
Summary of Participants and NESDB Officials' Opinion on the 2002 NESDB's Annual Conference:

“Well-Being of Thai People : 5 Years After the Economic Crisis”

Friday, June 21, 2002

At IMPACT Conference and Exhibition Center, Muang Thong Thani, Nonthaburi

In the NESDB's Annual Conference, 261 persons or 23.1% of all the participants (totally 1,130 persons) filled in and returned the questionnaire to NESDB. The questionnaire was also distributed to the NESDB's officials, and 187 officials or 41.6% of NESDB's Policy and Plan Analyst (totally 450 persons) filled in and returned the questionnaire. The Development Communication Office, NESDB, had analyzed the returned questionnaires and the result was summarized in 4 parts as follows;

Part ①: Indicators for the Development Result

The participants and NESDB officials had opinions on the indicators for the development result as follows;

- The participants of 42.5% and the NESDB officials of 43.8% agreed that **economic growth** was appropriated for being a **main indicator**. Hence, the participants of 43.3% and the NESDB officials of 42.8% were disagreed.
- In the disagreed group, 92.7% of the participants and 88.6% of the NESDB officials realized that economic growth was still needed, together with other indicators, for the evaluation of the national development result.
- The participants of 44.8% and the NESDB officials of 86.1% agreed with the use of both **“Well-Being”** and **“Economic Strength”** Indicators for the evaluation of development results on Thai people and the economy. However, 23.4% of the participants and 4.3% of the NESDB officials agreed with using only Well-Being Indicator, and 17.6% of the participants and 3.2% of the NESDB officials agreed with using only Economic Strength Indicator.
- The participants of 95.0%-97.3% and the NESDB officials of 85.0%-97.3% agreed with using 7 categories of **“Well-Being Indicator”** for national economic and social development evaluation. The 7 categories were; health, knowledge/education, working life, income and income distribution, family life, environment, and good governance. The health category was the most agreed category, and family life was the least agreed category by both groups.

- ♪ The participants of 88.9%-95.4% and the NESDB officials of 84.0%-92.5% thought that 5 categories of **“Economic Strength Indicator”**, which consisted of economic self-reliance, economic immunity, adaptation to the changing world, economic stability, and fair distribution of benefit from development, could be used for the national development evaluation. It was noted that fair distribution of benefit from development category was the most agreed category of the participants, but it was the least agreed category of the NESDB officials.
- ♪ The participants also suggested other 267 categories of **“Well-Being Indicator”**. The most suggested category was about culture/values, which was 27.4% of all the suggested categories. The next places were the categories of environment, community/civil society, and good governance respectively. Some of the suggested indicators were different from the NESDB’s categories, for example, Thai identity/Thai way of life, mutual help, ethic and moral, corruption and happy/caring family.
- ♪ The NESDB officials suggested other 75 categories of **“Well-Being Indicator”**. The most suggested category was about culture/values and good governance, which was 18.7% of all the suggested categories. The next places were the categories of community/civil society and family life respectively. Some of the suggested indicators were different from the NESDB’s categories, for example, good governance, Thai identity/Thai way of life, and participation of people.
- ♪ The participants also suggested other 161 categories of **“Economic Strength Indicator”**. The most suggested category was economic self-reliance, which was 40.4% of all the suggested categories. The next places were the categories of economic stability, equally development distribution, and economic immunity, respectively. Some of the suggested indicators were different from the NESDB’s categories, for example, sufficiency economy, community economy, and Thai wisdom.
- ♪ The NESDB officials suggested other 26 categories of **“Economic Strength Indicator”**. The most suggested category was economic self-reliance, which was 30.8% of all the suggested categories. The next places were the categories of adaptation to the changing world, economic immunity, economic stability, and equally development distribution.

Part ② : How is the Well-Being of Thai People : Increase or Decrease

In comparison of well-being of Thai people at present and before crisis, can be summarized as follows :

- The participants of 63.6 % and the NESDB officials of 69.5 % agreed that well-being of Thai people has been reduced.
 - ◆ The participants believed that it caused by social problems in terms of safety in life and property, drug, corruption, low moral and broken home, unemployment and reduction of income and debt burden.
 - ◆ The NESDB officials believed that it caused by social problems in terms of the reduction of safety in life and property and life quality and the increase of unemployment and debt burden.
- Apart from this, 22.2 % of participants who believed that well-being of Thai people has increased while 15.5 % of NESDB officials saw no difference on well-being of Thai people.

