

Newsletter of Bangkok-based projects by GIZ and PARTNERS

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Dear Readers,

We hope you are enjoying a good start to the New Year. Thanks to the excellent joint cooperation between Thai, German and international partners, 2013 was highly satisfactory in terms of project achievements. Last year GIZ and its partners started seven bilateral and regional projects, both new and as extended phases of existing projects.

In the first quarter of 2014 another three major projects will commence full operation, all of them with bases in Bangkok. They are: the Thai-German “Strategic Alignment and Implementation of the Climate Change Policy in Thailand” Project, the “Global Initiative Disaster Risk Management” and the “Carbon Neutral Water Utility and Waste Water Project”. The latter two global projects underline the fact that Thailand is playing an increasingly important role within the international community in the fight against such global issues as climate change impacts and natural disasters.

In this issue, we update you on the progress of selected projects over the last months.

We thank you as always for all your contributions and wish you a prosperous and successful 2014.

Best regards,
The newsletter team

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RIICE project signs MoU with the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC)

By Lena Kern

On 27 November 2013 the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) and GIZ signed a "Memorandum of Understanding on joint technical cooperation in the field of strengthening marketing & distribution for crop insurance for smallholder farmers" at the Bank's head office in Bangkok.

The Agreement was signed by Mr. Supat Eauchai, BAAC Executive Vice President and Mr. David Oberhuber, Country Director of GIZ Thailand.

The two institutions have enjoyed positive cooperation since 1992, when GIZ (then GTZ) was already supporting BAAC in introducing a savings scheme. Mr. Oberhuber considers BAAC to be a "central intermediary in the design and delivery of crop insurance in Thailand", saying "you have a large network and you know the financial needs of your clients. This is why we want to work with you". He paid special attention to the importance of agricultural insurance, pointing out that "ninety percent of the world's rice is produced and consumed in Asia but Asia is also home to 70 percent of the world's poor". To Mr. Oberhuber, this is why GIZ's engagement in this field is crucial to minimizing the vulnerability of smallholder farmers by reverting to crop insurance.

“ RIICE aims to establish a public-private partnership model to transfer natural catastrophe risks from farmers and governments to the private insurance sector. ”



▲ Mr. Supat Eauchai (second left) and Mr. David Oberhuber (second right) during a MoU signing ceremony on joint technical cooperation in the field of strengthening marketing & distribution for crop insurance for smallholder farmers

The MoU was signed under the RIICE ("Remote sensing-based information and insurance for crops in emerging economies") project and its first step is to reach its objectives: RIICE parties aim to establish a public-private partnership model to transfer natural catastrophe risks from farmers and governments to the private insurance sector. The project makes use of remote sensing technologies to observe the growth of rice. Through timely and transparent information on crop losses due to natural catastrophes, insurers can act quickly and pay claims systematically.

The purpose of this MoU is to provide a framework of cooperation and understanding. It is also meant to support to achieve jointly determined goals and objectives to "strengthen marketing and distribution for crop insurance for smallholder farmers".

The Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) is the distribution and claims processing arm of the Thai rice insurance scheme. It was agreed in the MoU that RIICE will support BAAC in running its insurance operations more efficiently.

Workshops on food safety in Thailand and Southeast Asia

By Andrea Ulbrich, Marieke Krull, Napaporn Rattanamettha and Stefanie Kirse

Speakers and participants from several Asian countries and Germany came together in Bangkok on 3-4 December to discuss safety issues in the food sector. The event, which was organized by GIZ, Consumers International (CI), Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), the Metrology Society of Thailand (MST) and SGF International e. V. (SGF), featured four different workshops.



1. Workshop on Food Safety Control Measures (FSCM) in Developing Asian Countries (by CI and GIZ)

The workshop was the final activity in the study of "Food Safety Control Measures in Selected Developing Countries in Asia", implemented by CI on behalf of GIZ. It provided a platform to present, share and validate findings of research and field visits on FSCM in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. Participants discussed the gaps and challenges identified as well as recommendations for overcoming the barriers. In addition, best practices from the ASEAN region were shared.

