. This is a good sign that smallholders are prepared for sustainable palm oil certification.

After the public hearings, the task force will compile comments and recommendations and apply them in the revision of the “RSPO Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production for Smallholders” to improve the draft. This is to ensure that the final draft is practical and smallholders will truly benefit from the palm oil certification system.

## Former German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, is supporting the German “Forum on Sustainable Palm Oil”



More than 100 participants drawn from the private industrial and retail sectors, NGOs and

government ministries met on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 in GIZ's Berlin representation for the kick-off meeting of the Forum on Sustainable Palm Oil. REWE Group, Henkel, Unilever, WWF and GIZ initiated the Forum, which aims to promote the use of sustainably produced palm oil and palm kernel oil. The kick-off meeting laid the foundation to lobby for further improvement of the Round Table of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and significantly increase the uptake of sustainable palm oil in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

As speaker of honour, Mr. Joschka Fischer supported the idea of such a Forum and described it as a forerunner for fostering important ideas and re-thinking solutions towards environmental and social problems in palm oil producing countries. Over the next months, work to officially establish the Forum will continue.

The Sustainable Palm Oil Production project in Thailand is the main platform through which GIZ is involved in this Forum, also with the objective of further promoting sustainable palm oil production in Thailand.





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