Part ③ : Issues on the Next Annual Conference

Concerning the continuing organizing of the annual conference, it was concluded as below :

- The participants of 95.8 %, and the NESDB officials of 90.4 % agreed that the annual conference should be organized continuously.
- The participants also suggested five issues be considered in the next annual conference; namely, continuing analysing well-being of Thai people, proposing the national competitiveness, monitoring and evaluation of the Ninth Plan, sufficiency economy/self-reliance, rural development and income distribution.
- The NESDB officials suggested five issues in the next annual conference; namely, proposing the national competitiveness, rural development/income distribution, government policy, economic strength and continuing analysing well-being of Thai people, respectively.

Part ④ : Suggestions for NESDB

Two groups of samples provided additional suggestions as follows :

In part of participants

- The invited participants should come from several groups, especially those who could provide recommendation for the benefit of NESDB.
- The annual conference should be organized in other regions as well.
- The scholars, academics and community leaders should have the opportunities to present research papers for national development.
- The conference should focus on activities relating to community self-reliance and exchange of knowledge for potential development of community.
- The conclusion of small group meeting should be reported to the conference.
- The conference document should be distributed before the date of the conference. The Conference result should be disseminate to the participants, organizations and civil sectors, or channelling through NESDB' s web site.
- It should provide more opportunities for the underprivileged people to have discussion in the small group.
- The large audience may reduce the effectiveness of participation in terms of exchanging knowledge and ideas among participants. The brain-storming sessions should be expanded to encourage the participation among the participants.
- The use of indicators should be monitored and evaluated.
- NESDB should pay more attention to education indicator because it is an essential investment, but the poor does not have the opportunity for getting higher education because of lacking fellowship.

In part of the NESDB officials

- Public relations should be made in advance and the attendance should be opened for all NESDB officials.
- The well-being indicator should be developed and accepted by both Thai and foreign academics.
- Working process should be improved; namely, having more integrated working system and choosing an appropriate date for the conference.
- In house NESDB annual conference should be organized for NESDB officials to voice their opinions.



Appendix

Opinions and Suggestions on Indicators for National Development By Participants and NESDB Officials on the 2002 NESDB' s Annual Conference “Well-Being of Thai People : 5 Years after Economic Crisis”

Table 1 Percentage of Opinion on the “Economic Growth” as a Key Indicator for National Development

Opinion	Percent	
	Participants	NESDB Officials
Agree	42.5	43.8
Disagree	43.3	42.8
Uncertain	10.3	11.8
None	3.8	1.6
Total	100.0 (261 Persons)	100.0 (187 Persons)

Table 2 Percentage of Opinion on the Need of “Economic Growth” as an Indicator together with other indicators for National Development Assessment

Opinion	Percent	
	Participants	NESDB Officials
Necessary	92.7	88.6
Not Necessary	0.7	0.0
No Comment	1.3	1.9
None	5.3	9.5
Total	100.0 (150 Persons)	100.0 (105 Persons)

Note : Excluding the Respondents Agreeing to use only “Economic Growth” as a Key Indicator.

Table 3 Percentage of Opinion on “Well-Being” as an Indicator for Evaluating Development Impact towards Thai People and “Economic Strength” as an Indicator for Economic Development

Opinion	Percent	
	Participants	NESDB Officials
Agree to Both Indicators	44.8	86.1
Agree to “Well-Being” Indicator only	23.4	4.3
Agree to “Economic Strength” Indicator only	17.6	3.2
Disagree to Both Indicators	13.0	1.1
No Comment	0.4	3.7
None	0.8	1.6
Total	100.0 (261 Persons)	100.0 (187 Persons)

Table 4 Percentage of Opinion on Each Category of “Well-Being”

Well-Being Indicator	Percent	
	Participants (261persons)	NESDB Officials (187Persons)
Health	97.3	97.3
Knowledge/Education	96.9	95.7
Employment	96.2	96.3
Income & Income Distribution	96.9	96.3
Family	95.0	85.0
Environment	95.0	90.4
Good Governance	95.0	88.8

Table 5 Percentage of Opinion on each Category of “Economic Strength”

Economic Strength Indicator	Percent	
	Participants (261persons)	NESDB Officials (187persons)
Economic Self-reliance	93.9	92.5
Economic Immunity	88.9	86.6
Adaptation for the Changing World Situation	92.3	88.7
Economic Stability	93.1	89.8
Equally Development Distribution	95.4	84.0

Table 6 Other Additional Indicators on “Well Being”

