Dec. 1989

JICA

A MASTER PLAN STUDY

ON

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

IN

THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

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JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

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国際協力事業団

PREFACE

In response to a request from the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Government of Japan decided to conduct a study on the Master Plan of Telecommunications Development in the Kingdom of Thailand and entrusted the study to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

JICA sent to Thailand a survey team headed by Mr. Takao Iwashimizu, NTT International Corporation from October to December, 1988 and from March to June, 1989.

The team held discussions with officials concerned of the Government of Thailand, and conducted field surveys. After the team returned to Japan, further studies were made and the present report was prepared.

I hope that this report will contribute to the promotion of the project and to the enhancement of friendly relations between our two countries.

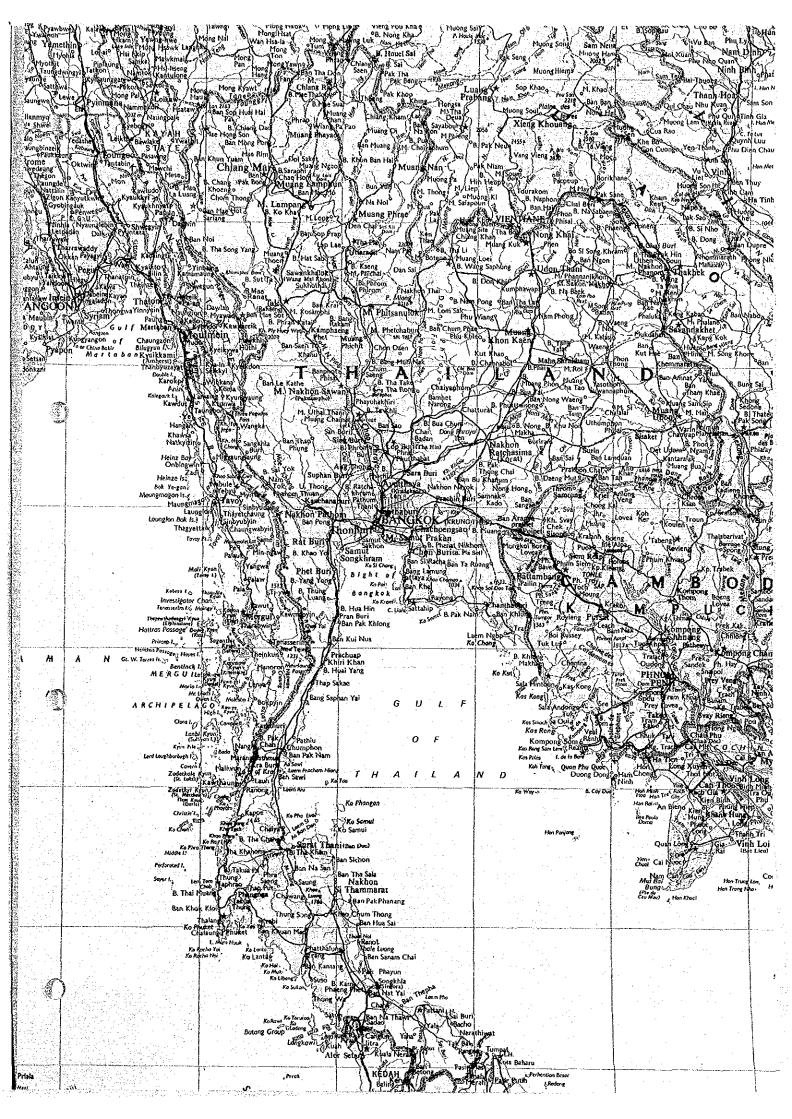
I wish to express my sincerest appreciation to the officials concerned of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for their close cooperation extended to the team.

December, 1989

Kensuke Yanagiya

President

Japan International Cooperation Agency



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List of Abbreviations (in alphabetical order)

ASEAN Association of South-East Asian Nations

ATM Automatic Teller Machine

ATM A synchronous Transfer Mode

B-ISDN Broadband aspects of ISDN

BMA Bangkok Metropolitan Telecommunication Area

BMR Bangkok Metropolitan Region

BOI Board of Investment

BPI Bit Per Inch
b/s bit per second

CAT Communications Authority of Thailand

CATV Cable Television

CCIR Comité Consultatif International de Radio-Communications

CCITT Comité Consultatif International de Télégraphique et Téléphonique

CCS Common Channel Signalling System

CDAS Computerized Directory Assistance System

CR Calling Rate

DN Destination Network Code

DSU Digital Service Unit

DTI Digital Transmission Interface

EGAT Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand

EIRR Economic Internal Rate of Return

ESDP Economic and Social Development Plan
ESP Eastern Seaboard Development Program

FAX Facsimile

FD Floppy Disk

FDM Frequency Division Multiplex

FIRR Financial Internal Rate of Return

FY Fiscal Year

GDP Gross Domestic Product
GNP Gross National Product
GPP Gross Provincial Product

GRP Gross Region Product

IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

ISD International Subscriber Dialling

ISDN Integrated Services Digital Network

ITSC International Transit Switching Center

ITU International Telecommunication Union IICA Japan International Cooperation Agency

LAN Local Area Network

LE Local Exchange

MHS Message Handling Systems

MS Mobile Station as Cellular Mobile System

MT Magnetic Tape

MTX Mobile Telephone Exchange

MUX Multiplexer

NCC New Common Carrier
NDC National Destination Code

NESDB National Economic and Social Development Board NESDP National Economic and Social Development Plans

NIEs Newly Industrializing Economies

NT Network Termination
OA Office Automation

OECF The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund

OJT On the Job Training

OM Operation and Maintenance

P(A)BX Private (Automatic) Branch Exchange

PC Primary Center

PCM Pulse Code Modulation

PRD Public Relations Department

PSTN Public Switched Telephone Network

QC Quality Control

RBS Radio Base Station as Cellular Mobile System

RS(L)U Remote Subscriber (Local) Unit

RT Remote Terminal SC Secondary Center SEP Signal End Point

SPC Stored Program Control STD Subscriber Trunk Dialling

STP Signal Transfer Point
TA Terminal Adaptor

TA Terminal Adaptor
TC Tertiary Center

TDMA Time Division Multiple Access

TE Terminal Equipment

TOT Telephone Organization of Thailand

TO COM

XB Crossbar

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Composition of the Study Report

This report consists of three volumes as follows;

Volume-I:

Summary and Proposals,

Volume-II:

Main Text,

Volume-III:

Appendix.

This part is the Volume-II, Main Text, composed of main descriptions and illustrations of the study result.

1.2 Background of the Study

}

The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand has been making a considerable effort to promote telecommunication services as well as the other socio-economic activities in the country. Telephone Organization of Thailand (hereinafter referred to as "TOT"), which was established in 1954 as the state enterprise for domestic telephone service, has also been endeavoring to improve its telecommunication services and facilities.

The present situation of telephone service in this country, however, is not considered appropriate for meeting the demands from every governmental and private sector. According to the guidelines of the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan, which is now under way, telephone services are yet to be improved though the development of infrastructure services during the period of the Fifth Plan was quite successful. Therefore, improvement and expansion of telephone services is considered to be one of the significant targets of the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan.

In conformity with the Government's policy mentioned above, TOT has been proceeding with its own Economic and Social Development Project 1984-1992 (hereinafter referred to as "the ESDP 1984-1992"), with the main target of increasing 1.022 million telephone lines.

According to a macroscopic demand forecast given before, however, total telephone demand in 1992 will exceed the capacity of telephone facilities considerably. Furthermore, keeping abreast with the worldwide progress in the field, various new and diversified

telecommunication services are to be introduced to meet the demands from every sector in the country.

Therefore, it is essential to TOT that larger-scale facility expansion projects should be formulated and implemented henceforth too, to improve its telecommunication services both in quality and in quality in order to cope with the increasing and diversified demands.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to formulate a long term telecommunication development plan (hereinafter referred to as "the Master Plan") for the period from FY 1993 to FY 2007 in Thailand.

