



GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND

**THE EIGHTH NATIONAL ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

(1997-2001)

2540-2544

With the Compliments
of
Office of the National
Economic and Social Development Board

เลขทะเบียน
เลขหมู่
วันที่

National Economic and Social Development Board
Office of The Prime Minister
Bangkok, Thailand





Since succeeding his late brother, His Majesty King Ananda Mahidol, fifty years ago, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej has initiated a very large number of activities aimed at establishing a firm and sustainable foundation for the national development of Thailand. These efforts of His Majesty are immediately evident to the Thai people and greatly appreciated by them. The ultimate objective of these royal projects is the happiness and welfare of His Majesty's subjects, in accordance with the proclamation on the day of his accession to the throne:

"We will reign with righteousness for the benefits and happiness of the Siamese people."

Throughout his reign, His Majesty has continually initiated a variety of development programmes in accord with real-life conditions in many areas of the country, in harmony with local cultures, based on continual learning, self-reliance, responsibility to one's self, the family, the community and to the society as a whole, all in keeping with the Thai national identity.

The Eighth National Economic and Social Development Plan (B.E. 2540-2544), which will be inaugurated on the auspicious occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) Celebrations of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne, has been created on the basis of popular participation by people from all walks of life. It will be used as guidance for the attainment of the ideal vision for development and prosperity in the Kingdom, according to the maxim, *"The economy is healthy, the society is experiencing growth in wisdom, security, happiness and productivity, and the progress being made in national development is sustainable."* This vision for the future is in full accord with the sentiments expressed in His Majesty's proclamation, quoted above.

To mark the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of 1996, Thai people from all backgrounds, from every corner of the Kingdom, who have participated in the Eighth Plan drafting process, and the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) humbly offer His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Eighth National Economic and Social Development Plan, to honour His Majesty's untiring efforts for the happiness and well-being of his subjects, and with the hope of achieving the ultimate goal of sustained development of the Kingdom as a whole in the years to come. The Thai people can hope to live together in peace and happiness for years to come, with the knowledge of the continuing love and concern shown by this most revered King.

Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board
Office of the Prime Minister

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

Baht: Thai currency; \$US 1 is approximately equivalent to 25 baht.

UNIT OF MEASUREMENT

Rai: Refers to a unit of land measurement; a square measure equal to 1600 square metres or 0.16 hectare or 0.395 acre.

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

Bangkok Metropolitan Area (BMA):

Refers to administrative area of Bangkok.

Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR):

Refers to Bangkok, Nakorn Pratom, Nonthaburi, Pratumthani, Samutprakarn, and Samutsakorn.

Tambon:

Sub-district level, sub-district headperson is called "Kamnan."

Tambon Administrative Organization (TAO) and Tambon Council (TC):

A form of local administration at sub-district level whose members are elected by local people under the supervision of Department of Local Administration. The Parliament has approved Local Administrative Organization and Tambon Council Act B.E. 2537 which is effective since 27 March 1995. Ministry of Interior granted TAO status for any sub-district which is able to collect local tax at least totalled of 150,000 baht for three consecutive years. Currently there are 2,760 TAO throughout the country. It was not until 1994 (B.E. 2537) that TC has been made a corporate body and provided with more administrative autonomy by the Act. By the year 2001, all TCs will be granted TAO status.

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PREAMBLE

PREAMBLE

Thai society is proud of its identity. The country is open - and has been able harmoniously to adapt external cultures to its own way of life and its own unique environment. It is generally a peaceful and caring society where violent conflicts are noticeably absent. The Thai people adhere to religious principles based on rationality and moderation. The monarchy has for centuries been the centre of hope and confidence among all Thai people.

The dawn of the Twenty-first Century during the period covered by the Eighth Economic and Social Development Plan is likely to see one of the most crucial transitions in the national development history of Thailand. During the past two decades, advances in information technology have brought about rapid globalization, and this dictates a need for the formulation of new world economic and social orders and for the reevaluation of international relations. All of these factors give rise both to opportunities and challenges for sustainable development of Thailand.

On the economic front, globalization has expanded world markets, leading to greater mobility of production factors and increased trans-national investment. The World Trade Organization and the smaller regional trade groupings - in North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific - have been created to ensure economic stability and fair trade practices for all countries. Globalization has also accelerated the transfer and utilization of technologies for development.

On the social front, the Thai people will have a wider access to various types of information, suited to the requirements and interest of each individual. They also have the opportunity to obtain and evaluate data and information in their own homes through computer networks and other electronic media. The growth of the private sector and more direct access to information by each individual will increase the bargaining power of small units of the society, enable decentralization of power to local areas and create increasing pressure to conserve local cultures. On the other hand, however, the influence of foreign cultures and the use of foreign information by existing media in various forms - e.g. advertising and recreational activities - without proper scrutiny may well result in the promotion of undesirable values based on materialism, consumerism and extravagance among new generations, to say nothing of the risk of cultural domination.

Globalization is also resulting in the development of adjusted international values regarding democracy, human rights and gender equality as well as increasing emphasis on protection of the environment. These

values have arisen from a wider belief that development based only on economic growth without due consideration of human, family, community, social and environmental dimensions cannot be sustained in the long run. If no corrective actions are adopted the people and nature will not be able to co-exist harmoniously.

A Vision for Thai Society

In order to cope with both the positive and negative impacts of the factors mentioned above, it is crucial for Thailand to devise a new economic and social order upon which to base national development. This is aimed at enabling the country to be better prepared for sustainable development in the future and to become a fully developed country by the year 2020. It is envisaged that by that year the Thai economy will be the eighth largest in the world, with an average per capita income of not less than 300,000 baht or about US\$12,000 at 1993 constant prices. The proportion of people living below the poverty line will be reduced to less than five per cent, resulting in a vastly improved quality of life for the majority of the Thai people. A more detailed description of the vision for Thai society as articulated by various groups of people who have participated in the process of planning may be summarized as follows:

- Thai Society is united and proud of its identity, and wishes to retain its culture and national character and to live in peaceful coexistence with other countries, enjoying recognition and respect from the people of other nations. People in the society will be happy, living in warm families within strong communities. The society is to be capable, stable, equitable, well disciplined, caring and respectful of human rights, maintaining a strong adherence to religious principles.

- Every Thai person should have greater opportunities to develop their full potential physically, spiritually and intellectually and to participate actively in the process of national development. Every Thai child should have adequate access to quality health care at all stages of development, with the assurance of good nutrition from birth, and access to at least 12 years of basic education. All Thai citizens, not only children, must have the opportunity to receive good quality basic social services.

- The Thai people should be able to adapt to the changes brought about by rapid progress in science and technology, in order to cope more effectively with international competition. Young people aged 18-24 should have an opportunity to participate in higher education. All disadvantaged people should have access to education and employment.

- The Thai economy is founded upon creative based for new technologies and for being a leader in areas which she has the most advantages, be the regional centre of production, transportation, finance and services, have an efficient trading system which is both free and fair, achieve sustained growth and stability, internalize environmental and natural resources and social costs, and provide job opportunities and equitable income distribution among all groups of people in all regions of the country.
- The quality of life in the provinces and rural areas should not be inferior to that in the capital city.
- Natural resources and the quality of the environment will be properly managed on a sustainable basis for the benefit of future generations of the Thai people.
- The political system will be democratic, under the monarchy, in support of an efficient public sector. Politicians and government officers will be imbued with strong moral and ethical standards and capable of carrying out their duties to serve the real needs of the people.

A New Development Paradigm

The achievement of this vision of Thai society must be realized as a continuing process over a long period of time, by creating an enabling environment for the participation of all sectors in the society in formulating, programming and implementing the Plan. It also assumes their participation in monitoring and evaluation of development efforts. A sound economy is implied, as well as a society progressively freed of social problems. The Plan also implies sustained development and a greater ability to respond better to the needs of the majority of the population than has been the case in the past.

The Eighth Economic and Social Development Plan is a first step towards adopting a new approach to national development aimed at achieving the long term vision of an ideal Thai society. Thai people from all walks of life and from various regions of the country have taken the opportunity to participate in drafting this plan from its inception. This was a deliberate change in plan formulation in order to move away from the top-down approach practised by the public sector in the past. This can be considered the beginning of a new era in planning which emphasizes collaborative efforts of the whole population.

In past plans, the national economic and social development concept has largely been based on the acceleration of economic growth utilizing comparative advantages in terms of natural resources and low-cost labour to produce goods and services for export. This development strategy was suitable for the needs of the time and consistent with the economic and social

situation of the country. However, successes in economic growth and material progress to date have not meant that all Thai people are enjoying greater wealth and a substantially improved quality of life. On the contrary, rapid economic growth has had negative effects on Thai culture, traditional ways of life, family, community and societal values. The impact on natural resources and the quality of the environment has also given cause for serious concern.

Genuine sustainable development for Thailand in the future will depend on the degree to which the potentialities and creativity of the Thai people are strengthened and enhanced. For this reason, the Eighth National Economic and Social Development Plan has adjusted the development concept, shifting from a growth orientation to people-centred development. The state of the people is considered to be the final measure of success: economic improvement is treated only as a means to improve the well-being of the people rather than as the final objective of development. The planning process will also be shifted from a compartmentalized to a more holistic approach from the beginning, seeking to contribute to the whole system rather than later trying to integrate separate sectors, in order that the majority of the Thai people can realize genuine benefit from this development plan.

To attain the objectives and targets of development the Eighth Plan initiates, for the first time, two new sets of key strategic approaches. The first is the establishment of good governance. This involves the strengthening of a truly harmonious relationship between the government and the people, through collaborative and participatory efforts of all parties in the society, the provision of guarantees for freedom, human rights and equity, and the settlement of conflicts through peaceful means.

The second strategy is the reform of the development administration for effective translation of the plan into action. This requires a development system based on the area approach, the integration of functions and participation of all stake-holders, improvement of the efficiency of public government agencies at the central level, particularly in budget and personnel management, together with the development of indicators suitable for the monitoring and evaluation of holistic development.

As the country is moving into a new era, it is hoped that the inception of the Eighth Plan will signal the beginning of an age of unprecedented national unity and harmony, shown by the initiation of collaborative and cooperative efforts of many kinds. It is believed that the Eighth Plan will set in motion a process by which all sectors of the society march together toward common goals and themselves share mutual responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of development implementation on an annual basis. Most important of all, this undertaking is to be a process by which all people learn

to live together in an enlightened way, with mutual care for each other, in harmony, peace, justice and freedom; in other words, as Thais.

PART I

SUMMARY OF THE EIGHTH NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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SUMMARY OF THE EIGHTH NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1. Review of Economic and Social Development in Thailand During the Past Three Decades.

1.1 Thailand has achieved an exceptional record of economic development over the last 30 years, as witnessed by the rapid expansion of the national economy at an average rate of 7.8 per cent per annum. The Kingdom's average per capita income reached 68,000 baht in 1995, compared with only 2,100 baht in 1961. The drop in numbers of people living in absolute poverty has surpassed all expectations, falling to only 13.7 per cent of the population in 1992, far outstripping the Seventh Plan's target of 20 per cent by the end of 1996.

Thailand's sound economic position is internationally recognized. In addition, sustained public investment in economic and social infrastructure has made a significant contribution to an overall rise in incomes, living conditions and quality of life.

1.2 However, despite the impressive rate of economic growth, most of Thailand's economic activity and prosperity has remained concentrated in Bangkok and the surrounding provinces. The average per capita income inside the Bangkok Metropolitan Region is still much higher than those found outside, and almost 12 times higher than in the country's poorest region, the Northeast. The gap between rich and poor in the Kingdom has also widened over the last 30 years. In the four years from 1988 to 1992 alone, the top 20 per cent of households saw their combined income rise from 54 per cent to 59 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), while the combined income of the bottom 20 per cent of households – the country's poorest – dropped from 4.6 per cent to 3.9 per cent of GDP over the same period. This growing disparity means an increasing number of Thais are being excluded from the general improvements in quality of life, and is proving to be a major obstacle to national development.

1.3 Development efforts have provided wider access to both economic and basic social services. By 1994, around 97.7 per cent of villages had electrification, and many also had clean drinking water, an amenity reaching 75 per cent of urban settlements outside Bangkok, and 32 per cent of rural villages. The road network connecting provinces, districts and tambons now totalled 210,025 kilometres. Thailand's rural population now has greater

access to education than ever before, with 97.7 per cent of school-age children nation-wide completing at least six years of basic education. In addition, improvements in public health provision have resulted in a significant increase in average life expectancy, from 63 years in 1990 to 67.6 years in 1994.

1.4 However, fiercer competition for income and wealth in Thailand has brought with it greater materialism. This in turn has had a negative impact on people's behaviour, bringing about a lack of discipline, declining ethical and moral standards, and the rise of practices which centre around self-interest and the exploitation of others. These unfavourable trends are threatening the traditional Thai values and ways of life, and they have contributed to the collapse of families, communities and local cultures. In addition, the social stresses that accompany economic prosperity have started to alter the patterns of sickness and mortality, bringing with the diseases of modern life, such as cancer, heart disease and high blood-pressure. The number of reported tragedies and deaths resulting from accidents and natural disasters has likewise increased.

1.5 Accelerated rates of economic growth have also resulted in the rapid depletion of natural resources and deteriorating environmental conditions. During the first two years of the Seventh Plan, no less than one million rai of forest was destroyed through commercial exploitation. The problems of soil erosion and falling water quality have become increasingly significant. The poor air quality, high volume of dust, and noise pollution which have become major concerns in Bangkok and other regional urban centres bear witness to the general worsening of environmental conditions. Environmental degradation has had a discernible negative impact on quality of life.

Accordingly, it has become generally accepted that a process of development which disregards natural resources, human values and local customs and lore is antithetical to sustainable national development.

2. Objectives and Targets of the Eighth Plan.

To deal effectively with the challenges of social change, as well as the present unbalanced pattern of development — characterized by economic success combined with social problems and threats to sustainable growth — and in order to realize the long-term vision of Thailand becoming a fully developed country by the year 2020, the Eighth Economic and Social Development Plan sets the following objectives and targets for development:

2.1 Objectives.

(1) To foster and develop the potentials of all Thais, in terms of health, physical well-being, intellect, vocational skills and ability to adapt to changing social and economic conditions.

(2) To develop a stable society, strengthen family and community, support human development, improve quality of life and promote increasing community participation in national development.

(3) To promote stable and sustainable economic growth, and to empower the people to play a greater role in the development process and receive a fair share of the benefits of growth.

(4) To utilize, preserve and rehabilitate the environment and natural resources in such a way that they can play a major role in economic and social development and contribute to better quality of life for the Thai people.

(5) To reform the system of public administration so as to allow greater participation of non-governmental organizations, the private sector, communities and the general public in the process of national development.

2.2 Targets.

To attain the above objectives, the Eighth Plan sets the following development targets to be used as indicators of success:

(1) Increase the availability of good quality care and education for well-balanced early childhood development.

(2) Improve the quality of education at all levels; extend basic education from six to nine years to all school-aged children; provide continuous training for all school teachers; and work towards the further extension of basic education to 12 years.

(3) Upgrade the skills and basic knowledge of industrial workers, particularly in the 25-45 age group.

(4) Provide opportunities for underprivileged groups to realize their full development potential, and increase their access to basic social services.

(5) Reduce the number of preventable accidents, particularly focusing on the workplace, traffic, the transport of toxic chemicals, and fires in high-rise buildings.

(6) Lower the current account deficit to 3.4 per cent of GDP by the last year of the Plan, while keeping the rate of inflation at not more than 4.5 per cent per year, in order to safeguard economic stability.

(7) Increase domestic savings to 10 per cent of GDP by the last year of the Plan.

(8) Upgrade and expand infrastructure provision in the regions and rural areas.

(9) Reduce the incidence of poverty to less than 10 per cent of the total population by the last year of the Plan.

(10) Preserve and rehabilitate forest areas to cover no less than 25 per cent of the country, including no less than one million rai of mangrove forest, by the last year of the Plan.

(11) Increase awareness of sustainable alternative agricultural methods, and increase opportunities for their application.

(12) Promote investment in the rehabilitation and protection of urban, regional and rural environments.

3. Development Strategies.

In order to attain the objectives and targets outlined above, the Eighth Plan proposes the following major strategies:

3.1 Development of Human Potential through the promotion of optimal population size and structure; improving patterns of human settlement in line with each area's development potential; revision of the overall learning process, focusing on spiritual development, basic education and intellectual development; preparing Thai people to meet the challenges of social change; and creating a more skilled and competitive labour force. Also included in this strategy is the improvement of public health by development of health services and health education for all Thais.

3.2 Creation of an Enabling Environment to support Human Development, by strengthening families and communities; providing opportunities for individuals, families and community organizations to participate in the development of their own communities; developing a more efficient social security system; improving and strengthening the justice system to ensure more security in life and property; and promoting the role of culture in human development.

3.3 Enhancing the Development Potential of the Regions and Rural Areas, by redistributing income on a more equitable basis and decentralizing development activities to regional and rural areas; promoting popular participation in development through the empowerment of community organizations; supporting and expanding community learning networks; promoting the role of the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in job creation; and managing development at all levels through cooperative partnership.

3.4 Development of Economic Competitiveness to Support Human Development and Quality of Life, by supporting stable and sustainable economic growth; restructuring production to adapt to changes in global markets; developing science and technology as a foundation for sustainable development; and undertaking area-based and community-based development, including the upgrading of infrastructure, to promote higher productivity and better quality of life.

3.5 Natural Resources and Environmental Management, including directions for conserving and rehabilitating natural resources that will promote balance in the ecosystem; maintaining and upgrading environmental conditions to enhance quality of life and to provide an enduring resource base to support development; improving management systems for natural resources and the environment in order to ensure proper supervision, efficient utilization, and fair distribution of benefits to the community and society; and management guidelines for the prevention and relief of natural disasters.

3.6 Development of Popular Governance, seeking to enhance the effectiveness of the public sector in carrying out the main mission of empowering the individual, and to foster a warm and trusting relationship between government officers and the people. Principal development guidelines include upholding the rule of law in public administration; managing conflicts through peaceful means; encouraging the participation of people from all walks of life in public activities; reform of the administrative system; and ensuring continuity and consistency in public management by promoting universal understanding of public policy and wide participation in the determination of national agendas.

3.7 Improvement of Development Management to Ensure Effective Implementation of the Plan, comprising guidelines for the creation of a development management system based on an area approach, the integration of functions and the participation of all stake-holders (the area-function-participation system); for the development of public-sector management mechanisms and service delivery systems; for promoting a cooperative partnership approach to the development process; for improving the

efficiency of centralized public agencies where they are involved in implementing the Plan; and for empowering NGOs to play a greater role in national development. This strategy also includes the formulation of a set of development indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress towards the goal of holistic people-centred development.

4. Nature and Application of the Eighth Plan.

4.1 The Eighth Plan serves as a guideline for national development during the next decade, and more specifically for the five-year period 1997-2001. It emphasizes shifting the development paradigm from a segmented approach to holistic people-centred development, with the goal of achieving a pattern of development which is efficient, sustainable and ensures all Thai people receive a fairer share of the benefits of development than they have in the past.

4.2 The development strategies proposed in the Eighth Plan indicate only directions in which national development must go in order to achieve the major long-term goals. They do not set out a detailed development approach by economic and social sectors and short term measures currently undertaken by various implementing agencies. Hence, in order to translate the Plan into action, all the parties involved should use these guidelines as frameworks for the formulation of programmes, projects and measures. This process will also include the setting of specific development targets, launching projects which are people-centred, and providing support for projects initiated partly or entirely by the people.

4.3 An holistic approach, emphasizing the cooperation and participation of agencies concerned in the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects consistent with the Eighth Plan's development strategies, must be encouraged. The area-function-participation system should be adopted in programming, budgeting and manning, as well as in monitoring and evaluating.

4.4 In monitoring and evaluating success in the achievement of the Eighth Plan's objectives and targets, it is necessary to establish five categories of development indicators, both overall and for individual programmes and projects:

(1) Overall Development Indicators: To measure genuine progress towards the achievement of holistic people-centred development covering all aspects - human, social, economic, and in terms of natural resources and the environment.

(2) Sectoral Development Indicators: To monitor and evaluate the impacts of the area-function-participation system in each development sector.

(3) Strategy Development Indicators: To measure the success or failure of the implementation of the Eighth Plan's development strategies.

(4) Performance Efficiency Indicators: To measure the capacity and efficiency of various agencies at all levels in implementing the Plan. These indicators will relate to how the agencies coordinate programming, budgeting and manning, based on the delegation of authority to regional and rural areas as well as collaboration with other development partners. The indicators will be useful in improving the quality and efficiency of the work of implementing agencies at all levels.

(5) Actual Condition Indicators: Statistics or basic development data and information are to be collected in order to measure the final outcome or effectiveness of development at both the macro and micro levels.

PART II

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN POTENTIAL

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DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN POTENTIAL

Past development efforts in Thailand have essentially been geared towards economic development; human resources development was considered largely as an instrument for boosting economic growth. The importance of the value of the individual was inadequately stressed, as was the need to develop human potential in terms of knowledge, occupational skills and the capacity to adapt to a rapidly evolving society. Therefore, despite successes in achieving economic expansion, Thailand has encountered a number of adverse 'side effects' of rapid economic growth, notably gross disparities in income among various groups of the population, rapid deterioration of natural resources and environmental quality, and increasing problems of safety and security of life and property. All of these factors have affected the quality of life and the sustainability of economic gains which have been achieved.

It has therefore become apparent that there is an urgent need to make it possible for all people to develop to their full potential in physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual terms, while improving their technical and productive skills, to ensure their full participation in the process of national development. In addition, the people must be fully aware of the need to conserve natural resources, to protect the environment and preserve culture, at both the national and local levels, and to play a vigorous role in their protection and preservation. This is essential for balanced and sustainable development based on the Thai identity.

Chapter 1

Objectives, Targets and Strategies

Taking into account the results of previous development plans, current and expected trends and the increasing influence of globalization, efforts for the development of the potential of the people have the following objectives, targets and strategies within the Eighth Plan:

1. Objectives.

1.1 To develop spiritual potential, ensuring the emergence of a more virtuous and conscientious citizenry.

1.2 To develop the ability to think logically, to undertake a lifelong commitment to the learning processes, to have broader interests and points of view, while not neglecting improved productivity congruent with the rapidly changing socio-economic circumstances.

1.3 To advocate good health for all, with sufficient popular knowledge of the prevention of illnesses and promotion of healthy lifestyles, for the individual, for the family and for the community.

1.4 To provide underprivileged individuals greater access to the protection, assistance and social services they need, more evenly and equitably, so that they can live peaceably and enjoy full human dignity.

2. Targets.

2.1 That Thai families will be of an appropriate size, and the population will be geographically distributed in concert with the development potential and opportunities available in the various parts of the country.

2.2 That educational quality at all levels will be enhanced; with practical quality assurance mechanisms established and implemented; curricula standardized, and key fundamental subjects thoroughly monitored and assessed.

2.3 That the ratio of science/technology graduates to social science/humanities graduates will be increased from the current 31:69 to at least 40:60.

2.4 That labour training and skills development programmes in various fields are continually expanded and improved in quality.

2.5 That all people have sufficient knowledge of the prevention of common diseases and the ability themselves to monitor their own health and that of their families, and the knowledge and ability required to adjust their own behaviour in the interest of better health.

2.6 That all women and other less privileged segments of society have greater opportunities for developing their full potential, with more equitable access to the various basic services.

3. Strategies for the Development of Human Potential.

In order to develop the full potential of the people, to ensure their capacity to adjust to changing circumstances, to maintain a satisfying livelihood, and to participate fully in sustainable economic and social development; pertinent strategies include the following:

3.1 Population Structure and Distribution.

To be implemented by advocating appropriate family size and a reasonably distributed population based on the development potential and opportunities present in various parts of the country.

3.2 Human Spiritual Development.

To be pursued by encouraging people to apply religious principles more broadly in their daily lives, fostering the creation of enabling social environments in support of the spiritual life, and ensuring a collaborative atmosphere in which all sectors play a greater role in promoting human spiritual development.

3.3 Intellectual and Labour Skills Development.

To be undertaken by ensuring readiness for school and receptiveness for education in young children, through a major reform in the processes of learning and teaching, as well as in the formation and development of teachers. Modern technologies and information systems will be exploited, and educational quality at all levels will be upgraded. The capacity of labourers will be elevated in support of the country's increasing competitiveness, and the efficiency and effectiveness of education and training methodologies will be extensively monitored, assessed and improved.

3.4 Health Development.

To be implemented by enhancing people's potential through health promotion and disease prevention activities, extension of self-managed primary care for the individual, the family and the community, increased efficiency, quality and accessibility of health facilities, improved training and distribution of health personnel, an improved programme for HIV/AIDS prevention and for the support and care of people living with HIV/AIDS, the promotion of enabling environments for health, stressing throughout an underlying improved efficiency in management of the health sector.

3.5 Development of the Disadvantaged.

Including enhanced protection of, and opportunities for, such vulnerable groups as children in serious need, young people of both sexes and adult women engaged in commercial sex, particularly those suffering intolerable conditions, women facing sexual discrimination, the physically, mentally and emotionally disabled, old people with no relatives or other means of support, urban and rural people living in extreme poverty, probationers and convicts, as well as minority ethnic groups from a wide range of cultures. This strategy is designed to ensure a uniformly decent standard of living emphasizing human dignity and enabling a more participatory role in national development.

