Governmental institutions

The Office of the National Counter Corruption Commission

165/1 Phitsanulok Road Dusit Bangkok 10300 Thailand Tel. 662-282-3161 to 65 Fax. 662-281-1145 The main functions of the National counter Corruption Commission (NCCC) which are provided by the Constitution and the organic Act on Counter Corruption 1999 are 3 areas as follows:

- The Declaration and inspection of Assets and Liabilities
- Corruption Prevention
- Corruption Suppression

The NCCC has commissioned several surveys on the issue of corruption in business and government, and has issued guidelines for public officials that regulate the acceptance of gifts. Furthermore, the NCCC has taken several measures to promote ethical standards amongst students.

Office of the Auditor General of Thailand (OAG)

Soi Areesampan RamaVI Road Phayatai Bangkok 10400 Thai I and Tel. 662-273-9674 to 91 ext. 1111 or 662-618-5755 Fax. 662-618The Office of the Auditor General is headed by the Auditor General, who is appointed by the King after prior approval of the National Assembly and holds office until retirement at the age of 60. The position of the Auditor General is one of the top civil service posts. The Auditor General conducts and controls all the affairs of the OAG.

The duties of the OAG (as stated in Section 7 of the State Audit Act) are as follows:

To audit the statement on receipts and payments of each fiscal year and the statement on the financial status of each fiscal year and to give opinion whether they are in compliance with the law and are correct.

To audit the currency reserve account each year and to give opinion whether it is in compliance with the law and is correct.

To audit the receipts and payments, the custody and disbursement of money and use of other properties belonging to or being the responsibility of the audited agency and to give opinion whether they are in compliance with the law, rules, regulations or resolutions of the Council of Ministers, and may examine the disbursement of money and use of other properties, and to give opinion whether they are in compliance with the objectives, are economical and worthwhile and reach the target.

In the case where an audited agency is a state enterprise, such opinion shall be given with due consideration of the generally accepted auditing standards.

To examine in connection with the collection of taxes, fees and other incomes of the audited agencies and to give opinion whether it is in compliance with the laws, rules, regulations or resolutions of the Council of Ministers.

Anti - Money Laundering Office (AMLO)

422 Phayathai Road Patumwan Bangkok 10330 Thailand Tel. 662-219-3600 Fax. 662-219-3622 The Anti-Money Laundering Office serves as the Financial Intelligence Unit for law enforcement agencies in Thailand. As such, a primary function is to collect and analyze the various reports submitted to AMLO by financial institutions and other sources of information in order to identify subjects for investigation.

AMLO is responsible for conducting investigations leading to the seizure and forfeiture of assets acquired with the proceeds from the commission of a predicate offence. AMLO also has an asset management program which includes the custody, maintenance and disposal of seized and forfeited property. AMLO represents Thailand at international forums concerning money laundering. Another responsibility is to educate the public and private sectors concerning the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Office of the Official Information Commission (OIC)

4th floor. The Prime Minister's Office Building Government House Dusit Bangkok 10300 Thailand Tel. 662-281-8552, 662-282-1366 Fax. 662-281-8543 The main objective of the Office of the Information Commission (OIC) is to provide the opportunity for Thai people to acknowledge the information of public sector. The responsibilities of OIC are the followings:

- To develop the participation of Thai people in the state administration.
- To promote the transparency in power utilizing of government officials via public sector reform.
- To develop competitive efficiency of Thai public sector by improving information system.

 To develop structure and opportunity for Thai people to access information of public sector.

The Ombudsman of Thailand

The Organic Law on Ombudsmen came into force on 15 September 1999. However, in order to facilitate the operations of the first Ombudsman, 6 months before the effective date, an ad-hoc working group to set up the office, mobilize resources, and lay down the prime operations was established. The Secretary to the House of Representatives Secretariat was given the portfolio of acting Ombudsman, and the Office of Secretariat of the House of Representatives was the temporary Office of the Ombudsman. The temporary appointment of Secretariat of the House of Representatives was in order to establish the Office of the Ombudsman to comply with the specified time frame in the Constitution, which was 15th September 2000. On the 12th April 2000, the Ombudsman appointed Mr. Pramote Chotimongkol to be Secretary General and Mr. Thawal Polpuech as a deputy Secretary General of the Office. In terms of organization structure, there are 3 divisions as follows: -Administrative Division, - Investigation Division, and - Technical Support and Community Relations Division. Responsibilities of the Office of the Ombudsman .The Office has the general responsibility to undertake duties to serve in the fulfillment of the Ombudsman's duties. The main tasks of the Office are as follows: - - To take care of the clerical and registration work, and administrative related to ombudsman's work. - Conduct a research study and development of the Office of the Ombudsman operational systems. - Educate, publicize and undertake civil rights, educational and public awareness enhancement programs, based on the 1997 - Constitution and the 1999 Organic Law on Ombudsmen. - Undertake special tasks assigned by the Ombudsman.