The study includes long-range perspectives of network configuration, telecommunication facilities, maintenance and operation, tariff and finance system and the other organizational matters. The study also covers introduction and extension plan of Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

1.4 Formulating Procedure of the Master Plan

The Master Plan is basically composed of the following 10 study items:

- 1) Prospects of Socio-Economic Conditions in the future,
- Prospects of Telecommunications Sector Development and Structure, and Telecommunications Demand Forecast,
- 3) Analysis of Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat for Telecommunications Entity,
- 4) Setting forth of Objectives and Strategies for Telecommunications Development,
- 5) Network Plan and Management Policies,
- 6) Facility Plan (Expansion, Rehabilitation, Replacement),
- 7) Human Resource and Organization Policies and Plan,
- 8) Financial and Economic Analyses of the Master Plan,
- 9) Financial Policies and Plan,
- 10) Guidelines for the Implementation.

Formulating procedure of the Master Plan is shown in Figure 1.4.

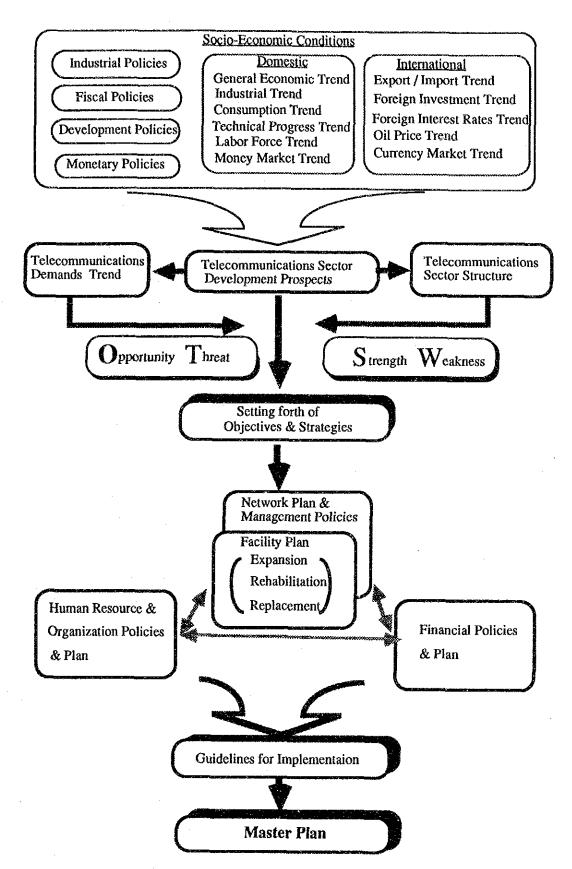


Figure 1.4 Formulating Procedure of The Master Plan

1.5 Execution Process of the Study

The study process is divided into seven phases as follows;

Preparatory Work in Japan : Collection of the related materials and information,

Preparation of Inception Report etc. Sept. 1988.

Work in Thailand - 1 : Explanation of Inception Report, Data collection, Field

surveys, Demand forecast, Preparation and explanation of

Progress Report-1

Oct. - Dec. 1988.

Work in Japan - 1 : Demand forecast, Traffic forecast, Brief study of facility

plan, Preparation of Interim Report.

Dec. 1988 - Feb. 1989.

Work in Thailand - 2 : Explanation of Interim Report, Detailed study of facility plan,

Study of tariff structure and financial plan, Study of management plan, Financial and economic analysis,

Preparation and explanation of Progress Report-2

Mar. - Jun. 1989.

Work in Japan - 2 : Preparation of Draft Final Report. Jun. - Sept. 1989.

Work in Thailand - 3 : Explanation and discussion of Draft Final Report.

Oct. 1989.

Work in Japan - 3 : Preparation of Final Report. Oct. - Nov. 1989.

1.6 Organization for the Study

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1.6.1 Japanese Team Members

1) Preliminary Study Team

As shown in Table 1.6.1-1.

2) Advisory Committee

As shown in Table 1.6.1-2.

3) Main Study Team

As shown in Table 1.6.1-3.

Table 1.6.1-1 Preliminary Study Team Members (Contact Mission: Sept. 16 - 26, 1987. S/W Mission: June 6 - 10, 1988.)

Name	Duty in Charge	Affiliated to
Satoru ITOH*	Leader	Special Advisor, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications
Takao SATOH	Cooperation Policy	Member of Development Cooperation Div. Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Takao YAMAZAKI	Transmission	Telecommunications Development Specialist, Japan International Cooperation Agency
Takahiro UENO	New Services	Member of Technology Policy Division, Communications Policy Bureau, Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications
Akira OHKUBO	Network	Trunk Communications Division, Radio Department, Telecommunication Bureau, Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications
Kin-ichi UMEYA*	Coordinator	Second Development Survey Division, Social Development Cooperation Dep. Japan International Cooperation Agency

Note: * Members participated both of the above missions. Other members participated the Contact Mission only.

Table 1.6.1-2 Advisory Committee Members

Name	Duty in Charge	Affiliated to
Satoru ITOH*1	Chairman	Special Advisor, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications
Katsuharu NAKAMURA* 2	Chairman	Special Advisor, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications
Akira OHKUBO* ³	Member	Assistant to Director, Monitoring &Examination Division, Radio Dep., Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
Kyotaro KARIMATA	Member	Senior Engineer, Telecommunication Systems Division, Telecommunications Business Dep., Telecommunications Bureau, Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications
Kin-ichi UMEYA* ⁴	Coordinator	Second Development Survey Division, Social Development Cooperation Dep., Japan International Cooperation Agency
Kiyoshi NORITAKE* ⁵	Coordinator	Second Development Study Division, Social Development Study Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency

Note:

- *1 *3 *5
- Up to August 1989. Up to March 1989. From July 1989.
- From August 1989. Up to July 1989. *2 *4

Table 1.6.1-3 Main Study Team Members

Name	Duty in Charge	Affiliated to
Takao IWASHIMIZU	Survey Leader & Radio Transmission System Planning	Technical Advisor, Telecommunications Division, NTT International Corporation
Kanetoshi UCHINO	Assistant Survey Leader & Network Planning	Senior Manager, Telecommunications Division, NTT International Corporation
Satoru TAGAMI	Tariff and Financial Planning	Senior Manager, Telecommunications Division, NTT International Corporation
Katsumi MURAKAMI	Transmission System Planning	Senior Manager, Telecommunications Division, NTT International Corporation
Sadao KOIKE*1	Management Development Planning	Senior Manager, Telecommunications Division, NTT International Corporation
Toshiki TAMURA* ²	Management Development Planning	Senior Manager, Telecommunications Division, NTT International Corporation
Akira KONAKAYAMA	Development Planning	Doctor of Economics, Professor, School of Political Science and Economics, TOKAI University
Ken-ichi WATANABE	Outside Plant System Planning	Senior Manager, Telecommunications Division, NTT International Corporation
Tsutomu KANKE	New Services	Senior Manager, Telecommunications Division, NTT International Corporation
Junji IHARA	Demand & Traffic Forecast	Manager, Telecommunications Division, NTT International Corporation
Hiroshi NAKAI	Switching System Planning	Chief, Telecommunications Division, NTT International Corporation
Hiroyuki KANO	Financial & Economic Analyses	Manager, Telecommunications Division, NTT International Corporation

Note: *1 Up to February 1989.

*2 From March 1989.

1.6.2 Thai Officers

This study work was performed in close cooperation with the executives and officers of the departments concerned in TOT. Among others, the director and the officers of Corporate Planning Office in TOT, shown in Table 1.6.2-1, continued to give the study team sincere cooperation, many arrangements and consideration as the counterparts during the study period.

Table 1.6.2-1 Counterparts of Corporate Planning Office, TOT

Name	Affiliated to
Mr. Sanan PHIROMSWAD	Director of Corporate Planning Office
Mr. Pairojn WONGCHAROEN	Head of Corporate Planning Process Sector, Corporate Planning Office
Mr. Apichat INDRALAGSHANA	Corporate Planning Office
Mr. Chakree SUBPRAWONG	Corporate Planning Office
Mr. Thawatchai VONGLUAN-NGAM	Corporate Planning Office
Mr. Seree CHINTARATANA	Corporate Planning Office
Mr. Kamron TEINTHONGDEE	Corporate Planning Office
Mr. Thusanai PIARABUTR	Corporate Planning Office
Ms. Chotip SUTHONTHUNYAKORN	Corporate Planning Office
Mr. Santasiri SIRISAKUDI	Corporate Planning Office
Mr. Tinnakorn ITSALANGKUL	Corporate Planning Office
Mr. Suwit TRECHAROENVIWAT	Corporate Planning Office
Ms. Jintana PRASERTSOM	Corporate Planning Office
Mr. Somchai VICMUKTANON	Corporate Planning Office

CHAPTER 2

PRESENT STATES OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CHAPTER 2. PRESENT STATE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THAILAND

Section 2.1 outlines and discusses the socio-economic situations and problems during the periods of the past six National Economic and Social Development Plans (NESDP) as reference materials to analyze "Opportunities and Threats for development" discussed in Chapter 3. Sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 will analyze the present situations of telecommunications facilities, services, management of the operating entity, and telecommunications areas of Thailand to point out "Strength and Weakness" of the telecommunications sector.