Chapter 2

Population Structure and Distribution

It is desirable that Thailand have a population of appropriate size and structure, distributed evenly in accordance with the development potential and availability of opportunities in the various regions of the country. This should enable the people to increase their potential in several respects, particularly through the enhanced development of physical and mental health in pre-school children, greater accessibility of needy children to higher educational levels, the provision of additional job training for the labour force, more comprehensive care for the elderly, and an improved quality of life in urban settings. The main guidelines in this area include the following:

1. Advocacy for Appropriate Family Size.

1.1 Adjust the intensity of family planning promotion activities, in accordance with the local situation, e.g., give priority to increasing such activities in areas where fertility remains significantly higher than the target.

1.2 Expedite family planning activities in areas where birth rates remain high, e.g., certain areas of the South and the Northeast, through provision of free services and through special campaigns designed in harmony with local cultures and values.

1.3 Heighten the efficacy of family planning service delivery and encourage gender equality in sharing the responsibility for family planning practices, enabling families to determine the number of children best for their situation; then support birth-spacing techniques as individually required. This will require monitoring systems to ensure clients' continual awareness and attention, and evaluation to determine the efficiency and impact of each family planning practice implemented.

1.4 Campaign continually and promote public awareness of the benefits of appropriate family size, through the use of quality mass media approaches accessible to all people, and the use of languages easily understood by all target groups.

1.5 Promote private sector involvement in social projects; set up revolving funds for family planning and the promotion of quality of life in less developed communities. In this endeavour, the public sector selects the communities and provides a certain budget to the revolving funds while the communities themselves manage the funds.

2. Encouragement of Population Distribution in Accordance with Development Potential and Opportunities.

2.1 Increase the efficacy of social services delivery systems, covering education, public health and infrastructure, with a more extensive outreach capability.

2.2 Provide rural inhabitants with occupational skills in concert with the market demand in each area, and generate such support facilities as credit services and funds.

2.3 Develop an updated and widely disseminated labour and product markets information system. This is aimed at keeping people informed about local employment opportunities and the current demand for agricultural products, so that they can focus on profitable agricultural pursuits, thereby reducing rural-urban job-seeking migration.

2.4 Develop a more valid and complete data base on urban population to be used for systematic city planning.

Chapter 3

Fostering Fuller Development of the Spiritual Potential of the People

With the intention of promoting the potential of the people to become better citizens, to adhere to the moral virtues, disciplines, behavioural values and awareness of responsibility to self, family and community, the key development guidelines are to consist of the following.

1. Building upon Virtue, Ethics and Aesthetics.

1.1 Strengthen the competence and knowledge of individuals responsible for promoting moral and ethical standards, to ensure that they can capably and credibly serve as guides and counsellors in spiritual development, more effectively passing on appropriate wisdom and knowledge to the people.

(1) Develop the procedures used for training Buddhist clerics and other religious teachers; improve and adapt curricula for their education, both in religious and secular matters.

(2) Provide personnel in charge of ethical promotion with updated and in-depth knowledge of educational media and the technology of management information systems (MIS) to ensure that they are able to apply these tools efficiently in dealing with target groups.

1.2 Work with students to make them more aware and appreciative of the value of religious principles, focusing on the application of these principles to daily life.

(1) Adjust educational curricula and procedures to take account of religious and ethical knowledge, at all levels of the education system.

(2) Promote and strengthen continuing collaboration among the family, the community, educational and religious institutions in character development among students.

1.3 Promote the ability of the people to apply knowledge and logical thought processes to discriminate among competing societal influences, building a true aesthetic mentality and leading a decent life in accordance with valid democratic principles.

(1) Develop diversified patterns of musical, sporting and recreational activities suited to each target group.

(2) Encourage the development and promotion of national and local arts and culture as key instruments in building upon the best qualities of the people, basing this activity on a partnership among families, communities and relevant interest groups.

2. Building an Enabling Social Environment for Spiritual Development.

2.1 Encourage the organization of activities and the creation of facilities where households and community members can join together in common recreational pursuits, e.g., public parks, sports fields, libraries, discussion groups, etc.

2.2 Strengthen the merit system to acknowledge and reward citizens and organizations exemplifying virtue, professional ethics and the value of contributing to the society, in order to create role models and social leaders.

2.3 Enhance the efficiency of the religious affairs administration by improving laws, regulations and systems of clerical governance, with the aim of maintaining and supporting qualified monks as major figures in spiritual promotion.

2.4 Encourage the further development of temples and religious places as uplifting centres of tranquillity and peace; promote good management and cleanliness in these places, thereby providing an improved atmosphere for the practice of religious devotions and for the promotion of aesthetic values. It is also essential to involve religious figures and facilities fully in fostering the development of quality of life.

3. Partnership Approaches to Spiritual Development.

3.1 Encourage public agencies which are committed to spiritual development to coordinate actively with all other parties involved in pursuing their common goals, and in continuous joint monitoring and evaluation of all their activities.

3.2 Encourage continuing education of public officials, focusing particularly on their attitudes towards their work, broadening awareness of problems, and promoting ethical behaviour, to ensure that they remain qualified service providers.

3.3 Advocate the role of people's organizations in the process of spiritual and aesthetic development and renewal, especially those organizations promoting religious, artistic and cultural activities; and provide incentives to the commercial sector dealing with sports, music and the arts to participate actively in promoting the goals of human development.

3.4 Develop in the people a greater awareness of and pride in their indigenous culture, social values and collective wisdom, as well as the importance of maintaining and applying these values to changing circumstances.

3.5 Advocate the crucial role of the mass media in spiritual and aesthetic development by encouraging the production of suitable programmes supporting virtuous activities rather than belittling them, and by arranging appropriate broadcasting schedules for the dissemination of religious knowledge and spiritual promotion activities. It will be necessary to encourage the mass media to be more conscious of the importance of their impact on society - their power to do good as well as the damage they can cause to the society through inappropriate programming.

Chapter 4

Development of Intellectual Capacity and Labour Skills

Full development of people's capacity depends upon their preparation from the period of early childhood, and throughout their life span. This is aimed at improving conceptual ability in all children in terms of logical thinking, creativity, the adoption of broader points of view, an eagerness and ability to continue learning throughout life, the capacity to adapt to newly-emerging circumstances, as well as the ability to improve productivity in order to keep up with the increasing pace of socio-economic changes. The key development guidelines include the following:

1. Preparedness Building for Pre-School Children.

1.1 Encourage an increased understanding of the responsibilities of family life and raising children among young people, newly married couples and parents, through coordination of the work of relevant social agencies, following a common direction.

1.2 Encourage all forms of preparedness building for pre-school children outside the home, e.g., in child development centres and workplace nurseries, as well as within the family, through coordination of public sector, private sector, community and family activities.

1.3 Enable all children to have full access to sufficient good-quality nutrition.

2. Reform the Process of Lifelong Education.

2.1 Reform teaching and learning processes in such a way that people can be better prepared to think logically and to take initiative, that they may acquire the habit of active knowledge-seeking, and appreciate the value of structured "learning by doing". To accomplish these aims, it is essential to re-design curricula and the learning process in such high-priority subjects as mathematics, science, languages and computer applications; it is necessary to provide adequate educational media and equipment to upgrade the quality of education; and make use of appropriate and innovative technologies in the teaching and learning processes.

2.2 Support students' activities which have relevance to the development of the society; adjust curricula to reflect a more integrated approach to learning; and encourage the diversification of academic

materials, including the translation and incorporation of materials in other languages and from other countries, where this is appropriate.

2.3 Encourage people to develop the habit of seeking knowledge, through reading or through exploitation of other sources of knowledge in the community; levy appropriate taxes to provide affordable, good-quality books, educational equipment and sports apparatus.

2.4 Advocate better management of the education system to provide the various target groups with a wide range of alternatives in both the formal and non-formal sectors; implement a credit-transfer system providing inter-linkages at all levels; arrange, as a priority, a scheme to improve literacy in the country, with special attention to disadvantaged women.

2.5 Encourage the delegation of syllabus-designing authority to the local level, where teachers and community members are encouraged to participate. The design of the syllabus will have to include balanced integration with the universal curriculum based on Thai identity, the elective curriculum based on students' interests, and the local curriculum based on indigenous wisdom and the local environment.

2.6 Strengthen coordination among the involved agencies to cooperate in research, demonstrate/evaluate and recommend proper approaches to children of exceptional intelligence and those with special talents; designate certain schools as focal points for promotional and consultative services.

2.7 Rectify the educational assessment system to meet overall curriculum objectives; improve the entrance examination system to be able to accommodate students' aptitudes and interests to a greater extent.

2.8 Reform the production and continuing development of teachers and lecturers.

(1) Generate greater motivating factors and better career opportunities to encourage upstanding and intelligent individuals to enter the teaching profession, e.g., by improving the system for selecting candidates for government scholarships, amending the position system, giving ample opportunities for people to exercise their special capabilities; at the same time improving the learning process and syllabus so that teachers become increasingly familiar with self-learning, becoming more creative and action-oriented.

(2) Accelerate the development of teachers, lecturers and other training personnel - on a continual basis. This includes to utilize fully

newer information technology applications in support of their day-to-day work.

(3) Build interest and morale of teachers, lecturers through provision of a wide range of career development alternatives; initiate a merit/achievement recognition system, coupled with a positive teaching evaluation system to promote their full development and assure job security.

3. Human Development in Support of the Nation's Competitiveness and Technological Self-Reliance.

3.1 Increase the quantity and quality of mid-level and advanced-level members of the workforce in terms of greater technical excellence, of an international standard.

(1) Enable tertiary educational institutes (both public and private) to have sufficient autonomy in their policy development and administration, while meeting or exceeding minimum standard requirements for regulating the production of graduates. The quality assurance system must be more fully developed and continually evaluated.

(2) Develop a collaborative network linking public and private educational institutes, both domestic and foreign; develop a pool of lecturers in understaffed fields, to be utilized as a common resource for both public and private institutions.

(3) Promote the use of long-distance teaching technologies to help relieve the shortage of lecturers; encourage decentralized access to higher education in the regions in accordance with the readiness of institutes to participate in this process.

(4) Accelerate the production of engineers, technicians, artisans and those in such understaffed fields as accountancy, finance, banking and insurance, placing greater emphasis on practical experience during training and the use of price mechanisms in setting training costs, e.g., charging tuition fees for training in fields likely to provide high personal financial returns, including employment in areas of high demand.

3.2 Increase the national capacity in research and development.

(1) Encourage greater competence in the basic sciences through development of centres of excellence.

(2) Foster the planning, conduct and analysis of research in both the social sciences and technological sciences, emphasizing research relating to industrial enterprises.

(3) Encourage the establishment of cross-institute research teams and the formation of networks with international linkages.

(4) Consider the revision of laws and regulations regarding the immigration and employment of alien workers, so as to facilitate technology transfer and to help relieve manpower shortages in certain sectors.

3.3 Build the capacity of the labour force to ensure their efficient entry into, and promotion within the production process.

(1) Elevate the educational attainment requirement for workers in all enterprises to at least junior secondary level; advocate the use of all types of media in building the capacity of labour force in remote rural areas.

(2) Encourage the development of an efficient labour market information system to be used for identifying needs in manpower production responding to market demand.

(3) Develop approaches to training aimed at increasing productivity of the labour force, particularly those workers who intend to engage in agricultural pursuits and also those who want to shift from agriculture to a non-agricultural livelihood.

(4) Promote training in management skills and information technology for entrepreneurs, community business leaders, managers of cooperatives and for women's groups; increase the management and information skills of self-employed workers, and provide opportunities for subcontracted work to those who cannot enter or re-enter the formal employment sector.

(5) Promote adequate preparation of trainers in various priority fields, aimed at improving their teaching ability and providing requisite experience.

(6) Improve the quality and broaden the application of standard tests of labour skills, assuring the quality of these tests (improving them to meet international norms), assuring their acceptability to the private sector and to other agencies concerned.

4. Streamlining Educational and Training Management.

4.1 Encourage the delegation of educational management authority throughout the system, to lead to improved efficiency. This will be associated with greater opportunities for families, communities and local agencies to be full partners in educational management in a more tangible way. It will be

based on a concerted effort in which all involved parties share in learning, working together and monitoring the education process, coupled with a review of relevant laws and regulations.

4.2 Implement an holistic planning system as a model for coordinating central and regional levels, thus leading to a reduction in duplication and a more efficient use of available budget.

4.3 Strengthen the role of the private sector and of people's organizations in educational management and skill training at all levels. This will be made possible through a revision of the government's role and the way policy is applied in support of these partnerships; the credit fund established for setting up private educational and training institutes will be made more widely known and applied more generally; laws, regulations and standard procedures will be made more flexible, to be of greater relevance and acceptability to the private sector.

4.4 Foster the adoption of price mechanisms in the production of manpower including apply market interventions when such mechanisms cannot function properly. Adjust the scholarship system and accelerate the application of the educational loan scheme to cover a larger number of needy students.

4.5 Strengthen social synergy in support of lifelong education.

(1) Develop and advocate standards of quality for producers and distributors of all kinds of media; promote cooperation and coordination among producers and distributors in all agencies in order to have maximal impact of materials developed.

(2) Encourage and strengthen the establishment of learning networks, based on collaboration among families, temples, schools and local administrative organizations, in promoting local wisdom as an important part of the community learning process.

(3) Extend the learning process by developing a modern and valid socio-economic information system which provides inter-linkages among the national, provincial and community levels.

Chapter 5

Health Development

With the intention of improving the health of all Thai people, and increasing their understanding of public health measures, the following guidelines have been elaborated:

1. Health Development of the People.

1.1 Provide health screening procedures for couples planning marriage or planning to have a child, and for pregnant women; use family planning services to promote understanding and prevention of hereditary diseases including the risks of various infections during pregnancy, and to diagnose congenital abnormalities before birth; promote the provision of quality health care throughout pregnancy and during the neonatal period.

1.2 Advocate health services focused on child development and optimal quality of life for mothers; provide complete maternal and well-child services, full coverage with immunizations, and related activities such as provision of supplementary diets where required.

1.3 Disseminate knowledge of health matters; promote understanding and development of good public attitudes towards health promotion and disease prevention, for the individual, the family and the community. Teach basic remedies for simple ailments and the elements of health care and support for those family and community members living with chronic diseases.

1.4 Promote good mental health in an holistic manner, utilizing prevention, support and treatment modalities; protect the integrity of the family; act to eliminate the epidemic of violence within the family; prevent problems of drug abuse, and develop a sound social environment for the promotion of good mental and physical health.

1.5 Advocate the right of access to necessary health information; help the people to become wise and discriminating consumers, to recognize and insist upon the provision of safe, high-quality goods, especially those which are directly health-related.

1.6 Promote the health of workers through legal measures and incentives by which employers are induced to adopt workplace practices aimed at reducing the incidence of accidents and preventing the occurrence of

man-made disasters. Provide sports and other recreational facilities as part of a decent workplace environment.

1.7 Promote campaigns informing family members of proper health care and support of the elderly, using the mass media. Provide a complete range of rehabilitation services for old people.

1.8 Encourage all sectors - public, private and educational - to organize sports activities on an expanded scale and to promote private investment in the provision of health services outside the large cities.

2. Continuing Development of the Health Services Delivery System.

2.1 Enhancing the efficiency, quality and accessibility of health services.

(1) Provide health centres and community hospitals with adequate medical equipment and supplies; promote the rotation of physicians and other health officials between local and central units; develop a system of hospital networking by which patient referrals may be implemented from district to district or province to province, if necessary, to take advantage of specialized facilities and experience.

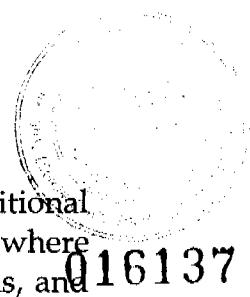
(2) Develop service networks among public hospitals on the one hand, and among public and private hospitals on the other; for the purposes of resource sharing and academic exchange.

(3) Advocate the public health security scheme with enlarged coverage of low-income groups; implement the health insurance system on a more efficient and equitable basis; promote research into the reform of the existing health insurance and other health welfare systems, stressing a unified approach and increased responsibility towards the general public.

(4) Implement a campaign, including incentives, for public hospitals to improve their efficiency and the quality of the services provided, so as to give greater satisfaction to the clients, particularly in terms of convenience, efficacy and staff attitudes.

(5) Promote investment in research and development, as well as the revision of laws and regulations for strengthening self-reliance in the production of drugs, vaccines and herbal medicines, coupled with quality control and development of manufacturing methods meeting international standards, to promote export-oriented development.

(6) Encourage the rational development of Thai traditional medical practices, with their integration into the public health system where appropriate, through the expansion of knowledge, information systems, and quality control of the practitioners and service centres.



2.2 Improve the quality of training and the geographical distribution of medical and other health personnel.

(1) Plan and adjust the production of health personnel in concert with the country's needs; encourage the private sector to play a greater role in developing health staff, subject to quality control and vocational standards.

(2) Develop educational and training curricula for public health personnel, placing special emphasis on ethical behaviour, also stressing health promotion and disease prevention; improve the quality and capacity of health personnel through the provision of continuing education and training, particularly in the use of appropriate technology.

(3) Develop the process of on-the-job training in the fields of short supply and increasing demand in response to currently emerging health issues, e.g., occupational health, health care for the elderly and the chronically ill, sports medicine, among others.

(4) Encourage the decentralization of health personnel towards rural areas by increasing professional morale and by providing appropriate remuneration and welfare at all levels.

2.3 Improving the operational system for managing the HIV/AIDS problem.

(1) Build on the capacity of the people and target groups in particular, to bring about increased public awareness of HIV/AIDS; convince people to change behaviours that put them at risk of infection.

(2) Generate a positive socio-economic environment, which will diminish the risk of infection, including, e.g., rural job creation, advocating safe and appropriate recreational activities, abating the use of sexually provocative programmes and advertisements -- in the media and in "selling" entertainment venues.

(3) Promote more comprehensive delivery of health care and health services for people living with HIV/AIDS, improve the attitudes and care-giving ability of hospital staff at all levels; strengthen the capacity of communities and families to care for people living with HIV/AIDS.

(4) Mitigate the socio-economic impact of AIDS, e.g., by providing suitable vocational training and social welfare services for people living with AIDS and their families, particularly those in difficult social and economic circumstances.

2.4 Creating an enabling social environment for health development.

(1) Develop public policy to create an enabling environment in support of health, e.g., provision of public parks and sports facilities, abatement of pollution, promotion of occupational hygiene and transportation safety.

(2) Revise and enforce laws and regulations to favour health improvement, focusing, for example, on those concerning control of toxic fumes emitted from industrial plants and automobiles, encouragement of such safety behaviour as the use of helmets while motorcycling and the use of seat belts while driving.

(3) Promote research into the impact of environmental conditions upon health, covering physical, psychological, biological, economic and social factors, as the basis for designing solutions.

(4) Mobilize funds to be used for health promotion, e.g., in support of raising awareness of the health impacts of environmental problems.

3. Reform of Public Health Administration.

3.1 Give increased attention to disease prevention and health promotion through a coherent system of adequate budgetary support, acquisition and development of essential personnel and restructuring concerned agencies, where this is needed.

3.2 Reform the administration of public hospitals to ensure greater efficiency and responsiveness to the needs of the people and to the evolving health situation. For instance, budgeting regulations and procedures must be amended to be less obstructive to efficient management; a private sector-type approach to management is to be implemented; along with adequate delegation of authority and the expanded use of the subcontracting approach where this is appropriate.

3.3 Monitor and control spending on public health, through a monetary and fiscal policy aimed at reducing "luxurious" expenditures, particularly on imports of expensive brand-name drugs and non-essential sophisticated technologies.

3.4 Implement a supervisory mechanism to monitor the quality and costs of health services in both the public and private sectors, e.g., require hospitals to make prior notification of fees for each item of service. The general public and independent agents acting on behalf of the people should be encouraged to play a greater role in auditing and monitoring the quality and expense of hospital services.

3.5 Encourage the Ministry of Public Health to adjust its role in the direction of policy development and the supervision of relevant agencies – the public sector, private enterprises, NGOs and community organizations should be working together with systematic and efficient coordination.

3.6 Encourage the use of an administrative system in which the involved agencies share in implementing common programmes in the interests of synergy and efficiency, particularly consumer protection, health promotion, nutrition, occupational and environmental sanitation, safety in the use of chemical substances, and action against HIV/ AIDS.

3.7 Encourage the people, community organizations, NGOs, private enterprises, academic institutions and the mass media to become partners in public health by advocating a development paradigm in which all these parties can share in learning by working together, in disseminating health information and in promotional campaigns in priority areas.

3.8 Intensify cooperation with neighbouring countries in solving common health problems; Thailand is well poised to become the regional centre for academic cooperation and public health action.

3.9 Give due consideration to providing sufficient financial support to NGOs and community organizations so that their health development activities can be achieved more efficiently and in harmony with the national health policy.

Chapter 6

Development of Disadvantaged Populations

The objective is to extend greater development opportunities to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including the following: children in difficult circumstances, children affected by AIDS, child wanderers and impoverished groups deprived of educational opportunities; children and women engaged in commercial sex and subject to various forms of violence; physically, mentally and emotionally disabled persons; the isolated indigent elderly; the urban and rural poor; probationers and prisoners, and Thai minorities of different cultures, e.g., hill tribes and sea tribes. The development guidelines consist of the following.

1. Development for Children in Difficult Circumstances.

1.1 Accelerate legislation making the minimum age for labour 15 rather than 13 years, and ensure its prompt enforcement. The formulation of protective measures and provision of decent welfare benefits for young labourers, both in the agricultural sector and informal sector, must be assured.

1.2 Assure a thorough understanding of the issue of child labour by community leaders and labour union leaders; encourage them to assist in protecting young workers, preventing and reporting cases of abuse of child labour and of violations of the rights of children.

1.3 Encourage employers to provide or improve the welfare of child employees on a continuing basis, particularly regarding adequate education, skills training, recreation and development of quality of life.

1.4 Develop an efficient and systemic process for protecting the safety of child wanderers, based on concerted efforts by the public and private sectors and religious institutions.

1.5 Develop a system for collection and maintenance of valid and updated information about children in especially difficult circumstances in Thailand; apply this knowledge in social planning.

1.6 Give due consideration to the amendment of laws and regulations regarding the protection of children; design comprehensive measures for effective and timely action in this regard.

1.7 Encourage an improvement in the attitudes and working methods of public officials in promoting the improved status of distressed

children, e.g., resolving the problems of educational documentation for child wanderers; redesigning patterns and methods of investigation and judicature to be more suitable for young people.

1.8 Strengthen the understanding of communities and school societies about HIV/ AIDS, thereby improving the acceptance of children who come from AIDS-affected families and the willingness to treat them in the same way as other children. This will depend on a concerted effort involving the public and private sectors, religious institutions and communities in generating a secure social environment for these children while avoiding investigation of their serological status.

1.9 Strengthen the capacity of families, kinship groups and communities in giving health care and primary nursing care to children with AIDS, through joint planning and supportive relationships between families and health service centres or private care-giving agencies.

1.10 Develop a process for assisting and supporting indigent children in rural areas and children in difficult circumstances to have access to further education and job training, taking into account the needs and potentials of each target group, and the local resource endowment.

1.11 Advocate systematic occupational development for rural youth, making available a job-opportunities information service, and developing skill in making use of such data for selecting appropriate employment.

2. Development Aimed at the Problem of Children and Women Engaged in Commercial Sex and/or Subject to Violence, and Eliminating the Sexist Suppression of Women.

2.1 Promote the networking of people's organizations, particularly at the village level, committed to exploring, guarding, dissuading and assisting children and women who are likely to be induced or deceived into commercial sex work.

2.2 Carry out campaigns and apply public relations techniques, through the mass media, to increase public understanding of the problems associated with commercial sex, promote a shift away from existing values which condone or promote the availability of commercial sex; while, at the same time, integrating a deeper understanding the values of a successful and supportive family life into educational curricula at all levels.

2.3 Assist those engaged in commercial sex by: building insight into the risks and impact of their occupation; providing health surveillance, counselling services, and alternative occupational training. Make alternative employment available, and provide capital for those intending to quit the sex

industry. In this connection, attention is to be given to the use of communications media appropriate to each target group and locality.

2.4 Advocate the elimination of gender prejudice and discrimination in response to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the UN Operational Plan for Progress of Women.

2.5 Block the recruitment/enticement of children and women, both Thai and foreign, for the purpose of commercial sex, especially along the border routes between Thailand and its neighbouring countries.

2.6 Provide parents with knowledge of the law regarding preventive and remedial measures against commercial sex.

3. Development of Disabled Persons.

3.1 Take earnest and continual action to assist individuals to cope with disability, embracing the following: precautions to be taken in pre-natal, neonatal, infancy and childhood to prevent disability; foster research into the causation of disabilities and effective preventive measures. In this regard, existing agencies will be assigned to be the focal point for efficient coordination.

3.2 Promote educational programmes to assure understanding among family and community members and responsible agencies, of the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of disabilities, aimed ultimately at the development of greater self-reliance among affected members of society. Campaigns are needed to raise public understanding and improve attitudes, as well as to promote acceptance of disabled persons, in guaranteeing full citizenship rights for affected individuals. Disabled persons must be helped to understand their conditions better, to become increasingly aware of their rights and responsibilities in society.

3.3 Give increased attention to extensive and sustained provision of medical and rehabilitative services to disabled persons, particularly the indigent disabled, who should be provided with free health services.