Workshop documentation including the countries' assessments will be prepared. For further information, please contact stefanie.kirse@giz.de.



food safety

2. SGF/IRMA Conference Thailand and Far East (by SGF)

SGF organizes International Raw Material Assurance (IRMA) conferences worldwide and this year all the SGF members from Thailand and Far East countries were invited to join the conference in Bangkok. Besides an overview on SGF tasks and objectives and SGF profiling, the results of SGF/IRMA audits as well as the results of authenticity and food safety controls in Thailand, were presented and discussed.

The workshop's objective was to discuss problems regarding hygiene, authenticity and safety aspects and share and validate the findings observed during the audits with the members. For more information about SGF or the workshop, please contact napaporn.rattanamettha@giz.de or visit www.sgf.org.

3. Improved Product Safety and Quality for the Thai Fruit Juice Industry (by SGF and GIZ)

This workshop aimed to introduce and discuss the pilot audit results based on the SGF/IRMA Fruit Juice Standard in order to improve product safety and quality of the Thai fruit juice industry. The results have shown that pilot plants need to be improved and that there is a lack of technical support for production. Activities carried out so far, among them the selection of a group of Thai fruit processing suppliers, market survey, selection of auditors, laboratories and testing organizations and compiling a data base on pesticides, were presented and validated.

4. Concluding Workshop of the PTB-MST Cooperation to Improve Thailand's Fruit and Vegetable Quality (by MST and PTB)

New and existing challenges in the area of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables were discussed during this event. In this context, Dr. Doris Gerlach, an expert from Frankfurt Airport's Border Inspection Post, provided key issues for consideration in the discussions. An overview of the project's contribution to strengthening quality in the production chain was then given and the results of participating testing laboratories were elaborated upon. Mr. Charun Yafa, a key member of the Metrology Society of Thailand and a staff member of the National Institute of Metrology (Thailand) presented some of the project's lessons learned for improving export-related challenges. Finally, some orientation for the future was provided by the project's key expert, Dr. Clemens Sanetra. For further information, please contact andrea.ulbrich@ptb.de.

German companies visit Thailand to discuss solar thermal technology and efficient building design

By Gisa Holzhausen

In cooperation with the German Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), GIZ's Project Development Programme organized two business trips to Thailand for German companies involved in solar thermal technology (14-18 October) and solutions for efficient building design (28 October - 1 November).

Although solar thermal systems have been installed in Thailand for years - especially in the food and textile industry, agricultural businesses and hotels - and the Ministry of Energy financially supports commercial and industrial installations with up to 25 percent of the cost, the number of installations remain well behind actual potential. Faulty installations and insufficient maintenance have brought down the image of solar thermal technology, and awareness about the benefits is low. In order to show that solar thermal systems when installed and operated properly can significantly reduce energy costs and CO₂-emissions, PDP organized a number of activities around the business trip for Thai stakeholders. During an exchange workshop, the German Solar Association (BSW), the Department of Alternative Energy and Efficiency (DEDE) and private Thai companies discussed possibilities for improving the activities of the solar thermal association in Thailand.

“
Faulty installations and insufficient maintenance have brought down the image of solar thermal technology, and awareness for the benefits is low.
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During the conference on “Solar Thermal Solutions for the Industrial and Commercial Sector” on the second day of the business trip, the focus was on showing that investors in Thailand might want to look at return periods rather than only at payback periods when considering investment in solar thermal power. Companies like Viessmann or Linuo Ritter International, both of which joined the trip, can deliver high-quality systems to ensure these long return periods. On the last day of the business trip, site visits by Thai policy-makers and the German companies were made to three installations in Samut Prakarn and Bangkok that are supported through DEDE subsidies. The site visits gave the German companies an impression of the Thai standard while also fostering discussions on proper operation and maintenance.

The interest in the conference during the second trip on “Energy Efficiency in Buildings in Thailand” greatly exceeded expectations. This indicates that energy efficiency – for a long time in the shadow of the interest in renewable energy – is regaining momentum.

In particular, the interest in building certification has increased over recent years creating a demand for efficient technologies, materials and, most importantly, expertise in comprehensive planning. The German companies participating in the trip can cater to these needs by offering optimized lighting systems, insulation systems or planning expertise, thus kindling interest among Thai business partners. As a highlight, the first certificate of the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) was awarded to a building in Thailand, namely the Häfele-Design-Center Phuket. The DGNB certification criteria have recently been adapted for the Thai context within a Public Private Partnership supported by GIZ so that buildings in Thailand can now be certified according to the international standard.