2.1 Past and Present Socio-Economic Situations

2.1.1 General Socio-economic Trend before the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan (1961 - 1986)

The economic performance of the recent Thai economy has been a pleasant surprise to everyone who holds great interests in Thailand. The major phenomena of the recent development are the rapid growth in manufactured exports and foreign investment boom, led by Japanese and Taiwanese firms. The Thai economy for the last couple of years has grown faster than ever. The twin deficits, the nagging macro-economic problems for many years, have started to show their improvement. The balance of payment has been significantly improved. The fiscal deficit of the government budget has been narrowed. Many people foresee that this trend will sustain over the next few decades. Thailand now is expected to lead countries following "the Asian Newly Industrializing Economies (Asian NIEs)" such as Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong in the near future.

Although many people were surprised by the recent performance of the Thai economy, a closer look at the Thai economy shows that Thailand has been able to maintain fairly steady growth for the last 25 years unlike unstable performances of many developing countries in the same period.

In 1958, Thailand changed its policies for industrialization and shifted the leading roles for industrialization to the private sectors from the public sector and promoted the development roles of foreign direct investment. The Thai economy steadily grew under import substitute development policies during the periods between the First and the Fourth NESDP and under an export oriented development policies afterwards.

The Thai economy steadily grew during the the periods of the First and Second NESDP (1961-1971) with 7 - 8 % of the growth rate on real GNP. The economy could still maintain 6 - 7 % of the growth rate during the periods of the Third and Fourth NESDP (1972-1981). For 20 years (1961 - 1981), real GNP and per capita GNP were quadrupled and doubled, respectively. The major reason behind this steady growth was well balanced growth of the agriculture sector through agricultural product diversification and further industrialization of the manufacturing sector.

Table 2.1.1-1 shows the trends of main economic indexes during the periods of the five NESDP.

Table 2.1.1-1 Trends of Main Economic Indexes

(Unit: %) The 1st The 2nd The 3rd The 4th The 5th **ESDP** ESDP **ESDP ESDP ESDP** 7.20 6.20 7.30 4.90 Annual GNP Growth Rate 8.10 Annual Agriculture Sec. 2.90 4.10 3.90 3.50 Production Growth Rate 4.60 Annual Manufacturing Sec. 8.70 5.60 10.20 9.70 8.60 Production Growth Rate Annual Manufactured Export 7.60 Growth Rate 8.70 4.10 14.00 20.00 Savings/GNP 26.00 20.40 24.60 22.60 18.20 Investment/GNP 25.40 24.10 23.60 26.70 22.70 12.50 11.60 2.70 2.30 1.50 Annual Inflation Rate _ 2.50 1.70 6.30 4.70 Trade Deficit/GNP

Source: Compiled from NESDB data

Government Deficit/GNP

Figure 2.1.1-1 shows the trends of GNP and per capita GNP in Thailand during the Fourth and Fifth NESDP periods (1977 - 1986).

0.70

2.90

2.70

3.30

3.70

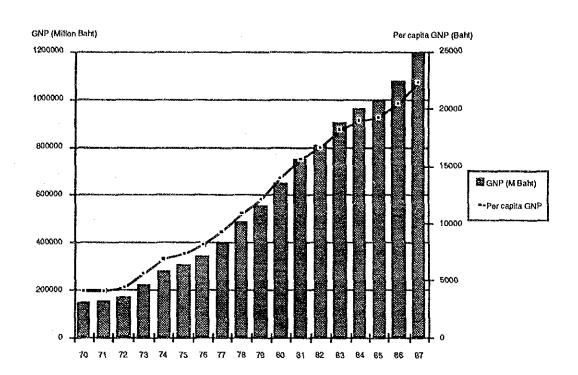


Figure 2.1.1-1 (1/2) GNP and Per capita GNP in Thailand at Current Market Price

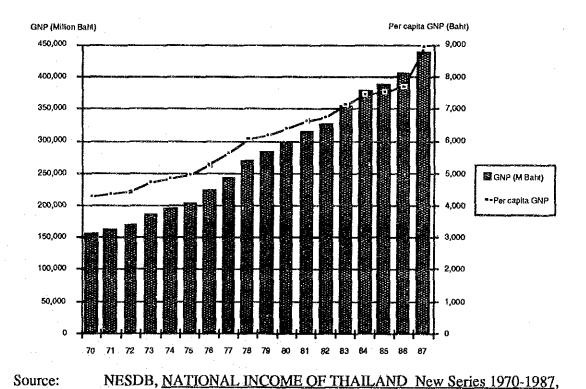


Figure 2.1.1-1 (2/2) GNP and Per capita GNP in Thailand at 1972 Prices

1988

Table 2.1.1-2 shows how each sector contributed to the economic growth during the Fourth and the Fifth NESDP periods (1972 - 1986).

Table 2.1.1-2 Gross National Product at Current Market Prices by Industrial Origin

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/ N. // 1	7/11/1	\sim t	LZ A	n t i
(Mill	11 1115	E 11	13/1	91 1

Year	1976	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Agriculture	92,460	162,987	156,839	185,628	175,190	169,895	184,770
Mining and Quarrying	8,513	21,556	25,110	26,403	32,954	40,167	33,239
Manufacturing	68,186	169,461	176,360	194,344	218,050	224,456	253,593
Construction	15,093	38,135	41,500	47,985	56,092	56,824	56,564
Electricity and Water Supply	3,922	10,901	15,672	17,067	18,618	23,590	28,689
Transportation and Communication	20,200	45,850	55,639	60,809	69,530	78,076	86,763
Wholesale and Retail Trade	62,118	137,491	143,902	147,443	154,891	153,130	171,917
Banking, Insurance and Real Estate	8,874	22,639	26,120	31,145	34,426	35,988	37,220
Ownership of Dwellings	14,963	26,025	29,774	33,851	37,253	41,091	44,837
Public Administration and Defence	14,680	33,281	39,697	44,582	45,019	48,545	50,539
Services	37,507	91,869	109,389	120,797	131,389	142,637	151,410
Gross Domestic Product(GDP)	346,516	760,195	820,002	910,054	973,412	1,014,399	1,099,541
Plus: Net Factor Income Payment							
from the Rest of the World	-884	-12,035	-12,930	-6,701	-11,451	-17,597	-22,437
Gross National Product(GNP)	345,632	748,160	807,072	903,353	961,961	996,802	1,077,104

GDP Share (%)

Year	1976	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Agriculture	26.7	21.4	19.1	20.4	18.0	16.7	16.8
Mining and Quarrying	2.5	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.4	4.0	3.0
Manufacturing	19.7	22.3	21.5	21.4	22.4	22.1	23.1
Construction	4.4	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.8	5.6	5,1
Electricity and Water Supply	1.1	1.4	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.6
Transportation and communication	5.8	6.0	6.8	6.7	7.1	7.7	7.9
Wholesale and retail trade	17.9	18.1	17.5	16.2	15.9	15.1	15.6
Banking, insurance and real estate	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	3,4
Ownership of dwellings	4.3	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.1	4.1
Public administration and defence	4.2	4.4	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.8	4.6
Services	10.8	12.1	13.3	13.3	13.5	14.1	13.8
Gross Domestic Product(GDP)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

GDP Growth Rate (%)

Year		76-81	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Agriculture		12.0	-3.8	18.4	-5.6	-3.0	8.8
Mining and Quarrying		20.4	16.5	5.1	24.8	21.9	-17.2
Manufacturing	_	20.0	4.1	10.2	12,2	2.9	13.0
Construction		20.4	8.8	15.6	16.9	1.3	-0.5
Electricity and Water Supply		22.7	43.8	8.9	9.1	26.7	21.6
Transportation and communication		17.8	21.4	9.3	14,3	12,3	11,1
Wholesale and retail trade		17.2	4.7	2.5	5.1	-1.1	12.3
Banking, insurance and real estate	P===	20.6	15.4	19.2	10.5	4.5	3.4
Ownership of dwellings		11.7	14.4	13.7	10.0	10.3	9.1
Public administration and defence		17.8	19.3	12.3	1.0	7.8	4.1
Services		19.6	19.1	10.4	8.8	8.6	6.2
Gross Domestic Product(GDP)		17.0	7,9	11.0	7.0	4.2	8.4

Source:

NESDB, NATIONAL INCOME OF THAILAND New Series 1970-1987, 1988, p.18-19

The agricultural sector produced about 40% of GNP in the 1960's but produced less than 20% of GNP in the recent years, while the manufacturing sector increased its production share in GNP from 12% to more than 20% during the same period. In 1984, the manufacturing sector took over the number one position for the first time that the agricultural sector had kept.