Office of the Civil Service Commission (OCSC)

The Office of the Civil Service Commission is a government agency under the Office of the Prime Minister, headed by a secretary-general and directly accountable to the Prime Minister. Its main duties involve making recommendations and advising the Cabinet on personnel administration policy, monitoring public sector personnel administration, serving as the central agency in protecting the merit system, as well as encouraging result-based performance.

The OCSC aims to create an environment for the civil service sector that will increase professionalism and efficiency and has been involved in efforts to reform the public sector and fight corruption. The office tries to enhance the country's accountability mechanism for the public sector to ensure greater transparency. To achieve that goal, four strategic policies have been formulated: 1) Reduction of opportunities for corruption, 2) Building and strengthening of anti-corruption coalitions, 3) Promotion of ethical standards, and 4) Penalties for violation and incentives for positive actions.

In this context, the OCSC has created the Transparent and Clean Thailand Project. The Clean, Open and Transparent Thailand Project is a joint effort between the Office of the Civil Service Commission, relevant public and private organizations and the general people. The objective is to urge Thai people to be aware of the danger of corruption that is now a serious threat in the country. We have initiated a campaign called "Neither give nor receive" as to create a new value for the Thai society.

Civil Service Commission

The Civil Service Commission is comprised of five commissioners ex officio, five elected commissioners and five to seven academic specialists from related fields. (The ex officio members are: the Prime Minister or a Deputy Prime Minister authorized by the Prime Minister as Chairman; the Permanent-Secretary of the Ministry of Finance; the Director of the Bureau of the Budget; the Secretary-General of the National Economic and Social Development Board; and the Secretary-General of the Civil Service Commission as Commissioner and Secretary)

The authority and duties of the Civil Service Commission are to:

- Make proposals and give advice to the Cabinet concerning standards of civil service personnel administration;
- consider and form manpower planning policies for the civil service;
- issue regulations for ministries, bureaus and departments concerning examinations, appointments, salary step increases, disciplinary action, and termination of service:
- report to the Cabinet regarding appropriate adjustments in compensation, position allowances, cost-of-living allowances, and welfare or other fringe benefits for civil servants;
- form policies and issue directives concerning Government and King's Scholarships so as to correspond with the manpower needs of government agencies;
- issue rules or regulations to monitor government officials studying or

training abroad;

 consider and accredit degrees, vocational and professional diplomas and other educational credentials for the purpose of instatement and appointment to the civil service and to set position levels and salary steps.



- Legal resources
 - Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand
 - Organic Act on Counter Corruption 1999
 - Official Information Act
 - Money Laundering Prevention and Suppression Act
 - Act on Mutual Legal Assistance in 1992
 Criminal Matters
 - Organic Law on the Election of Members of the House of Representatives and Senators
 - Ombudsman Act 1999

- Technical assistance and international organisations
- Asian Development Bank
 PO Box 789
 Manila 0980
 Philippines

Project: Finance and Capital Markets Development

ADB has been working very closely with the IMF and the World Bank on financial sector reforms in Thailand. The IMF has undertaken responsibility for reforming and strengthening the central bank, while the World Bank has led the effort to reform and rationalize the non-bank financial institutions sub-sector. ADB assistance has focused on assisting the Government in reforming and developing the capital market as an alternative channel of resource mobilization, i.e., the stock exchange, the bond market and the SEC, through a Financial Markets Reform Program Loan of \$300 million.