All activities are organized within the framework of two initiatives of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) – “renewables and energy efficiency – Made in Germany”.



▲ German companies and representatives of GIZ and DEDE visiting a solar thermal installation in Bangkok



▲ Michael Dax (right) of the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB), presents the first DGNB certificate in Thailand to Volker Hellstern (centre) of Häfele GmbH. Looking on is Elmar Kleiner, (left), of the Office for Interior and Architecture co., Ltd.

Further Enhancing Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) in ASEAN ports

By Yosthana Siphomsay

Green Port Policy Workshop, Johor, Malaysia

On 4-5 December 2013, the project co-organized with Johor Port Authority (JPA) in Malaysia a two-day Green Port Policy Workshop. The purpose of this workshop was to draft a Green Port Policy, which will serve as a roadmap to integrate sustainability principles in future business decisions and to identify the needs of various stakeholders. In order to make participants contribute to the design of a future policy, some techniques of stakeholder analysis, such as stakeholder mapping and the 4-field analysis, were explained and applied in group work. Representatives of Johor Port Authority, Johor Port Berhad and Port of Tanjung Pelepas were represented in the workshop.

Driving Change for Sustainable Ports, Bangkok, Thailand

On 27–28 November 2013, the project organized a workshop on ‘Driving Change for Sustainable Ports - Project Design and Strategic Approach’ with the purpose of reviewing the project strategic approach and to identify possible gaps in order to reach as well as sustain project results and impacts. A total of 36 participants consisting of partner ports and national level agencies in the ASEAN region and the project team participated. Focal points of discussion included how to achieve and measure change in order to reach the project objective, as well as how project stakeholders can contribute to these changes. The workshop results will be used as reference to further improve project activities in the next two years.

Integrated SHE Awareness Training in Myanmar MPA ,Yangon, Myanmar

On 2-4 December 2013, the project organized the Integrated Safety Health and Environmental (SHE) Awareness Training in Yangon, Myanmar for the Myanma Port Authority (MPA). Thirty-one staff from the MPA and terminals from Yangon Ports attended the training, with the main objective to promote safety culture in ports and to increase awareness on basic safety, health and environmental (SHE) issues specifically related to activities at ports. The training was facilitated by two regional Port SHE experts from the project. The 3-day training included site visits to the Asia World Port Terminal in Yangon for practical exercises and classroom settings on the technical aspects of SHE management in ports. This training also served as the first capacity-building activity with partners in Myanmar.

Survey results on the SCP awareness of local authorities

By Ratchanok Suwatthanabunpot

A relatively new term here in the Kingdom, sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is probably not very familiar to Thais. SCP was recognized in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) as “the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of further generations”. There are various SCP activities promoting most efficient use of resources and minimising environmental impact.

Municipalities are significant intermediaries in coordinating with local communities in relation to SCP information and supporting behavioural changes towards SCP. The SCP Policy Project in coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP) conducted a survey of large- and medium-sized municipalities looking at their functions both as supporters and appliers through questionnaires and interviews.

“Municipalities focus on waste separations, recycle and local products consumption, but not much on sustainable production.”



▲ Mr. Akekaluk Nattarit, Eastern survey team leader interviewed Mr. Vijai Amaralikit, Phanatnikhom Mayor.

The Project sent the questionnaire to 196 municipalities, receiving 90 responses and conducting interviews in 26 willing municipalities.

According to the survey results, as supporter, the majority of municipalities focus on resource efficiency (e.g. waste separations, waste bank, recycling) and local products consumption (e.g. OTOP). But only a few support sustainable production and different kinds of standards certification and sustainable transport.

As applier, they are active in environmental management in their offices (e.g. waste separation and saving electricity). The results of this survey will provide guidance to the Project in selecting pilot municipalities to stimulate in SCP awareness and behavioural change.

More information: www.scp-thailand.info or [Facebook/ScpPolicyThailand](https://www.facebook.com/ScpPolicyThailand)

SCP Thailand Video Award “Save the World for the Next Generation”

By Ratchanok Suwatthanabunpot

On 4 December 2013, the EU SCP Policy Project, a collaborative effort between the European Union and the Thai Government, announced the results of the SCP Thailand Video Award “Save the World for the Next Generation” with the cooperation of the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP).