From the GDP figures of the expenditure side, it is clear that the volume of export has been steadily increasing and that the share in GDP for the last twenty years has been also increasing every year as Table 2.1.1-3 shows.

Table 2.1.1-3 Expenditures on Gross Domestic Product at Current Market Prices

(Unit: Million of Baht)

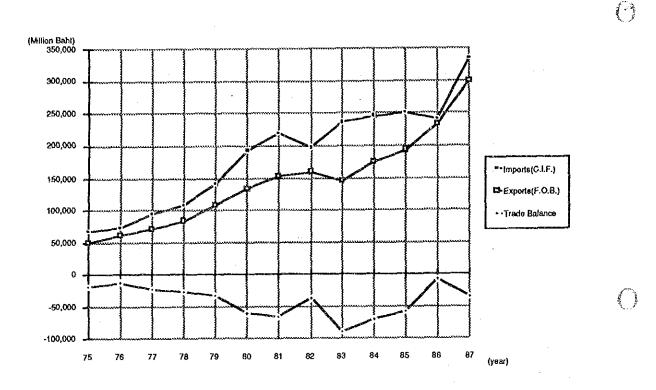
	1975	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Consumption	242.6	520.0	596.6	650.9	717.2	766.0	805.6	857.7
Private	211.3	438.6	499.6	540.7	598.6	635.9	662.7	713.1
Public	31.3	81.4	97.0	110.2	118.6	130.1	142.9	144,6
Gross fixed capital formation	69.4	165.7	188.1	192.2	218.4	238.6	240.3	237.5
Private	53.7	107.1	120.1	125.8	144.8	156.5	148.4	153.9
Public	15.7	58.6	68.0	66.4	73.6	82.1	91.9	83.6
Change in stocks	11.8	8.3	11.7	-2.6	17.6	3.9	3.7	3.8
Export of goods and services	55,7	159.7	181.3	192.9	185.2	216.4	245.3	290.2
Import of goods and services	69.7	201.2	229.0	207.3	251.2	258.6	274.1	267.1
Expenditures on GDP_	309.7	652.7	748.6	826.0	887.3	966.4	1,020.7	1,122.0
Plus: Statistical discrepancy	-6.4	5.9	11.6	-6.0	22.8	7.0	-6.3	-27.4
GDP	303.3	658.5	760.2	820.0	910.1	973.4	1,014.4	1,094.7
Plus: Net factor income	0.0	-5.4	-12.0	-12.9	-6.7	-11.5	-17.6	-22.4
from abroad								
GNP	303.3	653.1	748.2	807.1	903.4	962.0	996.8	1,072.2

Source: NESDB

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The traditional trade pattern of Thailand was to export primary agricultural commodities such as rice, maize, cassava, sugarcane and rubber and to import capital goods, industrial materials and consumption goods. As Figure 2.1.1-2 shows, the trade volume in both import and export expanded every year; however, the trade balance was continuously in red. Since the trade imbalance took its biggest deficit in 1983, the Thai government devalued the Baht and made a major policy change by stressing the new export leading growth strategy instead of the traditional import substitute strategy.



Source: National Statistical Office, Office of the Prime Minister, <u>KEY STATISTICS OF THAILAND 1987, 1988</u>

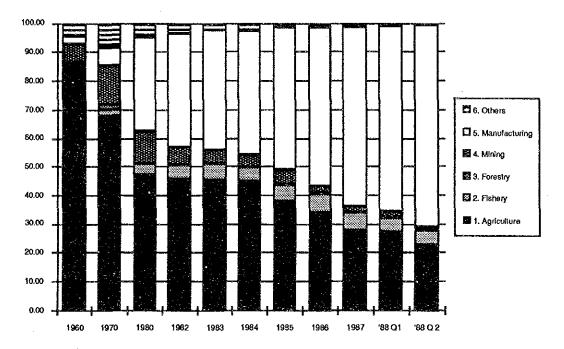
Figure 2.1.1-2 Imports, Exports and Trade Balance of Thailand (1975-1987)

Table 2.1.1-4 and Figure 2.1.1-3 show the change of the major exported commodities during the First and Fifth NESDP periods. In the 1960's, the export structure had a very skewed pattern in which agricultural commodities occupied almost 80% of the exported items, the share of rice and rubber being almost 60%. The share of the agricultural commodities went down to about 70% in 1970 and to about 50% in 1980. During these years new agricultural products such as maize, cassava, and sugarcane besides traditional commodities such as rice and rubber, became the major export items due to the agricultural product diversification promotion policy of the Thai government. The agricultural exports lost its number one position to manufactured exports in 1985 which took up almost 50% of the exported items. The textile products became the number one export item by surpassing rice in 1985.

Table 2.1.1-4 Percentage Distribution of Export Value by Economic Sectors

	1960	1970	1980	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
1. Agriculture	84.38	67.50	46.93	45.80	45,39	44.68	37.96	34.02	27.77
2. Fishery	0.41	2.49	4.16	4.78	5.62	4.96	5.48	6.36	6.06
3. Forestry	1.33	1.48	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.19	0.27	0.27
4. Mining	6.69	13.93	11.58	6.15	4.65	4.33	5.24	2.69	1.95
5. Manufacturing	2.44	6.10	32.33	39.57	41.89	43.42	49.45	55.35	62.71
6. Others	4.74	8.50	4.95	3.64	2.38	2.55	1.69	1.31	1.24
Total Exports	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Bank of Thailand, QUARTERLY BULLETIN



Source: Same as Table 2.1.1-4

Figure 2.1.1-3 Percentage Distribution of Export Value by Economic Sectors

Although consumption goods, especially non-durable consumption goods, were major import items in the 1960's, imports of raw materials and capital goods increased while the import share of non-durable consumption goods decreased and the imports of durable consumption goods increased as the policy change from the import substitute strategy to the export oriented strategy were emphasized more.

However, the change of the industrial structure caused little structural change in the labor market. The agricultural sector grew not by increase in land productivity but by

expansion of farming land and product diversification. This caused little employment structural change. More than 70% of the labor force were still employed in the agricultural sector in the 1980's.

The forest area shrunk to only 30% of the country because of expansion of farming land. Rapid expansion of the farming land and delayed efforts to maintain the forest area caused frequent floods and other environmental problems and prevented land productivity from being improved.

The growth rate of GNP went down from the previous 7% level to the 4.9% figure on the average during the Fifth NESDP period and even failed to realize the Fifth NESDP target figure of 6.6%. The reasons behind the poor performance of this period were:

- the world-wide recession,
- rise of protectionism movement among developed countries,
- unfavorable terms of trade for the Thai agricultural commodities,
- instability of international currency market,
- increased competition in international markets.

These struck the Thai agricultural and export sectors hard and caused the following vicious cycle:

- decrease of the purchasing power of Thai farmers,
- decrease in the amount of consumption,
- decrease of GNP,
- decrease in over-all demands,
- decrease in investment incentives,
- decrease in the amount of investment,
- decrease of GNP.