Project: Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms

This project would focus on three key areas: (i) strengthening the National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC) and Senate Procedures for Impeachment; (ii) carrying out an agency review of the NCCC, and using this as the basis for a strategic plan to better carry out its expanded mandate under the new constitution, with particular emphasis on reducing corruption that most directly affects the poor; and (iii) developing criteria for, and making grants to strengthen civil society advocacy for and monitoring of accountability mechanisms.

Project: Promotion of Good Governance

Improvement of governance and promotion of policies and institutions which reduce opportunities for corruption are important elements of ADB's loan and TA operations in Thailand. The strategy adopted so far has been to introduce reforms through a series of program loans to Thailand in the financial, social and agricultural sectors. One of the major objectives of the Financial Markets Reform Program Loan (FMRPL) is to strengthen market regulation and supervision and improve corporate governance in the capital market; among other activities, TA support is being provided to the Securities and Exchange Commission for strengthening information disclosure and compliance, as well as for education management and financing, health management and financin, capacity building for social sector reform, including the promotion of fiscal and administrative decentralization in these sectors.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

12th Floor, UN Building Rajdamnern Nok Ave. Bangkok 10200, Thailand Tel: (662) 288-2138

Fax: (662) 2800556

Email: sanaka.samarasinha@undp.org

The UNDP programme in Thailand is designed by the Royal Thai Government in cooperation with UNDP, and is updated every five years to meet the country's evolving development priorities. At the government's request, UNDP provides assistance to several selected areas critical to Thailand's continued balanced growth. Current UNDP programmes target the following areas:

- The Poverty Programme is geared toward strengthening the capacity of the government and communities to provide economically and environmentally sustainable livelihoods for the rural poor;
- The Emerging Issues and Governance Programme has enabled UNDP to respond rapidly to the economic crisis that broke in mid-1997. This led to high-impact governance and decentralization initiatives which have helped to reinforce Thailand's political reform agenda;
- The Trilateral Cooperation Programme has supported a number of workshops and seminars between Thailand and more than a dozen Asian countries. A special initiative in this area is the development of long-term cooperation between Thailand and East Timor;
- The Environmental Protection and Regeneration for Sustainable
 Development Programme receives support from the Multilateral Fund for
 the Montreal Protocol and the Global Environment Facility. The programme
 includes a Biomass project and support to Wetlands Development.

Promoting Sound Governance through Decentralization

The project's aim is to establish a working prototype of a decentralised government operation in selected local administrations and line agencies. This must be implemented under the guidance of the National Decentralisation Committee to serve as a "laboratory" for ensuring that the national regulations and strategies produced are realistic and practical.

In keeping with the government's policy on decentralization, which divides the local administrative bodies into four levels - Provincial Administrative Organizations, Municipalities, Tambon Administrative Organizations and Special Administrative Bodies (such as Bangkok) -- the project will recommend and test the decentralized model to devolve authorities and functions from the central government to the above local administrative bodies.

Objectives:

- To determine the most appropriate roles, functions, structures, staffing and financing arrangements for central and local government agencies to enable them to effectively operate in a decentralized environment, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- To determine the most appropriate structures, systems and procedures for public service personnel management, which will ensure efficient and responsive public service at central and local levels under the decentralization arrangements.
- To provide a select number of local administrations with sufficient capacity
 and appropriate support from participating central ministry departments to
 enable them to carry out their new roles, as determined under Objectives
 One and Two, and to utilise development plans which are based on the new
 arrangements.

Major achievements/Impact:

- With the drafting of new procedures, the process of decentralization was initiated in the functions, responsibilities and management structures in the Ministries of Agriculture and Cooperation, Public Heath and Interior.
- Successful pilot-testing of decentralization system in 3 selected provinces: Ratchaburi, Nakornratchasima and Mahasarakham.
- Seen as a learning process, the decentralization model developed by this
 project has successfully served as a pilot for the decentralization process
 envisioned for Thailand. The concepts embodied in this project have been
 translated into a concrete model to be replicated to other areas throughout
 the country.

Project budget: US\$ 282,808 Project duration: 2 Years

Executing agency: Office of Civil Service Commission (OCSC).

Implementing agency: Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC).