3.4 Provide access of disabled persons to all levels of the educational services, promoting their enrollment in general schools; reserve special schooling for individuals absolutely unable to attend such schools.

3.5 Include vocational training in the rehabilitative process, stressing preparedness for entering the labour market or for self-employment. Particular attention will be given to the rural impoverished disabled.

3.6 Amend laws, regulations and operational procedures to facilitate the protection of rights and benefits, provision of welfare and rehabilitation to cover all categories of disability, both in urban and rural areas. Buildings and other facilities will include provisions to enable easy and convenient access for disabled individuals.

3.7 Advocate the formation of networks of disabled individuals to facilitate mutual assistance and support; provide adequate funding for public and private organizations working with the disabled; assist existing agencies to improve their ability to carry out their missions efficiently and effectively.

3.8 Assure that families caring for disabled or chronically ill dependants receive assistance from the community, and the public and private sectors on an appropriate, timely and equitable basis.

3.9 Arrange special living allowances for disabled persons whose disabilities are not remediable or amenable to rehabilitation.

4. Development for the Isolated Indigent Elderly.

4.1 Make universal provisions for the elderly to be covered by social welfare benefits, encompassing: an increased living allowance, free health services, discounted fares for all transportation services, both in urban and rural areas.

4.2 Encourage and assist families to understand and care for their aged members; consideration will be given to providing incentives to persons caring effectively for their indigent elderly family members and associates.

4.3 Encourage private hospitals, NGOs, religious institutions and communities to share in caring for the aged; apply legislative measures to regulate private enterprises involved with providing service to the elderly, ensuring that their services meet minimum requirements for quality and equity.

4.4 Appoint an effective focal point for the management of care for the elderly, including collection of data and coordination of activities for a comprehensive approach.

5. Development of the Urban and Rural Poor.

5.1 Increase the access of urban and rural poor children to basic educational services through special provisions including the following: making scholarships available; granting subsidies to indigent families as a replacement for the opportunity costs of sending their children to school; developing educational approaches more suitable to these target groups.

5.2 Encourage the establishment and development of people's organizations and a variety of community funds: local fund-raising to provide local solutions to local problems.

5.3 Promote improvements in the environment of densely-populated communities; provide residents with adequate social services; diffuse knowledge about disease prevention and health protection, particularly in reference to HIV/ AIDS; assist in the abatement of pollution.

5.4 Encourage rural inhabitants, particularly small-scale farmers, to engage in small- and medium-sized cottage industries and community industries.

6. Development for Prisoners and Probationers.

6.1 Increase the opportunities for capacity building for prisoners and probationers through continual provision of appropriate basic services, including education, vocational training, access to jobs and income generation opportunities during and after the imprisonment and probationary periods. Additionally, probationers should be encouraged to join community service activities, reinforcing the ideal of responsible citizenship.

6.2 Advocate participatory roles for private enterprises, people's organizations and the community, in collaboration with the public sector, in the development of work programmes for rehabilitation, skills development and promotion of quality of life for probationers and prisoners.

7. Development for Thai Minorities of Different Cultures.

7.1 Build on the knowledge and capacity of the Thai minorities, through formal and non-formal education, so that they can earn livings in their own communities without creating adverse environmental impacts.

7.2 Expedite the development of Quality of Life for Thai indigenous groups of differing cultures by granting Thai citizenship, by promoting legal acknowledgement of their rights; assuring safety and security of life and property; extending accessibility to the basic social services - education, public health and public utilities - as well as campaigns for family planning and prevention of AIDS.

7.3 Promote research and compilation of data on Thai minorities of different cultures in a systematic and continuing manner; make use of research results for effective planning and implementation of the social services in harmony with the way of life of each ethnic group.

PART III

CREATION OF AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT TO SUPPORT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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The concept of people-centred development calls for emphasis not only on upgrading the capabilities of every member of society, but also on the creation of an enabling socio-economic environment and the establishment and proper organization of institutions essential to fostering human development. Under such conditions, people have far greater opportunities to develop their full potentials, and the process of human development can be sustained indefinitely.

Culture is a key element in the creation of such an enabling environment, and should be a driving force for holistic development. Family and community relations should be reinforced and infrastructural and social services should be developed and dispersed, to ensure more even provision nation-wide. The justice system, social security and security of life and property should all be developed. In this way, all Thais can enjoy a better quality of life.

Chapter 1

Objectives, Targets and Strategies

In order to create an environment which will enable the Thai people to meet the challenges of globalization, and which takes account of both the history and future prospects of Thai society, the Eighth Plan proposes the following objectives:

1. Objectives.

1.1 To boost the capabilities of families and communities in order to help them achieve greater self-reliance and to support individual development. Also, to promote cooperation between individuals, families and other groups in developing their own communities and protecting local natural resources, environments and cultures.

1.2 To develop a system of social security which provides an adequate safety net.

1.3 To strengthen the justice system, protection of civil rights, and security in life and property.

1.4 To support the role of culture in balanced and sustainable individual and national development, and encourage individuals and communities to participate in preserving cultural values, arts and crafts as sources of spiritual support for the Thai people.

2. Targets.

2.1 Raise awareness among children, young people and married couples of the importance of good family relations, particularly quality parenting, sharing responsibilities, and warmth and intimacy in the raising of children.

2.2 Disperse the provision of social and labour welfare for wider coverage of various population and labour sectors.

2.3 Reduce the number of people falling victim to occupational hazards, traffic accidents, mishaps in the transportation of toxic chemicals, fires in high-rise buildings, and other types of preventable disaster.

2.4 Step up the provision of civil rights protection, particularly for women and children.

2.5 Improve the quality of information published and broadcast through the media, and monitor and control inappropriate information which may have a detrimental effect on moral and cultural values.

2.6 At least double the number of users of cultural institutions, for example museums, historical sites, libraries and cultural centres, in both central and local areas.

3. Strategies.

To meet these targets and realize these objectives, the Eighth Plan proposes the following three strategies:

3.1 Consolidate families and communities through the development of learning systems and networks; adjusting the public sector's role such that it becomes an advocate and facilitator of family and community self-development; and ensuring the existence of an adequate social and economic safety net to promote the participation of families and communities in the development process.

3.2 Develop the social security system, by widening the coverage of social security provision; improving the labour welfare system, labour protection, labour relations and workplace safety to uniform nation-wide standards; streamlining the justice system and the provision of security of life and property; and encouraging the people to demand and expect fair practice from government officials.

3.3 Incorporate culture in the promotion of sustainable development, by diversifying cultural venues; providing the people with more opportunities and alternatives in selecting various cultural elements appropriate to their lifestyles; and conducting a campaign to raise awareness of individual and social rights, duties and responsibilities. The mass media and the business sector should be encouraged to play a greater role in a concerted drive to restore and promote cultural values.

Chapter 2

Consolidation of Families and Communities

For the promotion of stronger family and community ties, and to provide greater opportunities for individuals, families and communities to participate effectively in all aspects of development, the Eighth Plan proposes the following key development guidelines:

1. Development of Learning Systems for Families and Communities.

1.1 Reform of formal and non-formal education systems.

(1) Encourage communities to play a more active role in the management of education at all levels by delegating relevant authority to the community. Communities will thus be able to design curricula more relevant to their current needs and capabilities, guided by frameworks and quality standards set by public agencies.

(2) Ensure syllabi and teaching materials used are appropriate to each community's circumstances and its members' lifestyles. Also, encourage a sense of pride in and loyalty to community, culture and locality, while improving knowledge and understanding of the outside world through the learning of foreign languages and use of computer applications.

(3) Incorporate family education and life skills in educational curricula at all levels, particularly secondary and tertiary. Raise teachers' awareness of these matters in order to ensure that they are able to communicate this information properly and thoroughly.

(4) Encourage the diffusion and study of local traditional wisdom, arts and culture, in order to foster stronger community and family cohesion.

(5) Create a national academic network with autonomous functions for the purpose of policy formulation and implementation, involving the mobilization of inter-agency cooperation, information exchange, expansion and development of the body of knowledge, and disseminating new findings.

(6) Take full advantage of the experience and diverse abilities of elderly people in the strengthening of the family, the community and society.

1.2 Utilization of the mass media in the consolidation of families and communities.

(1) Encourage the media to broadcast and publish high quality, creative output, which presents positive and useful images of families and communities, for example regarding the behaviour of good family members, responsibilities being shared within the family and good practices in raising children.

(2) Encourage the development of high quality, relevant and up to date media output, which is widely accessible.

(3) Equip the Thai people with adequate knowledge and understanding, through formal and non-formal schooling and informal education of all types, to make rational judgements on information and technology encountered in daily life, and so to attain a global perspective while retaining their Thai identity.

(4) Support the right of access to information. Disseminate knowledge of basic individual and social rights regarding entitlement to social services, legal aid and other information which has a direct bearing on people's lives.

1.3 Development of community learning networks.

(1) Promote all modes of transfer and exchange of knowledge and experience, particularly local wisdom and the work of local scholars, between community members and organizations. Knowledge existing in local wisdom and the work of local scholars should be given academic standing by the state.

(2) Develop civil education institutions which can provide diverse types of educational and vocational training services to local residents and field workers, suited to their interests, abilities and needs, regardless of educational background.

(3) Support the inclusion of all social units at both central and local levels - the family, religious institutions, the mass media, educational institutions, etc. - in promoting and establishing community learning networks.

2. Encouraging the Establishment of Community Groups.

2.1 Promotion of all types of association within the community.

(1) Provide community members with appropriate knowledge and understanding of all aspects of the formation of groups - particularly the rights, duties and roles of community organizations - and with the skills needed for their development, for example organizational management and generating a sense of community pride in the maintenance of common property and in local arts, culture etc.

(2) Encourage community members to take the initiative in forming organizations, rather than relying on government prompting and recognition. These organizations could be formed with single primary functions such as management and care of the local environment, or to represent the interests of disadvantaged groups such as persons with disability, the elderly and people living with HIV/AIDS.

(3) Encourage local educational institutions, especially at the tertiary level, to contribute their knowledge and expertise towards community development, for example by assisting community businesses, promoting the use of appropriate technology in agriculture, and training local leaders and volunteers in development skills.

(4) Encourage independently managed communal development activities which will help community organizations to achieve greater self-reliance over time; for example setting up community development funds, which would come partly from government support, partly from other sources.

2.2 Promote the establishment of community networks.

(1) Encourage community networking at local, provincial, regional and inter-regional levels, for the exchange of information, cooperation in conserving arts, cultures and natural resources, and mutual assistance in alleviating problems such as traffic congestion and environmental degradation.

(2) Design a mechanism to coordinate all community development networks, which incorporates both public and private sectors at local and central levels. Construct an information network for all stakeholders in society to ensure wide access to relevant information.

(3) Encourage community organizations to employ societal mechanisms as key tools for development and for promoting community

loyalty, for example communal activities such as the revival of traditional cultural activities.

3. Generating Greater Economic Security for Families and Communities.

3.1 Increasing occupational skills and economic opportunities for families and communities.

(1) Advocate skills training in line with local demand, with equal access for men and women. Ensure even availability of up to date information on labour and production markets along with other relevant subjects, such as the advantages and disadvantages of working overseas and legal considerations.

(2) Support the creation of cottage and community industries, consistent with local readiness and demand, and promote stable employment and income which does not have a negative impact on family units.

3.2 Enlarging the role played by private enterprise in developing community economies and family livelihood.

(1) Carry out a campaign to adjust the attitudes of private business towards incorporating the common goal of social development alongside simple profit generation in their business planning.

(2) Use monetary and fiscal incentives to induce private business to join in the processes of skills training, production, commodity distribution and marketing for communities, with emphasis on greater participation by the community and the ultimate goal of making communities business owners.

(3) Encourage private financial institutions to arrange various forms of credit to help families and communities towards economic development.

4. Creating Better Social Security for Families and Communities.

4.1 Streamlining of the social service delivery system.

(1) Provide a coordinated package of family services such as child care, elderly care, legal counselling and advice on family life etc., to meet the needs of each community.

(2) Provide and improve basic services - in particular those concerned with alleviating the problems of densely populated areas, waste-

water treatment, garbage disposal, controlling traffic congestion and providing security in life and property – to ensure equal provision in all areas, both urban and rural.

(3) Provide public welfare and rehabilitation services to disadvantaged groups such as families with disabled, chronically ill, elderly and young dependants, based on clear criteria for allocation of financial assistance.

4.2 Expanding the role of families and communities in social services provision.

(1) Emphasize participation by families and communities in organizing community welfare, particularly for vulnerable and disadvantaged community members such as isolated poor families, people living with HIV/AIDS and abandoned young and elderly people.

(2) Design ways in which the community can play a greater role in monitoring social services so as to ensure they develop to meet established standards.

(3) Encourage communal activities and the provision of communal facilities such as public parks, sports and recreation centres, to strengthen family and community ties.

5. Streamlining the Administration of Family and Community Development.

5.1 Reforming government services to provide greater support for family and community development.

(1) Delegate administrative and budgeting authority to the local level, so that communities can become key participants in development planning and management, so ensuring greater responsiveness to local circumstances, potentials and needs. Direct assistance from the public sector will be required only for vulnerable communities.

(2) Encourage greater efficiency in revenue collection at the local level by allocating a greater proportion of taxes and fees to local authorities for community development schemes. In addition, sources of credit for other development activities, such as urban and rural development funds, should be expanded.

(3) Set targets and guidelines for holistic family and community development, involving cooperation between the public and private sectors. The academic sector can contribute information and

knowledge, both local and universal, from a range of disciplines to assist the process.

(4) Give public officials increased understanding of and expertise in the holistic development approach, increased understanding of the role of NGOs, and greater skills in making the best use of local resources for development.

(5) Seek a method of budget allocation more supportive to the cooperation of various agencies, particularly community organizations and local administrative bodies. In addition, a pilot scheme should be launched to test a budgeting approach based on allocation through general subsidies, involving agencies which are prepared for and have been restructured in line with this approach.

(6) Amend laws and regulations so that they support the increased participation of communities in making decisions about their own development and the management of community activities; for example, by guaranteeing communities' right to scrutinize the allocation of agricultural land. At the same time, information held by the public sector should be made more accessible and a universal system for public discussion created, to ensure the general public can scrutinize the work of public agencies.

(7) Formulate, with the participation of local communities, systems for continuous monitoring and evaluation of family and community development. The results should be used to continually update and improve the processes of planning and implementation.

5.2 Promotion of multi-lateral partnerships in development.

(1) Formulate clear policies on social investment which will promote the efficient operation of private business, NGOs and community organizations. The policy should comprise the use of legislation, taxation, social investment promotion, the establishment of funds, etc.

(2) Consider reductions of import duties on commodities which are important in improving quality of life, such as children's toys, educational materials, sports equipment and various necessities.

(3) Promote systematic and effective collaboration between various relevant agencies, particularly between government agency networks and development networks of community organizations.

(4) Consider the potential of the mass media for more consistent and wider promotion of desirable social values and conduct, such as appropriate gender roles, elimination of gender-based prejudice and

domestic violence, and remedial action against the sexual exploitation of children.

(5) Formulate a system under which the individual and the community can monitor and evaluate the work of the public sector, and can independently apply data to improve quality of life.

Chapter 3

Development of Social Security Systems

The Eighth Plan seeks to develop systems of social security in which all Thai citizens are guaranteed access to basic social services, social and labour welfare, safety in life and property, safety in the workplace, and protection of civil rights. In order to achieve this, the Plan proposes the following guidelines:

1. Development of Social and Labour Welfare Systems which Support the Improvement of Quality of Life.

1.1 Streamlining the social welfare system.

(1) Promote and develop the system for delivery of social welfare to help the disadvantaged and vulnerable to meet their basic needs, using the Social Welfare Act as a framework.

(2) Reform the network for coordination of social welfare so that all stake-holders – the public sector, private sector and NGOs – and all administrative levels – central, regional and local – can be linked systematically.

(3) Encourage the formation and networking of organizations comprising both individuals and social institutions such as temples and schools, for the management of social welfare within the community.

(4) Stress the role of NGOs and community organizations in social welfare development, with the public sector's role becoming one of facilitator and supervisor rather than principal actor.

(5) Revise relevant laws and regulations to facilitate and support the work of NGOs and community organizations, particularly by streamlining registration procedures.

1.2 Establishing a standardized labour welfare system.

(1) Amend relevant laws and regulations to encourage the private sector to participate in the provision of labour welfare services, such as medical centres, kindergartens, nurseries and sports centres within the workplace grounds, according to agreed standards.

(2) Encourage employers to provide employees with welfare services beyond those required by law.

(3) Promote the establishment of company savings cooperatives, provident funds and savings accumulative funds within private businesses etc. as sources of welfare for workers both during their working life and on their retirement.

1.3 Expansion and improvement of the social insurance system.

(1) Widen the scope of social insurance to cover child support and the contingencies of ageing, and to cover businesses with less than ten employees. In addition, consider extending social insurance to those working in the informal sector.

(2) Improve the efficiency of the social insurance system, including medical services and compensation payments, in order to provide the greatest benefit to workers. Computerize the system and create nation-wide information networks.

(3) Revise laws and operational guidelines relating to social insurance and compensation to bring them up to date and in line with international standards, in order to facilitate administration and maximize benefit for the workforce.

(4) Develop an efficient monitoring system to ensure all eligible businesses and employees enter the social insurance scheme.

2. Improving Efficiency in Labour Protection, Workplace Safety and Labour Relations.

2.1 Acceleration and extension of labour protection.

(1) Revise laws and regulations relating to labour protection in order to ensure greater coverage, and give due consideration to extending protection in terms of payments, conditions of employment, working conditions, benefits, welfare, workplace safety and social insurance to the informal sector workforce, for example farm employees, sub-contractors and home-based workers.

(2) Develop an efficient inspection system to support enforcement of labour laws, and expand the roles of employers' and workers' organizations in identifying and reporting violations of labour laws with regard to minimum wages, welfare and occupational health and safety.

(3) Take urgent steps to eliminate the illegal exploitation of child labour, through stricter law enforcement and harsher penalties.

(4) Revise the criteria for determining minimum wages to reflect existing conditions and to take into account the importance of justice for all parties concerned. Take follow-up action to ensure minimum wage regulations are being effectively enforced, with special focus on medium and small scale enterprises without labour unions. Impose harsh penalties on employers who violate the laws, and help workers currently being paid below minimum wage to obtain the correct rate from their employers.

(5) Improve systems and mechanisms involved in setting minimum wage levels. Encourage employers to formulate pay structures which allow for annual wage adjustments to reflect employees' skills and experience, with no discrimination based on age or gender.

(6) Conduct research in order to determine guidelines for pay scales and structures, with the possibility of also setting minimum wages for the agricultural sector and by occupation within the industrial sector.

(7) Set suitable and fair standards for the services of agencies offering to find employment for Thais working overseas, which will cover expenses and service charges; minimize or prevent deception by such employment agencies and the smuggling of Thai workers to foreign countries; and protect the rights of all Thais working overseas.

(8) Advocate the establishment, with public sector support, of organizations or corporate bodies for home-based workers, so that these workers can be registered to ensure equal access to labour protection.

(9) Consider assigning a public sector agency to oversee the empowerment and protection of home-based workers, and of establishing networks to coordinate between the agencies involved in the process.

2.2 Improvement of workplace safety and working environments.

(1) Revise laws and regulations relating to workplace safety, environmental hygiene and occupational health, to reflect technological change; eliminate inconsistency and overlap in related legislation; and improve the systems and mechanisms for workplace health and safety inspection, to improve efficiency and to ensure that violators are strictly penalized.

(2) Revise the laws governing labour protection, particularly workplace safety, occupational hygiene and working environments, extending coverage to the agricultural and informal sectors.

(3) Educate management, employees and new entrants to the labour force on how to prevent accidents and sickness associated with the use of modern technology, and promote strict conformity with employment regulations.

(4) Formulate guidelines on the roles and obligations of employers, employees and relevant agencies with regard to occupational health and safety, leading to effective collaboration of all concerned. Give employers incentives to participate in the prevention of serious industrial accidents and in promoting workplace health and safety.

(5) Encourage employees to cooperate with public sector agencies in examining health and safety systems in manufacturing plants at all stages of production.

2.3 Development of labour relations.

(1) Revise existing laws relating to labour relations in order to make them more responsive to socio-economic conditions, for example by creating a trilateral consultation system incorporating employers, employees and neutral arbiters, and by expanding the roles of employers' and employees' organizations in resolving labour disputes.

(2) Advocate the establishment of bilateral and trilateral systems in labour relations, emphasizing consultation and collaboration involving employers and employees at company level.

(3) Empower employers' and employees' organizations, giving them greater solidarity and unity, so that they can better represent their respective sectors in negotiating for the resolution of labour disputes at company level.

(4) Educate employers and employees to give them a better knowledge and understanding of labour relations, with regard to what types of action are sanctioned by law and on methods for the peaceful resolution of labour disputes.

(5) Encourage employers to adjust their business organizations so that they better reflect new technologies, labour market conditions and the attitudes of new entrants to the labour force, for example through the creation of employees' consultative and participatory systems in the form of employees' committees, the formulation of clearly defined pay scales; and the enhancement of employees' skills and capabilities.

(6) Encourage labour unions and employees' federations and councils to take on roles, responsibilities and activities that emphasize

protection of members' benefits in parallel with participation in social development, for example through promoting education and training, educating employees about their rights and duties, and campaigning for occupational health and safety.

(7) Encourage employers to provide training for those employees expected to become organizational chiefs in industrial management and ways of developing workers' quality of life, in order to alleviate conflicts between executives and workers.

3. Preventing and Suppressing Crime and Drug Abuse to Maintain Social Harmony.

3.1 Promote activities related to community relations or public relations in combating crime and drug abuse, with the public sector offering support for various activities, in order to bring about self-reliance and self-protection in and by communities.

3.2 Improve systems for the prevention and suppression of economic crime, particularly those involving forged official documents which affect economic stability and cases of illegal encroachment into public lands such as islands and mangroves.

3.3 Upgrade the capacities of those agencies responsible for crime prevention and suppression, through the use of information systems and modern technology, and upgrading the capabilities of the agencies' personnel in terms of knowledge, skills, discipline and ethics.

3.4 Promote the participation of civil organizations in the maintenance of safety in life and property within the community. This should include measures and working procedures for surveillance, prevention and reporting of criminal incidents, and testifying as witnesses in prosecutions, and should be carried out in continuous and systematic collaboration with public sector agencies.

3.5 Promote the prevention and solution of drug abuse in various target groups, especially labourers and children and young people both inside and outside education, concentrating on mobilizing the participation of the target groups themselves and imposing harsher penalties for drug producers and distributors.

3.6 Establish three systems for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts: voluntary, corrective and compulsory. This should be carried out in parallel with promoting family-based and community-based care to prevent relapses.

3.7 Use all branches of the mass media to inform people and so encourage and empower them to cooperate in prevention of crime, drug abuse, disasters, abuse of women and children, etc.

3.8 Amend legislation governing the prevention and suppression of drug abuse to ensure more suitable and stronger action is taken to deal with drug production and distribution.

4. Improving Prevention and Relief Systems for Public Emergencies and Disasters.

4.1 Improve the efficiency of systems for dealing with public emergencies and disasters through coordination in planning, policy-making, implementation and distribution of resources between the relevant agencies; the creation of a disaster information system; and provision of technical support, materials and equipment to the relevant agencies.

4.2 Use the mass media to raise awareness of accident and disaster prevention and relief, particularly among road users, employees, employers, construction labourers and people in densely populated areas, both in the Bangkok Metropolitan Area and in the regions. At the same time, promote stricter enforcement of relevant laws.

4.3 Promote the participation and cooperation of the private sector and community organizations in planning and decision-making about management of public emergencies and disasters at local level.

4.4 Raise public awareness of measures for the prevention and relief of disasters and public emergencies, which should include pre-emptive measures, such as the mapping of potentially hazardous areas, designed to minimize the impact from disasters. Incorporate disaster prevention and relief measures in various development projects as one of the standard requirements of the project feasibility assessment.

4.5 Expand the role of professional institutions in establishing standards by which activities affecting public safety are regulated, and in making recommendations on amending legislation and inspection of relevant operations.

5. Upgrading the Efficiency of the Justice System and Protection of Civil Rights.

5.1 Organize the administrative system for juridical procedure in criminal cases, ensuring justice prevails, on a consistent and efficient basis.

5.2 Develop the operational systems, administration and personnel of the agencies that make up the justice system, categorizing their specialization's into criminal cases, civil cases and administrative cases. Apply interdisciplinary academic research and modern technologies to make justice services more efficient, accessible and equitable.

5.3 Carry out studies on judicial management, promote an increase in volunteers undertaking probationary tasks and place greater emphasis on combating trans-national and economic crime.

5.4 Try to reduce the number of cases brought to court, by advocating arbitration, out-of-court settlement, prevention of repeat offending and use of the non-detention approach.

5.5 Extend the provision of legal aid, particularly to the underprivileged. This service should comprise providing legal representation for those with insufficient funds, welfare support for defendants and their families, compensation for those affected by legal action, etc.

5.6 Encourage cooperation between the public sector, NGOs, professional institutions and the general public in monitoring and scrutinizing a range of commodities and services, with the aim of protecting consumer rights. Laws, regulations, responsible agencies and procedures must be determined in order to protect the rights of the individual and for the arrangement of compensation when those rights are violated.

