

International Training Course Programme on Grassroots Economic Development following Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

1. Course Title

Grassroots Economic Development (GED) following Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) International Training Course 2016

2. Duration

5 weeks (during 15 August – 16 September)

3. Background and Rational

There has been a recent shift in economic development paradigms from growth-based to community-based development as a mechanism to achieve sustainable development. Experiences have shown that community-based development helps empower communities and strengthening the capabilities of local citizens to undertake self-initiated development activities in response to their needs. The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy formulated by King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand is a means towards community empowerment and strengthening communities, enhancing local economic prosperity.

The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy “stressed the middle path as an overriding principle for appropriate conduct by the populace at all levels”. “Sufficiency” means moderation, reasonableness, and the need of self-immunity for sufficient protection from impact arising from internal and external changes. To achieve this, an application of knowledge with consideration and prudence is essential. At the same time, it is essential to strengthen the moral fiber of the nation so that everyone adheres to the principles of honesty and integrity. In addition, a way of life based on patience, perseverance, diligence, wisdom and prudence is indispensable to create balance and be able to cope with adverse shocks. The principles of SEP can be applied to all levels, i.e. individuals, communities, organizations and nations/global. Numbers of case studies in Thailand have shown good practices of SEP applications as guides of individuals improve quality of life, of communities to develop local productive capabilities and market networks, and of small enterprises and organizations to manage efficiently. Principles of SEP can be applied to developing countries around the world at all levels. Particularly, they can be applied to community development as SEP is fundamental to empowerment and building resilience. The training course “Grassroots Economic Development followed Sufficiency Economy Philosophy” provides knowledge of SEP linking to economic concepts/theories. During the training course, number of case studies will be illustrated to explain what SEP means in practice. In addition, the training course will provide the tools for monitoring and evaluation in understanding the success and challenges of projects following SEP.

4. Objectives

The programme is designed to:

1. provide participants with Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) and related economic theories and concepts
2. explain participants the applications of SEP (individuals, SMEs, communities, organizations and macro policy implication)
3. share experiences among countries on grass-root rural development
4. provide participants in exploring with multiple case studies following SEP
5. equip participants with the practical skills and techniques required for monitoring and evaluation of projects following his Majesty the King’s concept

5. Course Contents

5.1 Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction to Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)

- 1.1 Introduction to SEP
- 1.2 Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and related concepts
- 1.3 Applications of SEP

Module 2: Relevant Economic Theories and Concepts to SEP

- 2.1 Economic theories/concepts of resource constraints
- 2.2 Economic theories/concepts of optimizations

Module 3: SEP in Grassroots Economic Development (GED): opportunities and constraints

- 3.1 Introduction to grassroots economic development
- 3.2 Implementation plans and policies of the government, poverty analysis and poverty reduction strategies (poverty measures, income distribution, strategies following SEP to attack poverty)
- 3.3 The role of rural financial institutions with the application of SEP in grassroots economic development (micro finance, saving and credit union and cooperatives)

Module 4: Practical experiences of SEP

- 4.1 Experiences in agricultural sector
- 4.2 Experiences in credit unions, cooperatives and communities
- 4.3 Experiences in the business sectors

Module 5: Monitoring and Evaluation tools for projects following SEP

- 5.1 Project appraisal (financial and economic analysis)
- 5.2 Market potential analysis
- 5.3 Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks

Module 6: Practical experience of monitoring and evaluation of projects (Field case studies).

Module 7: Presentation of case studies and country reports

5.2 Study Trips/ Field Trips

- Duration: 1 week field trip (week 4)
- Place: in the northern part of Thailand
- The objective of the field trip is to share a lesson learned from various case studies following His Majesty the King's initiatives

5.3 Advance Assignments

1) Country Report

Part 1: Background of your country

- Geography
- Socioeconomic background
- Government policy for socioeconomic development

Part 2: Possibility Application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) to the country (after 4 weeks of training)

Each participant is required to prepare and submit a country report on how to apply the SEP to your country.

The full report including abstract should be approximately 10-15 pages. The outline is as follows.

