

Concept Paper
on Sustainable Community Development Model
based on the Application of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy

1. Background

Thailand has successfully developed a Community Development Model, known as a “Sufficiency Economy Village”, based on the application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP). Currently, around 24,000 “Sufficiency Economy Villages” across Thailand have achieved their development goals in a sustainable manner and some of which have developed into "learning centers" for sharing their practices and experience.

The goal of the SEP is to create balanced and stable development by developing the ability to cope appropriately with critical challenges arising from a rapidly changing world. This can be done at all levels, from the individual, family and community to society as well as in all sectors of a society from government, business, industry, agriculture and services.

The SEP could strengthen the agricultural sector and food security by increasing the value of agricultural commodities along supply chains and enhancing food security at household and community levels. The SEP also promotes the sustainability of natural resources and environment by enhancing efficient, transparent and equitable natural resources and environmental management system.

Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, has initiated a project-based program of sustainable development cooperation based on the application of the SEP with some developing countries, namely Lesotho, Timor-Leste, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Tonga and Fiji. The project is to be designed and crafted to the development needs in an identified location, a village or a community. A series of activities will be mapped out to ensure the end results.

Thailand is keen to share its experiences and practices of the SEP as a development approach with other developing countries as “Friends of SEP” in reaching the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. TICA is pursuing “SEP for SDGs Partnership” in revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development or the Goal 17 based on the application of the SEP. By enhancing the “SEP for SDGs Partnership” through South-South and triangular cooperation, Thailand looks forward to working in partnership with other developing countries including relevant international organizations towards the achievement of the remaining 16 Goals in order to leave no one behind.

2. Project Title

The Establishment of a Sustainable Community Development Model based on the Application of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy as an Alternative Model for Sustainable Development.

3. Project Goal

To establish a “Community Development Model” in the partner country.

4. Project Objective

To develop a “Community Development Model” which can be further developed to be a development learning center to other communities in the partner country.

5. Project Outputs

1. Community Development Model is developed in the identified location;
2. Project staffs and local implementing agencies have gained knowledge on community development through the application of the SEP, while respecting local knowledge and wisdom, and are able to maintain the level of balanced, stable, and sustainable development;
3. A learning center on sustainable development is to be developed as a further step for sharing knowledge of the SEP and its application;
4. The initial objectives set for development of the community are achieved leading to the improvement of quality of life with the stability and sustainability of economic returns, harmonization of family, community and society as well as the management of natural resources and environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

6. Project Activities

- A team of experts will be dispatched to the partner country to conduct the preliminary need assessment. A project site will be identified in consultation with a partner country.
- A bilateral cooperation framework between TICA and the partner country will be jointly formulated.
- A group of high-level representatives from the partner country will be invited to join a study visit in Thailand, while government officials from the partner country will be invited to undertake a short-term training course in Thailand.

- A team of experts and volunteers (optional) will be dispatched to the partner country to help implementing the project in a designated community or village. Equipment and materials will be provided as necessary.

- The project will be jointly monitored annually during the period of implementation.

7. Partnership Guideline

To ensure a strong sense of ownership and long-term sustainability, the partnership guidelines will be elaborated on voluntary basis.

8. Project Management

8.1 Project Manager

To ensure that the project is completed on time and within budget allocated, a project manager will be appointed by the partner country.

The project manager must be able to oversee the project to ensure that the desired result is achieved, the most efficient resources are used, project staffs are doing their jobs properly and that the project's objectives are met and achieved as planned.

8.2 Counterpart agency and contact person

Thai side: Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)

Coordinator:

E-mail:

Partner country side:

Coordinator:

E-mail:

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Joint monitoring shall be conducted by the establishment of a Project Steering Committee (PSC), comprising the representatives of the relevant partner agencies from both sides. The PSC shall meet upon agreement.

After completion of the project, evaluation is recommended to ensure the sustainability of the project and to further nourish the global partnership for sustainable development.

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