5.7 Place emphasis on the resolution of cases involving violations of personal ownership, personal rights and public property, focusing on increasing awareness of civil rights, more earnest law enforcement and developing a more efficient system and mechanism for the protection and maintenance of public property by the public sector.

5.8 Extensively raise public awareness of legal issues. Revise legislation governing protection of the rights and welfare of children and young people in line with socio-economic conditions. Promote the expansion of public sector and NGO activity relating to legal action to protect the rights and benefits of younger citizens.

5.9 Improve the position of women in society, guaranteeing them rights and opportunities equal to those enjoyed by men. Increase opportunities for women to become partners in decision-making; in economic, social and political activities; and in all levels of governance. Also, increase opportunities for the formation of women's groups to promote education, training, skills development, equal rights to employment, etc. for women.

5.10 Revise laws and regulations to eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination. Request both public and private sector employers not to specify gender in job applications or allow it to influence the selection of employees. Encourage change in the public's attitudes and values, so as to promote the elimination of all gender discrimination and prejudice.

5.11 Revise laws, regulations and methods of inquiry for cases of deception, detention, restraint, compulsion and threat, and take stern legal action and impose severe penalties for sexual offences against women and children.

5.12 Conduct a campaign to alleviate the problems of domestic violence and the cruel treatment and sexual exploitation of women and children. This campaign could include raising public awareness of the problems and their implications, and extending provision of counselling services to afflicted families. Victims must be given protection, with care taken to see that it does not worsen their situation.

5.13 Advocate the development of public law as a key mechanism in public administration.

(1) Encourage universities and other academic institutions to develop curricula which incorporate or are centre on public law, in order to improve knowledge and understanding of public law among lawyers and the general public.

(2) Raise awareness of the concepts and philosophy underlying public law among public administrators and practitioners. Encourage the application of public law as an important tool for the public sector in national administration.

(3) Improve the process for seeking justice from public administrators by increasing the capacities of government agencies to consider petitions and complaints brought by individuals against public agencies, and to function as quasi-judicial councils.

Chapter 4

Cultural Reinforcement for National Development

Cultural values should be made to play a prominent role in human and national development, so as to generate development that is founded on self-sufficiency and indigenous wisdom, and is balanced and sustainable in the long run. The reinforcement of cultural values must be implemented under an holistic approach, through which people's proper knowledge and understanding are elevated. In this way, both the family and the community will be strengthened.

In addition, all the various constituent groups in Thai society should be encouraged to cooperate in protecting and conserving both national and local cultures, with the concept of culture understood in its broadest meanings, and to apply it selectively in their own and in society's development.

1. Cultural Reinforcement for Human and Social Development.

1.1 Build up the capacities of the communities and individuals for self-reliance and in awareness of their rights and duties, both to society and to themselves. This will be fundamental to the development of both urban and rural communities.

1.2 Promote the establishment of diversified cultural venues and activities, for example community cultural initiatives and venues for the presentation and dissemination of arts and culture, and develop systems and mechanisms to provide incentives to produce creative cultural art of real value to society.

1.3 Advocate balanced human, economic, social and environmental development.

(1) Advocate mutual agreement to reconcile the interest of individuals, communities and the need to preserve natural resources and environments, in order to promote harmonious living. This will be based on a concept of popular cooperation and social control.

(2) Revise and enforce laws for regulating economic activity, so that they take greater account of its potential negative impacts on individuals, society, natural resources and environments.

1.4 Promote the role of the media in publicizing cultural values.

(1) Encourage the production of high quality and diverse programming which will effectively promote proper conduct and values, particularly gender equality, among various target groups.

(2) Promote the development of a culture of public comment, allowing the public greater control over the quality of media output and to broaden the public's alternatives in selecting information.

(3) Encourage the media to create systems for mutual monitoring and checking of the reliability of the information in their output.

2. Generating Insight into Culture and its Application in Development Activities.

2.1 Adjust educational curricula at all levels towards more integration of cultural settings, focusing on a more pragmatic approach and a culture-based learning process.

2.2 Promote the undertaking of research, accumulation of information and learning, and their synthesis and analysis.

2.3 Encourage the continuous exchange of ideas and experiences, and the establishment of creative cultural media.

2.4 Carry out cultural promotion in parallel with the development of tourism and socio-economic development.

3. Reinforcing Pride in Thai Arts and Culture.

3.1 Advocate cooperation between the public sector and local people in protecting, maintaining and developing historic sites, museums, libraries, etc.

3.2 Disseminate, maintain and pass on the value of being Thai. Revive various types of traditional arts and culture, keeping it relevant to present and future Thai lifestyles.

4. Strengthening Pride in Thai Nationality.

4.1 Raise public awareness of the fundamentals of culture, both national and local, and of the benefits of culture to the community. Promote toleration and acceptance of different modes of living within society.

4.2 Promote cultural exchange programmes with foreign countries, aimed at strengthening international relations and fostering mutual awareness of respective cultures.

4.3 Promote cultural tourism, with a view to raising awareness of history and culture as roots of traditional wisdom and ways of life. This should be accompanied by measures to prevent and remedy any adverse impacts that may result from this type of tourist activity.

5. Development of Cultural Administration.

5.1 Advocate the formulation and integration of the operational plans of relevant agencies, in both public and private sectors, consistent with cultural development objectives, targets and guidelines.

5.2 Raise awareness and capacities among community members and local administrative bodies of the creation of cultural heritage in their localities, and coordinate their efforts in that direction.

5.3 Encourage the mobilization of capital to build up cultural promotion funds to an adequate level.

5.4 Advocate the revision of laws, regulations and Cabinet resolutions regarding cultural activities in order to generate greater consistency, and the delegation of administrative authority for cultural projects and programmes in order to achieve greater efficiency.

5.5 Build up a comprehensive database of cultural resources, and formulate cultural development indicators to serve as tools in administration and evaluation.

5.6 Mobilize manpower in cultural administration based on the partnership of all stake-holders - the general public, social institutions, the public sector, private business and NGOs - taking account of the capacities, aptitudes and interests of each and encouraging mutual respect.

PART IV

ENHANCING THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THE REGIONS AND RURAL AREAS TO PROMOTE BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

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The vast majority of the Kingdom's people, employment and natural resources are found in the regions, particularly the rural areas. However, in the recent history of Thailand's national development, people living in these areas have received the least benefit from growing economic prosperity, while their ways of life have been deeply affected by environmental changes. As a result, rural communities have lagged behind other social sectors in terms of development, employment and income, and there has been a continuous migration of rural people to the capital. This has had a profound impact on rural families.

At the same time, natural resources and environments in rural areas have been over-exploited, without appropriate conservation guidelines being followed, which has also had a negative impact on quality of life in the regions.

As the Eighth Plan seeks to help all Thai people to upgrade their capabilities and develop their potential, to foster close family relations and to prepare people to respond to changes brought about by globalization, it is appropriate that particular emphasis should be placed on the development of the regions and rural areas. The Plan, therefore, seeks to boost the development potentials of these areas, in order to bring about fairer distribution of the benefits of development and to bridge the socio-economic gap which exists between metropolitan Bangkok and regional cities. The Plan calls for quality of life and income levels to be raised evenly across the population. Its development strategies focus on the reconciliation of mutual benefit in urban and rural development through greatly increased popular participation. Communities are to be empowered to play a significant role in the development of economy, society, natural resources and environmental conservation, while economic activity and social services are to be more fairly distributed through the regions.

Chapter 1

Objectives, Targets and Strategies

Development concepts and guidelines for the regions and rural Thailand need to be altered in order to promote greater self-reliance among local people and to give them equal rights and opportunities in social and economic development. Emphasis should also be placed on the promotion of strong family relationships, conservation and sound management of natural resources as a basis for sustainable development and to ensure that environmental pollution is minimized. Local people's and communities' capabilities should be improved in order for them to participate fully in local economic and social development and the conservation of natural resources and environments.

The Eighth Plan seeks to create economic development opportunities for all regional and rural areas, while extending the delivery of basic social and economic services in order to provide people in every area, ethnic group, gender and age with equal opportunities. The objectives and targets set by the Plan to achieve these aims are as follows:

1. Objectives.

1.1 To enhance the development potentials of people and communities in regional and rural areas, so that they can participate in the process of local development.

1.2 To distribute economic activity evenly and create development and employment opportunities appropriate to the potentials of different people and communities.

1.3 To encourage popular participation in the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources and environments, and ensure natural resources are utilized economically and efficiently, with the minimum environmental impact.

1.4 To increase the roles of people's organizations and local administrative and government units so that they can work together to achieve regional and rural development which is responsive to the needs of people living in those areas.

1.5 To increase the efficiency of public administration by delegating development authority to provinces and provincial groupings.

2. Targets.

2.1 Narrow the gap in income between the Kingdom's richest and poorest households, focusing on the middle to lower income group. Their combined share of national income should increase no less than 50 per cent of GDP by the end of the Eighth Plan period.

2.2 Reduce the number of Thais living in poverty to no more than 10 per cent of the total population by the end of the Eighth Plan period.

2.3 Redistribute and extend provision of economic and social services necessary to support the building of potential and occupational development, so the people will have easy and adequate access to quality public sector services.

2.4 Expand the area of farmland under sustainable agriculture to no less than 20 per cent of the total agricultural land in the country, or approximately 25 million rai.

2.5 Create employment opportunities for approximately eight million of the rural poor, so that they can gain sufficient income and economic security.

2.6 Provide rural people working in the agricultural sector with a wider range of non-agricultural employment options.

2.7 Encourage communities to play a greater role in the conservation and rehabilitation of local natural resources and environments.

2.8 Empower all local communities to deal effectively with their own problems. They should have the knowledge and capability to identify the causes of their problems, seek proper guidelines for how to alleviate them, draw up action plans and seek support from both public and private agencies.

3. Strategies for Enhancing the Development Potentials of the Regions and Rural Thailand.

The Eighth Plan proposes the following three major strategies to achieve the targets and objectives for regional and rural development:

3.1 Promote popular participation in local development and encourage communities to develop their own capabilities to that end.

3.2 Increase the number of employment opportunities in the regions and rural areas.

3.3 Direct the restructuring of the development administrative systems for regions and rural areas.

Chapter 2

Promoting Popular Participation and Upgrading the Capabilities of Communities to Play Active Roles in Local Development

Promoting popular participation in regional and rural development will provide opportunities for local people to improve their potentials for independently finding solutions to problems which benefit individuals, families and communities. This will in turn ensure more timely and evenly distributed development.

To this end, the Eighth Plan focuses on measures to promote self-reliance in local communities and the creation of relatively secure community economies which will serve as solid bases for long term improvements in income and quality of life. The private sector, NGOs and people's organizations should be encouraged to cooperate with the public sector so as to combine their efforts in the interests of development. To achieve this, the Eighth Plan proposes the following guidelines:

1. For Upgrading the Capacities of Rural Communities for Economic and Social Development and for Conservation of Natural Resources and Environments.

These guidelines are designed to upgrade the capacities of local communities in order to create a firm basis for their participation in development activities managed by the government, the private sector and NGOs:

1.1 Preparing communities.

(1) Cultivate diverse and effective management skills for the members of local communities. Strengthen the process of human development by fostering managerial and other relevant skills among various stakeholders in communities. This can be achieved through training courses, with speakers drawn from both inside and outside the community, tailored to the particular needs of each community and promoting the exchange of knowledge and experiences between different communities.

(2) Allocate government budget to support community organizations, to support the formation of all types of popular organization.

(3) Make community organizations the principal recipients of government support in their areas, in order to promote participation by

local people in the processes of decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

1.2 Upgrading the potentials of community organizations.

(1) Improve learning processes through the dissemination of relevant information and encouraging families and communities to share their experiences for mutual benefit.

(2) Support business initiatives launched and run by communities with the cooperation of NGOs and the private sector. Encourage the exchange of experiences between communities relating to their business ventures.

(3) Increase the roles of women in strengthening their communities' economies, by encouraging them to participate in all aspects of community development administration.

1.3 Financial resources for community development.

(1) Extend the scope of operations of the Rural Development Fund so as to encourage savings at the community level, and give wide ranging support to local and community development activities.

(2) Promote the establishment of community funds and fund networks for various activities, for example community welfare funds, natural resource and environment funds and research and development funds for alternative and supplementary employment. Training and information necessary for managing the funds should be provided, in order to upgrade the competence of community fund managers.

1.4 Promotion of an interactive learning process and the extension of learning networks for rural people and communities.

(1) Promote the use of information and mass communications technology, and establish supporting networks of communications technology to improve learning within communities.

(2) Provide occupational training in various fields, consistent with the actual capabilities of local communities, by using appropriate technology with cooperation from community organizations, NGOs and local educational institutions.

(3) Boost the status of learning in the community with such initiatives as community schools, community colleges and villagers' universities, with government assistance.

(4) Disseminate through the media useful and diverse information to help people make choices about careers and employment, such as information on commodity prices or social services etc.

1.5 Promotion of popular participation in communities and local areas in natural resource and environmental conservation.

(1) Enhance public awareness and understanding of the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources and the environment, and incorporate local wisdom in their administration.

(2) Allow public access to information on the impacts of economic and social development, particularly natural resource and environmental conservation, on local communities. This should include future projects to be carried out by the government. Public hearings should be organized as necessary.

(3) Encourage community organizations, such as women's groups and youth groups, to play a greater role in controlling, supervising and alleviating any environmental problems facing the community.

1.6 Promotion of the roles of families and communities in the administration of social development.

(1) Construct mechanisms to enlarge the role of communities in monitoring the delivery of existing social services, such as day-care services for pre-school children and garbage collection and disposal systems.

(2) Promote the role of community organizations in fostering close, warm relations and social cohesion within families and communities, which can be conducted in part by establishing public parks and organizing recreational activities.

2. Enlarging the Role of the Public Sector in Promoting Increased Participation by Local Communities in Local Development.

2.1 Upgrading the economic status of community organizations.

(1) Restructure the tax system to facilitate capital mobilization for the development of community organizations.

(2) Widely promote cooperative activities, certifying the status of various groups in the community operating under cooperative schemes. These will be linked to tax incentives for the private sector and NGOs to encourage them to give support in areas such as training.

(3) Provide tax incentives to attract enterprises with high capital to enter joint business ventures with local communities, so as to enhance the competitiveness of the communities, particularly through the strengthening of managerial and marketing skills.

(4) Support increasing provision, by both public and private financial institutions, of credit services to community organizations.

(5) Promote the establishment of a national financial institution for the development of community organizations, which can provide both technical and financial services to those organizations. This will require measures to attract cooperation from NGOs and both public and private sector financial institutions.

(6) Improve the capabilities of farmers' groups and institutions as follows:

(6.1) Develop educational curricula in both the formal and non-formal systems which are specifically geared towards the potential and local wisdom of local areas. These should include the transfer of technical knowledge from successful farmers' institutions and groups.

(6.2) Increase business opportunities for farmers' institutions, by organizing training for managerial skills, providing information and marketing, and increase the availability of long term loans.

(6.3) Boost the business flexibility of farmers' institutions through the amendment of relevant regulations and laws.

2.2 Upgrade the capabilities of community organizations in social development and improving quality of life.

(1) Delegate administrative authority for the provision of education to local communities, so that they can increasingly participate in setting educational curricula consistent with each communities' actual circumstances and responsive to local needs, while increasing opportunities nationwide for children finishing compulsory education to continue their studies.

(2) Provide greater access to information for the general public, with the cooperation of community organizations, NGOs and the public sector.

(3) Provide budget assistance to NGOs and community organizations to help them provide for under-privileged groups with poor access to public services.

(4) Improve public health services in the regions – which will include redistribution of resources and key personnel – to close the marked gap in service delivery between the Bangkok Metropolitan Region and the other regions and rural areas.

(5) Accelerate the restructuring of local taxation systems, so as to generate sufficient income for local authorities to provide universal access to social services.

3. Encouraging the Participation of Private Business and NGOs in Community Development, so as to give communities freedom in carrying out economic activities and so provide a greater choice of employment for community members. Also, increase the role of private business and NGOs in supporting community economic activities.

3.1 Encouraging private sector involvement in the development of community businesses, based on specialization and willingness.

(1) Enhance business and economic development at village level through joint ventures between communities and the private sector, and find markets for locally produced goods.

(2) Promote non-farming employment in villages, particularly sub-contracted jobs such as weaving and parts of industrial production processes.

(3) Disseminate business know-how for production, marketing, accounting, finance and general administration, to facilitate business-oriented activities by communities.

(4) Provide fiscal and financial incentives for the private sector to arrange training courses for labour, production, distribution and marketing management, under a systematic approach. Communities should participate in managing every stage of training, so that they will ultimately be able to develop their own businesses.

(5) Conduct public relations campaigns to shift business concepts from pure profit orientation to include investment in social development.

3.2 Enlarging the role of NGOs in community development.

(1) Encourage NGOs to collaborate in development projects with communities, local organizations, government agencies and private business, by providing support in the form of necessary information and financial contributions.

(2) Promote the role of NGOs in research and technology transfer to enhance the potentials of local communities.

(3) Provide financial assistance to NGOs for projects geared towards occupational development and raising incomes for rural communities.

Chapter 3

Increasing Employment Opportunities in the Regions and Rural Areas

The Eighth Plan seeks to eliminate disparities in income in the Kingdom and ensure all Thai people obtain an equal share of the prosperity and other benefits resulting from development. By giving regional and rural people wider economic opportunities, particularly in terms of employment, it is hoped the foundations can be laid for sustainable development.

To generate wider employment opportunities, the inter-relationships between people, communities, local areas and their existing development potentials must be taken into account. To provide greater overall economic opportunities for regional and rural people and their communities, it is necessary to extend all activities related to local economies, social services and education into these areas. Particular emphasis is placed in the Plan on establishing closer links between rural and urban communities, and on suiting projects to local areas' real development potentials. The main target groups are rural farmers and the urban poor.

Development guidelines for implementing this strategy are:

1. Extension of Economic Activities.

This is aimed principally at creating employment, with emphasis on restructuring agricultural production under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Scheme in directions such as natural farming, organic farming, integrated farming and agro-forestry. This is intended to help farmers to diversify and so minimize the risks to their income from price fluctuations in produce markets, cut production costs and rehabilitate natural resources and environments. Farmers will be encouraged to seek higher values for their outputs via diversifying into agro-processing.

The Eighth Plan also seeks to establish networks between small-scale industries in rural areas, and to distribute more widely financial and other industry-related services. Suggested measures to achieve this are:

1.1 Promoting sustainable agriculture.

(1) Upgrade farmers' capabilities to plan production under, and make decisions on the adoption of, sustainable agricultural methods. This should be done by producing a farming manual based on the experiences of others who have already established sustainable agriculture, which is

specifically geared towards the actual conditions in each farming area and towards market demands.

(2) Encourage farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices.

(2.1) Support the provision of water sources for small farms, marketing services - particularly services for the transportation of agricultural output to the markets - and accurate information services to help farmers make good and timely decisions about selling produce.

(2.2) Provide the necessary production inputs for agricultural restructuring, by promoting the use of crop varieties and animal breeds with high resistance against prevalent diseases.

(2.3) Promote inter-disciplinary research to find farming systems which are harmonious with nature - taking into account local wisdom and environments in each area - and to develop organic substances to replace currently used agricultural chemicals.

(2.4) Provide long-term soft loans to facilitate agricultural restructuring.

(2.5) Improve the quality of agricultural produce by setting quality standards, particularly subjecting produce to strict tests for lead residue, and set up coordinating mechanisms between the relevant agencies.

(3) Adjust the government's role from the sole promoter of agricultural activities to coordinator between the relevant parties, so as to support and provide farming alternatives for needy farmers according to their needs and consistent with the state of the markets and existing conditions in each area. Farmers will thus be able to make informed agricultural decisions and to map out efficient production plans. Government officials should be helped to understand their proper roles as facilitators for the agricultural restructuring outlined above.

(4) Encourage NGOs and the private sector to play a greater role in the implementation of the agricultural restructuring outlined above, in coordination with the public sector. They could take part in seeking new markets and providing farmers with adequate management and other necessary skills and techniques.

1.2 Development of cottage, rural and community industries.

(1) Encourage the private sector to assist farmers and communities by providing capital, technology, information services and investment opportunities in small scale agro-processing operations.

(2) Encourage local people jointly to establish and retain ownership of community industries, through tax incentives, investment promotion privileges and providing necessary marketing information and technology in order to upgrade their operational efficiency. These industries will provide alternatives for farmers to diversify into agricultural products which can be utilized in industry.

(3) Establish sub-contracting networks that link large scale industries, both within and outside the region, with rural and community industries, so as to hasten the decentralization of employment from cities to the rural areas.

(4) Set up insurance systems or insurance funds to protect farmers and communities against possible mishaps during sub-contracted production.

(5) Upgrade the efficiency of the public sector in facilitating rural and community industries, by formulating a Rural and Community Industrial Development Plan covering all areas at regional, sub-regional and provincial levels.

1.3 Decentralization of industries and related activities to the regions.

(1) Increase the number of local entrepreneurs and upgrade their capabilities by providing continuous training, particularly those related to modern business management and technology.

(2) Facilitate the relocation of industries from the Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR) to provincial and rural areas. Possible government support could include upgrading transportation and telecommunications facilities and the lowering of basic service costs to levels close to those of the BMR. Incentives to relocate would include investment promotion privileges, corporate tax preference and soft loans.

(3) Develop regional industrial centers in nine provinces, namely: Lamphun, Phitsanulok, Nakhon Sawan, Nakhon Ratchasima, Khon Kaen, Saraburi, Ratchaburi, Surat Thani and Songkhla. Industrial estates or industrial zones should be established in these provinces, and industrial links

should be developed within the same regions and with neighbouring provinces.

(4) Promote the establishment of a single industrial centre, in the form of an industrial estate for medium and small-scale industries, for each group of provinces. Similar industrial networks with neighbouring provinces should be promoted, while allocation of provincial specialization roles and the feasibility of investment should be taken into account.

(5) Enlarge the private sector's role in collaborating with the public sector for the establishment of industrial estates, industrial zones and industrial parks. Emphasis should be placed on cooperation in providing basic economic and social services, particularly those related to education, public health, training and environmental protection.

(6) Generate opportunities for industrial development at sub-regional level, by establishing special economic zones and tax-free zones along the borders so as to hasten the expansion of trade and investment both inside Thailand and with neighbouring countries.

1.4 Extension of financial services to regional areas.

(1) Regulate policy requiring new financial institutions to establish their head offices outside the BMR.

(2) Urge commercial banks, finance companies, securities companies and asset management companies to set up branches, sub-branches, credit service offices and securities service offices in regional and rural areas.

(3) Encourage private companies in the regions to raise capital on the Stock Exchange of Thailand and from other sources.

(4) Improve and extend the credit services of the government-owned financial institutions – the Government Savings Bank and the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives and other public sector institutions that support medium and small scale industries – to lower-income and less-capitalized customers in regional and rural areas. Moreover, capital and credit in rural areas should be increased in order to enhance the economic activities of small scale entrepreneurs in rural communities.

(5) Set up municipal credit insurance corporations and encourage local authorities to issue bonds for capital mobilization to be used in local development projects.

2. Extension of Social and Education Services.

2.1 Expansion of education and training services.

(1) Extend the provision of education services at all levels in all regions, with access for all groups. These services can be provided in both formal and non-formal systems, and should include the application of modern educational technology. The government should provide sufficient budget assistance for necessary personnel development, instructional materials and equipment.

(2) Provide relevant training courses for people working in farming to give them the option of earning a living from employment outside the agricultural sector, for example by sub-contracting production work.

(3) Ensure even distribution of information on regional and local labour markets, to encourage the decentralization of work from factories to communities.

2.2 Extension of health services and social welfare.

(1) Upgrade the quality of public health services, particularly those provided for holders of welfare cards for low income earners.

(2) Increase and broaden the provision of social service facilities such as health centres, day-care centres and public parks, by urging popular participation in their management and expediting the legislation of the Welfare Act.

(3) Promote the establishment of national organizations to deal with policy and planning and to supervise and coordinate implementation of plans made by relevant agencies in both public and private sectors, to ensure that they are harmonious with existing urban development and the availability of basic infrastructure and social services.

Chapter 4

Regional and Rural Development Administration

An effective administrative system is a key mechanism for the realization of the Eighth Plan's development strategies, particularly those aimed principally at eliminating present income disparities and at decentralizing development opportunities to the regions and rural areas.

The Eighth Plan calls for the existing development administrative system to be restructured and reoriented in line with the key strategy of mobilizing greater popular participation in development. It is crucial that administrative authority for manpower and budgeting is delegated to local authorities, who are better placed to identify and effectively alleviate emerging problems, which will tend to rise as the socio-economic conditions in the Kingdom change.

The government must encourage greater cooperation and participation in development administration by all parties concerned, including government services, private businesses, NGOs and the general public. Their collaboration will lead to greater efficiency in management of public sector resources. In addition, the implementation of development projects at central, regional and local levels will be more consistent with the objective of delegating administrative authority.

The Eighth Plan proposes the following guidelines to achieve this:

1. General Development Administration.

Several major strategies in the Eighth Plan are aimed at facilitating the Plan's translation into action, which involves making individual provinces and provincial groupings the central units in development administration.

1.1 Encourage the formulation of regional economic and social development guidelines and of development plans for provincial groupings, to be used as frameworks for development planning. Crucial factors to be taken into account are the long-term development potentials and desires of local people, and their full participation should be emphasized in order to ensure these potentials and desires are recognized.