1. Economic and social development in your country
2. State the problems of your country

Please choose one of the following problems

- Individual/household/organization level

- Community level
- National level

3. What is the future project that applied the **Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)** to solve the chosen problem.

- Project title
- Project objectives
- Project activities
- Practical project of the SEP
- Challenges

2) Reading Assignment

Book: Inside Thailand Review: Sufficiency Economy

<http://thailand.prd.go.th/ebook/review/content.php?chapterID=33>

3) Project Assignment

- group case study report and presentation (last week of the programme)
- individual country report presentation (last week of the programme)

6. Number of Participants

17 participants (15 foreigners and 2 Thais)

7. Participants Criteria

All applicants must meet the minimum requirements listed below in order to be eligible to apply for this training programme

- between 30 - 55 years old
- have a good command of English language in speaking, reading, and writing skills
- have a recommendation from employer
- have minimum 5 years working experience
- preferable for those who work in rural development area

8. Invited Country

- FEALAC Member Countries

9. Venue

Building 5 (Room 5607) and Building 3 (Room 3209), Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University, 50 Ngam Wong Wan Rd. Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900 THAILAND

10. Expected Results

- ability to apply SEP concept, monitoring and evaluation tools for implementing rural development projects
- ability to work under international groups
- create networking among participants

11. Evaluation

- class participation
- case studies and country report
- training attendance (attend 80% of the training programme)

12. Institution

12.1 Recruiting/Executing Agency in Thailand

Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The government Complex, Building B (South Zone), 8th Floor, Laksi, Bangkok 10210, THAILAND

Contact persons: Ms. Sureerat Potipim: e-mail address: sureeratp@mfa.go.th

12.2 Implementing Agency of the Training Course

The course will be conducted by Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University, 50 Ngam Wong Wan Rd. Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900 THAILAND Tel. (66-2)579-9579 Ext. 5602

Contact person: Ms. Prapinwadee Sirisupluxana e-mail address:

fecopds@gmail.com

Mrs. Sukanya Khongtong: e-mail address: fecoskk@ku.go.th

Trainers: Lecturers from the Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University and experts from Mahidol University, private organizations and government officials who have a theoretical and practical experiences relating to sufficiency economy concept.

Training Equipments: PowerPoints, Case Studies

Accommodation: will be arranged by the organizer

12.3 Collaborative Organizations

Unit of Agricultural Strategy Research (UASR), Center for Applied Economic Research (CAER), Kasetsart University, 50 Ngam Wong Wan Rd. Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900 THAILAND Tel. (66-2)561-5037 Ext. 11

Contact person: Ms. Prapinwadee Sirisupluxana e-mail address:

fecopds@gmail.com

Mrs. Sukanya Khongtong: e-mail address: fecoskk@ku.go.th

13. Expenditure/Funding

This training is funded by TICA.

14. Fellowship

The fellowship awarded under the Thailand will cover:

- An economy -class round-trip air ticket from the participants' nearest international airport to Bangkok
- Local training costs
- Accommodation during the training period
- An allowance of 500 baht per day
- Life & health insurance for each participants during their stay in Thailand

15. Other Information

1. Prior to arrival in Thailand, all participants MUST first obtain the appropriate visas from the Royal Thai Embassy or Consular Representative in their countries.

2. Upon arrival at Bangkok International Airport, participants are asked to look for TICA sign at the AOT Limousine customer relation counters and proceed to it. Participants are required to show the Instruction of Fellowship Award at the counter so that arrangements for airport transfer to the reserved hotel will be made. Participants do not have to pay for the AOT limousine service charge since the cost will be paid directly to AOT by TICA. Participants are recommended not to take a public taxi to the hotel by themselves as the taxi fees cannot be refundable from TICA.

3. Participants are required to observe the course schedule strictly.
 4. Application to change or alter the training subject or to extend the training period will not be accepted.
 5. Participants are requested not to bring any of their family members in this trip.
 6. In accordance with relevant Thai regulations, medical insurance will be provided for each participant after arrival in Thailand.
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