The World Bank Resident Mission in Thailand

Ms. Melissa Fossberg 14th Floor, Diethelm Tower A 93/1 Wireless Road Bangkok, 10330 - Thailand Tel: (66-2) 256-7792 ext: 332 Fax: (66-2) 256-7794

Email: Mfossberg@worldbank.org

The World Bank began lending to Thailand in 1950, a year after the country became a member in 1949. In subsequent years through June 1999, Thailand requested and received approximately US\$8.0 billion in loan or credit assistance for over 130 operations. Bank support has taken many forms, including intense policy dialogue, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing. Currently, the Bank is engaged in 16 operations in the rural development, energy, education, transport, social, and economic/financial sectors, with a total commitment of US\$1.9 billion.

After the crisis, the Bank worked closely with the Government to design and implement measures for recovery. For example, improvements in the supervision and regulation of financial institutions were supported by Bank technical assistance and lending under the series of Economic and Financial Adjustment Loans. The Bank has also continued to support Government efforts in the social sector with a variety of instruments. The US\$300 million Social Investment Project loan promotes social capital and community participation with the direct involvement of non-governmental organizations. Economic sector work on poverty and the Rural Development Strategy also support systematic poverty monitoring, social security reform, and stronger unemployment insurance and other safety nets.

The Bank is also supporting the Government's ambitious program to reform the public sector through improved performance-based resource management, better service delivery, and greater accountability and transparency. One instrument which supports the Government's initiative is the Bank's Public Finance Review, which analyzes weaknesses in the management of public expenditures, public debt, contingent liabilities, and other fiscal risks. The Bank is also working with the Thai government on a US\$400 million Public Sector Reform Loan, which is scheduled for presentation to the Bank's Board in mid-October 1999. The loan will assist the Government in areas such as civil service reform, fiscal decentralization, and tax administration.

Project: Economic and Financial Adjustment Loan Project

The EFAL III project is focused on establishing a substantial program of reform designed to improve the international competitiveness of the Thai economy, while ensuring the forward momentum of the recovery process. The reform program is being developed by the Thai authorities concurrently with the development of a Ninth Five Year Plan focused on competitiveness. The reform program will have eight integrated components:

- Financial sector reforms
- Corporate governance and financial accountability
- Tariff, taxation and competition policy
- Skills development
- Technology development
- Export marketing and finance
- Logistics and supply-chain management
- Environmental Sustainability

Budget: USD 400mio. Duration: 1999-2001

The Institute of Internal Auditors of Thailand (IIAT)

2nd Floor Y.M.C.A. Building (Bangkok) 27 South Sathorn Road, Tung mahamek

Sathorn, Bangkok 10120 Tel: (+662) 6773117 Fax: (+662) 6773157 Email: auditor@theiiat.or.th

The Consulting Engineers Association of Thailand

Fax: +66 (2) 381 08 57

Anan Soontornsiri, Secretary General SPC Building 1 Sol Chaemchan, Sukhumvit 55 Bangkok 10110, Thailand Tel: +66 (2) 381 72 23

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

GPO Box 887 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

Tel: +61-2-62064000 Fax: +61-2-62064880

Email: InfoAusAID@ausaid.gov.au

Governance Capacity Building

Government capacity building activities in Thailand include:

- staff training;
- assistance with developing legislation, policy and strategic plans;
- exposure to new ideas, systems, operating methods;
- study visits to and work attachments in Australia;
- advisers helping to adapt and implement new systems and practices in the workplace; and
- advisers helping to document new systems and practices via operating manuals or guidelines for staff.

For more information, click here.

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

200, promenade du Portage Hull (Qŭbec) K1A 0G4

Tel.: (819) 997 5006
Toll free: 1 800 230 6349
Fax: (819) 953 6088
E-mail: info@acdi-cida.gc.ca
Implementing Agency:
Cooperation Foundation

Project: Governance and Restructuring Project

This project is aimed at assisting Thailand in developing good governance practices and implementing the new Constitutional provisions and other relevant issues. Project funds will be used to deliver workshops and seminars in Thailand and technical assistance to assist representatives of the Royal Thai Government and civil society to develop governance mechanisms currently envisaged in the Thai Constitution. Activities supported to date include conferences and seminars on judicial reform, international competitiveness and good governance, conflict of interest, access to information and privacy, human rights and business ethics, and community policing.

Budget (CIDA contribution): \$ 500.000

Duration: 1998-2000

Analysis

Combating Corruption in Southeast Asia

Clay Wescott. 2003. In: Kidd J B & Richter F-J, eds. Fighting Corruption In Asia: Causes, Effects and Remedies. Singapore, World Scientific Press

Key Governance Issues in Cambodia,

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, Manila, April 2001.

Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam

(The four Greater Mekong Subregion governments of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand, and Viet Nam have stated their strong commitment to good governance, including: i) sound macroeconomic and financial management, ii) participatory pro-poor policies, iii) effective delivery of public services, and iv) enforcement of contractual and property rights. The four studies included in this publication are expected to contribute to a better understanding of these governance issues, and encourage citizens and their development partners to help meet the governments' commitments to tackle the challenges ahead.)

Governance in Thailand: Challenges, Issues and Prospects

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, Manila, April 1999, 81 p.

(This paper provides an overview of the major governance issues currently confronting the Royal Thai Government (RTG), with particular emphasis upon the issues likely to be of greatest interest to international donors such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It is intended to provide background and context for a more detailed strategy paper on ADB operations in Thailand relating to governance and public sector management.)

Corporate Governance and Finance in East Asia: A Study of Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand (Volume 1 - A consolidated Report) (Volume 2 - Country Studies)

CAPULONG, Virginita; EDWARDS, David; ZHUANG, Zuzhong (eds.), Manila: ADB, 2001)

(Corporate Governance and Finance in East Asia presents the findings of a regional study of corporate governance and finance in selected developing member countries of ADB. The study attempts to identify the weaknesses in corporate governance and finance in countries most affected by the 1997 Asian financial crisis, and recommends policy and reform measures to address the weaknesses.)

Combating Corruption at the Grassroots: The Thailand Experienc e 1999-2000

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE, 2000.

(This publication reports on the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) work on Combating Corruption on a local level in Thailand. NDI in Thailand works together with the People's Network for Elections in Thailand (PNET), a network of public and private organizations committed to election monitoring and democratization, and the Union for Civil Liberties (UCL) to strengthen local efforts to combat corruption in Buriram province)

Political Corruption in a Thai Province

NEHER, Clark D., Journal Of Developing Areas, vol. 6, no. 4 (July 1977), pp. 479-92

Thurakit thuan 10,000 lan

CHAIYEN, Bunchai, Kothomo: Borisat Khlet Thai chatchamnai, 1988, 120 p.

Corruption and the Thai Media

CHOTANA, Duangkamol, FLATTERS, Frank, Thai Development Research Institute Working Papers, 2000.

Democratisation, Corruption and Economic Development: The Case of Thailand

LARSSON, Tomas, BA-thesis at Lund University, Department of Political Science, Sweden, Spring 1998.

Corruption and Democracy in Thailand

PASUK, Phongpaichit, Bangkok: Political Economy Centre, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, 1994, 179 p.

Corruption in the Thai Public Sector: Case Study and Anti-Corruption Strategy from an Economic Perspective

PAOPONGSAKORN, Nipon, NIKOMBORIRAK, Deunden, TULYAWASINPHON, Suwanna, Anti-Corruption Strategy in Thailand in the Year 2000, 2000.

Corruption in the Thai Public Sector: Perceptions and Experience of Households

PHONGPAICHIT, Pasuk, TREERAT, Nualnoi, CHAIYAPONG, Yongyuth, BAKER, Chris, Anti-Corruption Strategy in Thailand in the Year 2000, 2000.

For other relevant publications, consult the collection at the website of

Thai Corporate Governance

Nongovernmental o rganisations

Anti Corruption : Thailand

Anti Corruption: Thailand's website is created and supervised by the Sectoral Economics Program, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) in financial support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Transparency International Thailand

Dr Juree Vichit-Vadakan Director, Center for Philanthropy and Civil Society National Institute of Development Administration

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Project: Promotion of Transparency and Public Awareness Raising

The objectives of TI Thailand are: to promote public awareness of transparency and the negative impacts of corruption on Thai society; to research and conduct activities for academic purposes that will lead to accumulation of knowledge of transparency; to cooperate and network among local as well as international organizations in order to promote transparency and anti-corruption activities; to promote ethical code of conduct for the society; to encourage transparency among prospective people and organizations to be aware of corruption issues.