1.2 Improve the pattern of provincial development plans to cover all crucial issues in the province and to be responsive to local needs. Development activities should be carried out under an holistic approach and be consistent with plans for the relevant provincial grouping.

1.3 Improve all planning systems to achieve a provincial planning process which focuses on the participation of all stake-holders in formulating development guidelines, supervising development operations and monitoring and evaluating development outcomes.

1.4 Improve existing budgeting and personnel management systems at all levels to achieve greater flexibility. This will lead to effective implementation of national development objectives in line with real conditions and the policy of decentralization of prosperity.

1.5 Upgrade the development evaluation and monitoring system in such a way that it can be applied at all levels, allowing plans and strategies for development administration to be adjusted in response to actual conditions.

1.6 Improve the information system to be used for development administration at all levels along the following lines:

(1) Upgrade the capacities of provincial and district authorities to develop their data systems, particularly relating to data on rural development, disaster prevention and improvement of quality of life.

(2) Improve indicators for economic and social development and upgrading of quality of life, consistent with the new development paradigm for the country set out in the Eighth Plan.

(3) Construct indicators for quality of life and social development of communities, applicable at different operational levels and for different target groups, and which are better suited to actual conditions.

1.7 Enhance the capabilities of local administrative organizations, particularly tambon administrative councils, so that they can more effectively implement the policy of decentralization of prosperity.

(1) The government should act as a supporter to enhance the capabilities of local administrative organizations, and cooperate with them in the elimination of certain problems which it is beyond their present capabilities to deal with independently.

(2) The Master Plan for Local Financial Management and the Master Plan for Monetary and Fiscal Policies for Social Development should be implemented in order to encourage decentralization of the benefits of development to local areas and hasten local fiscal reform, particularly the collection of taxes based on actual circumstances. Under this reform, local administrative organizations should gain sufficient revenue to finance the economic and social development of their respective communities.

(3) Support should be provided to local administrative organizations in terms of personnel, budget and necessary equipment, so as to facilitate implementation of the policy of decentralization of prosperity.

1.8 Formulate integrated systems, mechanisms and operational practices for planning, coordination and budget administration involving relevant agencies, from tambon administrative organizations to regional and central organizations. Their development operations should be consistent and mutually enhancing.

1.9 Promote multi-lateralism in the composition of the national committee in charge of overseeing the policy of decentralization of prosperity.

1.10 Upgrade the potentials of the relevant agencies in the development administration to safeguard, reorganize and develop rural communities in border and mountainous regions in order that they become permanent settlements, in line with those communities' economic potentials. Administrative organizations along with mechanisms and systems for planning coordination, managing the development database, the construction of indicators, personnel and evaluation and monitoring should all be adjusted accordingly.

2. Adjustment of Operational Procedures Towards Multi-lateralism, Involving the Public Sector, Private Sector, NGOs and the General Public.

The multi-lateral approach will allow development management that is more responsive and relevant to communities' actual needs. Multi-lateral operations should start at the provincial level, particularly with provincial civic assemblies - public assemblies for the purpose of formulating development plans and guidelines for the province. If proven effective, this approach should then be extended down to the district and sub-district levels, or even up to regional and national levels.

The establishment of provincial civic assemblies should be voluntary. However, they should have legal status and the acknowledgment of other parties in society. The following guidelines are aimed at achieving this:

2.1 The government should designate policies to support the establishment of provincial communities, based on a multi-lateral approach.

2.2 Support should be provided for provincial civic assemblies in terms of budget and coordination.

PART V

DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS TO FOSTER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE

PART V

DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS TO FOSTER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE

The ideal Thai society is one which enables all Thai citizens to realize their full potentials, by creating a supportive social environment and increasing the development potentials of the regions and rural areas through judicious utilization of natural resources and sound environmental management. In order to achieve this vision, it is vital for Thailand to develop a strong, stable economy which is able to compete in changing world markets.

This economic development, if it is to be consistent with the new directions in development outlined in the Eighth Plan, must recognize individuals as more than mere factors in production. All Thais should have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from sound and sustainable economic development. Wherever possible, every part of the country should develop a healthy economic base in line with its true potential, and new development opportunities should be opened up. Science and technology should be applied to increase people's skills and knowledge, and to create a strong and balanced production sector. Infrastructure networks must also be developed, both to enhance the efficiency of production and to boost quality of life.

Chapter 1

Objectives, Targets and Strategies

In order to achieve economic development which promotes human development and improved quality of life, while laying the foundations for sustainable development and maintaining international competitiveness, the Eighth Plan sets the following objectives and targets:

1. Objectives.

1.1 To decentralize economic development to local level. All social groups should have their potential for self development enhanced through be provided with greater opportunities for participation in the development process and for sharing in the benefits of economic growth and infrastructure development.

1.2 To develop a strong, stable production base able to generate employment and income without depleting natural resources or causing social conflict.

1.3 To develop a national economy able to sustain stable and healthy growth.

1.4 To develop economic management systems responsive to economic, social and political change, both domestic and international.

2. Targets.

2.1 For the economic development of each area according to its potential, in order to generate new economic opportunities and improve quality of life.

(1) Develop cooperative provincial groupings in the regions, particularly border areas, including those which have potential as economic bridges linking Thailand with neighbouring countries.

(2) Develop the special economic areas: the Eastern Seaboard as an alternative comprehensive economic base to the Bangkok Metropolitan Region, and the Southern Seaboard as an economic base for the future.

(3) Develop areas in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region which can provide a link with the Eastern Seaboard, the Upper Central sub-region and the Western sub-region.

2.2 For the development of an efficient production base which generates increased employment opportunities.

(1) Develop agro-industry and community industry which support and create local production networks. Agro-industry and agro-processing should be developed to play a more important role in domestic production, generating increased income and employment in the agricultural sector.

(2) Provide infrastructure services to support restructuring in agricultural production, including water sources and appropriately located central markets for agricultural products.

(3) Make Thailand a principal tourism centre in the Southeast Asian region. The number of tourists coming from abroad should increase by not less than seven per cent per year during the Eighth Plan period, while the income generated from them should increase by not less than 15 per cent per year over the same period. Also, the number of domestic tourists should increase by not less than three per cent per year during this period.

(4) Increase the proportion of GDP spent on research and development to 0.75 per cent by increasing government research and development expenditure to 2.0 per cent of the annual budget.

(5) Increase the quantity and quality of basic infrastructure services to support expansion of the production base and better quality of life.

(6) Develop an adequate energy supply and improve the service provided by energy utilities in order to increase the efficiency of domestic production and improve quality of life.

2.3 For the maintenance of economic stability.

(1) Maintain economic stability according to the following targets:

(1.1) An average annual inflation rate of 4.5 per cent.

(1.2) The gradual reduction of the trade and current account deficits to 3.9 and 3.4 per cent of GDP respectively in the last year of the Plan.

(1.3) An average annual economic growth of eight per cent per year, in order to provide adequate employment opportunities for the labour force, which is expected to reach 34 million in the last year of the Plan.

(2) Boost domestic saving and increase saving opportunities in order that household savings increase to 10 per cent of GDP by the end of the Eighth Plan period.

3. Strategies for the Development of Economic Competitiveness.

In order to achieve the objectives and targets for economic development outlined above, the Eighth Plan proposes the following strategies:

3.1 Develop local economies.

3.2 Create a production base able to respond appropriately to changes in world markets.

3.3 Enhance economic strength and stability.

Chapter 2

Development of Local Economies

In order to decentralize economic growth to local areas, it is vital to increase the capabilities of local people and communities to respond to social and economic change. This will be achieved through improving existing and future production bases in order to create new economic opportunities, jobs and employment consistent with local areas' potentials, and through the proper management of natural resources and environments to ensure development is sustainable.

It is essential that the development of area economies is consistent with local geo-economic advantages, comprehensive and autonomous management is developed, and that economic activities are fostered which support human development and strengthen local communities. The urban poor and residents of overcrowded communities must be taken care of, in order that they will have opportunities for self-development in the future.

1. Area Management for the Development of Local Economies.

1.1 Develop provincial groupings with shared geo-economic potentials, including natural resources and production structures, giving local people opportunities to participate in planning and management from the outset.

1.2 Support the role of the private sector in the development of each area by adjusting investment incentive policy to give priority to area-specific factors and consistency with area development plans in the consideration of investment promotion.

1.3 Extend the provision of social infrastructure services - particularly educational - to regional and rural areas, making sure they are of a similar standards to those in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region. This is intended to improve quality of life, deter migration to big cities, and encourage skilled and knowledgeable people to move to the regions.

1.4 Develop transport infrastructure networks which integrate land, sea and air transportation, to support the development of urban and rural communities.

1.5 Strengthen the urban community base, both those which are established and those which are emerging in new provincial groupings, the

Bangkok Metropolitan Region, regional growth centres, border towns, new economic zones and new communities.

1.6 Establish a planning and coordination system for holistic development by:

(1) Supporting the spread of development from cities which are regional community centres for surrounding communities. Develop cities and communities with urban and basic utilities planning, preventing and controlling pollution, and providing economic and social infrastructure services and infrastructure networks to connect region-central cities to surrounding communities and others cities in the region.

(2) Allocating public development resources according to the coordinated economic and social development plans of each provincial grouping. Encourage participation by the private sector, NGOs and community organizations in development.

(3) Upgrading the planning, management and budgeting capabilities of community organizations at all levels, for them to coordinate their own development efforts with those of the private sector and NGOs, both inside and outside the community.

2. Area and Community Development to Boost Economic Potential and Generate Income.

2.1 Develop sub-regional and border areas in order to increase the economic strength and opportunities of the area, city, community and local people. Sub-regional-central cities and border towns which have the potential to be gateways to neighbouring countries and the international market should be strengthened to improve links between domestic economic centres, the countries of Indochina, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, and the international market. This will support the development of the country's production base.

(1) The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Greater Triangle. Cooperation with Malaysia and Indonesia in trade, investment, energy and infrastructure networks can support the development of links between cities and communities in the Southern region, as well as benefiting the Upper Southern sub-region under the Southern Seaboard Development Plan.

(2) The Mekong Basin Sub-regional Cooperation: Cooperation between Thailand, Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and China's Yunnan province can generate new employment opportunities in the Northern, Northeastern, Eastern and Western regions. The economic development of the relevant sub-regional and provincial groupings should

lead to the spread of economic development to region-central cities and border towns, and in turn the benefits of development should reach the surrounding areas. Areas with high potential for economic cooperation with neighbouring countries in investment, trade, tourism and infrastructure networks should also be developed.

(3) Sub-continental Economic Cooperation: An infrastructure network should be developed along the Andaman coastal area, in order to take advantage of the Sub-continental Economic Cooperation involving Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar, in trade, industry, energy and in air and sea transportation. The Andaman coastal area will serve as an economic base for the country's Southern and Western sub-region.

2.2 Develop the Eastern Seaboard area to its full capacity and expedite preparation for the relocation of economic activities and people to the area from the Bangkok Metropolitan Region and other cities. At the same time, the Eastern Seaboard should become an international gateway, with air links in addition to established maritime links.

(1) Further development of existing transportation networks:

(1.1) Develop a new road network connecting the Eastern Seaboard with the Lower Northeastern sub-region and the countries of Indochina. Build secondary routes which provide access to new areas that have the potential to be developed into industrial zones or new communities and to link those areas with Laem Chabang and Mab Ta Phut sea ports.

(1.2) Ensure there is investment in the high-speed train system in order to improve the quality of life of people travelling between the Bangkok Metropolitan Area, the planned second Bangkok international airport and communities in the Eastern Seaboard area.

(2) Support the establishment of small and medium-scale industrial estates/zones in suitable parts of the inner area of the Eastern Seaboard, in order to stimulate investment and generate employment.

(3) Develop the commercial ports of the Eastern Seaboard area into the country's main port, replacing Klong Toey, during the Eighth Plan period. Complete Phases 3 and 4 of the Mab Ta Phut port development within the five years following the end of the Eighth Plan period, in order that it can serve as an economic base and provide employment for local people. The area's natural environment must be protected and conserved in the process.

(4) Increase the level of commercial utilization of U Ta Phao Airport, and support private sector participation in developing related businesses.

(5) Develop water resources, production and distribution systems in the Eastern Seaboard region in order to guarantee adequate capacity and quality to meet the demands of both community and industrial use. At the same time, encourage greater private sector participation in the local water business.

(6) Designate areas for the development of social infrastructure such as education, health and training. At the same time, develop public utilities in order that people who move to work or live in the Eastern Seaboard area receive the full benefits of development.

(7) Restructure the management system for development of the Eastern Seaboard region to make it more flexible and efficient, with the aim of establishing a permanent and autonomous agency responsible for overseeing planning, development and administration in the area.

(8) Develop systems to support popular participation in government development work planning and in monitoring the progress of development projects.

2.3 Development of the Southern Seaboard will increase the country's capacity for sea transportation, using the geo-economic advantages of the Southern region to develop an economic land-bridge, an efficient transportation system connecting the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. This will open up a new economic gateway to the Indian Ocean and so increase Thailand's potential for becoming an economic centre in East and South Asia.

(1) Develop principal infrastructure networks, industrial estates, sea ports and communities, using proper land-use planning and natural resource and environmental management, in order to support industrial investment.

(1.1) Initiate the development of deep-sea ports at appropriate sites on both eastern and western coasts of the Southern region. Create a transportation network linking ports on the two coasts which can be used to carry commodities between the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand and which will spread economic growth to the Southern region.

(1.2) Develop a transportation network comprising roads, railways and oil pipelines, including a main route connecting the

Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand along with a secondary road network, which is consistent with urban plans.

(2) Support private sector investment in oil refineries, petroleum, petrochemical and other related industries and infrastructure development.

(3) Coordinate with local private sectors over land procurement and the development of water resources, in order to support Southern Seaboard development in both the short and long terms.

(4) Establish strict natural resource and environmental management systems to support tourist development, particularly for the rehabilitation of tourist areas such as Krabi Bay, Phang Nga, Phuket and the sea around Samui Island.

(5) Establish a management system for the Southern region's coastal areas, by creating an independent body to oversee development, administration and implementation, and allow local people and communities to participate in planning public development work and monitoring the progress of development projects.

(6) Designate areas for the development of social infrastructure such as education, health and training; at the same time, develop public utilities in order for local people to receive the full benefits of development.

2.4 Development of the Western Seaboard has the potential to create an additional base for economic activity decentralized from the Bangkok Metropolitan Region during and beyond the Eighth Plan period. It will be achieved by initiating the development of transportation routes to the Andaman Sea coast of Myanmar. Industries using natural gas from Myanmar should be developed in the upper part of the area, while the private sector should be supported in developing a comprehensive steel industry and deep-sea port in the lower part.

(1) Draw up a development master plan for development of the Western Seaboard, emphasizing land utilization and management of natural resources and environments consistent with the appropriate economic role of each part of the area.

(2) Accelerate the preparation of an implementation plan for the development of basic infrastructure - for example water, roads, electricity and ports - in order to encourage investment which will bring new industry into the area.

(3) Carry out feasibility and suitability studies of various areas along the Thailand-Myanmar border which could be developed to provide access to the Andaman Sea.

(4) Establish a management system for development of the Western Seaboard which will be responsible for coordinating and overseeing the efficient implementation of development plans in the area.

2.5 Development of the Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR) must be geared towards linking the BMR, the Eastern Seaboard, the Upper Central sub-region and the Western sub-region mutually supportive economic bases. This will be done by establishing guidelines for the expansion of the BMR, coordinating consistent land utilization and investment in infrastructure networks.

(1) Manage the orderly expansion of the BMR into an efficient centre of business, finance, trade and information.

(1.1) Central Bangkok communities: Develop and rehabilitate the Ratanakosin Island area according to the Ratanakosin Island Master Plan, by rehabilitating old and deteriorating communities and overseeing the well organized construction and expansion of business and residential areas in order to preserve good community environments.

(1.2) Suburban Bangkok communities: Draw up a mass transportation system development plan which effectively connects suburban communities to those in the city centre. Install basic infrastructure services meeting national standards, to support the development of residential areas, a government centre and well managed commercial centres to accommodate increased economic activity in suburban Bangkok and reduce congestion in central Bangkok.

(1.3) New communities in outer Bangkok which have potential to draw investment and economic activities from inner Bangkok. Develop basic infrastructure services which meet international standards and develop environments which promote quality of life.

(2) Systematically develop communities in the inner Eastern Seaboard area, particularly around road junctions and train stations, emphasizing careful planning of land use, basic infrastructure networks and social infrastructure services.

(3) Develop communities in the Upper Central and Western sub-regions, designating separate residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural zones in each province in such a way that industry and other activities do not adversely affect the environment.

(4) Address traffic problems in the Bangkok Metropolitan Area.

(4.1) Give top priority to developing the electric train mass transit system, and prepare to extend the system to suburban Bangkok in order to reduce reliance on private cars in commuting to and from Bangkok.

(4.2) Use the electric train system to support the systematic development of communities in suburban Bangkok, new towns and commercial centres, in order to reduce congestion in Bangkok and raise quality of life.

(4.3) Build a central station in Bangkok which connects the electric train system with other modes of transportation, along with providing other facilities which help to make the station convenient in terms of use and access.

(4.4) Support the relocation of government and private agencies' economic activities which generate traffic congestion to designated areas outside the Bangkok Metropolitan Area. In addition, support the development of commercial centres and residential zone in those areas.

(4.5) Reorganize the traffic system so as to increase the efficiency of road and vehicle use, particularly in business districts and suburban areas. In addition, apply advanced technologies - particularly telecommunications and information technology - in traffic management. Strictly enforce traffic laws and organize campaigns by the public, the private sector and NGOs to reinforce drivers' sense of moral obligation strictly to obey traffic laws.

(4.6) Construct road networks to bypass the Bangkok Metropolitan Area, and connect them with the existing ring road, in order to reduce traffic congestion in the capital.

(5) Draw up guidelines for efficient land use planning.

(5.1) Designate areas to be used for managing water flow in the rainy season in order to alleviate flooding on the east and west banks of the Chao Phra Ya river from Ang Thong to Samut Prakarn provinces.

(5.2) Designate areas of low population density along community borders, which can be used for flood management, and particularly to prevent flooding in urban areas.

(5.3) Designate cultural preservation areas and green areas for the preservation of heritage sites and to increase the number of public parks.

(5.4) The public sector should act as a leader in urban rehabilitation by establishing public parks and constructing roads on under-utilized public land.

(6) Coordinate the efforts of the public and private sector in organizing and managing urban planning, and support the playing of a major role in developing a systematic budgeting process for local authorities.

3. Seek to Create Complete Communities, in which Local Residents are Leaders in Planning and Management.

3.1 Support the establishment of systems and organizations at the local level which serve as central agencies coordinating the formulation of integrated urban plans, specific community plans and a master plan for community development in the border areas.

3.2 Support the construction of transportation systems linking rural areas with communities which are local centres of activity.

3.3 Equally apportion public lands in urban areas, particularly unutilized land, for economic activities and economic infrastructure of local communities.

4. Conserve the Environment and Solve Environmental Problems.

4.1 Draw up an environmental master plan and implementation plan which address both short and long term environmental problems according to their level of priority. Draw up an investment plan to provide effective solutions to environmental problems and developing urban environments.

4.2 Support private sector investment in the solution of environmental problems and the development of urban environments, by providing investment incentives for private sector activity related to the control and prevention of pollution, and provide supporting infrastructure to reduce the cost of investment.

4.3 Consider holding public hearings during the planning of environmental conservation and protection zones and public mega-projects which have a direct or indirect impact on the public, in order to generate better public understanding and increased popular participation, and to guarantee fairness to all stake-holders.

4.4 Prepare for the prevention and control of environmental problems resulting from the expansion of urban communities in regional and border areas, by establishing guidelines for the efficient control of land use and instituting legal measures for pollution control and cultural and environmental conservation.

4.5 Undertake environmental improvements in, and expand social infrastructure services to, overcrowded communities. Disseminate knowledge about the prevention of urban-related ailments such as AIDS and medical problems resulting from pollution.

5. Address the Problems of Overcrowded Communities and Improve Quality of Life of the Urban Poor.

In order to provide new opportunities for communities and the urban poor and to address problems resulting from rapid economic growth, it is necessary to improve the quality of life of poor people living in the economic centres by improving housing, employment opportunities, income, social infrastructure services and public utilities in such a way that the communities and the urban poor can develop sustainable self-reliance.

5.1 Establish an autonomous national committee to coordinate the development of urban communities, which is responsible for considering policy and coordinating and regulating budgeting and implementation for development of overcrowded communities and the quality of life of the urban poor. This committee should be established according to the procedure of the Office of the Prime Minister, and should comprise representatives of all parties involved. It should have close cooperation with various local communities.

5.2 Enlarge the public's role in solving the problems of overcrowded communities and the urban poor.

(1) Support the establishment of an urban community development fund, for example by providing financial support. This fund would be used in the solution of various problems related to housing, employment, environment, health, sanitation and relocation of communities, in such a way that efforts to solve the problems and improve the conditions of overcrowded communities and the urban poor can be widely, comprehensively and continuously implemented.

(2) Support the drafting of legislation relating to overcrowded communities, and the amendment of existing legislation which impedes improvement of these communities and the circumstances of the urban poor. In addition, the budgeting process should be readjusted to make allocation of funds for communities more effective.

(3) Draw up plans for the development of appropriate housing for overcrowded communities, industrial labourers and the urban poor, and to ensure new overcrowded communities do not appear. Residents should be allowed to negotiate with landowners and state agencies in the preparation of these plans. Consider developing under-utilized public land for balanced use between economic activities and housing for the urban poor.

(4) Encourage ownership of housing among low income earners, using taxation measures such as increasing the deductible allowance for interest payments on housing loans in the calculation of the personal income tax of low income taxpayers.

5.3 Increase the capability of overcrowded communities to participate in development.

(1) Raise the financial management knowledge and skills of community residents, especially community savings groups, in order that they can successfully access and mobilize funds from the public sector, the private sector and the financial system for community, employment and housing development.

(2) Support community development by fostering community leaders and youth leaders who are committed to the community's social and environmental development and who encourage cooperation between community residents and local agencies.

5.4 Establish an arbitration system to guide organizations and agencies involved in settling disputes between land owners and community residents, in order to ensure such disputes are resolved in a peaceful and orderly fashion. This should include recording the details of disputes for later study, and skills-training in conflict management.

Chapter 3

Development of the Production Base in Preparation for Changes in Global Markets

Changes in the domestic economy and international markets - particularly the liberalization of trade and services, and new international trading rules and practices - will require changes in the Kingdom's production and trade structure. In order to strengthen the production base in the long term, it is important that the agricultural sector maintains its leading role, so that Thailand's potential as a food producer, feeding its own population and being a major exporter of agricultural products, can increase. Links between the agricultural, manufacturing and service sectors should be strengthened through the development of technology which supports efficient - instead of excessive - use of natural resources and factors of production. Basic infrastructure must be developed in order to increase efficiency in production and improve quality of life.

1. Strengthening of the Production Base in Preparation for Changes in World Markets.

1.1 Building a strong production base.

(1) Restructure agricultural production and agro- processing, by:

(1.1) Adjusting the patterns of land use in the agricultural sector in order to diversify agricultural production, particularly focussing on rice plantations, where other crops should be introduced. This will involve the provision of an adequate number of small and medium water sources in each area.

(1.2) Supporting an increase in commercial forestry by communities and private businesss, in order to meet the demand for domestic use, including from the wood-processing industry and other industries which use wood as a raw material.

(1.3) Support agro-industry and agro-processing by setting up agricultural zones for the production of raw materials to supply manufacturing industry. The location of the zones must be consistent with the true potentials of local areas. Tax and financial incentives in the form of soft loans should be granted for agro-processing plants located within the zones.

(2) Restructure the industrial and service sectors.

(2.1) Strengthen the industrial base by developing and promoting investment in supporting industries, particularly the automobile, electrical appliances and electronics, machinery and telecommunications products industries. Establish specialized industrial zones for such supporting industries, which will also include related service activities and duty-free trade.

(2.2) Upgrade capability in science and industrial technology through: increasing efficiency in the adoption and adaptation of production technology; providing investment promotion and both tax and financial incentives for developing and improving production technology; creating information systems and encouraging the dissemination of information about progress in production technology between various groups of producers; and stimulating transfer of technology to small and medium scale industries.

(2.3) Develop services and protection for intellectual property rights to generate greater confidence among the owners of such rights. Stimulate domestic technological innovation and increase the export of commodities using those intellectual properties in the production process to both new and traditional markets.

(3) Improve labour efficiency and reorganize the labour system.

(3.1) Upgrade the capabilities of farmers and workers in the agricultural, manufacturing and service sectors to adapt to new production technologies, by providing training loans and more training courses, using tax incentives to encourage labour training in the private sector, and setting up labour training institutes for specific industries.

(3.2) Establish a management system for accommodating illegal foreign labourers in the workforce without having negative effects on national security or the employment and earning prospects of Thai labourers.

(3.3) Expand the roles of, and raise the level of participation by, employees, employers and various related organizations in developing systems for labour relations, welfare, labour protection, determination of wages and compensation, social security and workplace health and safety.

(3.4) Support the development of professional and vocational skills, particularly marketing and management skills, for workers

in informal sectors, especially subcontractors working at home. Give these workers financial assistance and access to necessary information, in order to enable these workers to develop viable and competitive businesses. In addition, support the establishment of groups, organizations and coordinating networks between related agencies in order to give these workers systematic support and protection.