To get out of this vicious cycle, the Thai government started to promote the following policies:

- to strengthen the agriculture sector and export sector by increasing productivity of and by diversifying products of the agriculture sector,
- to devalue the Baht and to change the development policy from the import substitute strategy to the export oriented strategy,

- to develop more competitive manufactured exports and to promote more exports,
- to establish more regional industry bases and industrial complex through promoting small and medium size enterprises and local resources utilizing industries.

The Thai economy plunged into a sever recession and the following two major problems emerged in the early 1980's.

- Widening Gaps among Industrial Sectors and Regions (Dual Economic Structure Problem and Urban-Rural Gap Problem), Especially Urban Congestion Problems of Bangkok and Widening Gap between Bangkok and the Provincial Areas.
- Twin Deficits Problem, Increase in the Government Budget Deficit and Persisting Trade Deficit Caused by Slow Adjustment of Policy Change from the Import Substitute Strategy to the Export Oriented Strategy.

The above two problems will be discussed in more details.

1) Widening Gaps among Industrial Sectors and Regions (Dual Economic Structure
Problem and Urban-Rural Gap Problem), Especially, Urban Congestion Problems of
Bangkok and Widening Gap between Bangkok and the Provincial Areas.

The stagnation of the agricultural sector, mainly located in the outside of the Bangkok area and the amazing performance of the non-agricultural sectors, mainly located in the Bangkok area, widened the disparities of growth rates and income levels between the agricultural sector and the non-agricultural sector and between the Bangkok area and the other provincial areas.

Table 2.1.1-5 shows the number of employees and the percentage share for each sector during the Third, Fourth and Fifth NESDP periods. The share of the employees of the agricultural sector was more than 70% of all the employees in Thailand while the manufactured sector increased the number of employees by 1.3 millions during those years which was only 5.6% of all the employees. The manufacturing sector did not offer many job opportunities.

Table 2.1.1-5 Employment Classified by Industrial Sector

(Unit: Thousand)

Year	1971	1975	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Agriculture	13,767	14,181	16,779	17,973	17,594	17,558	18,453	18,090	18,133
•	78.91%	73.41%	70.79%	72.17%	68.85%	69.25%	70.22%	68.89%	67.10%
Mining	76	72	112	102	91	98	99	91	93
	0.44%	0.37%	0.47%	0.41%	0.36%	0.39%	0.38%	0.35%	0.34%
Manufacturing	690	1,407	1,864	1,744	2,018	1,842	1,995	2,068	2,076
,	3.95%	7.28%	7.86%	7.00%	7.90%	7.27%	7.59%	7.88%	7.68%
Construction	198	214	451	467	520	511	535	582	592
	1.13%	1.11%	1.90%	1.88%	2.03%	2.02%	2.04%	2.22%	2.19%
Electricity, gas,	32	42	62	67	72	78	80	82	83
and water supply	0.18%	0.22%	0.26%	0.27%	0.28%	0.31%	0.30%	0.31%	0.31%
Transportation and	224	395	473	393	501	535	519	532	605
Communication	1.28%	2.04%	2.00%	1.58%	1.96%	2.11%	1.97%	2.03%	2.24%
Trade and banking	1,234	1,428	2,001	2,089	2,354	2,194	2,223	2,377	2,704
	7.07%	7.39%	8.44%	8.39%	9.21%	8.65%	8.46%	9.05%	10.01%
Other services	1,226	1,578	1,961	2,069	2,403	2,537	2,376	2,437	2,736
	7.03%	8.17%	8.27%	8.31%	9.40%	10.01%	9.04%	9.28%	10.13%
Total	17,447	19,317	23,703	24,904	25,553	25,353	26,280	26,259	27,022
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Unemployment rate (%)					!				
Round 1 (February)	0.2	0.3	N,A.	1.4	1.6	3.9	3.8	4.1	5.1
Round 2 (August)	0.2	0.4	0.9	0.8	3.0	2.0	1.9	3.1	3.2

Source: Lamduan Pawakaranond, "Thailand's Country Paper", NESDB, May 1988.

The percentage figure of GNP of the Bangkok metropolitan Region (BMR), which consists of the Bangkok-Tonburi area and the five surrounding provinces of Samut Prakan, Samut Sakhon, Nakhon Pathom, Nonthaburi and Pathum Thani, was 29% in 1970, but went up to 46% in 1985.

Table 2.1.1-6 shows the distribution of GDP by sector and region. Also given are the population distribution, and GDP per capita. While the BMR contained about 16% of the total population, it accounted for about 46% of GDP. Per capita GDP of the BMR was about 7.3 times, 4.4 times, 4 times, and 2.8 times larger than those of the Northeast region, the North region, the South region, and the Central region, respectively. It can be safely said that the BMR alone has reached the status of an NIE.

Table 2.1.1-6 Gross Domestic Product at Current Market Price by Region

(Unit: 1985, Million of Baht)

	Whole Kingdom	Northeast	North	South	Central	Bangkok *1			
Agriculture	178,533	41,721	42,302	33,462	50,221	10,827			
Industry	316,697	20,611	24,295	15,367	54,694	201,730			
Services	546,124	83,365	68,799	49,126	83,209	261,625			
Total GDP	1,041,354	145,697	135,396	97,955	188,124	474,182			
Per Capita GDP (Baht)	20,148	8,083	13,304	14,737	21,395	58,963			
Population (Million)	51.684	18.025	10.177	6.647	8.793	8.042			

Percent Share

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	Whole Kingdom	Northeast	North	South	Central	Bangkok *1
Agriculture	100.00%	23,37%	23.69%	18.74%	28.13%	6.06%
Industry	100.00%	6.51%	7.67%	4.85%	17.27%	63,70%
Services	100.00%	15.26%	12.60%	9.00%	15.24%	47.91%
Total GDP	100.00%	13.99%	13.00%	9.41%	18.07%	45.54%
Population	100.00%	34.88%	19.69%	12.86%	17.01%	15.56%

Source: NESDB, GDP by Province, 1985

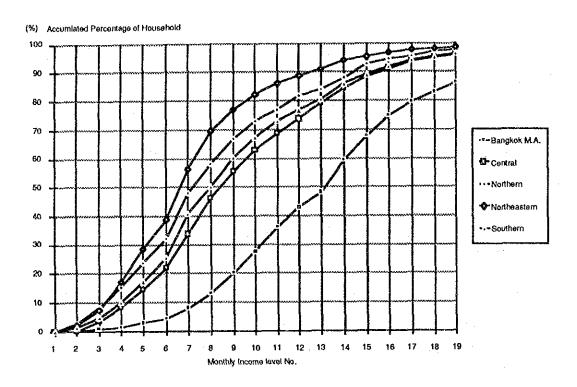
Note: *1 Bangkok here includes the Bangkok-Tonburi area and the 5 surrounding provinces, i.e., the BMR.

The Northeast region lags far behind the other regions. It contains about 35% of the total population while its share of GDP was only about 14%. The Central region had the next highest per capita GDP. Next came the South region and then the North region.

The share of the agricultural GDP was the highest in the Central region at about 28%. The North and Northeast regions had almost the same shares of the agricultural GDP at about 24%, while the South region had about 19%. The shares of the service GDP across region were almost the same.

For the manufacturing industry, almost two thirds of total GDP were originated form the BMR (about 64%). The Central region had the next highest share of GDP from the manufacturing industry, about 17%, the other regions all had the a share of less than 8%.

Figure 2.1.1-4 shows the monthly household income distribution patterns in the five regions. Households in the Bangkok-Tonburi area also have higher monthly income levels than those in other regions.