The 1st prize winner is “Save the Earth” by Mr. Dissapong Wongaram and Miss Chakkanata Pengdom.

The three runners-up are: “Start by yourself” by Mr. Weerapat Kirdthongmee, Mr. Kittikhun Nga-nium; Mr. Yanwut Wilachai, Mr. Aphisit Kietpanich and Mr. Techatham Korkerdboon of the Dusit Thani College, Pattaya;



▲ 1st rank “Save the Earth” from Mr. Dissapong Wongaram and Miss Chakkanata Pengdom



“Start by yourself to save the World” by Mr. Sarun Jaikaew; and “Save the World for the Next Generation” by Mr. Fawad Ahmed Najam, Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan Ali Khan, Mr. Adnan Nawaz and Miss Warangkha Soonjun of the Asian Institute of Technology.

The announcement was made as part of the event marking Thai Environment Day in the Grand Diamond Ballroom at the Impact Arena. The awards were presented by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Mr. Vichet Kasemthongsri and Mr. Attila Nyitrai, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of the European Union to Thailand.

More information: www.scp-thailand.info or [Facebook/ScpPolicyThailand](https://www.facebook.com/ScpPolicyThailand)

SCP4LCE cooperates with other SCP initiatives and organizes a study visit to Germany and France

By Kanchanatetee Vasuvat

The project team was invited to participate and deliver a key note speech at **the 4th Annual International Conference on Green Purchasing** by International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN) in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. The conference was organized by Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) and Green Purchasing Network Malaysia (GPNM) and took place from 18-20 September 2013. Issues related to green public procurement and green productivity were discussed and project keynote speakers from Korea, Japan, China, UNEP and several experts and NGO's shared their experiences. On the last day, next steps were discussed along with how to cooperate in the future.

A study visit to Germany and France for 17 delegates from Thailand was organized for participants to learn about public procurement policies in Germany and how the ministries are supporting and evaluating eco-labels. In France, the ministry of environment shared its expertise on French activities and the challenges faced in French colonies in other parts of the world. The visit was co-financed by Pollution Control Department (PCD).

At the beginning of October, SCP4LCE organized a **regional Workshop on Life Cycle Costing (LCC)** as a tool for public procurement in Malaysia. Sixty participants from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines joined this workshop and enjoyed their first experience of calculating LCC for several different product groups. Oekoinstitut developed templates and provided tools for each country to calculate LCC for their specific requirements. Malaysia has already committed to the implementation of LCC while Indonesia and Thailand are on the way to accepting it as a proper procurement tool for certain product groups. This workshop was co-financed by the EU-SWITCH-ASIA Policy projects on SCP Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines.



The project also participated in **the second ASEAN+3 Green Public Procurement and Eco-labelling Workshop & Sustainable Consumption and Production Knowledge Sharing Programme** in Seoul. This was organized under the project "Strengthening the capacities and improving the knowledge on green public procurement and Eco-labelling in the ASEAN+3 region" and implemented by UNEP in collaboration with KEITI and MEP as well as the annual Global Eco-labelling Network (GEN) Meeting in Brussels. The main topics here were Sustainable Public Procurement implementation in ASEAN countries and harmonization/mutual recognition of Eco-Labels. Based on the results, the project will organize several workshops and events at the regional and ASEAN level in 2014.

Green School Initiatives

By Pimpilas Nuntiphon Khoeiram




The Green School Initiatives have been jointly implemented by the Sustainable Consumption and Production of Low Carbon Economy - Low Emission Public Procurement and Eco-Labeling (SCP4LCE), ASEAN Bio-Control for Sustainable Agriculture Food (ABC) and Weltwärts with GIZ Thailand. The activity aims to educate and reinforce practices of students on food safety and energy saving measures. Between June and August 2013, it also introduced the new initiative on green purchasing through the use of effective Information Educational and Communication (IEC) tool in 5 pilot public schools to which Weltwärts (young volunteers from Germany) are assigned.

During the short implementing period, changes in behaviour due to the application of gained knowledge were observed in such areas as proper hand washing and utilization of unwanted stuff for DIY products like fabricating mats from used milk boxes. The close-corporation between the assigned Weltwärts and teachers contributed to a better learning environment, maintaining momentum and keeping results achievable in the limited time frame.