(4) Support the participation of community organizations in creating a strong production base by: amending legislation to endorse and facilitate the exercise of community rights; using fiscal and tax measures to stimulate the establishment of community organizations; and supporting information exchange, training and the participation of the business sector in strengthening communities.

1.2 Ensure the demands of production and the need to conserve natural resources and environments are balanced.

(1) Support the application by farmers of sustainable and environmentally friendly methods in agriculture and agro-processing. This will reduce obstacles to the export of agricultural products in the long term, particularly the export of processed food products and consumer goods such as herbal and organic products and traditional medicines.

(2) Promote industries with low environmental impact, by giving special support to industries which apply the "reduce-reuse-recycle" principle.

(3) Promote the production and use of environmentally friendly products by endorsing environmental standard ISO 14000.

(4) Promote product labelling which includes information about environmental protection and conservation, in order to encourage the production of environmentally friendly products.

(5) Promote, through public information campaigns and other methods, the consumption of environmentally friendly products such as organic foods.

(6) Set and collect from industries and communities fees for pollution treatment which reflect environmental costs, in order to reduce the excessive utilization of natural resources. Consider levying environmental taxes from polluters and giving tax incentives for companies which use environmentally friendly technologies.

(7) Control industrial pollution by using an environmental auditing system which facilitates efficient control and protection.

(8) Establish an industrial environment management system by providing incentives for the setting up of industrial waste treatment plants and issuing regulations on waste treatment.

(9) Widely and equitably enforce industrial environmental law by checking on and punishing law-breakers and increasing popular participation in monitoring industry.

(10) Amend existing legislation to require state enterprises and joint ventures undertaking industrial and service development projects which potentially create pollution and have negative impacts on local communities, such as chemical plants, to organize public hearings after environmental impact studies have been made, and make this an important criterion for project approval.

1.3 Preparation for changes in world markets.

(1) Development of product standards and quality.

(1.1) Develop commodity standards, together with necessary related organizations and testing mechanisms, which meet international standards and are internationally accepted, by:

a. The establishment by the public sector of industrial product standards and health standards for agricultural products, to be used by agricultural producers as guidelines to bring their products in line with international standards.

b. Giving official endorsement to domestic and international organizations which have knowledge and experience in product and quality certification according to ISO 9000, to enable them to rapidly expand their operations.

c. Developing an efficient public testing mechanism which is internationally accepted in order to reduce costs to exporters, along with giving support to the private sector for the establishment of standards institutes to test the quality of products for export.

(1.2) Determine a clear and sound negotiating platform for the country to address any new regulations or requirements in international trade, by reviewing current Thai legislation on product standards and health and hygiene measures. Where necessary, this legislation should be amended to be consistent with international standards and practices.

(2) Preparing the agricultural, industrial and service sectors.

(2.1) Cooperate with neighbouring countries with potential in agricultural production for mutual trade benefit.

(2.2) Draw up a preparation plan for the agricultural sector in order to meet changes in world markets for agricultural products, by:

a. Developing standards and quality for agricultural products and their packaging for which Thailand has the potential to expand its market as a result of trade liberalization in different regions of the world. This should be achieved by supporting the development of technology and factors of production necessary for expanding their production and increasing competitiveness under the framework of the GATT rules.

b. Drawing up a plan for increasing productivity in agricultural products which have, but are failing to realize, the potential to match Thailand's competitors, by various means such as moving production to more appropriate areas.

c. Drawing up a plan to convert land now used to produce crops which are no longer competitive in world markets to the production of crops which have a more promising future; the plan should incorporate both production and marketing aspects.

(2.3) Reduce the protection of domestic industry, step by step, in line with GATT agreements and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Free Trade Area agreement. Establish a fund to support industrial conversion in sectors which are adversely affected by trade liberalization.

(2.4) Expand cooperation in the protection of intellectual property rights with the countries in the Mekong Basin sub-region, ASEAN and other regions, in order to expand the coverage of protection for Thai originators and to prepare Thailand to become a centre for intellectual property rights in the region.

(3) Upgrade the capabilities of the service sector.

(3.1) Develop the quality of tourist attractions through cooperation between the public sector, the private sector and communities, by maintaining historical national identity, natural beauty, cleanliness and safety, and developing adequate tourism facilities.

(3.2) Encourage desirable groups of foreign tourists to extend their average lengths of stay in Thailand, and increase the number of

establishments and sites to attract tourist spending. At the same time, promote domestic tourism and awareness among the Thai people of what constitutes being a desirable tourist.

(3.3) Cooperate with the other ASEAN and Indochinese countries to develop integrated tourism and apply integrated marketing strategies.

(3.4) Develop transport and infrastructure networks to connect centres of tourism in each region of the country with each other, with other cities and with neighbouring countries.

(3.5) Prepare the insurance industry for the liberalization of insurance services and promote its potential as a source of domestic savings and support for the expansion of trade and investment, by:

a. Encouraging insurance companies to increase capital so that life insurance companies maintain capital funds of not less than four per cent of the life insurance reserve, and non-life insurance companies maintain capital funds of not less than 20 per cent of net receipts of insurance fees by the last year of the Eighth Plan.

b. Developing the quality of insurance services to be consistent with international standards and to protect customers.

c. Encouraging the insurance industry to increase the level of self-regulation, and at the same time relaxing unnecessary public controls.

(3.6) Public financial institutions should find financial sources with appropriate interest rates for Thai contractors, in order to help in reducing the contractors' costs and help them to compete in the construction industry internationally.

2. Development of Science and Technology in Order to Create a Foundation for Sustainable Development.

The Eighth Plan proposes the following guidelines for the utilization of science and technology as instruments in the realization of sustainable economic growth, to help the efficient use of limited factors of production, to increase skills and knowledge, and to promote the conservation of a good environment suitable to a high quality of life:

2.1 Increase capability in technology transfer.

(1) Promote technological cooperation with foreign countries and promote investment by foreign companies in the following activities, in order to ensure the transfer technology to the Thai people: production which requires advanced technology; research and development; and the establish of technological training institutes in fields which are important for the country.

(2) Encourage the import of expertise alongside the import of high technology machinery in order to support learning and development of technology in Thailand. In addition, encourage public investment projects or concessionary projects to play a role in transferring technology to the Thai people.

(3) Encourage experts and highly qualified personnel from abroad, both foreign and Thais living overseas, to work in research and academic projects in Thailand, by revising rules and regulations so as to facilitate their passage through the processes of immigration and obtaining permits for work in both public and private sectors.

(4) Develop the capabilities of, and opportunities for, Thai consultant firms, by supporting their involvement in important public projects for which overseas consultants have been hired.

(5) Develop information networks linking domestic and international sources of technology, using science and technology consultants and Thai professional associations abroad.

(6) Support the formation, by science and technology institutes and academic institutes in Bangkok and other regions, of networks to facilitate advancement in technological development and to disseminate widely applications of technology for beneficial uses.

2.2 Develop the science and technology infrastructure.

(1) Foster adequate human resources in the science and technology field, particularly engineers, scientists, technicians and researchers, in order to create a foundation for indigenous technological development.

(2) Develop compatible information databases and science and technology information networks covering and linking regional and local areas, with special emphasis on information related to research work, patents and human resources in the science and technology field.

(3) Improve the efficiency of public services in analysis, testing and certifying for quality standards and in examining measurement tools. Support private sector investment in these areas to expand services and increase competition. Arrange training and disseminate knowledge related to quality standards certification (ISO 9000) and environmental management standards (ISO 14000).

(4) Establish a national metrology body to take responsibility for, and coordinate work with other agencies related to, acquiring, maintaining and developing standards of scientific measurement, and establish a testing network to facilitate comparison of results with national and international standards.

(5) Develop academic and professional associations in science and technology which can play a role in disseminating knowledge and academic opinion and monitoring and examining quality, and can give suggestions related to career progression and remuneration of science and technology personnel.

(6) Develop mechanisms for coordinating, acquiring, utilizing, promoting and developing step by step advanced and expensive technologies which have more potential usages, such as in the aerospace field, to achieve self-reliance.

2.3 Increase efficiency in research and technology development.

(1) Support the development of technologies which can play a significant role in the enhancement of national economic competitiveness.

(1.1) Develop crop and animal breeds with high resistance and yields, and develop biological products for agricultural and medical uses. Control the quality, packaging and processing of products in order to increase the international competitiveness of agricultural production and agro-industry.

(1.2) Transfer production and specific industrial management technologies, the use of clean technology and the design and development of products and parts, in order to boost the competitiveness of industrial production.

(1.3) Support the widespread use of information technology linking public and private agencies. In addition, develop information sources and media which are appropriate for each type of user, in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of public sector services and management, and to increase opportunities for the public to obtain relevant information.

(1.4) Develop technologies related to the conservation of energy and alternative energy sources, waste management and recycling of waste, in order to promote environmental conservation.

(2) Support private research through tax incentives and monetary measures, and improving the management of science and technology support funds to make them more pro-active and to ensure that they are used to support progressive strategies.

(3) Restructure the public research and development system to be more conducive to increasing economic competitiveness and supporting private sector activities.

(3.1) Draw up a comprehensive working plan for research and development, to ensure problems are solved and to upgrade knowledge and capability in specific target technologies. User requirements should be taken as the principal criterion, and implementation networks including public and private agencies, as well as mechanisms for utilizing outputs, should be created on that basis.

(3.2) Develop public research institutes as centres of excellence for knowledge related to technological development which satisfies domestic needs, giving research services and technological advice to the public sector and playing an important role in producing new, high quality researchers. Cooperate with the private sector in establishing specific research institutes where there is an identified need.

(3.3) Promote advanced academic institutes in all regions, to be centres for the collection and study of indigenous knowledge and local technological needs, and for the development of appropriate technology in cooperation with academic and research institutes in the central region.

2.4 Increase the efficiency of science and technology management by drawing up a cohesive science and technology plan, and establishing mechanisms for the coordination of work between related agencies which are acceptable to all sides in order to achieve effective implementation.

3. Development of Infrastructure in Order to Improve Quality of Life and Efficiency in Production.

3.1 Develop telecommunications networks and information technology to make Thailand a regional centre.

(1) Implement telecommunications and information technology liberalization plans consistent with the demands of rapid

technological change, in order to provide adequate and widely available quality services at competitive and fair prices.

(2) Develop telecommunications and information networks in key economic zones and region-central cities to connect with national networks, in order to create equality in access to education and public telecommunications systems.

(3) Develop telecommunications networks and services to support the education and health-care systems and other public services.

(4) Improve the reliability and speed of the public postal service; invest in improvements in postal technology; improve postal service management; and set service charges at commercially appropriate rates, in order that the service can become self-financing.

(5) Coordinate efforts between the public and private sectors in developing the telecommunications industry by supporting research and development activities and developing the size and quality of the telecommunications field's human resource base. In addition, support skills development for information technology personnel at all levels.

(6) Establish non-partisan and flexible mechanisms at the national level to regulate and monitor telecommunications services, in order to promote increased efficiency, quality of services and standards consistent with technological progress, and set service fees which are fair to both users and providers. This is in order to generate opportunities for the private sector to invest in and develop the telecommunications business to its full potential and to increase access for people in rural areas to modern telecommunications networks similar to that available to the urban population.

(7) Amend legislation related to the telecommunications industry in order to open it up to private sector participation and investment, allowing free competition in the provision of services, so that quality of service and appropriateness of fees, instead of potential revenue for the government, are the main criteria in decision-making. In addition, draft legislation which facilitates the use of information technology for economic and social development.

3.2 Develop air transportation to make Thailand a regional transportation centre.

(1) During the Eighth Plan period, complete the construction of the second international airport in Bangkok and the development of a transportation network which provides convenient connections with major cities, so that the new airport can become a regional air hub.

(2) Coordinate public and private efforts in promoting the commercial use of U Ta Phao Airport.

(3) Support the participation of the private sector in setting up more national airlines in order to increase the efficiency of air transportation services. This can be achieved partly through planning and promoting the opening of new air transportation routes for both public and private sector operation, connecting major cities in Thailand and neighbouring countries.

(4) Develop new domestic airports as necessary and appropriate, and develop land transportation networks linking airports with large communities nearby, in order to enable provincial groupings to utilize the airports fully.

(5) Increase efficiency in services for passengers going through the airports, to improve convenience and bring them in line with international standards.

(6) Coordinate public and private efforts in developing related economic activities which would support Thailand's becoming a regional air transport hub, such as tourism, international conferences and international sporting events.

3.3 Develop land transportation to improve connections with other transportation modes and to assist economic activity in various areas.

(1) Formulate a 20-year plan for development of the inter-city network of motorways and special expressways, with fully controlled access. Set user fees systematically, revenue from which can be used to fund further investment in expanding the network. Allow the private sector to participate in investment, and consider the feasibility of setting up a special development fund.

(2) Develop transportation routes running east to west, to link economic centres and increase the potential of areas along the route as a result of the development of economic cooperation with neighbouring countries on both sides.

(3) Support the creation of a comprehensive plan to develop road and rail networks connecting airports and sea ports in order to transport conveniently, quickly and efficiently commodities and passengers to and from airports, sea ports, railway stations and cargo terminals.

(4) Coordinate public and private efforts to develop rail transportation as one of the principal modes of transportation in the

Kingdom. Use rail transportation to support the development of specific use zones, urban areas and urban communities. Draw up a working plan for the extension of the rail network to connect with those of neighbouring countries for mutual benefit.

3.4 Develop domestic water and international maritime transportation to their full potential by coordinating public and private sector efforts, according to the following guidelines.

(1) Develop more sea ports in areas with the necessary potential, in order to create networks of land, sea and air transportation, particularly carrying sea cargo to the main sea ports on the Eastern Seaboard.

(2) Develop maritime industry.

(2.1) Increase the capacity of maritime transportation services, particularly international consumer freight, by supporting private sector investment in and operation of sea ports, and by developing the road and rail networks connecting sea ports to inland areas and other networks in neighbouring countries.

(2.2) Develop Thai commercial fleets both quantitatively and qualitatively, in order to increase efficiency and promote modernization, and generate increased capacity for exporting and importing goods and a reduction in reliance on foreign fleets. This should be achieved through supporting joint ventures between Thai and foreign businesses and improving marketing.

(2.3) Encourage the private sector to develop businesses related to maritime industry, such as on-shore services, maritime transportation insurance and ship building and repair industries, by streamlining legal, fiscal and financial mechanisms in order to reduce operational costs such that the businesses are internationally competitive.

(2.4) Develop human resources in maritime industry, both quantitatively and qualitatively. There should be an adequate supply of maritime personnel with skills and knowledge comparable with international standards.

3.5 Develop and acquire sufficient and reliable energy resources, together with promoting efficient energy use, to support the country's production of good and services.

(1) Procure sufficient and reliable sources of quality energy at appropriate prices.

(1.1) Explore and develop petroleum resources, both domestic and through cooperation with neighbouring countries.

(1.2) Explore and develop coal resources. Amend rules in order to remove obstacles and support the role of the private sector, so that the development of coal resources is systematic, efficient and has minimal environmental impact.

(1.3) Pursue dialogue with neighbouring countries, particularly in the Mekong Basin sub-region, leading to cooperation in energy development. In addition, support investment by Thai firms in joint ventures and in energy development overseas.

(1.4) Study appropriate models of monitoring and regulating mechanisms for the use of nuclear power for electricity generation, and seek other types of energy source from abroad, particularly liquefied natural gas, tar and coal.

(1.5) Invest in increasing capability to generate reserved electricity, and improve distribution and sales systems in order to increase the reliability of electricity networks nationwide, particularly in industrial zones and the new economic zones. Install underground power lines in Bangkok and other major cities.

(2) Promote efficient and economic energy use, using price incentives as the main instrument and supporting it with complementary measures such as public information campaigns, regulatory measures and other incentives, in order to reduce the burden of investment in electricity generation.

(2.1) Establish levels and structures of energy prices which reflect economic costs based on market mechanisms, but also consider fairness to consumers in the case of a monopoly.

(2.2) Support the effective implementation of electricity usage management and energy conservation in line with the Energy Conservation Promotion Law, BE 2535. This should include continuous public information campaigns, aimed at particular groups, about conserving energy.

(2.3) Establish standards for minimum efficiency requirements and testing for the energy consumption of various types of machinery. Require labelling which includes information on energy efficiency, and support the production of highly energy-efficient machinery along with other instruments and materials which assist in the conservation of energy.

(3) Promote private sector involvement and competition in the energy industry, in order to increase efficiency in the use, provision and sale of energy. Reduce the public investment burden and promote private sector participation in energy development.

(4) Prevent and relieve environmental problems resulting from the development and use of energy, and improve safety standards in the energy industry.

(5) Develop legislation and a management mechanism for the energy business, so that the public sector can keep its operations responsive to the changing energy environment and provide consumer protection and security for the public's lives and property.

3.6 Develop and create water sources for agricultural and industrial use, transportation and consumption, in terms of quality, quantity, adequacy and availability.

(1) Develop raw water sources on various scales, consistent with the potential of the basin and eco-system in each area.

(2) Coordinate public and private sector efforts in the management and maintenance of existing water sources for full utilization, particularly for activities related to the agricultural sector.

(3) Support private sector investment in expanding the production and services of waterworks in regional urban areas.

(4) Increase efficiency in water resource management in order to reduce the average water loss ratio to not more than 25 per cent within the Eighth Plan period.

(5) Adjust the water pricing structure by setting different rates according to local production costs and type of use.

(6) Coordinate public and private sector efforts in achieving more efficient water usage, through incentives and pricing measures and through campaigning to raise public awareness of water shortages and good water-saving habits.

(7) Establish a central agency for water resources development responsible for policy-making, coordinating implementation plans, management in the event of water shortage, flood prevention and maintenance of water quality.

4. Increase the Efficiency of the Administrative System, in Order to Create Strong Foundations for Production and to Increase Competitiveness.

4.1 Transform the public sector's role from regulator and operator of production, trade and services to one of coordinator, by allowing greater involvement by the private sector and community organizations.

4.2 Restructure government budgeting procedures for the provision of support for agricultural, industrial and service sector activity. Budgeting should move away from allocations for departmental projects and towards allocations to groups of related agencies according to a programme-oriented approach and consistent with the objectives and guidelines of the Eighth Plan.

4.3 Improve public sector international economic policy management in order to increase efficiency in trade negotiations at all levels.

(1) Restructure those bodies responsible for trade negotiations, in order to achieve unity in policy guidelines for international trade negotiations. Study ways to accommodate and respond to trade measures and their effects. Coordinate the roles of related agencies in order to achieve unity of direction.

(2) Establish a trade negotiation support network between various public agencies, by developing the negotiating skills of personnel in the negotiating agencies, developing international trade and other up-to-date and relevant information systems. In addition, support the participation of the private sector and academics in formulating guidelines for trade negotiations.

4.4 Establish a mechanism to facilitate more efficient public and private sector cooperation in development. Establish a permanent office responsible for public and private sector cooperation, authorized by the Office of the Prime Minister, which will act as a central agency coordinating policies and development plans at national, regional and provincial levels. In addition, promote the strengthening of private sector organizations by supporting integration into a single representative organization responsible for coordinating efforts with the public sector.

4.5 Increase efficiency in the administration of foreign aid resources by establishing a system and mechanism to coordinate policy, working plans, projects and the roles of various domestic agencies, as well as guidelines for cooperation with international organizations. This is in

order to ensure foreign aid resources are used efficiently to achieve the objectives and targets of the Eighth Plan.

4.6 Establish a permanent and autonomous committee responsible for regulating policy, working plans and management of supporting resources in the processed agricultural product industry, agro-industry and community industry.

4.7 Establish a policy committee for the development of the construction industry, responsible for formulating promotion policy and coordinating the operations of related agencies in order to increase the competitiveness of Thai construction companies.

4.8 Redefine the role of the Tourism Authority of Thailand to focus on the development and improvement of domestic tourist attractions and to act as a central agency responsible for finding solutions to problems in the tourist industry. In addition, local agencies should establish mechanisms to develop and conserve natural resources and tourist sites in their areas and mobilize the cooperation of local people and communities in developing the quality of tourist sites.

4.9 Formulate anti-monopoly legislation in order to support free competition under clear and established rules, so that small businesses can compete with larger rivals. In addition, develop a consumer protection system by developing an information disclosure system governing production processes and the attributes of products continuously available to consumers.

5. Develop State Enterprises to Make Their Operations More Efficient and Reduce Public Ownership.

5.1 Enlarge the role of the private sector. This will be achieved by monitoring and evaluating the implementation of privatization plans, so that state enterprises serve as a potential mechanism for strengthening the Thai economy.

5.2 Support the transformation of state enterprises into public companies and Securities Exchange of Thailand-listed companies, in order to attract private investment and to make public funds available for other purposes.

5.3 Establish a permanent central agency responsible for managing policy aimed at enlarging the role of the private sector in state enterprises and at continuously coordinating implementation of the policy by those enterprises. Establish a separate regulatory agency for each sector targeted for increased private sector involvement, in order to ensure fairness

to both public and private sectors and to protect the interests of consumers in terms of pricing, quantity and quality of services.

5.4 Use a performance evaluation system instead of detailed monitoring and evaluation of operations, in order to promote more efficient and flexible functioning by state enterprises.

Chapter 4

Development of Economic Strength and Stability

If economic development is to be of long-term benefit in the development of human potential and improving the quality of life of all Thais, economic policy is needed which generates sustainable and appropriate economic growth, full employment and adequate levels of income. The economy should be stable, support the business sector and enhance quality of life, and should ensure natural resources are utilized in the most efficient and sustainable ways.

1. Generating Economic Stability.

1.1 Maintain price stability through the use of appropriate fiscal and monetary policies, particularly concerning tax and expenditure, which will not trigger inflation.

1.2 Mobilize domestic savings.

(1) Use fiscal and monetary policies to reduce unproductive or excessive private expenditure, while promoting saving habits in the general public.

(2) Use tax measures to encourage saving, particularly household saving. Develop saving instruments and mechanisms, such as varieties of mandatory saving scheme, developing a long-term debt market – particularly in the form of government and public enterprise bonds – and extending the provision of branches of financial institutions in the regions.

(3) Develop a debt market for both public and private debt instruments, to increase the range of alternatives available to businesses and private individuals for saving and capital mobilization.

1.3 Reduce the national current account deficit.

(1) Reduce the trade deficit by developing intermediate and capital goods industries in order to reduce dependence on imports.

(2) Increase the country's capacity to generate income from services to compensate for the trade deficit.

(2.1) Stimulate the Thai people's interest in domestic products and domestic tourism.

(2.2) Increase tax incentives to stimulate private investment in domestic research and development.

(2.3) Provide financial and other incentives for the development of Thai commercial fleets and related businesses.

(2.4) Increase the competitiveness of domestic service industries, particularly insurance, construction and finance, and encourage expansion of business and investment overseas.

2. Increase Economic Efficiency by Developing Financial and Capital Markets to Support Competitiveness in the Agricultural, Industrial and Service Sectors.

2.1 Expand the role and increase the efficiency of the financial system.

(1) Use fiscal and monetary instruments and the capital market to allocate and direct financial resources into highly productive sectors which benefit the overall economy, increase manpower productivity and the efficient utilization of natural resources.

(2) Increase the number of both domestic and foreign financial institutions operating in Thailand, in order to increase competition and to prepare Thailand to become a regional financial centre.

(3) Expand the range of business operations open to financial institutions, in line with international practices.

(4) Support the participation of financial institutions and the financial system in the redistribution of economic growth to regional areas.

(5) Support human resource development in private financial sectors through increased training and development of personnel.

2.2 Increase the stability and security of the financial system.

(1) Overcome limitations and develop the financial infrastructure by developing the Securities Exchange of Thailand as one of the key markets in Southeast Asia, developing the foreign exchange market to achieve efficiency and stability, and developing new financial institutions in order to increase alternatives for savings and capital mobilization.

(2) Develop the financial clearing system by increasing the efficiency of settlement and expanding the use of electronic transfer systems for both large and small financial agents.

2.3 Increase efficiency in the monitoring and regulation of financial institutions and the financial system.

(1) Amend legislation relating to finance to make it more responsive to changing conditions, and formulate new legislation governing financial activities, in order to prepare for changes in the financial system.

(2) Increase efficiency in the monitoring and regulating of those public financial institutions which were established to serve a specific purpose and those established by special legislation aimed at achieving international standards such as separating the monitoring and control system of financial public enterprises from non-financial public enterprises.

2.4 Develop human resources in the area of monitoring and regulation of financial institutions, and promote professional ethics in the finance industry.

(1) Reorganize public sector institutions and develop public sector human resources responsible for monitoring the development of financial institutions, particularly in monitoring and regulating private institutions.

(2) Support the development of professional ethics in the finance industry by promoting the establishment by associations of financial institutions of relevant standards and codes of conduct, and encouraging business practices in the finance industry consistent with these standards.

3. Development of Thailand into a Regional Centre for Financial and Capital Markets.

3.1 Support the offshore banking industry by adjusting tax incentives and increasing its scope of operation.

3.2 Relax foreign exchange regulations relating to capital movement for the purpose of investing in securities abroad, in order to support the mobilization of capital from both domestic and foreign markets by companies in foreign countries which are partly or wholly owned by Thai citizens.

3.3 Promote investment from overseas by establishing mutual funds for foreign investors and other new types of fund, to increase the range of options for investors.

3.4 Develop financial cooperation with neighbouring countries by organizing the system of financial aid including loans and joint ventures in projects which benefit Thailand and neighbouring countries in the region.