People's Fund for Exposing Corruption (PFEC) (in Thai)

People's Fund for Exposing Corruption (PFEC) is one of structural methods that People Network Against Corruption (PNAC) purposes to the government in building strength of people networks which is aimed to fight against corruption with the government and others independent organizations in Thailand. The fund has been in progress since 2001.

PFEC supports all kinds of media including community leaders in conducting investigation research which intends to create and compile information as well as to expose corruption cases. PFEC also makes corruption mapping, corruption ration and compile obstacles for fighting corruption problem.

Thai Corporate Governance

The "Thai Corporate Governance" website, developed by Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), is an initiative under the "Good Govenance" project funded by The United Nation Development Program (UNDP). The object of the website is to provide academically oriented information on the local corporate governance environment and to guide readers to available local sources in order to facilitate those who may be interested in undertaking research in this area. Main contents of this website include:

- research papers corporate governance in Thailand
- corporate governance case studies
- Governance ranking conducted by various institutions, including international organizations and securities companies
- Linkages to relevant local and international websites

As it is our intention to make this website an entry point for those who are interested in Thai corporate governance, we continued to expand our database and welcome your contributions and suggestions.

People Network Against Corruption (PNAC)

The Asia Foundation

James Klein, Representative GPO Box 1910 Bangkok 10501, Thailand Tel: (66) 2-233-1644 The Asia Foundation promotes achievement of the reforms embodied in Thailand's 1997 Constitution. The Asia Foundation has maintained a continuous presence in Thailand since 1954. Early programs focused on social welfare and basic human development needs. Beginning in the 1980s, Foundation programs supported democratic institution-building and economic reform activities, to strengthen the emerging role of the National Assembly in democratic governance and the

Fax: (66) 2-237-7011

Email: exaf@external.ait.ac.th

participation of civil society organizations in public policy formulation. Early research support on political and administrative reform contributed to a constitutional drafting process that culminated in the promulgation of a new constitution in 1997. Foundation programs currently promote civic participation, ensure constitutional supremacy and the rule of law, and enhance good governance through effective counter-corruption measures and respect for human rights.

Project: Government Accountability

Asia Foundation programs have been instrumental in stimulating public policy debate and forging the political will to address issues of corruption in Thailand. Foundation support to the Political Economy Center of Chulalongkorn University for a series of studies helped to define the nature of corruption within the Thai context and to depoliticize it as a public policy issue. Research recommendations led to the establishment of an independent National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC) with broad investigatory powers and prosecutorial authority. Recent Center research has focused on unpacking corruption into its component parts in order to identify appropriate measures to reduce corrupt acts and to build constituencies that will promote implementation of these reforms. In a study on Thai competitiveness, for example, the Center gathered data on the various corrupt acts that occur at each step from the moment an export item leaves the factory, passes through customs and the port, and is placed aboard a ship and set to sea. This process led to an estimate of the actual cost corruption adds to Thai goods and to a series of recommendations for eliminating each corrupt action. The Foundation will continue such research in cooperation with the NCCC.

Project: Media Voter Awareness

The Foundation promoted the development of a series of innovative media programs to educate Thai voters on the new constitution and new election regulations. "Beating the Gong," a half-hour comedy program designed by the Society of the Constitution for the People to present serious political issues to a mass television audience was the highest-rated Sunday evening television program in 1999, watched by 27.5 percent of the Thai population. For a more academic audience, the Foundation assisted PollWatch to produce a series of 15 half-hour programs on the development of Thai politics and reforms under the new constitution. The series was broadcast several times over public television and through the Ministry of Education's Continuing Education Broadcast Network. The Women and the Constitution Network produced a series of one-minute radio documentaries which aired five times a day over national radio. Master tapes were distributed for rebroadcast by commercial and community radio stations throughout the country.

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

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The National Democratic Institute is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. Calling on a global network of volunteer experts, NDI provides practical assistance to civic and political leaders advancing democratic values, practices and institutions.

NDI's program in Thailand supports greater public participation in national anticorruption efforts. The Institute provides technical assistance to a newly-formed network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) advocating on issues of corruption and public accountability.

Project: Combating Corruption at the Grassroots

In July 1999, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) began working with the People's Network for Elections in Thailand (PNET), a network of public and private organizations committed to election monitoring and democratization, and the Union for Civil Liberties (UCL) to strengthen local efforts to combat corruption in Buriram province. The success of the Buriram program, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy, prompted NDI to develop similar programs in four more provinces: Ubon Ratchathani, Phitsanulok, Chiang Mai and Songkhla.