Mayors and City Manager approve Nexus Agenda

By Ruth Erlbeck and Ralph Trosse



“All cities lack adequate planning tools. Decentralization of the local governments plays a central role in deciding on detailed plans, investment projects and financing.”

The second high-level Regional Workshop on “Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: The Urban Nexus” took place in Bangkok from 2-4 December 2013 with more than 50 representatives from Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, Germany and Denmark taking part. It was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) in close collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

Dr. Thomas Multhaup, Councillor for Economic and Commercial Affairs of the German Embassy in Thailand officially inaugurated the workshop together with Dr. Donovan Storey, Chief/Sustainable Urban Development Section/UN ESCAP, the political partner organization of the Integrated Urban Resource Management Project, which is implemented by GIZ and financed by the Federal German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Among the high-level representatives were the Honourable Mayor Arlene B. Arcillas from Santa Rosa with a delegation comprising six people and the Honorable Mayor John F. Bongart from Naga City from the Philippines as well as the City Manager and Head of Governor’s Office, B. Badral from Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia.

Mainstreaming of Nexus

Representatives from ICLEI World Secretariat/Bonn, ICLEI SEA/Manila, the University of Queensland and the Fraunhofer IAO (Fraunhofer Institut fuer Arbeitswirtschaft und Organisation), CIM Vietnam and the Ministries of Construction and Urban Development and Natural Resources and Green Development of Mongolia, the Ministry of Interior, ONEP and the National Housing Agency of Thailand, the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources of the Philippines, and the Ministries of Construction and Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam participated pro-actively in the effort to mainstream the urban Nexus on the local and national level in their respective cities and countries making it compatible with existing policies.

Establishment of Nexus Task Forces enable integrated resource management

Meanwhile, four Nexus Task Forces have been established by “Resolution” or “Executive Order” of the Mayors in the Nexus Partner Cities thus creating a first step towards integrated urban planning and implementation. The establishment of more Nexus Task Forces is to follow shortly.

The Nexus Task Forces have taken up their task of elaborating and thereafter screening Nexus project proposals. This will be followed by seeking finance for implementation.

Nexus Projects being born

The first Nexus Projects have already been appraised. They include:

Thermo-technical retrofitting of a complete neighbourhood in Ulaanbaatar (Khoroo 16) with 1,465 apartments (households, i.e. 4,972 people), two secondary schools, one kindergarten, one hospital and an orphanage comprising roughly EUR 6 million (possible funds available from ADB and/or KfW).

Energy-efficient resilient low-cost housing in Naga City and Santa Rosa in the Philippines with possible connection to innovative vacuum sewer technology comprising roughly EUR 500,000 for Naga City (confirmed finance for first phase through Mutual Mortgage Fund and National Housing Agency/ Philippines).

Increase in efficiency through maintenance and repair and replacement of obsolete water and waste water pumps after study to be completed in December 2013/January 2014 resulting in less money being paid for electricity bills, which can be reinvested in reducing leakages of water pipelines in Nakhon Ratchasima (Korat)/Thailand. Analysis of vacuum sewer to be applied for new settlement areas.

“Most tariffs do not cover the costs and are not consumption-oriented. To date, there are no incentives to reduce energy and water consumption.”



▲ On 2 December, the Honourable Mayor of Santa Rosa, Arlene B. Arcillas, expressed her appreciation towards the Nexus Project by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with GIZ.

Lack of urban planning tools

It was discovered that all cities lack such adequate planning tools as comprehensive land-use plans and legally binding detailed plans. Adjusted Urban Planning Laws might be required to structure urban development and make detailed plans legally binding along with mandatory public participation in their elaboration. However, decentralization of the local governments plays a central role in deciding on detailed plans, investment projects and financing.

Decentralization promotes ownership and commitment

While Decentralization Acts are in place in some of the Nexus countries, the level of decentralizing, varies widely from country to country. However, the most important thing is the availability of local finance for empowerment of local governments, making them committed and compliant.

Compliance

It was also agreed that new laws, rule and regulations are useless if compliance is not forthcoming. Local as well as national ministries and governments will have to work hard not only on approving progressive rules and regulations and laws but also making them feasible through positive and negative sanctioning mechanisms.