3.5 Support the use of information technology in the financial sector, for reducing costs to increase international competitiveness, and for the efficient expansion of financial services to other countries in the region.

PART VI

NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The recent history of Thailand's development has seen huge amounts of natural resources being utilized, under inadequate and inappropriate management systems, in order to increase national income and upgrade living standards. While the benefits in terms of rapid economic growth are clear, a number of problems have accompanied them. Over-exploitation has resulted in unprecedented depletion and deterioration of Thailand's natural wealth, and has thus affected the Kingdom's economic stability. Competition for access to resources has given rise to social conflicts. Poor management of exploitation has led to an increase in the number of natural disasters. The far greater emphasis placed on the expansion of economic activity, with concomitant expansion of urban communities, than on environmental concerns has allowed pollution problems to develop to the point where they are hazardous to life and health.

In order that environments and natural resources can serve as factors contributing to sustainable development and better quality of life, it is vital for the Eighth Plan to incorporate the urgent conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources and to protect both urban and rural environments.

Local people and community organizations should be urged to play an increasingly active role in the management of natural resources and environments. Economic instruments should be used for controlling and supervising utilization and management in this respect. Furthermore, restraint and greater efficiency should be promoted, so that natural resources can be used to the greatest possible advantage for the economy as a whole, while having the least possible environmental impact. Thailand should also play a greater role in international resource management at both regional and global levels.

Chapter 1

Objectives, Targets and Strategies

1. Objectives.

In order that environments and natural resources are maintained in a condition in which they are of lasting benefit to the quality of life of the Thai people and to national development, the Eighth Plan sets out the following objectives for their management:

1.1 To ensure utilization of natural resources is counter-balanced by rehabilitation and protection programmes.

1.2 To promote more effective management, involving the collaboration of various different sectors of society, so as to achieve greater balance in ecosystems and environments. Opportunities will be provided for local people and organizations to play a greater role in natural resource and environmental conservation in their own communities, with support from the public sector, academic experts, NGOs and business enterprises.

2. Targets.

2.1 For enhancing the quality of life of individuals and communities.

(1) Rehabilitate and protect forest areas covering no less than 25 percent of the entire Kingdom, and demarcate reserve forest zones, within the period of the Eighth Plan.

(2) Give reserve forest status to no less than one million rai of mangrove forest by the end of the Eighth Plan period, in order to safeguard environmental balance and bio-diversity.

(3) Promote proper natural resource management systems for community forests so as to protect the environment and develop the quality of life of local people.

(4) Ensure water quality does not fall below 1996 standards in rivers, seas, coastal areas and all natural water resources, with particular emphasis on the lower Chao Phraya River, the Tha Chin River, pollution control zones and major tourist destinations. This will ensure conditions are appropriate to sustain aquatic life.

(5) Monitor and maintain air quality in cities and pollution control zones in line with national standards. Limit noise pollution in order to minimize damage to people's hearing.

(6) Upgrade the garbage collection capacity of municipality and sanitary districts, and promote safe disposal of hazardous waste.

(7) Promote proper and complete disposal of contaminated waste in both public and private hospitals.

2.2 For improving economic production.

(1) Reduce areas affected by soil erosion by no less than one million rai every year of the Eighth Plan period.

(2) Solve other soil problems which make land unusable for agriculture, such as soil salinity, soil acidity and lack of necessary micro-organisms, on no less than one million rai of land during the Eighth Plan period.

(3) Formulate a plan for the rehabilitation of Thailand's marine environments. This plan will focus on the conservation, rehabilitation and proper utilization of natural marine resources and environments, particularly water quality, marine fauna, coral reefs, sea grass, and coastal areas.

3. Strategies for Natural Resource and Environmental Management.

The Eighth Plan proposes the following major strategies to achieve the objectives and targets set for natural resource and environmental management.

3.1 Rehabilitation of natural resources and environments.

3.2 Promotion of the participation of local people and communities.

3.3 Proper management of natural resources and environments.

Chapter 2

Rehabilitation of Natural Resources and Environments

The Eighth Plan proposes the following development guidelines for the rehabilitation natural resources and environments in order to promote balance in the ecosystem and upgrade quality of life for Thai people, and so that they can contribute towards sustainable national development:

1. Manage the Rehabilitation of Degraded and Abandoned Land, so as to increase agricultural output and minimize negative environmental impact. Attention should be given to former mining sites, former shrimp ponds and farm lands abandoned because of unfavourable soil conditions, such as soil salinity, soil acidity and coastal-type soils. Specific guidelines to be followed are:

1.1 Promote the conservation of land and water resources, including the improvement of soil quality by organic methods. Emphasis should be placed on the promotion of accepted and transferable farming practices, such as integrated farming to replace monoculture, shifting from chemical to organic fertilizers, and terrace farming.

1.2 Introduce new farming practices in land reform zones, abandoned shrimp ponds and abandoned mining sites, by providing the necessary knowledge and training, financial support and appropriate technology. This will enable farmers to earn enough income to support themselves in the long term and so stop them abandoning rural areas, and induce them to carry on rehabilitating the land and not utilize it for non-farming activities.

2. Reduce the Volume and Distribution of Pollution in Local Environments, by proper management of various types of pollution, such as community and industrial wastewater, air pollution, industrial waste and hazardous substances so they do not pose a threat to public health and living conditions.

2.1 Reduce and control water pollution from community activities and agricultural and industrial production.

(1) Formulate pollution control plans for 25 major river basins around the country.

(2) Designate guidelines and emergency operational plans to prevent the spread of pollution which affects the quality of terrestrial water resources and of marine waters.

2.2 Reduce the volume of air pollution on industrial estates and in traffic-congested areas, particularly the volume of sulphureous compounds in diesel exhaust, black smoke and dust entering the atmosphere.

(1) Regulate vehicle standards and improve the quality of petroleum-derived fuels - by, for example, reducing exclusive gravity - and reduce sulphureous substances in diesel oil. In addition, the quality of oil should be brought in line with pollution reduction measures and relevant authorities should carry out feasibility studies for raising vehicle standards.

(2) Identify pollution sources which need stricter measures to control the emission of air pollution in order to reach approved standards.

2.3 Waste and garbage disposal.

(1) Encourage provincial authorities to seek appropriate plots to serve as long-term sites for land-fill garbage disposal, and to designate appropriate areas in urban plans.

(2) Establish appropriate criteria for garbage and waste management, which cover the processes of collection, transportation and hygienic disposal. In addition, emphasis should be placed on the processes of reducing, reusing and recycling waste.

2.4 Reduce and control sources of hazardous substances, by subjecting factories that produce or utilize hazardous substances in large volumes to environmental impact and risk assessments and strict guidelines on control of the substances.

3. Support the Establishment of Comprehensive Waste Treatment and Disposal, comprising comprehensive wastewater treatment and garbage disposal.

3.1 Encourage long-term investment in comprehensive wastewater treatment and garbage disposal facilities in regional economic centres, namely the five provinces of the Bangkok Metropolitan Region, the eastern coastal areas of Chon Buri and Rayong provinces and other coastal cities and tourist destinations.

3.2 Promote the establishment of centralized waste disposal facilities and contaminated garbage disposal centres for the joint use of communities and neighbouring provinces.

4. Promote the development of waste disposal technology and green technologies to be applied to the production process, which will minimize environmental impact. Such technologies will be prototypes that may be put into commercial production. Also, promote analysis and evaluation of technology for appropriate environmental management that can be transferred for effective application.

Chapter 3

Promotion of Popular Participation in Natural Resource and Environmental Management

These development guidelines seek to encourage greater participation by local people and communities in more effective and systematic management of natural resources. They are:

1. Expand the Public Sector's Role in Promoting Popular Participation in Natural Resource and Environmental Management, by:

1.1 Changing the attitudes of government officials and upgrading the capacity of relevant government agencies for effective cooperation with and facilitation of, local communities in conservation of natural resources and environments in such a way that they will be of real benefit to those communities.

1.2 Conducting public relations campaigns to raise public awareness of the consequences of deteriorating natural resources and environment. The public should, moreover, cooperate in the monitoring and alleviation of problems affecting natural resources and environments.

2. Develop Information Networks on Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation, and disseminate useful data to the public, recognizing the equal right of access to information of all parties.

3. Provide More Opportunities for Local Communities and People to Participate Actively in Natural Resource and Environmental Management, by:

3.1 Providing opportunities for people and communities to participate in decision-making about, monitoring and evaluation of public development projects likely to have an impact on natural resources and the environment. The government should facilitate continual public discussion at every step of those projects: initiation, preparation and implementation.

3.2 Enacting the Community Forest Legislation, in a form which is acceptable to all parties concerned, so that local people will have legal rights to protect and utilize community forests.

3.3 Providing legal guarantees of the rights of local communities and small fishermen to participate in coastal resource management, as well as the conservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of mangrove forests, sea

grass and coral reefs, to ensure sustainable use of coastal resources, especially those related to the fishing industry.

3.4 Encouraging local communities and organizations to conduct eco-tourism within their localities for the benefit of community economies. They should learn the processes of project formulation and planning in order to obtain financial assistance from the government budget, natural resource conservation funds or other sources.

Chapter 4

Improving Natural Resource and Environmental Management

Emphasis will be placed on a thorough and systematic approach and the provision of appropriate legislation, so as to achieve effective management of natural resources and environments. The Eighth Plan proposes the following development guidelines:

1. Establish Systematic Management of Water Resources, especially at river basin level, including the provision of clean drinking water and supervision of water quality, pollution control and drainage. This will include:

1.1 Organizing supervisory and coordinating mechanisms for the development of water resources at both national and river basin levels, so as to ensure consistency in and continuity in the work of all related agencies.

1.2 With the participation of all parties concerned, setting up appropriate systems at various levels for the allocation of water resources between the various types of water consumer, based on the principles of necessity, priority and fairness.

1.3 Collecting fees for raw water from industrial and agricultural producers and from domestic consumers. The pricing structure for domestic consumption and industrial production will be adjusted to properly reflect the actual costs of procurement, production, distribution and wastewater treatment.

1.4 Improving the transmission and allocation systems for both irrigation and domestic consumption in communities, so as to minimize wastage of clean water through leaks.

1.5 Conduct public information campaigns to promote thrifty and effective use of water, encourage the utilization of water-saving devices and the re-use of cooling water and treated wastewater in some industrial activities.

2. Coordinate Land Use Policy and Management Consistent with and Appropriate for the Development Potential of Each Area, which ensure fair distribution of benefits to all local people and communities.

2.1 Mark out specific land use zones both inside and outside national reserve forest, taking into account soil characteristics in those areas.

Also, coastal land use planning should take into account local economic and social conditions and the impact on coastal environment conservation. The country's irrigation zones should be preserved so as to enhance agricultural production. Laws, rules, regulations and incentive schemes should all be considered as ways of ensuring that this zoning is respected.

2.2 Designate and demarcate local ecosystem zones, taking into account any cultural and traditional diversity within the zones so that local people's existing lifestyles can contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.

2.3 Adjust the administration of the current agricultural land reform system so as to resolve the problems of landless farmers, both by issuing land rights documents and establishing a system for monitoring and inspecting utilization and reforms of public land.

3. Ensure Sound Management of Community Environments and Green Areas, by setting out clearer policies and implementation guidelines for the conservation of natural environments, green areas, vacant plots and urban public parks. The respective proportions of available land devoted to these sites, the number of people and rate of growth in urban communities, and landscape characteristics should all be major considerations.

4. Conserve Natural and Heritage Sites, by formulating managerial and conservation guidelines; for example the registration and declaration of areas of natural beauty and heritage sites. The development potential of these areas should be upgraded in such a way as to enhance economic activity and promote eco-tourism.

5. Promote an Holistic, Systematic Approach to Natural Resource Management.

5.1 Expedite surveys and assess existing mineral and natural resources nationwide, focusing on the impacts of their exploitation on the local eco-system, preserve mineral resources within conservation zones for future use.

5.2 Encourage more effective use of mineral resources under sound conservation methods, taking account of sound balance in natural resources and environments, and coordinating it with the utilization of other natural resources.

6. Improve Systems for the Prevention and Relief of Hardship and Suffering Caused by Natural Disasters.

6.1 Upgrade the efficiency of those agencies responsible for prevention of and rehabilitation from natural disasters, with greater emphasis on early warning and prevention of natural disasters.

6.2 Establish area-level coordination systems for the different types of natural disaster, making effective use of existing management and prevention mechanisms.

6.3 Get regional and provincial authorities to draw up maps showing areas prone to natural disasters to be used as resources in early warning, prevention and containment of natural disasters.

6.4 Establish measures for public participation in self defence against natural disasters, enforce rules and regulations and provide training to raise the public's knowledge about natural disasters.

7. Improve the Efficiency of Public Agencies involved in natural resource management, including the control and resolution of environmental problems.

7.1 Change methods and approaches in planning and budgeting for natural resource management programmes away from departmental considerations to areas like provincial groupings, local conditions and the potential for development of each type of natural resource. Operational procedures and networks should involve multi-lateral cooperation, united by a common objective.

7.2 Develop and improve the efficiency of monitoring, supervision and control systems for natural resources, by encouraging the owners of relevant enterprises to monitor, supervise and record pollution problems. In this way a thoroughgoing surveillance system can be created.

7.3 Advocate legislation to prohibit fishing methods destructive to coastal eco-systems, particularly the use of push-nets and trawling, and urge fishermen to switch to more sustainable methods.

7.4 Supervise and control the decentralization from urban to rural areas of industrial activities likely to have an impact on local environments, while looking after the health of factory workers and those living in nearby communities.

7.5 Draft and amend rules and regulations on environmental protection to bring them in line with current pollution problems and to

minimize damage to the environment, for example by introducing fees for garbage collection when necessary and introducing an insurance system for the disposal of hazardous waste.

8. Enlarge the Kingdom's Role in International Cooperation on Environmental Protection, by making explicit statements of Thailand's stance on environmental policy in international fora. Relevant organizations and personnel should be equipped to play a greater role in international environmental negotiations at both bi-lateral and multi-lateral levels, in order to protect the national benefit. Also, emphasis should be placed on technical cooperation to address international problems and concerns, such as depletion of the ozone layer and global warming.

PART VII

DEVELOPMENT OF POPULAR GOVERNANCE

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DEVELOPMENT OF POPULAR GOVERNANCE

The development of popular governance means fostering a constructive relationship between citizen and state, and the promotion of greater understanding, accountability and empathy between the two sectors. The public sector has abundant resources and manpower which can be put to use to bring about positive social and economic change and alleviate society's problems. It is for this reason that the state has, until now, played the leading role in national development, determining the framework, mechanisms and processes of communication and interaction between members of Thai society.

However, the public sector has been and still is subject to a number of restraining factors, particularly those related to the very centralized power structure, administrative inefficiency, lax law enforcement, lack of popular participation, unethical and unfair use of administrative power, lack of administrative accountability and lack of continuity in policy and implementation to meet the demands of national development plans.

In the past, and particularly during the Seventh Plan period, Thai society has experienced several major political upheavals, such as coups d'état and dissolutions of Parliament. In addition, conflicts have at times arisen between various social groups, and between social groups and the public sector. These disputes have highlighted a major obstacle to effective development administration: that the public sector has lacked the mechanisms for managing mutual interest and settling conflicts between different stake-holders in society, and for giving the public a voice in the government's and its own affairs.

This problem bears directly on the people's rights, freedom and ability to participate in the national development process, and is symptomatic of the lack of transparency and high degree of centralization in the public administrative system. These conditions have created a public sector which is unresponsive to the emerging needs and requirements of the people at large and thus have led to a general loss of faith, impeded the development of all sectors in society and caused stagnation and delay in national development.

New Directions for the Development of Popular Governance

To develop popular governance that contributes to the holistic development of the nation will mean addressing the present problems in public administration by developing a more efficient public sector, which is committed to upgrading the development potentials and capabilities of the Thai people. Government officials must be perceived as the allies of the people, working towards the sustainable development of the economy, society, culture and environment. To achieve this, the Eighth Plan proposes the following guidelines:

1. Fostering the People's Potential and Providing Development Opportunities.

1.1 Guarantee the civil rights and liberties of the people and of communities, while emphasizing the humanity, dignity and honour of all members of society, and ensuring that all citizens' equality under the law is respected.

1.2 Provide opportunities to participate both directly and indirectly in formulating development policies and in a system of development administration that responds to the diverse needs of the many different interest groups in society.

2. Developing the Social Environment.

2.1 Work to create an open and united society that is able to adapt to change, respects difference and diversity, and believes in the equality of all its members.

2.2 Promote ethics and justice in administration.

2.3 Create a code of conduct and archetypal practices in politics and public administration, which are based on the spirit of compromise, peace, benevolence and compliance with the law.

2.4 Work to create a civil society in which all members are aware of their rights and mutual responsibilities as citizens, and of their responsibility to future generations.

3. Enhancing the Development Potentials of Regional and Rural Thailand.

3.1 Provide opportunities for people living in regional and rural areas to obtain a fairer share of the benefits of national development.

3.2 Upgrade the capabilities of regional and rural people by improving knowledge, developing skills and providing wider and easier access to public services, so that regional and rural people are able to solve their own problems and to seek out opportunities for employment and career development.

3.3 Increase awareness among regional and rural people of the significance of caring for, preserving and rehabilitating natural resources and environments for the benefit of their communities, the country as a whole and of future generations.

3.4 Devise an administrative system and mechanisms that widen opportunities for everyone to participate in regional and rural development.

4. Development of the Capacity and Efficiency of the Economic System.

4.1 Find leaders who have the skills and vision to alleviate problems in and develop the national economy.

4.2 Improve the system of public administration so that it is effective, efficient and able to guarantee fair competition – its decision-making processes should be transparent and based on sound reasoning.

4.3 Devise a system of public administration that is responsive and able to adapt to the dynamics of social and economic conditions, and that ensures continuity in policies and guidelines in national development administration.

5. Managing Natural Resources and Environment.

5.1 Ensure all members of society have control over and a voice in the determination of utilization and conservation of natural resources and environments which is properly balanced against the demands of economic.

5.2 Adopt international standards and criteria for monitoring and managing environmental conditions in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region, as well as other urban and rural areas, so as to boost quality of life.

5.3 Create a system of public administration that includes local communities which utilize natural resources in decision-making and determination of operational guidelines for the work of government agencies on matters likely to affect the environment and quality of life of local people.

6. Developing the Administrative System.

6.1 Enhance the creation of political and administrative systems that ensures checks and balancing power between various stake-holders within the public sector, and between the public sector and either the private sector or the people.

6.2 Construct public administrative system that ensures balance between interests of individuals in each community and interests of nation, between interests of nation and interests of mankind, and balance between of the interests of the present and those of the future.

6.3 Construct a public administrative system and mechanisms which widen opportunities for all to participate in the process of national development.

Chapter 1

Objectives, Targets and Strategies

1. Objectives.

Major objectives to achieve the development of popular governance are as follows:

1.1 To strengthen the application of the rule of law in public administration, development administration and other activities in all social sectors.

1.2 To encourage all social sectors to participate in government activities, especially in managing national development.

1.3 To upgrade the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector in administering government services and in managing national development.

1.4 To enhance continuity in administration of government services and in both the policy and practice of national development.

2. Targets.

2.1 Give government officials at all levels a better understanding of the philosophy underlying public law, which will be foundation of public administration, enshrined in all guidelines followed by the public sector. In this way, government officials will administer the country and make decisions based on righteousness and the rule of law, abide by and enforce the law without discrimination, and be accountable for decision-making and performance in national administration. This will also include devising mechanisms or processes to ensure the peaceful settlement of conflicts between stake-holders in society.

2.2 Guarantee the people's right to play a greater role in state, social and community activities; and increase opportunities for balanced participation by the public in the national development process, which will eventually lead to the emergence of a checks and balances system for public administration, both internal and from society as a whole.

2.3 Streamline management within the public sector and make it more flexible and adaptable to the changes brought by globalization. This will require transparency and accountability in decision-making and implementing public activities.

2.4 Ensure continuity in administering the public sector and national development, by creating alliances to determine commitments and to set national agendas in developing individuals, communities, society and the Kingdom as a whole.

3. Strategies.

Strategies for the development of popular governance are strengthening law enforcement consistent with the spirit of the law; creating opportunities and an enabling environment to support the participation of all sectors in the development process; improving the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the public sector in administering the country; and ensuring continuity in administration of the public sector.

Chapter 2

Creating Opportunities and an Enabling Environment for the Development of Popular Governance

In the past, the public sector has formulated guidelines and provided services and development activities which it believed would benefit the people, but did not grant those people a role in the process of formulation and planning. For this reason, the government sector's operations have become increasingly irrelevant to needs – and lack the recognition and commitment of – the people. This has at times led to political conflicts and confrontations between the people and the government, which have significantly weakened development efforts.

The role of public sector in administering the country must now be based on righteousness and public acceptance, which is to be achieved through providing opportunities and creating an enabling environment for popular participation. This will entail establishing principles and norms for the relationship between the people and the state. The development of popular governance is one of major strategies of the Eighth Plan, aimed at ensuring smooth, fair and effective implementation of national development. The Plan proposes four smaller strategies to achieve it, as follows:

1. Reinforcing Justice in Society, and Creating Opportunities and an Enabling Environment for Popular Participation. This includes guaranteeing political and civil rights; ensuring effective and peaceful management of conflicts between various stake-holders in society and the government; and building up people's capabilities.

1.1 Guaranteeing rights and liberty.

(1) Endorse and guarantee political rights, human rights and gender equality similar to international norms.

(2) Enact laws that guarantee people's right to information, particularly that held by the government.

(3) Promote the protection of people's rights in controlling and in scrutinizing public administration. For example, guarantee people's rights to demand the government to organize public consultation, as indicated in the Office of the Prime Minister Regulations on Hearing of Public Opinion through Public Discussion, 1996 .

(4) Promote the development of an Administrative Court system, to protect the people's rights when they are violated by government agencies.

1.2 Managing conflicts in society by peaceful means.

(1) Encourage efforts on all sides to ensure disputes are settled peacefully, based on the equality and legal rights of all parties involved. This will include fostering mutual understanding between the disputants, and appreciation of the rights of all parties affected by conflicts to participate directly in the process of resolution.

(2) Create a role for individuals, groups of individuals or institutes, either inside or outside public sector, distributed throughout the country, with skills in preventing and resolving social conflicts. This will involve networking of information and operations, transfer of experience, and coordination between the various agencies.

(3) Encourage local organizations and educational institutions to research, collect and disseminate guidelines for the prevention and resolution of conflicts. This will generate appropriate visions and attitudes, common understanding between the majority of people in society and communities, and reasonable negotiation and compromise leading to mutual agreement between all parties concerned.

(4) Foster in government officials proper attitudes and skills relating to the peaceful settlement of social conflicts through reconciliation, negotiation and juridical arbitration.

(5) Encourage government performance that emphasizes prevention of social conflicts, dissemination of accurate information, and sincerity and willingness to cooperate with all parties, and widens opportunities for consultation and negotiation between all parties concerned at the earliest stage of the dispute.

1.3 Enhancing the people's capabilities and social power.

(1) Allocate government budget support for NGOs and other organizations engaged in activities that aim to build up people's capabilities.

(2) Promote respect for rules and regulations, and disseminate information on legal matters among government officials and the public, especially concerning people's rights and duties.

(3) Promote the dissemination and enforcement of government rules and regulations that actually benefit the people.

(4) Protect freedom of the press and promote the development of independent media. Different social sectors should be given access to state-owned media and communication facilities, such as village public address systems and community and local radio.

(5) Disseminate accurate knowledge and understanding of people's legal rights and duties, and of true social, economic and political conditions, both domestic and international. This can be done using both public and private communication channels - including radio and television broadcasts and the public relations mechanisms of government agencies, the private sector and NGOs - and can contribute to the relief of problems for the benefit of community and the country as a whole.

2. Promotion of Participation by All Sectors in Development.

This strategy is aimed at encouraging private businesses and the general public to participate as decision-makers and actors in the process of national development, rather than as remain as passive beneficiaries. Both sectors will be involved in approving, initiating, decision-making, operation and monitoring and evaluation of all national development. Both will also be given the chance to apply the results of monitoring and evaluation in order to continuously improve the national development effort. Through this participatory approach, the public and private sectors and the general public will get to know more about each other and develop a mutual understanding, which will allow government officials to adjust the working practices to be more responsive to the needs of all social sectors. It will also enhance greater social cohesion.

2.1 Promotion of development partnerships.

(1) Encourage the creation of non-partisan partnerships for development at regional, local and community levels, particularly the establishment of provincial assembly.

(2) Make the formation of these partnerships a factor in the allocation of resources, requiring that government agencies indicate their development partners for project formulation and implementation, especially related to occupational development, quality of life, natural resources and the environment.

2.2 Ensuring equal standing in popular participation in national development.

(1) Provide greater opportunities for participation in the development process for communities and other groups who are currently

under-represented, such as small farmers, conventional and coastal fishermen and the urban poor.

(2) Increase the ratio of representatives of private business and the general public in committees, sub-committees and working groups of the public development administration, such as the Provincial Development Committee and working groups for natural resource and environmental administration.

(3) Provide opportunities for NGOs and people's organizations to obtain direct budget assistance for carrying out development activities jointly with the public sector, or to enhance development strategies established by the government, especially those in which the people take a leading role, with the public sector giving support.

(4) Encourage people's organizations in local areas and communities to participate in local administration, and carry out development activities through local administrative units, such as tambon administrative organizations, tambon councils, municipal councils and sanitary district councils.