Category	Indicators	Amount (Persons)	
		Participants	NESDB Officials
1. Health	• Mental Health	6	1
	• Suicide Rate	4	2
	• Smoking Rate	2	-
	• IQ-EQ	2	1
2. Knowledge	• Higher Education	4	-
	• Basic Education	4	-
	• Access to Information	2	-
	• System and Standard of Education	2	1
	• Others :- Distance Education, Fellowship	3	2
3. Working Life	• Under Employment	1	-
	• Working within the Family	1	-
	• Labour Migration	1	-
	• Labour Protection in Informal Sector	1	-
	• Skills Development	-	1
	• Others	5	-

Category	Indicators	Amount (Person)	
		Participants	NESDB Officials
4. Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slum • Disaster • Livable City • Transportation/Communications 	2 1 - -	- 1 1 2
5. Family Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happiness, Love and Care • Broken Family/Divorce • Others 	10 2 4	- 1 2
6. Good Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption • Participative Administration • Good Governance • Quality of Politicians • Others ๑ 	9 6 5 3 7	3 2 7 - 2
7. Community/Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual Help • Community Strength • Participation • Social Capital • Others 	16 14 7 3 2	4 - 7 - 2
8. Culture/Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being Thai, Thais' Way of Life • Moral/Ethics • Discipline • Self-reliance • Mental Security • Social Awareness • Others 	28 15 8 5 4 4 11	6 2 2 - 1 1 2
9. Social Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Eldery • Street People • Community Welfare • Social Protection • Handicap/Underprivilege 	3 3 2 - 1	- - 2 2 -
10. Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism, Sport, City Plan, Population, etc. 	6	14

Table 7 Other Suggested Indicators on “Economic Strength Indicators”

Category	Indicators	Amount (Persons)	
		Participants	NESDB Officials
1. Economic Self-Reliance	• Efficiency Economy/New Theory	16	3
	• Community Economy/Community Enterprises	10	1
	• Thai Wisdom	10	1
	• Community Fund	4	-
	• Others, such as Utilization of Local Content, Private Spending Efficiency	13	3
2. Economic Immunity	• Household Debt	5	2
	• Public Debt	-	1
	• Government Spending Efficiency	1	-
	• Finance	-	1
3. Adaptation to the Changing World	• Technology and Labour Force Utilization	2	3
	• International Trade Negotiation Power	-	1
	• Infrastructure Readiness	1	3
4. Economic Stability	• Per Capita National Income	9	1
	• Domestic Currency in Off-Shore Market	1	1
5. Equally Development Distribution	• Fairness in taxation	4	-
	• Budget Allocation for Underprivileged People	2	-
	• Others, such as Economic Distribution, Supporting Underprivileged People	3	2
6. Others	• Rural Development Credit	1	-
	• Economic Stimulation for Increasing People's Income	1	-
	• Job Creation	1	4

Table 8 Percentage of the Opinion that “Well-Being of Thai People” has Increased, Comparing to the Situation before the Crisis

Opinion	Percent	
	Participants	NESDB Officials
Increase	22.2	9.6
Remain the Same	10.8	15.5
Decrease	63.6	69.5
Decrease and Increase	-	1.6
None	3.4	3.8
Total	100.0 (261 Persons)	100.0 (187 Persons)

Table 9 Percentage of Opinion that NESDB should Hold a Series of Annual Conference in the Future

Opinion	Percent	
	Participants	NESDB Officials
Agree	95.8	90.4
Disagree	2.3	5.9
None	1.9	0.5
Others	-	3.2
Total	100.0 (261 Persons)	100.0 (187 Persons)

Table 10 Percentage of Suggestion for the Topic of the Next Annual Conference

No.	Topic	Percent	
		Participants	NESDB Officials
1	Well-Being (Continuing Report)	11.5	5.2
2	Competitiveness	9.4	24.7
3	The National Plan : Evaluation/Translation into Action	9.4	5.2
4	Sufficiency Economy/Self-reliance	8.8	2.6
5	Rural Development/ Income Distribution	6.1	16.9
6	Thai Social Capital	5.4	-
7	Thai Economic Recovery/Economic Strength	4.7	7.8
8	Quality of Life	4.1	-
9	Direction of Thailand's Future	4.1	-
10	Government Policy	-	7.8
11	Others, such as People Participation, National Resource and Environment, Politics and Governance, Public Administrative Reform, Educational Reform, Community, Consciousness of Thai People, Thai Wisdom, Corruption, Database Development, Livable City, Thai Economy in Globalization, etc.	36.5	29.8
Total		100.0 (148 Persons)	100.0 (77 Persons)

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