NDI worked with local civic groups in each province to implement customized programs that addressed political patronage and money politics. Through public forums, citizens voiced their concerns about local issues and advocated change to their elected representatives. NDI's partners also implemented education programs through community radio, music, art, workshops and drama that described the responsibilities of elected representatives, and emphasized the value of policy oriented voting. Moreover, one provincial civic group hosted candidate debates in preparation for several local elections to encourage party accountability to concerns of the community and to foster policy oriented voting. Finally, where safe, NDI trained its partners to monitor candidates for corrupt practices.

NDI also carried out a rigorous evaluation process. The Institute hired two Thai consultants to help NDI's provincial partners measure the impact of their anti-corruption activities through a series of pre- and post-activity tests, surveys, focus groups and self-evaluation exercises. The results of this evaluation helped NDI assess the program and shaped future programming decisionmaking.

Duration: 1999-2000



News and media reports

Thailand, Vietnam to sign anti-money laundering pact (TI-Daily Corruption News, quoting The Nation (Thailand) via BBC Monitoring Service 21 Feb 2004)

Thailand and Vietnam yesterday agreed to exchange more information about financial transactions in a bid to curb transnational crimes, particularly money laundering, Justice Minister Phongthep Thepkanjana said.

The agreement was made during the first Thai-Vietnam cabinet meeting conducted in Da Nang, Vietnam. "The cooperation and exchange of information will help both countries curb increasing cases of cross-border money laundering," Pongthep said. Representatives of the Thai Anti-Money Laundering Office will later visit Vietnam to work out details of a possible memorandum of understanding (MOU) about cooperating to suppress money laundering, Pongthep said.

Thailand has signed similar MOUs with several countries, the minister said, and such an agreement would enable signatory countries to maintain similar standards on matters that facilitated crime-stoppers. [...]

Panel split over qualifications (Bangkok Post, 6 February 2004, news item provided on the website of Transparency International)

The panel vetting qualifications of National Counter Corruption Commission candidates has asked the Constitution Court to rule on a qualification requirement. Chirmsak Pinthong, the panel spokesman, said the panel was divided over the minimum qualifications for candidates

According to article 256 of the constitution, a member of the NCCC must be at least a department director-general or equivalent, such as a commander-in-chief of the armed forces or a secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Board. Some panelists interpret it more broadly. They say state officials holding a senior C-10 position or higher or earning a salary on a par with a C-10 official should be considered as well.

Mr Chirmsak said the request for a constitutional ruling would not stall the selection process. The Senate should feel free to pick the seven NCCC members from 14 finalists shortlisted by the panel earlier. If any commissioners failed to meet the qualification criteria which the Constitution Court decided on, he or she could be removed. If the court passed the ruling and any finalists failed to meet the criteria before the Senate selected them, the candidacy process could start again. The senate could also appoint people from among the remaining finalists, or find replacements for the finalists.

Mr Chirmsak said some finalists may have fallen short of the minimum qualifications. If the department chief restriction was strictly applied, at least one Constitution Court judge may be disqualified. The court faces the same qualification requirement. That judge should refrain from deliberating the panel request, he said. A source said that judge was Pol Gen Suwan Suwannavecho who formerly served as assistant director-general of the police department. Although the position commanded a C-10 rank, it was lower in rank to a department director-general.

Customs reforms to reduce corruption (Bangkok Post, 16 October 2002, news item provided on the website of Transparency International)

The Customs Department plans to begin scrapping manual inspection of exports by the end of this year in a new policy aimed at smoothing procedures for traders and reducing corruption.

A minimum of 25 million baht in bribes passed under the table to Customs officials each month, said Chavalit Sethahmeteekul, the department's director-general. Certain types of exports, such as chicken or shrimps, would continue to be inspected regularly to ensure that quality and sanitary standards were met, he said. For other exports, the department would introduce new mobile X-ray scanners to check containers, accelerating the clearance process and turnaround time.

The department expects to spend about 1.5 billion baht on the mobile inspection system. To minimise costs, it will probably lease the machinery from the private sector, saving in maintenance costs and allowing greater flexibility in accommodating technological advances.