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Level No.	Monthly Income	Bangkok M.A.	Central	Northern	Northeastern	Southern
1	250	0.1 %	0.0 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.2 %
2	499	0.2 %	0.2 %	2.6 %	2.4 %	1.5 %
3	749	0.7 %	3.4 %	8.3 %	7.4 %	4.8 %
4	999	1.5 %	8.4 %	15.3 %	17.2 %	10.4 %
5	1,249	2.9 %	14.6 %	23.8 %	28.7 %	17.4 %
6	1,499	4.3 %	22.0 %	32.3 %	38.8 %	25.4 %
7	1,999	8.1 %	33.7 %	47.9 %	56.3 %	40.7 %
8	2,499	13.0 %	46.2 %	57.9 %	69.6 %	50.3 %
9	2,999	20.1 %	55.6 %	67.0 %	77.0 %	60.3 %
10	3,499	27.4 %	63.1 %	73.1 %	82.5 %	67.4 %
11	3,999	36.1 %	68.9 %	76.7 %	86.2 %	73.0 %
12	4,499	42.9 %	73.8 %	· 81.8 %	88.7 %	76.9 %
13	4,999	48.1 %	79.3 %	84.1 %	90.9 %	80.4 %
14	5,999	59.6 %	84.4 %	88.3 %	94.0 %	86.1 %
15	6,999	68.0 %	88.6 %	92.7 %	95.4 %	89.2 %
16	7,999	74.7 %	91.2 %	94.7 %	96.8 %	92.0%
17	8,999	79.5 %	93.7 %	95.6%	97.7 %	94.1 %
18	9,999	83.0 %	95.0 %	97.3 %	98.0 %	95.2 %
19	10,999	86.5 %	96.0 %	97.7 %	98.4 %	96.1 %

HOUSEHOLDS SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY

Figure 2.1.1-4 Household Income Distribution Patterns in Five Regions

The number of manufacturing companies excluding rice mills in Thailand was approximately 40,000 in 1983. About 74% of them are concentrated in the BMR and the Central region. Almost 90% of the companies engaged in textile, apparel, leather, printing

and press, plastic products, and machinery were concentrated in this region. According to the 1984 Industrial Statistics, all establishments in 51 industries were found in the BMR and, in 86 industries, more than 50% of the establishments were found in the BMR.

However, the concentration rates of food and beverage, fertilizer, wood products, and electric machinery ranged between 25.8% and 50%. The low concentration figures of these industries imply that food and beverage and fertilizer industries are local resource utilizing industries and that the electric machinery industry is quite labor intensive and is, therefore, located in areas where cheap and abundant labor workers are available.

Of 1,426 manufacturing companies approved by BOI between 1960 and 1986, 933 companies (65.4%) are located in the BMR. The reasons for this high industrial concentration are as follows:

- the port of Bangkok is the only port in the country which can handle a large amount of cargo,
- Bangkok is the biggest market in Thailand and other market areas are comparatively very small,
- the BMR offers the best infrastructure services,
- Bangkok offers the best urban functions and commercial and public services.

Although the benefits of being located in the BMR have been decreasing because of poor land foundation, traffic congestions, lack of industrial sites, land price inflation, and other various adverse effects of too much concentration, heavy investors still regard the BMR as the best place for investment.

The Thai government has been promoting relocation of establishments in the Bangkok-Tonburi area to other areas. Establishments, however, tend to move only within the BMR.

There are twelve industrial parks in Thailand. Only two industrial parks, one in the North region and the other in the Northeast region, are not in the BMR. Six industrial parks are located within 60 km radius of the Bangkok-Tonburi area.

2) Twin Deficits Problem, Increase in the Government Budget Deficit and Persisting Trade Deficit Caused by Slow Adjustment of Policy Change from the Import Substitute Strategy to the Export Oriented Strategy.

Both deficits had become worsened since the middle of the Fourth NESDP period. The widened savings and investment gap due to the decrease of the savings rate caused the twin deficits problem. As a result, the amount of the external debt went up with an accelerated speed and the debt service ratio also went up to about 11%, though this figure was not so high as those of South American countries and the Philippines. This problem forced the government to cut back large-scale public investment projects.

The fundamental structure of the balance of payment has been that the deficit of the trade balance was covered by the surpluses of the non-trade balance and the foreign capital inflow. This structure created a large amount of external borrowings and, as a result, a large amount of accumulated external debt. Table 2.1.1-7 shows this trend.

Table 2.1.1-7 Balance of Payment

(Unit: Million of Baht)

Year	1975	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Merchandise Balance	-20,161	-65,782	-36,137	-89,237	-68,796	-61,672	-14,369
Nonfactor Service Balance	2,780	16,998	20,291	20,768	24,668	29,061	33,739
Factor Service Balance	3,381	-10,956	-11,495	4,193	-9,469	-13,808	-18,769
Net Transfers	1,632	3,690	4,203	6,377	4,128	4,494	5,914
Current Account Balance	-12,368	-56,050	-23,138	-66,285	-49,469	-41,925	6,515
Net Capital Flow	7,755	55,131	38,345	34,681	58,365	51,433	11,354
Allocation of SDRs	- 0	488	0	0	0	0	0
Errors and Omission	1,756	2,962	-11,893	13,527	1,692	2,956	15,710
Overall Balance	-2,857	2,531	3,314	-18,077	10,588	12,464	33,579
Change in Reserves	2,857	-2,531	3,314	18,077	-10,588	-12,464	-33,579

Source: Bank of Thailand

Table 2.1.1-8 shows the trend in Government revenue and expenditures. The government budget deficits ranged around the level of 35 billion baht a year since 1984. Revenue started to increase rapidly since the later part of 1986, following the growth in tax revenue.

Table 2.1.1-8 National Government Actual Revenue & Expenditure

(Unit: Million Baht)

					Unit: Mill	ion banti
Year	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Total Revenue	111,843	115,980	143,436	148,242	160,649	169,925
Taxation	100,906	105,076	129,062	136,246	144,947	154,202
-Income Taxes	22,484	24,790	27,870	31,810	35,231	34,767
-Indirect Taxes	78,422	80,286	101,192	104,436	109,716	119,435
Sales & charges	1,475	2,133	2,129	2,131	2,545	2,906
Contribution from						
State Enterprises	3,495	3,309	3,524	3,509	6,251	5,836
Miscellaneous	5,967	5,462	8,721	6,356	6,906	6,981
Total Expenditure	133,444	157,017	167,088	182,228	200,028	204,279
Economic Classification						
Current	105,259	125,904	137,355	154,481	166,937	173,557
Capital	28,185	31,113	29,733	27,747	33,091	30,722
Major functional Classification						
Economic Services	26,218	27,902	27,969	28,573	30,534	29,928
Social Services	37,586	47,940	50,524	55,419	58,949	60,156
Defence	25,917	31,350	31,685	36,034	43,184	41,125
General Admi. & Services	19,424	18,134	24,556	24,304	25,765	25,761
Unallocable Items	24,299	31,691	32,354	37,898	41,596	47,309
Treasury Deficit (-) or Surplus	-21,601	-41,037	-23,652	-33,986	-39,379	-34,354

Source: Bank of Thailand

Table 2.1.1-9 shows the trends of

- total external debt,
- ratio of total external debt to GDP,
- debt service ratio.

Table 2.1.1-9 External Debt

(Unit: Million of US Dollars)

			and the second second				
Year	1975	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Long-Term Debt	1,352.4	7,931.3	9,156.6	10,562.9	11,429.7	14,327.2	15,708.2
Amount Disbursed and Outstanding	1,352.4	7,225.7	8,454.8	9,655.7	10,638.4	13,307.0	14,720.0
Public and Publicly Guaranteed	554.5	2,883.7	3,468.3	4,280.1	4,504.0	5,844.0	7,163.0
Private Creditors	61.7	2,243.4	2,669.6	2,720.3	2,762.4	4,093.1	4,449.2
Private Nonguaranteed	736.2	2,098.6	2,316.9	2,655.3	3,372.0	3,369.9	3,107.8
Use of IMF Credit	0.0	705.6	701.8	907.2	791.3	1,020.2	988.2
Short-Term Debt Outstanding	0.0	2,878.0	3,041.0	3,305.0	3,551.0	3,200.0	2,840.0
Total External Debt Outstanding	1,352.4	10,809.3	12,197.6	13,867.9	14,980.7	17,527.2	18,548.2
Total External Debt/GDP	9.1%	31.0%	34.2%	35.0%	36.4%	46.9%	44.4%
Total Long-Term Debt Service/Exports							
of Goods & Services	12.0%	14.4%	16.0%	19.1%	21.5%	25.3%	25.4%

Source: Bank of Thailand

The ratio of public sector external debt to GDP increased on average by 2.5 % per year between 1981 and 1985, reaching 24.6% of GDP in 1985. In 1986, the stock of public sector external debt increased by 10.6% in baht terms because of exchange rate movements, especially appreciation of yen.

2.1.2 The Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan

1) The Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan

To solve the problems emerged during the period of the Fifth NESDP, the Sixth NESDP was started in 1987. This plan will continue until 1991.