Consumption-oriented and cost-covering tariffs promote efficient resource management

Tariffs, which in most cases are not cost-covering and consumption-oriented, are another major hurdle in economizing on water and energy resources.

There are no incentive mechanisms to reduce energy and water consumption to date.

Precious tap water is still used to flush toilets although this could also be done with recycled water or by vacuum sewer.

Questioning the national level

Nexus pilots need to be innovative, as “we can not solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them” (Albert Einstein)

There are no incentive mechanisms to reduce energy and water consumption up to date.

In a final panel discussion the city representatives were encouraged to tell the representatives of the national level their requests to make Nexus become mainstream. National level representatives gave their word to bring Nexus to the national level and support the local governments in their endeavours to implement innovative Nexus pilots even if standards might not be fully in place.

“Nexus pilots need to be innovative, as “we cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them” (Albert Einstein)

Garden cities, not garbage city are the goal

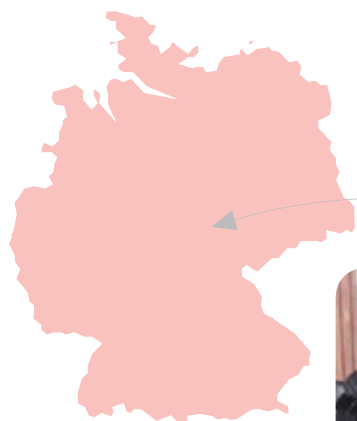
A lot still lies ahead of us if we aspire to have “garden cities, not garbage cities”.

In the months to come, the Nexus Project will concentrate on studying together with its partner organisations and the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft of Germany adequate innovative solutions for waste water treatment and energy generation also creating linkages to increased urban agriculture, elaborating city profiling (benchmarking), introducing structured urban planning and all inclusive resilient housing reducing the vulnerability of the urban poor towards natural disasters.

These processes - being practical examples of integrated urban resource management - will be led and accompanied by the Nexus Task Forces becoming increasingly relevant to elaborate, screen and recommend Nexus compliant investment projects.

Vietnamese Partners visit Germany and Thailand on Cooperative Movement and Management

By Jarukan Rassiri



A team of leaders from the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA Central) in the Central and Western Highland region and a local expert from the Thailand Cooperative Promotion Department visited Berlin, Germany, from 26 November to 6 December 2013, to gain hands-on experience of German cooperative structure development, management methods and good practices. The visit was organized by Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Programme in cooperation with the German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation (DGRV) and Technical Training Institution. In addition to visiting some model agricultural and non-agricultural cooperatives of various sizes, the delegates attended training on cooperative management. The visit provided insights to the Vietnamese and Thai delegates on cooperative structure and transition in Germany, especially the transition of former east German cooperatives, including how cooperatives can be managed so as to be independent in the market. The delegates agreed that they learned how cooperatives can be independent from government support yet still able to compete with private enterprise while maintaining original cooperative principles. The delegates also learned new ways in which the training centre for cooperative knowledge transfer can be organized.

One week after the visit, the leaders of VCA Central, along with the chairpersons of VCA provincial offices in the project pilot provinces and the representatives from the 12 pilot cooperatives, visited Thailand to learn about Thai cooperative promotion and jointly synthesize lessons learned from Germany and Thailand into an action plan for implementation in the 12 pilot cooperatives in Vietnam. The study trip, which was organized by Thailand Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD) and the 5th Cooperative Technology Transfer Centre, Nakhon Ratchasima, was held from 12-21 December 2013. The 24 delegates from Vietnam visited CPD in Bangkok to learn about the cooperative movement and development in Thailand and how Thai government supports and promotes Thai cooperatives. They also visited 4 cooperatives in Nakhon Ratchasima province including large and medium agricultural cooperatives in Khamsakaesaeng, Pimai and Pak Thong Chai districts and one small non-agricultural cooperative. On the last day of the visit, a small workshop was held in order to synthesize lessons learned from Thailand and Germany and formulate ideas for an action plan for both VCA Central and for each project pilot cooperative.



