

**Consultation with Civil Society in the Northern Region of Thailand**  
**World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**June 14, 2017, Chiang Mai**

As an important step in developing the Thailand-World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework (CPF), 11 rounds of public engagement meetings with diverse stakeholder groups are being organized aiming at gathering views, recommendations and priorities to feed into the strategy of support for Thailand’s long-term development. This meeting took place on June 14 with the civil society representatives from Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lamphoon, Lampang, and Payao.

**Agenda**

1. Welcome remarks and introductions to the Country Partnership Framework
2. Thailand Systematic Country Diagnostic “Getting Back on Track: Reviving Growth and Securing Prosperity for All” presentation
3. Opportunities and Priorities for Northern Region of Thailand by presentation
4. Group discussions and identified priorities for Thailand-World Bank Group engagement.
  - a. What are the challenges and priorities for Thailand?
  - b. How can the World Bank Group partner with Thailand to advance its long-term development vision, either through financing, technical advice or policy dialogue?

**Summary of inputs from participants**

<b>What are the challenges and priorities for Thailand?</b>
<p><b>Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inconsistent policies on infrastructure due to change in management.</li> <li>- Influence of politics on infrastructure projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agriculture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve skills of agricultural labor.</li> <li>- Need more policies for local farmers.</li> <li>- There needs to be coordination between the public sector and the farmers.</li> <li>- The government have to set up the market to support organic products.</li> <li>- Support farmer groups by establishing cooperatives.</li> <li>- Farmland expansion problem e.g. Mae-Jam area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environmental Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waste management problem in Chiang Mai.</li> <li>- Consistent policies and continuous campaigning to tackle forest clearance which cause forest fire.</li> <li>- Educate people about earthquake, drought, and floods.</li> <li>- Some natural resources are shared among different provinces, especially the Mekong river basin.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Cooperation between different provinces for shared benefits.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Depletion and encroachment of forest in the upstream area.</li> </ul>

**Education and Social Development**

- No sense of shared accountability to the public.
- Passive learning with focus on memorization rather than engaging in discussions and workshop.
- Too much value is given to university degree, but graduates lack practical working skills.
  - o Create equality and standard for vocational graduates.
- Should focus more on gaining practical skills through internships.
- Building quality teachers:
  - o Teachers have other duties to comply with, therefore cannot focus solely on teaching.
  - o The government should invest more on creating quality teachers.
- Curriculum:
  - o Frequent change of curriculum due to change in management.
  - o Add local/artisanal subjects to the curriculum.
  - o Add more practical subjects that can be applied at work.
  - o Students should learn from different disciplines to widen their horizons.
- Students are not well-informed of all the possible career choices.
- Lack of research in both science and social science fields.

**Labor Market**

- Employers do not comply with minimum wage law – violation of labor rights.

**Economic Growth**

- Infrastructure growth cannot keep up with economic growth.
- Clustered growth.
- Banks do not lend to SME businesses due to lack of confidence.

**Governance**

- Some policies only benefit some businesses and do not reach people at the local level.
- Unclear, inconsistent, and non-inclusive long-term policy.
- Corruption.

**How can the World Bank Group partner with Thailand to advance its long-term development vision, either through financing, technical advice or policy dialogue?****Infrastructure**

- Develop mass transit system that connects all northern provinces of the North.
- The World Bank's impartiality will allow for successful research and implementation of infrastructure and economic development projects.

**Agriculture**

- The World Bank can support the adoption of technology in agricultural practices in order to improve the quality of agricultural products.
- Support in organic farming by setting up funds and sharing knowledge to the farmers.

**Business and Investment**

- Support start-up.
- Border trade:
  - o Help with logistics.
  - o Create opportunities for entrepreneurs.
  - o Act as the coordinator for regional cooperation on border trade.
  - o Special Economic Zones and border trade
- Finance and banking:
  - o Regional cooperation in currency, credit, safety and standards.

**Environment Protection**

- Educate the communities about air pollution.
- Climate change
  - o Share best practice on how to tackle climate change.
  - o Introduce the use of technology to fight climate change.

**Education**

- Support non-formal and informal education for the elderly and guarantee markets for goods produced by the elderly.
- Ensure that education policies are consistent, effective, and efficient.
- Improve English language learning.
- Create positive attitude towards life-long learning.
- Invest in start-up training/working to create self-employment opportunities for children ("Turn passion into a career").

**Coordination**

- To ensure transparency, the World Bank can monitor investment which brings in new technology.
- Finding a coordinator to integrate public sector and private sector works.
- The World Bank can provide consultancy and advice on doing research and act as a link for international cooperation.