Mr Chavalit said that in the first year, manual container inspections were expected to decline by 50% and by another 30% in the second year. By the third year of the programme, manual container inspections would stand at 10% of current inspections, with the bulk of the work carried out through automated systems.

Thailand prepares for widespread reforms of bureaucracy (AP World Politics, Yahoo! News, Thursday September 26, 2002)

Thailand's parliament is set to pass legislation to revamp government ministries and do away with automatic pay raises for civil servants in efforts to reform a bureaucracy long criticized as inefficient and corrupt.

The legislation would allow the government to increase its ministries from 13 to 20 as part of a plan to more clearly define the ministries' roles. It also would link pay raises to performance, replacing a system of guaranteed annual raises.

The bill, which already passed the House of Representatives, was passed by the Senate with small changes and sent back Monday to the House for its approval of those changes. (more)

Beware of the watchdog - Its anti-corruption commission is Thailand's most trusted political body (The Economist, 15 August 2002)

More than a year and a half after Thailand's parliamentary election, the citizens of Ubon Ratchathani are keen to learn who won the race for the province's 10th district. Since the original poll, in January 2001, diligent voters have cast ballots in no fewer than three re-runs, and are scheduled to go to the polls again on September 8th. In theory, thanks to the sweeping powers vested in Thailand's Election Commission, the disqualifications and repeat polls could continue throughout the parliament's four-year term, until the commissioners are satisfied that no vote-buying, intimidation or any other form of fraud has influenced the result.

The Election Commission is just one of several new agencies brought into being by Thailand's five-year-old constitution. The drafters designed them to be powerful enough to extirpate the corruption that pervades Thai public life, and independent enough to work without interference from crooked politicians and officials. They are so powerful, in fact, that they have more or less superseded parliament as the focal point of Thai politics. Appointments to, and disputes between, the Election Commission, the National Counter-Corruption Commission (NCCC) and the Administrative and Constitutional Courts command far more attention than mere parliamentary debates. Politicians, belatedly grasping the new institutions' importance, are fighting to gain influence over them—with hearteningly little success.

Take the most celebrated case involving the new agencies: that of the asset declaration made by Thaksin Shinawatra, Thailand's prime minister, while serving as a minister in a previous government. The NCCC, which reviews all such declarations, found he had concealed some shares by registering them in the name of his driver, his maid and a security guard—a ruling that should have barred him from politics. But the Constitutional Court overturned the decision, by eight votes to seven, letting Mr Thaksin stay in office.

The drama might have ended there, had not the speaker of the Senate (another new institution) then asked the NCCC to investigate four of the judges who had voted to acquit Mr Thaksin. They had, after all, earlier convicted another politician under very similar circumstances. Although this convoluted sequence of events will not lead to a formal review of Mr Thaksin's case, it is already casting embarrassing doubt on the merit of his acquittal. Whatever its outcome, the saga has highlighted the huge potential for political point-scoring that the new agencies present.

No wonder, then, that politicians are trying to take advantage. Since the government commands an overwhelming majority in parliament, the opposition seems to think it is better off pursuing its grievances at the NCCC than in the chamber. Earlier this year, it petitioned the agency to investigate eight ministers for abuse of office. The parliamentary censure motions it launched at the same time were quickly squashed by the government majority—but the NCCC investigations continue.

Reformists fear that the government might use its majority to amend the constitution and emasculate the new institutions. But the odds of that seem to be receding. Different factions within the government want different changes, and may not be able to agree. Besides, public opinion is against it. Under pressure from the great and the good, both the government and the opposition have agreed to introduce amendments only for the sake of clarification, and not to reduce the watchdogs' clout. The NCCC, a recent poll found, is Thailand's most trusted government body. Clipping its wings would only drive parliament further down the ratings.

■ Thai National Counter Corruption Commission wants wider power to act (Bangkok Post 10 June 2002)

The National Counter Corruption Commission wants the power to initiate criminal prosecution of politicians, their advisers and senior officials, without having to wait for someone to file a complaint.

Kirkkiat Pipatseritham, a commissioner, and Klanarong Chantik, NCCC secretary-general, put the proposal to a meeting of 11 independent organisations discussing possible amendments to the constitution yesterday. (more)

ฉ OECD Anti-Corruption Division, 200 4, updated 21 October 2004

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