2.3 Encouraging communities to participate in local development.

(1) Legislate the rights of local people and communities to participate in the management of natural resources and environments, and to participate in development activities and projects implemented in their communities. For example, those affected by government-initiated development projects should be entitled to participate in assessments of environmental impact and in monitoring and evaluating implementation of the project.

(2) Assign increasingly larger portions of the national budget to local organizations as general subsidies and while reducing the funds apportioned as specific subsidies. This budget approach will give local organizations the autonomy and flexibility to formulate action plans and manage development activities consistent with the specific conditions and needs in their areas.

2.4 Enhancing the potentials of NGOs and people's organizations.

(1) Promote the establishment of NGOs and people's organizations, both formal and non-formal.

(2) Give NGOs government tax incentives and budgetary assistance.

(3) Encourage private enterprises to support community and social development activities initiated by NGOs and people's organizations, via government tax incentive schemes.

(4) Promote development of networking among people's organizations for the exchange of information and experience and improving the administrative skills .

3. Upgrading the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Public Sector. The Eighth Plan sets out the following development guidelines for upgrading the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector by adjusting roles, emphasis, regulations and operational processes and procedures, so that the public sector can more effectively serve and enhance the development of other social sectors.

3.1 Overhauling public administrative units.

(1) Shift the role of government services from inspection and control to directing, supervising and facilitating, while limiting government activities so as to promote greater roles for the private sector and the people in administrative operations.

(2) Downsize government services, by restricting the expansion of government agencies, limiting public sector recruitment, expedite organizational restructuring, in terms of function, human resources and operational procedures, consistent with current economic, social and political conditions.

(3) Improve the administrative systems of central agencies at the ministerial and departmental levels, especially those involved in planning, budgeting, human resource development and provision of services. This new administrative system should allow greater freedom and the application of modern management styles.

(4) Decentralize public administrative authority and delegate decision-making authority from central agencies to the operating units or officials in local areas, with respect to terms of reference at different levels, in order that they can apply their own judgement, experience and knowledge of actual local conditions.

(5) Encourage public inspections, checks and balances for government operations, so as to make them accountable to the people, society and communities they serve.

(6) Improve the efficiency of government services using the following methods:

(6.1) Increase the role of local government units, such as the provincial authorities, and minimize the role of the central agencies. Eliminate redundancy in operational procedures, especially those related to planning, budgeting and fiscal and personnel administration, so as to ensure greater flexibility in local administration. This should be implemented under a comprehensive and complete cycle.

(6.2) Increase the number of government officers in the units functioning in local areas, and redeploy or cut the manpower of the central government agencies, so as to improve the responsiveness of government service delivery to the needs of rural and regional people.

(6.3) Adjust public sector pay scales to come close or equal to those found in the private sector with clear operating procedures and guarantee equal opportunities for career advancement, in order to attract and keep capable and ethical public sector personnel.

(7) Develop the public administrative system in order to bring it increasingly in line with the area-function-participation approach.

(8) Develop the role of provincial administrative units, making provincial authorities the central administrative agencies for all development work in each province. The provincial administrative units should delegate, with consistency and continuity, responsibility for planning, budgeting, personnel management and development monitoring and evaluation to the performing units, in order to give the performing units more freedom and flexibility.

(9) Redefine the roles of the central agencies and other government units responsible for strategic policy and planning, towards coordination and provision of technical support such as resources and moral support for local and regional government agencies.

(10) Increase the role of the government authorities at provincial level and upgrade their capabilities, particularly in terms of planning, budget administration and personnel management.

3.2 Improve budgeting procedures for freer and more flexible budget administration in and between government agencies. Allow the provincial-level authorities to set and take their own portions of budget revenue.

3.3 Increase the number of qualified officers at the provincial level and reduce manpower in central agencies; promote manpower rotation networks; improve opportunities for career advancement; and set pay scales

for government officers working at regional and local levels to match those of officers in central agencies.

3.4 Formulate efficiency criteria and performance evaluation indicators with which to gauge the efficiency and effectiveness of public administration at all levels.

3.5 Promote accountability in public administration by encouraging the private sector and the general public to engage in joint monitoring of implementation of the Eighth Plan and the work of government agencies, in order to eliminate corruption and questionable conduct in the public sector.

3.6 Improve transparency in operations, by urging various relevant organizations, such as community organizations, NGOs and private business groups to join together in commenting on, inspecting, assessing and, where appropriate, objecting to megaprojects and other significant government plans before implementation starts.

3.7 Adjust systems for implementing public policy.

(1) Encourage the private sector to invest increasingly in education, public health and infrastructure services. Free market competition should be promoted, shifting the focus to providing better quality services and pricing appropriate for users rather than what benefits the government stands to gain from such activities.

(2) Set up independent mechanisms at the national level to supervise the delivery of public services, and so ensure better efficiency, flexibility and quality. These services should be provided in accordance with approved standards, with prices set which are fair to both providers and users of the services.

(3) Review and amend regulations and laws which present obstacles to private sector participation in the formulation of operational plans. Obsolete rules, regulations and legislation should be changed or abolished, and effective public policy administration fostered.

3.8 Develop legislation which promotes national development.

The Eighth Plan proposes the employment of legislation as a key tool in achieving effective implementation of its national development guidelines. For this reason, the national legislative organizations must be restructured so that they can serve as sources of effective legislation consistent with the Eighth Plan's national development guidelines. Furthermore, they should be able to establish an effective system to inspect the performance of

government services and urge government officials to perform their duties in compliance with the word and spirit of the law.

4. Promotion of Continuity in Public Administration.

The Eighth Plan seeks to generate continuity and stability in public administration by calling on the cooperation of all stake-holders in society. They should be given the opportunity to determine visions, commitments and national agenda acceptable to all parties – which will in turn help them to formulate national development guidelines and to acknowledge the necessary supportive commitments. Relevant development guidelines include:

4.1 Create an alliance for setting issues for national agenda, by:

(1) Organizing joint meetings between political parties, government agencies, state enterprises, the private sector, NGOs, people's organizations and representatives from various professions, which can regularly designate and review visions, commitments and national agenda.

(2) Foster on-the-job training and conferences for personnel at all levels, so that they can learn about the operations of other agencies and exchange ideas and experiences in order to achieve common understanding.

(3) Disseminate techniques and experiences relating to the successful formation of alliances, including set the issues of national agenda which agree upon as common and unanimous goals.

(4) Determine measures of success for the cooperation of various stake-holders in society, by setting indices with their unanimous agreement to be used for increasing the management potential of their own groups and organizations.

4.2 Promotion of common understanding concerning public policy, to generate a joint vision.

(1) Improve the dissemination of information concerning government policies, National Economic and Social Development Plans and the development plans of other government agencies and organizations. These should all be made clearly comprehensible for the general public.

(2) Foster policy-oriented research that helps in determining long-term policies, setting priorities and identification of emerging problems in communities and the country as a whole.

(3) Promote research, seminars and methods of information dissemination which enable the public and all organizations participating in

the development process to obtain knowledge and broaden their thinking and vision to be better prepared for the era of globalization. Support should also be provided for manpower training in the public sector. This includes training and conferences for personnel at different levels of the above-mentioned government agencies, to regularly witness each other's operations and exchange ideas and experiences in order to foster common understanding, cordial cohesion and creative collaboration between them.

To achieve the objectives and targets for the development of popular governance given above, it is necessary that an appropriate administrative scheme is created which can ensure all stake-holders in society are given the opportunity to take part in implementing the Plan. The stake-holders should work together as partners towards the achievement of real sustainable development for the Kingdom, taking into account conditions, restrictions and trends in social development, seeking guidelines and measures to coordinate the mutual relationships, roles and missions of the public sector, the private sector and the entire population. This will bring happiness and peace to individuals, communities, Thai society and the Kingdom as a whole.

PART VIII

MANAGING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EIGHTH PLAN

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Thailand's drive towards national development over the last three decades has unfortunately seen development plans suffering from poor implementation. One of the principal reasons for this has been the very centralized bureaucratic structure of government services, where administrative authority has not been delegated to units functioning at grass-roots level. The public sector's administrative and mission structures are vertically organized, and many government agencies share similar, and in some cases identical, responsibilities. All of them produce separate budgets and action plans, even when their work is closely related to that of another agency. The lack of coordination and cooperation has meant development work has far too often failed to yield the favourable results which could have been achieved with more effective implementation.

In fact, the government has already acknowledged this problem, and has made attempts at different times to solve it by setting exclusive policy and administration guidelines for various major development projects. For example, under the Fifth Plan, the government assigned eight major ministries to embark jointly on rural development programming, while the Eastern Seaboard Development Committee has been created to take charge of the Eastern Seaboard Special Development Zone. However, although these measures have improved the situation to some extent, problems still persist. Many of the smaller units working in local areas still carry out their tasks cut off from other units, so their work is often duplicated.

Another of the basic problems government services encounter in implementing development plans is the lack of integration between action, financial and human development plans. This adversely affects both policy-making and the work of the performing units, resulting in inefficiency and subsequent inability to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by development. Problems are also apparent in budget administration within government services, where individual agencies are not given enough freedom or flexibility in the preparation of their own budgets. In many cases, budget approval is delayed, limiting the relevant units' ability to carry out development work.

Today, new extra-governmental forces are emerging in Thai society, which have shown growing willingness to participate in every stage of the national development process, including political and community groups and NGOs. These forces represent an invaluable resource for future development

efforts, and the Eighth Plan is the first National Economic and Social Development Plan to incorporate them into its overall development concept.

If the implementation of the Eighth Plan is to be more effective than that of its predecessors, it is essential that the public sector development administration is restructured in the long term. However, this will require amendment of all relevant laws and regulations, which will be very time-consuming. In the meantime, the parties involved in translating the Plan into action will have to operate under the existing constraints and public administrative structure, and instead adjust their own budgeting, administration and human resourcing to ensure greater flexibility. Adherence to the area-function-participation approach and the mobilization of popular participation shall be respected as the principal criteria in formulating development programmes under the Eighth Plan.

Chapter 1

Objectives, Targets and Strategies

1. Objectives.

1.1 To adjust the processes and mechanisms of development administration so as to facilitate effective implementation of the Eighth Plan.

1.2 To enhance popular participation in development administration, and to increase the efficiency of development efforts on the basis of a people-centred holistic approach to development and the promotion of development partnerships.

1.3 To formulate indicators to monitor and evaluate development programmes and projects at every level.

2. Targets.

2.1 Construct an administrative system which facilitates implementation of the Eighth Plan.

2.2 Empower development partnerships and local communities in order that they can participate effectively in the implementation of the Eighth Plan.

2.3 Construct a five-tier set of indicators for measuring and evaluating the progress of national development.

3. Strategies for Implementing the Eighth Plan.

There are four major strategies for effective implementation of the Plan, consistent with the targets and objectives given above. They are: upgrading the operational efficiency of the central government agencies where it affects implementation of the Plan; revising the development administration system in such a way as to facilitate implementation of the Plan; promoting popular participation in implementation; and development of an effective evaluation and monitoring system.

To translate the above strategies into action, emphasis must be placed on the joint operation, education and empowerment of all parties concerned at every process of planning, target designation, plan implementation, evaluation and monitoring. A uniform set of indicators at national and local levels will also have to be constructed. All parties concerned must jointly

map out explicit operational guidelines and processes, under a joint agreement, to allow the delegation of authority and responsibility.

Chapter 2

Upgrading the Operational Efficiency of Central Agencies to Facilitate Implementation of the Eighth Plan

The agencies which will play major roles in implementing the Eighth Plan are the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Budget Bureau, the Office of the Civil Service Commission, the Office of the Auditor-General and the Office of the Council of the State. Their principal missions will be to coordinate action plans, financial plans and human development plans, and to monitor and evaluate the success of development projects in fulfilling the Eighth Plan's objectives and targets. In addition, they should construct mechanisms to ensure their efforts are translating into actual implementation, as well as ensuring the legislative process supports national development, good public administration and protection of the public interest.

In practice, these five agencies are constrained by a lack of facilitating and coordinating mechanisms. In addition, their roles and duties have remained largely unchanged by, and incompatible with, the process of globalization, which is bringing about significant changes in society, politics and the economy. In their present states, they are unable to carry out effectively their duties to supervise, enhance and encourage effective resource utilization by all relevant government agencies, as proposed in the Eighth Plan.

To get over this problem, the roles of the five agencies should be re-oriented as follows:

1. The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB).

1.1 Will adjust its role towards facilitation and promotion of the people-centred development planning approach at various levels, from national to sub-regional and provincial. People from all walks of life will be encouraged to participate in the NESDB's work in development planning and evaluation, and in the formulation of the development indicators required by the Plan.

1.2 Will initiate a coordinating system for all groups involved in implementing the Plan, including ministries, government departments, community organizations and NGOs. This will be carried out in accordance with the Plan's area-function-participation approach.

1.3 Will lay down a framework and standard criteria for implementation of the Eighth Plan, so as to ensure consistency in operational and financial planning in line with the Plan's development strategies and targets and to facilitate evaluation and monitoring.

2. The Budget Bureau.

2.1 Should improve public budget allocation by assessing the various ministries' and departments' real contribution to effective and efficient Plan implementation. Analysis and evaluation of projects should place greater emphasis on operational processes and end results than on quantitative input and output.

2.2 In determining budget allocation, should link development programmes complying with the Eighth Plan's strategies and with the operational plans of each ministry and department.

2.3 Should delegate fiscal administrative authority to ministries and departments so as to ensure greater flexibility and effectiveness in public administration.

2.4 Should streamline the process, mechanisms and methodologies of budget formulation in order to remove redundancy and duplication, with emphasis on strategic policy-setting rather than detailed operational control.

2.5 Should lay down an evaluation and monitoring system for budget allocation and utilization appropriate to the Eighth Plan's objectives and targets.

3. The Office of the Civil Service Commission.

3.1 The Office's role should be altered to stress overall human resource policy-setting and planning for the public sector, based on the area-function-participation approach. In addition, the Office should provide technical advice on organizational restructuring, management and personnel administration for individual government agencies.

3.2 Should promote and enhance the adoption of modern and international thinking in the determination of ministries' and government departments' overall roles, missions, organizational structures and administrative systems, in order to help the public sector adjust to the changing economic, social and political conditions of the era of globalization.

3.3 Should expedite the revision of personnel management in the government service, so that it can play a major role in enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of public administration. This can be achieved by

adjusting public sector pay scales to reflect the current cost of living and labour market; alleviating manpower shortages in certain fields necessary for national development; and continuously and thoroughly upgrading the quality of manpower at all levels.

3.4 Should construct a performance evaluation system which yields accurate and useful results to indicate cost-effectiveness in resource utilization and the responsiveness of public service delivery.

3.5 Should delegate administrative authority for personnel management, to allow individual government agencies to achieve flexibility, high standards and fairness in their personnel management.

4. The Office of the Auditor-General.

4.1 Should shift the criteria for auditing government agencies away from compliance with rules and regulations and towards evaluation of performance in fulfilling assigned tasks.

4.2 Should construct a mechanism for examining and evaluating the performance of government agencies, and the aspects of development implementation that come under their responsibility, which places less emphasis on rules and regulations and so ensures greater operational efficiency.

4.3 Should delegate administrative authority to government agencies so as to enhance flexibility in their own resource management and should update related rules and regulations.

4.4 Should construct a uniform and permanent evaluation and monitoring system for services supplied by the public sector, which can be used for coordination of operational, financial and human resource plans. Updated information should be made available annually for the use of all relevant parties nation-wide.

5. The Office of the Council of State.

5.1 The Office's role as the central legislative body of the public should be promoted, adjusting legislative processes and the provision of legal advice for other government agencies in line with each agency's particular area of specialization. This will ensure greater consistency between the national legislative system and the new directions in national development, by encouraging the exchange of information between government agencies and developing a more uniform legislative process.

5.2 Should monitor the enforcement of laws; provide recommendations for updating obsolete laws and regulations inappropriate to national development; and conduct legal study and research to ensure legislation is consistent with current social conditions and international standards, and that appropriate development legislation existing in other countries is adopted in Thailand.

5.3 Should formulate new processes of judgement and consideration for public administration, so as to allow the general public to investigate the performance of government officials. The public should also be given more opportunity to participate in the formulations of guidelines for the delivery of services by the public sector under the spirit of law, for public benefit and protection of all citizens.

5.4 Should promote and develop common understanding among government officials concerning the legal system, which will serve as a firm basis for proper and responsive public administration. Government officials should learn how to apply the law as a mechanism for the achievement of development targets.

Chapter 3

Restructuring and Reorientation of Development Administration

If the Eighth Plan is to be implemented successfully, all the relevant parties must be included in a multi-dimensional and cooperative development administration process. Unity must exist for the coordination of operational, financial and human development planning and in the formulation of operational plans and development projects. The Eighth Plan's strategies will be adopted as a framework for collective decisions on the designation of missions, responsibilities, areas or locations and popular participation. The following are guidelines for restructuring and reorienting the system of development administration.

1. Implementation of the Eighth Plan Under the Area-Function-Participation Approach.

1.1 Define specific roles and activities for the various stake-holders the national development administrative system, and concrete and clearly defined relationships between the public and private sectors and people's organizations.

1.2 Review the missions of government agencies in order to facilitate the launch of major activities implemented jointly between government agencies at the central, regional and local levels, in line with the area-function-participation approach.

1.3 Adopt a three-dimensional approach that takes into account areas, the missions of the agencies concerned and the cooperative participation of the government service, the private sector and the general public (area-function-participation) as a framework for development planning and project formulation.

1.4 Move away from the departmental approach to operational and financial planning to focus more on communities and local areas, i.e. provinces, districts and tambons.

1.5 Develop a proper system of coordination between central government agencies, and develop the information networks that link agencies responsible for operational, financial and human resource planning with those responsible for auditing, monitoring and evaluation.

2. Integration of Operational, Financial and Human Development Plans.

2.1 Develop the frameworks and criteria for consideration of the government service's operational plans and development projects, based on the priorities agreed to by the Budget Bureau and the Office of the NESDB, which should be consistent with the Eighth Plan's development strategies and guidelines.

2.2 Set consideration guidelines and principles for operational plans and development projects which will cover all relevant government agencies, by allowing each of them to participate in the process of determining a framework and principles for implementing the Eighth Plan.

2.3 Encourage central agencies and all relevant units to collaborate in constructing indicators for effectiveness and efficiency at project level.

2.4 Provide training courses for government officers and the general public on budget planning, personnel management and evaluation and monitoring. Promote common understanding between government officials and the general public, and enhance government officials' operational skills so that operational and financial plans can be coordinated and mutually supportive.

3. Delegation of Administrative Authority in the Government Service.

3.1 Delegate administrative authority for budgeting and for fiscal and personnel management from central agencies to ministries, departments and local administrative units. The process of delegation should be conducted in a thorough, systematic and uniform manner so as to give individual agencies greater independence.

3.2 Consider including provincial authorities in the allocation of government service resources, and urging provincial groupings to collaborate in the implementation of operational plans and development projects.

3.3 Eliminate operational redundancy in the public sector, particularly by appropriate delegation of authority to approve projects, reorganize operations and adjust operational methodologies, so as to speed up the processes of budgeting, programming and recruitment. The government should amend or annul obsolete laws, rules and regulations unsuited to the delegation of administrative authority to local agencies.

Chapter 4

Popular Participation

The process of economic and social development in Thailand has become increasingly complex, and achieving sustainable development will involve the collaboration of many different groups in society. Development to date has greatly contributed to human development, allowing the Thai people to significantly enhance their abilities and potentials. Now many of them have shown a willingness to play a more prominent role in the formulation of development programmes and projects, as well as in community management. At the same time, however, the public sector's own capabilities have become restricted by a failure to adapt to changing socio-economic conditions, so it is essential that more and better opportunities are provided for the public to participate in the alleviation of social problems. Proposed guidelines for achieving this are as follows:

1. **Reorganize the existing managerial processes and mechanisms of the government service in such a way as to allow the general public to participate in problem analysis, plan formulation and alleviation of problems affecting their respective communities.**
2. **Encourage the establishment of committees picked from the people by the people, to carry out development work and exchange useful information and experiences.**
3. **Promote networking between communities to exchange knowledge, experience and understanding concerning development work and its impacts.**
4. **Set up two main systems for popular participation in development activities.** The first, which does not differ greatly from current development practice, is concerned with popular participation in development activities initiated by the public sector. The second will introduce a new mode of development administration, driven and managed entirely by the public, with the public sector offering support in terms of policy, measures and budgeting. These systems should be implemented simultaneously.
5. **Upgrade the capability of community organizations, NGOs, the general public and private businesses in order for them to participate more actively in the implementation of development projects, both those initiated by the government and those initiated by the public, and encourage them to do so through measures such as tax incentives, assistance with managerial training and the promotion of cooperation with all parties involved in development.**

6. Upgrade the capabilities of public sector public relations mechanisms. Cooperation between public and private sector public relations units should be built up so as to provide government officials and the general public with adequate information on national development, and so promote common understanding and attitudes along with popular participation.

Chapter 5

Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation System

Implementation of the Eighth Plan involves the cooperation of many different groups: ministries, government departments, charitable organizations, international aid organizations, NGOs and community organizations. Development strategies will in turn significantly affect various groups of people in both rural and urban areas. It is, therefore, essential to develop an efficient monitoring and evaluation system to provide the various groups involved with a true picture of the outcomes of national development, and to highlight progress, weaknesses and obstacles. The indicators which are established will serve as important tools for future planning and managerial improvements.

To create an effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation system, these indicators must be at many different levels and relate to the different dimensions of the development process, in such a way as to be consistent with a modern managerial scheme. Popular participation will also be essential. Proposed guidelines for achieving the system described above are as follows:

1. Database Construction.

1.1 Construct a central development administration database, covering all levels – national, provincial and local – as effective implementation of development projects will involve a cross-section of the stake-holders in society. This database will require classification by gender, based on population statistical standards. The data held should be constantly updated to allow common understanding between, and coordinated application by, all relevant parties.

1.2 Construct an information network that links existing databases via information technology. A uniform system and network should be constructed between the central agencies, including the Budget Bureau, the Office of the NESDB, the Office of the Civil Service Commission, the Office of the Auditor-General and the Ministry of Finance.

1.3 Encourage the application of data derived from development monitoring and evaluation for the constant revision and improvement of operational plans and development projects.

1.4 Set up independent mechanisms or bodies to monitor and evaluate national development, which are acceptable to all relevant parties and which will work closely with government agencies.

1.5 Organize meetings and seminars for brainstorming in the areas of development planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring at local, regional and national levels. This will include instituting an annual monitoring and evaluation conference to promote the participation of the general public and all other relevant parties.

1.6 Carry out public relations activities and disseminate information in order to generate knowledge and common understanding among a wider cross-section of stake-holders, and to enhance popular participation.

1.7 Conduct surveys at all levels and in all areas to monitor the feelings of the general public and all other parties involved in the development process, and thus gain valuable information on real progress and obstacles in the implementation of operational plans and development projects.

2. Formulation of Indicators.

Formulation of new development indicators must be guided by the principal aim of gaining a reliable picture of the success and impact of the Plan's implementation. This will contribute significantly to evaluation of the Plan itself and allow for the refinement of development guidelines where necessary for realization of the Plan's objectives. The indicators should cover external influencing factors, operational processes and the success and effects of national development. All stake-holders should have the opportunity to play a significant role in formulating the indicators, which will be made public so as to involve these groups in monitoring and evaluation. To achieve the multi-dimensional set of indicators needed, the Eighth Plan has laid down a framework for primary indicators at five levels:

2.1 Indicators of the Final Results of Development will be the most important tool for monitoring and evaluating the overall outcome of national development, in terms of human development, social development, economic development and natural resource and environmental conservation. The indicators will show whether the Eighth Plan's objectives, based on holistic people-centred development, have been attained.

2.2 Indicators of the Efficiency of Development by Sectors will be constructed to help monitor and evaluate national development in the various sectors against the Plan's major strategies. They will show the changes brought about by development efforts, and measure their success based on the area-function-participation approach. These indicators will also be used in the improvement and formulation of development guidelines and projects in each sector, to make them more responsive to real situations.

2.3 Indicators of the Efficiency of Development Strategies will be used to monitor and evaluate the success of the development strategies proposed in the Eighth Plan.

2.4 Indicators of Organizational Efficiency will seek to show the efficiency of agencies at all levels responsible for implementing the Plan, taking into account the Plan's guidelines for the coordination of operational, financial and human development plans. This will emphasize delegation of administrative authority to local and regional agencies, together with the cooperation of all parties concerned in national development for better performance. These indicators will help to enhance the competence of these agencies in terms of manpower training, upgrading operational efficiency and the construction of necessary monitoring and evaluation systems.

2.5 Indicators of Actual Situations will be constructed through the process of gathering statistical data and other basic information needed for the construction of the indicators above, in order to show the success and effectiveness of national development.

3. Development of Indicators.

The indicators will be systematically and continuously reassessed and developed in order to give them the flexibility to stay applicable in prevailing conditions.

4. Participation in the Formulation of Indicators.

All relevant parties in organizations and communities should participate in the designation and construction of these indicators.

5. Dissemination of Information About the Indicators.

Information regarding the indicators will be disseminated as widely as possible in order to provide government agencies, communities and all stakeholders with common understanding of the methods and significance of the monitoring and evaluation process, so that they can apply these indicators themselves and so achieve effective monitoring and evaluation of national development.