

5. Project ideas for international support

Project Title: the Water Resource Management Capacity Development and International Knowledge Networking Project

Motivation

The main objectives of Thailand water development and management are to increase security in terms of capital water supply, to build flexibility for management in all types of supply, to minimize damage from disasters, to maximize water usage efficiency, to involve all sectors in the management, and to build knowledge/know-how and data for management. Overall, the main obstacles of technology transfer and diffusion in Thailand to achieve these goals are institutional framework and lack of knowledge and vigorous capability development of personnel involved in water resource management. To be able to build a strong technological foundation for Thailand, these issues need to be concretely approached.

These proposed project ideas are suggested as short-term action plans, offering immediate actions and rapid outcomes, for the three prioritized technologies. The focus is on human resource capability development, i.e. to create learning opportunities and to get ready to receive new knowledge and new technologies. The project consists of four consecutive sub-project ideas: 1) organizing a seminar on climate change and water resource management, 2) organizing technical training/workshops on climate change and water management in the form of a network of knowledge and international training scholarships, 3) presentation of papers/research proposals, and 4) granting research scholarships and international collaborative research scholarships. The main tools of the project ideas are activities related to the first national conference on climate change and national water resource management in Thailand. The target participants include water resource personnel and climate change experts from all sectors. The conference also enables knowledge exchange among overseas experts and local personnel. This project requires approximately 10.5 million baht (0.34 million USD; given 1 USD = 31 baht) for the first year and 31.3 million baht (1 million USD) for the second year.

The main objectives of this project idea are 1) to vigorously and systematically develop the capability of Thailand's human resources in water resource management, from government agencies to educational institutes, and from private sectors and to local communities, 2) to create an international knowledge network which enables the exchange of knowledge and research work as well as the transfer of technologies among water resource management agencies around the world, and 3) to create skilful human resources in water resource management through international collaborative research scholarships at the master and Ph.D. levels.

The benefits from the project include 1) promoting knowledge and technology exchange that benefits the climate change adaptation of the water resource management, 2) increasing an awareness of the benefits of the systematic application or utilization of water resource management technology among personnel in the government sectors, academic institutes, and private sectors, and 3) increasing water resource management manpower within the government sectors and academic institutes that would help create a strong foundation for the country.