The Sixth NESDP aims to direct the Thai economy and the society toward a state of higher degree of autonomy, and higher growth sustainability under uncertain and unstable world situations and to upgrade the standard of living of Thai people through utilizing scarce resources in Thailand more efficiently.

The main framework of the Sixth NESDP is shown in Figure 2.1.2-1.

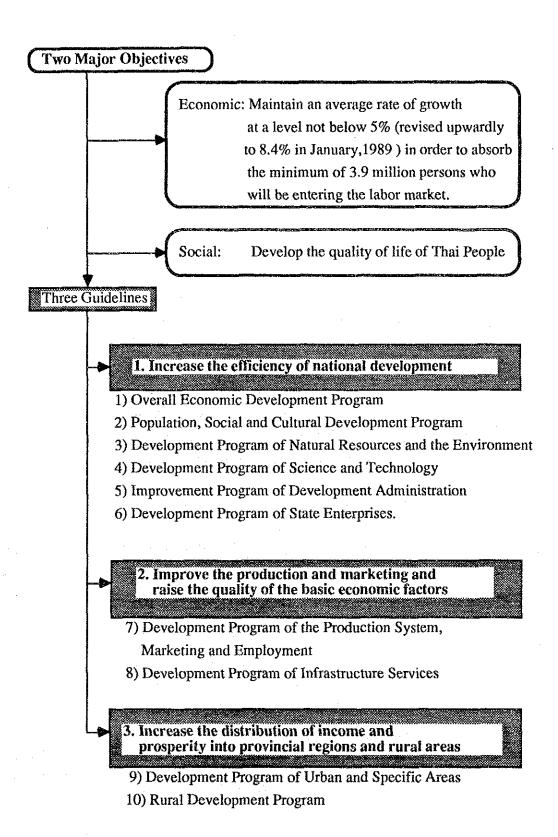


Figure 2.1.2-1 The Main Framework of the 6th NESDP

2) The Eastern Seaboard Development Program

The Eastern Seaboard Development Program (ESP) was originally planned as a first priority development program in the Fifth NESDP and is also ranked as one of the highest priority development programs in the Sixth NESDP. The ESP aims to develop heavy chemical industries which utilize natural gas produced in Gulf of Siam and labor intensive export oriented light industries and to decentralize and relocate industries which are presently concentrated in the BMR. The ESP is the first public large-scale long-term regional development project in Thailand.

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The ESP will be implemented in the area called the Eastern Seaboard which covers three provinces of Chon Buri, Rayong, and Chachoengsao (3% of the country and 4% of the total population). Learn Chabang and Map Ta Phut areas are the centers of the ESP.

The Leam Chabang area is located in Chon Buri province which is southeast of and 125 km out of Bangkok and north of and 15 km out of Pattaya, an internationally famous resort city. This area will develop a commercial deep sea port which will be the number one international seaport in Thailand in place of the presently overly congested Bangkok port and also develop export-oriented labor intensive and pollution free light industries.

The Map Ta Phut area is located in Rayong province which is southeast of and 200 km out of Bangkok. The pipe line for natural gas produced in the Gulf of Siam comes out of this area. Natural gas related to heavy chemical industries will be promoted to develop currently import depending petro-chemical products in Thailand. An industrial deep seaport will be also constructed to establish this area as the national center for infant heavy chemical industries.

The ESP is also expected to spread economic influences toward the Northeast region. Once accessibility to the Northeast region from the Eastern Seaboard area is improved by development of transportation and communications infrastructure, large firms, small and medium size subcontracting firms and supporting industries of machinery parts manufacturing and assembling, light industries, and agricultural products processing industries are expected to locate along with major highways toward Nakhon Ratchasima.

3) The Recent Performance

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Following a period of policy adjustment and unsteady economic performance during the first half of the 1980's, the Thai economy has been achieving an impressive record of economic expansion since 1986.

Table 2.1.2-1 shows the target, actual, and forecasted figures of major economic indexes during the Sixth NESDP period. The actual performance of the Thai economy surpassed well over the target figures in 1987 and 1988. This trend is expected to continue for the rest of the Sixth NESDP period.

Table 2.1.2-1 Targets and Recent Results of the 6th NESDP

The 6th ESDP (actual) (estimate) (foreca: (1987-91) (1987-91)		Target of	1987	1988	1987-91
1. Real GDP Growth Rate (%) 1.1 GDP Over 5.0 7.1 8.3 1.2 Agriculture & Fishery 2.9 1.3 Non Agriculture & Fishery 5.7 9.4 1.4 Manutacturing 6.6 10.2 11.2 1.5 Mining 6.4 8.9 1.6 Electricity & Water Supply 1.6 Electricity & Water Supply 1.7 Construction 5.1 7.3 1.8 Services 5.3 9.4 2. Real Demand Growth Rate (%) 2.1 Consumption 3. Private 5.3 9.4 2.2 Gross Fixed Capital Formation 6.4 8.7 ivate 8.1 9. Public 2.2 Gross Fixed Capital Formation 7. Services 7. Services 8. Services 8. Services 8. Services 9. Service					
1. Real GDP Growth Rate (%) 1.1 GDP		l	(actual)	(estimate)	(IOIGCASI)
1.1 GDP	4 Day (ODD Ownste Date (0/)	(1907-91)		W. A	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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Source: Japanese Chambers of Commerce, <u>THAILAND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK</u> (1988-1989), p.49, Jan. 1989

The most important factors that contributed to the recent economic success are the depreciation of US dollars, fall of the oil price and interest rates and the rising manufacturing costs in Japan and Asian NIEs. However, it cannot be overlooked that external factors were magnified by domestic conditions such as stable political conditions, clean bureaucracy,

promotion of foreign direct investments, well organized market conditions, domestic market size, good quality and reliable labor force, too.

First, unlike many developing countries, the Thai Government did not pursue a policy of carrying out large scale public investment projects as a driving force for industrialization. The government carefully avoided going into deep fiscal and external debts. Most of investment decisions were made by private sectors and, as a result, a production and marketing system that could flexibly respond to market opportunities was cultivated. In that system, Thai manufactures built up a sound foundation and were ready to respond to favorable opportunities vigorously.

4) Constraints to Growth and Emerging Policy Issues

In order for Thailand to continue its rapid growth, the government has to promote policies to establish higher autonomy and stronger sustainability in the Thai economy. To do so, it may have to consider increasing flexibility and competitiveness and at the same time reducing some major constraints which have hindered the economic growth in the past.

The most important problem for the future economic expansion is the state of infrastructure. Almost two-thirds of the government budget for development purposes have been used to provide basic infrastructure since the First NESDP. After several years of cutbacks in public investment programs to keep the government deficits low, the present state of infrastructure is not adequate to support the recent unexpected rapid economic expansion. Bottlenecks are emerging in ports, energy, industrial water supply, transportation, and telecommunications.

Under the constraint of keeping conservative fiscal stance, the government has to strategically plan infrastructure development policies. To effectively utilize the scarce resources, the government should not only identify strategically important major infrastructure facilities, but also develop minor related facilities and integrate them into major facility network systems so that synergy effects are well exploited. To plan and implement strategies, reformation of the development administration and state enterprise system must be made.

It has been estimated that the public sector's investment may have to increase from 6.8% of GDP in 1987 to around 8% in the near future. If the government fails to improve the state of infrastructure, the cost of production will escalate, thereby stifling the growth of manufacturing industries.

At the same time, the government must maintain a sound macro-economic balance as a prerequisite condition for industrial growth. The Thai government must maintain both fiscal and trade balances in good order.

The government faces difficult tasks of achieving several conflicting objectives at the same time. The government spending will inevitably increase to develop infrastructure and to provide increased public services as income levels rise. The share of investment in GNP will also certainly increase as the capital-intensive manufacturing sector becomes a more dominant growth force in the future. Unless the private savings and the government revenue also increase in a consistent manner as private investment and public expenditures increase, the investment-savings gap and the fiscal deficit will widen. As a result, imports will exceed the exports and the external debt problem will become serious to disrupt economic expansion. Increase in government expenditures will also be a major cause of inflation.