The major lesson learned from Thailand is that the government cooperative promotion work has effectively strengthened the formation of the cooperatives and empowered the farmers and people in rural areas in owning and managing their cooperatives sustainably. The efficient cooperative internal management system with good governance, cooperative services for members, capital management and use of appropriate technology, were also highlighted and will be incorporated by the participants in the action plan. This will serve as the basis for further follow up and capacity-building activities for both the VCA Central office, VCA provincial offices and the pilot cooperatives throughout the project implementation up to April 2015. The project is funded by Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) and BMZ.



Malaysian-German Triangular Cooperation starts its second project in Timor-Leste

By Michael Schlotthauer

After the successful pilot project on CSR in the port sector in Cambodia, Malaysia and Germany are now supporting Timor-Leste in the area of fisheries. Timor-Leste is a relatively young country, only gaining its independence a little over a decade ago but aiming to become a member of ASEAN in 2015. The country still faces numerous challenges in its development, as malnutrition is a big issue and almost 40 percent of the population live below the poverty line. Even though Timor-Leste is surrounded by waters that are abundant with fish, traditionally fisheries are not one of the population's main activities.



To support both nutrition as well as employment promotion along the fishery supply chain and in line with the country's expression of interest in the cooperation, Germany and Malaysia have joined up to support Timor-Leste. Through providing high-quality training for fishermen combined with policy advisory services for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor-Leste will benefit from both development partners. Furthermore, both Germany and Malaysia aim to align the triangular activities with their bilateral approaches to ensure harmonious collaboration.

After a successful fact-finding mission in November 2013, the Malaysian-German Triangular Cooperation Programme is now working on the project proposals and budget allocations for the next two years. The first activities in Timor-Leste are expected to start in early 2014.



Editors: Vorathep Songpanya
Siriporn Treepornpairat

Authors:

Lena Kern
Andrea Ulbrich
Marieke Krull
Napaporn Rattanamettha
Stefanie Kirse
Gisa Holzhausen
Yosthana Siphomsay
Ratchanok Suwatthanabunpot
Kanchanatetee Vasuvat
Pimpilas Nuntiphon Khoeiram
Ruth Erlbeck
Ralph Trosse
Jarukan Rassiri
Michael Schlotthauer

Pictures are taken by members of the programme

For further information on the articles and all news related information please contact

Siriporn Treepornpairat
Public Information Manager

German International Cooperation, GIZ Office Bangkok
193/63 Lake Rajada Office Complex (16th Floor) New Ratchadapisek Road, Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110
Tel: 02-661-9273 Fax: 02-661-9281 –2

E-mail: siriporn.treepornpairat@giz.de

Website: www.thai-german-cooperation.info

Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Effective in - company vocational training in the Mekong Region (Funded by Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development - BMZ)
- The German - Thai Dual Excellence Education (Funded by the German Federal Foreign Office)
- Sustainable Consumption and Production, SCP Policy (Funded by European Union - EU)
- Consumption and Production for Low Carbon Economy - Low Emissions Public Procurement and Eco - Labeling (Funded by Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety - BMUB)
- Greening Supply Chain in the Thai Auto and Automotive Parts Industries (EU/BMUB)

Environmental and Climate Protection

- Strategic Alignment and Implementation of the Climate Change Policy in Thailand (BMUB)
- Improved Flood and Drought Prevention through Ecosystem - Based Adaptation in Watershed (BMUB)
- The Enhancing the Economics of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Thailand/ South East Asia (ECO - BEST) (EU)
- Carbon Neutral Water Utility and Waste Water Project (BMUB)
- Global Initiative Disaster Risk Management (BMZ)

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

- Thai - German Programme on Energy Efficiency Development Plan: TGP - EEDP (BMUB)
- Renewable Energy Project Development Programme in South - East Asia (Funded by Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy - BMWi)

Agriculture and Food Security

- ASEAN Biocontrol for Sustainable Agrifood Systems (BMZ)

Sustainable Urban Development and Transport

- Clean Air for Smaller Cities in ASEAN (BMZ)
- Sustainable Port Development in ASEAN (BMZ)
- Energy - Efficiency in Transport in ASEAN (BMZ)
- Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: The Urban Nexus (BMZ)

Regional Integration and South-South-Cooperation

- Trilateral Cooperation Programme with Thailand and Malaysia (BMZ, TICA, MFA, Malaysia)
- Alliance for Financial Inclusion (Funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)