

THE CLEAN OPEN AND TRANSPARENCY THAILAND

Foundation for a Clean and Transparent Thailand (FaCT)

The objectives of FaCT are to :

1. Awakening the conscience of each Thai to be ethical and honest, and to work for the maximum benefit of the people as a whole, as well as to support good individuals and organizations.
2. Creating a network to counter dishonesty and misconduct in Thai society.
3. Counseling, advise, and train, as well as to initiate and distribute materials to increase awareness of the general public about the seriousness of the corruption problem.
4. Organizing studies, research programs and seminars relating to problems of dishonesty, misconduct and malfeasance in Thai society.
5. Cooperating with both domestic and foreign and external institutes and organizations that have similar objectives.
6. Undertaking other activities for the public benefit and cooperate with other charitable organizations.

Committee of FaCT:

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Project Background

During the past few years, Thailand has faced a number of severe political, social, and economic problems, resulting in a great loss of confidence among Thais in their political system, civil service, and the private sector. If this situation is not urgently corrected, further serious damage to the social, economic, and political stability will occur.

Corruption is major factor that has jeopardized the stability and development of the country. The practice has become increasingly apparent, and is spreading. Formerly, 'corruption' was assumed to be related to public service activities, particularly in bidding for projects, purchasing products, giving 'tea money' to speed service, and 'buying' positions. After the economic crisis struck, corruption has reportedly increased significantly and seems to be accepted as a fact of life, even in the private sector.

The massive damage in our country's financial sector has stemmed in large part from corruption and abuse of power by political authorities and the management of financial institutions, who protected their own private gains regardless of the resulting harm to the country.

IMPACT OF CORRUPTION

Corruption has had an impact on Thai society in the following two aspects:

1. Both Thai and foreign observers have a negative image of Thai society. The latest survey of Transparency International Organization ranks Thailand as 68th among 99 in terms of corruption. Although among ASEAN countries Thailand ranks better than Vietnam and Indonesia, it is worse than the Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore.
2. The practice has exacerbated and aggravated the economic crisis. His Majesty the King's address to the nation on the occasion of his birthday on December 23, 1999 also reflected his concern about the damage to the Thai political, social, and economic sectors caused by corruption.

SOLUTION GUIDELINES

Three major factors contributed to the existence and growth of corruption: low individual ethical standards, a conducive climate or opportunities for corruption, and the likelihood of escaping punishment.

The current 1997 Constitution is a vital mechanism to prevent corruption. One means is the empowerment of the Office of the Commission of Counter Corruption through its restructuring as a new entity -- the Office of the National Counter Corruption Commission -- which may now investigate political office holders. Also, the Office of the Auditor-General has been given greater authority in inspecting government budget spending. However, these agencies still may not investigate organizations in the private sector.

Thus, in accordance with Article 45 of the 1997 Constitution which states that individuals shall enjoy the liberty to unite and form an association, an assembly of people from all sectors have joined together in a project,

"Clean, Open and Transparent Thailand Project".

OBJECTIVES

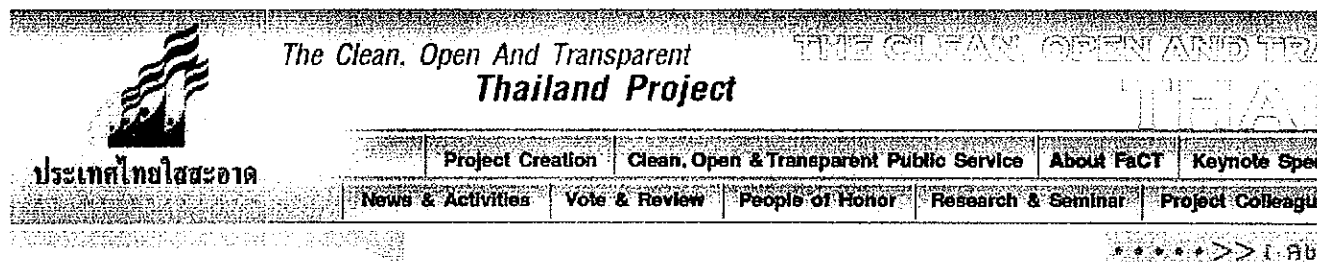
This project's goals are to:

1. Raise public awareness and consciousness among all segments of Thai society --including politicians, government officials, state employees, businessmen, and the general public -- to embrace high ethical standards and to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity, as well as to value the giving of benefit for the nation;
2. Encourage mutual cooperation and networking among organizations and individuals to safeguard against corruption and misconduct in Thai society.

▶ OUTCOMES

This project will:

1. Establish a network to prevent corruption in Thai society;
2. All segments of Thai society -- including politicians, government officials, state employees, businessmen, and the general public --will have greater awareness and understanding of the various forms of corruption and will place more value on benefiting the nation rather than for private gain;
3. Thai society will be immunized to a significant extent against corruption, recover from the economic crisis more quickly, and move towards a better future.



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