Therefore, while the Thai Government has to maintain a basically conservative fiscal stance not to produce inflationary pressure, it must continue its efforts to develop infrastructure, to raise the operating efficiency of the state enterprises, to increase its tax revenue to improve fiscal conditions by reforming the taxation system, to promote financial liberalization to increase private savings and to efficiently utilize foreign capital, to simplify import tariff, to reduce corporate tax rates, to create export incentives, to legislate local contents regulations on usage of Thai made parts and intermediate materials, to develop human resources and to improve compensation systems for workers.

Under the existence of a wide investment-savings gap, reformation of the financial sector is essential to promote private savings and business activities through efficient utilization of foreign capital funds. Continuous and stable supply of both short-term and long-term capital funds must be secured to promote the growth of the export oriented manufactures, small and medium size firms and the agriculture sector. Reformation of the financial sector must be made as well as tax and salary systems reformations to promote private savings. Reformation of the financial sector must be carried out on the following points:

- restructuring of the financial system by establishing financial intermediaries for long-term capital funds,
- review of interest rate system,
- expansion of availability of medium-long term credits,

- coordination of business activities of commercial banks and the central bank policies.

Vitalization and expansion of the stock market is also a major issue in the financial sector reformation. More stocks of private and public corporations with excellent business records are expected to be issued and to be made public. Institutional investors are expected to play more active roles in the stock market. Laws and regulations on fair trade of stocks are expected to be reviewed and implemented.

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People are the most important key ingredient for development even with well designed industrial, financial, and infrastructure policies. The supply of skilled labor and professionals, especially engineers, will be in serious shortage in a few years and the supply of unskilled labor will be also in shortage in several years as the trend of the present economic growth continues. Labor shortage will not only stifle economic growth but also increase labor price and cause inflation.

To improve the quality of human resources, improvement of the education system is essential. To improve the over-all quality of the labor force, upgrading and expansion of secondary education is needed. For skilled and professional workers, more emphasis on science and engineering education should be made.

It is also urgently needed to reform salary and compensation systems to improve people's standard of living, to increase labor productivity, and to create savings incentives as well as development of human resources.

To transform the industrial structure of Thailand from the agriculture dominant, simple, and fragile structure to more industrialized, sophisticated, and self-sustainable structure, the following strategies are needed to be vigorously implemented.

- To increase technological capabilities of the Thai manufactures through public efforts on research and development, encouraging people to take science and engineering education, and technical transfers.
- To develop a wide range of efficient and reliable subcontractors and supporting industries which can supply Thai-made parts and intermediate materials for export orienting foreign and domestic firms.
- To develop rural industries which can spread the benefits of economic development to rural areas and to expand the size of the domestic market.

- To develop industries with comparative advantages in international industrial specialization and with competitive advantages in international markets.
- To develop desirable industries for the socio-economic development of Thailand.

5) Summary of Socio-Economic Issues

The major socio-economic trends and issues are summarized as follows:

a) Economic development of Thailand started in the later part of the 1960's and reached a nation-wide and sector-wide development phase in the 1970's. Production expansion in the agricultural sector led the development at first, and then gradual and rapid industrialization followed in the 1970's. The manufacturing sector took over the leading role of development in the 1980's.

- b) However, the change of the industrial structure caused little structural change in the labor market. The agricultural sector grew not by increase in land productivity but by expansion of farming land and product diversification. This caused little employment structural change. More than 70% of the labor force were still employed in the agricultural sector in the 1980's.
- c) The forest area shrunk to only 30% of the country because of expansion of farming land. Rapid expansion of the farming land and delayed efforts to maintain the forest area caused frequent floods and other environment problems and prevented land productivity from being improved.
- d) Export items were primarily agricultural products in the 1960's and the 1970's. Thailand exported mainly just rice and rubber in the 1960's but succeeded in diversifying the export products such as maize, cassava, sugar cane, and pineapples. Thailand started to export more and more manufactured products in the late 1970's. Manufactured exports shared more than 50% of all exports in 1985. Major manufactured exports are textile and apparel, canned and processed food, light manufactured products such as jewelries and integrated circuits.
- e) Although consumption goods, especially non-durable consumption goods, were major import items in the 1960's, imports of raw materials and capital goods increased while the import share of non-durable consumption goods increased as the policy change from the import substitute strategy to export oriented strategy was emphasized more.

- f) In the early 80's, imbalances of three macro-economic factors, i.e., investment and savings, government revenue and expenditure, and import and export, became serious. The Thai government took a conservative fiscal position in order to restrain the speed of development. As a result, in 1984, the Thai economy experienced a severe recession. Although the accumulation of external debt was avoided, advancement of industrialization was slowed down due to decrease of both public and private investment. The development strategies in Thailand has been formulated to promote further industrialization within a given level of external debt ceiling since then.
- g) After the Plaza Agreement in September 1985, several favorable external conditions such as depreciation of US dollars, fall of oil price and interest rates, and rising manufacturing costs in Japan and the Asian NIEs emerged and helped the Thai manufactured exports. The trade imbalance has been improved and the fiscal deficit has been narrowed.
- h) Thailand seems to have been going through major economic structural changes. The recent trend in the surge of manufactured exports and the stagnation of the traditional agricultural sector pictures the manufacturing sector as the present major force behind the future economic development. The recent economic success has created an impression that Thailand may be on the verge to be the fifth Asian Newly Industrializing Economy.
- i) Industrialization in Thailand started for the purpose of import substitution of consumption goods in the 1960's. This created a mass concentration of industries in infrastructure rich and consumer concentrated Bangkok as a market of mass consumption. As a result, disparities of growth rates and income levels among regions and sectors became serious problems.
- j) These disparities will widen more in the future because the traditional agricultural sector located in the outside of the BMR is and will be in stagnation and the economically successful non-agricultural sectors are mainly located in the BMR although the government has been trying to relocate factories in Bangkok to provincial areas.
- k) To solve the problems emerged during the Fifth NESDP period, the Sixth NESDP was started in 19887. The Eastern Seaboard Development Program is one of the highest priority development project. The effort to develop the Eastern Seaboard indicates a strategy of development of the surrounding areas of the BMR and decentralization of industries.

- l) There are already several industrial parks in Thailand. Most of them are, however, located in the BMR. There are several plans for development of industrial parks in the provincial areas.
- m) The most important problem for the future economic expansion is the state of infrastructure. After several years of cutbacks in public investment programs, the present state of infrastructure is not adequate to support the recent unexpected rapid economic expansion caused by increased manufactured exports and direct foreign investments. Bottlenecks are emerging in ports, energy, industrial water supply, transportation, and telecommunications.
- n) The Thai economy faces many problems such as rise of protectionism in developed countries, low labor workers employment capability of the manufacturing sector, shortage of skilled workers, professionals, and engineers.
- Advancement of industrialization may be halted because of entry barriers into markets of developed countries.
- p) The overall labor supply situation in Thailand appears to be quickly heading toward a shortage, especially for skilled workers and professionals, perhaps within several years if the current pattern of economic growth continues. Labor shortage will not only stifle economic growth but also increase labor price and cause inflation.
- q) In order for Thailand to continue its rapid growth, the government has to promote policies to establish higher autonomy and stronger sustainability in the Thai economy. To do so, it may have to consider increasing flexibility and competitiveness and at the same time reducing some major constraints which have hindered the economic growth in the past. The following are some urgently necessary policies:
 - To increase technological capabilities of the Thai manufactures through public efforts on research and development, encouraging people to take science and engineering education, and technical transfer.
 - To develop a wide range of efficient and reliable subcontractors and supporting industries which can supply Thai-made parts and intermediate materials for export orienting foreign and domestic firms.
 - To develop rural industries which can spread the benefits of economic development to rural areas and to expand the size of the domestic market.

- To develop industries with comparative advantages in international industrial specialization and with competitive advantages in international markets.
- To develop desirable industries for the socio-economic development of Thailand.
- To develop infrastructure, to raise the operating efficiency and the quality of services of the state enterprises under the constraint of keeping conservative fiscal stance not to create inflationary pressure.
- To review the tax system to increase the tax revenue and improve the fiscal condition.
- To promote financial liberalization to increase private savings and to efficiently utilize foreign capital.
- To simplify import tariff, to reduce corporate tax rates, to create export incentives, to legislate local contents regulations on usage of Thai made parts and intermediate materials.
- To develop human resources and to improve compensation systems for workers.