

Consultation with Civil Society Organizations
World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework
Meeting Summary

May 2, 2017

World Bank Thailand Office

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 will be 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 May 2 with civil society organizations based in Bangkok.

Organizations present in this meeting

1. Habitat for Humanity Thailand
2. Kenan Institute Asia
3. Khon Thai Foundation
4. Oxfam
5. Quality Learning Foundation
6. RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests
7. Thailand Sustainable Development Foundation
8. Thammasat University, College of Innovation
9. World Vision Thailand
10. Togetherness for Equality and Action Group
11. Representative from Thailand to the World Bank Group Civil Society Policy Forum 2017

Agenda:

1. Welcome remarks and introduction to the Country Partnership Framework
2. Round of Introductions by Participants
3. Thailand Systematic Country Diagnostic “Getting back on Track: Reviving Growth and Securing Prosperity for All”
4. Discussions;
 - 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?”

Thailand [Systematic Country Diagnostic](#) “Getting back on Track: Reviving Growth and Securing Prosperity for All”

The presentation was followed by a Q & A session. Some of the issues discussed included:

- The evolution of Thailand's competitiveness and governance indicators between 2006/2007 and 2016/2017, and how Thailand compared with other countries. This

evolution showed that other countries have caught up with Thailand and therefore Thailand's competitive advantage has diminished over the years.

- A suggestion was made to show a comparison of Thailand with high-income countries, as that should be the aspiration of the country.
- Definition of poverty and how it is measured.
- Correlation between United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the pathways recommended in the SCD.

What are the challenges and priorities for Thailand?

1. Social protection, especially for marginalized groups

- The government of Thailand social protection policies and laws do not necessarily follow the World Bank Group's recommendations shown in the SCD.
- LGBTI community faces a lot of discrimination. This needs to be acknowledged.

2. Migrants

- At the moment, there are estimates of migrants, but it can be challenging to obtain reliable data on their numbers and livelihoods.
- Thai labor statistics does not include undocumented migrants.
- There are no unified migrant surveys.

3. Governance

- Voice and accountability, as well as political stability are getting worse. Thailand needs to underline strategies in the next 5 years to motivate people to have a voice.
- When it comes to measuring government policies, one has to take into account the lag indicator, since it takes time to implement and see results.
- A cooperation between regional or provincial governments are necessary for sharing of data and good practices
- Public sector reform is the key to real change

4. Quality education

- A comprehensive package of fundamental reforms in education is needed
- Challenges in education include: the mix of public and private schools, corruption, outdated curriculum, teachers with a tradition of lecturing rather than engaging students, vocational training, school consolidation
- Vocational training – The private sector can play a role in developing standards for advancement of technical skills that goes beyond firm-specific skills.
- School consolidation – The appropriateness of school consolidation depends on the following factors 1) Demography and geography 2) Government resources 3) Cultural factors

5. Role of SME

- It is not only big businesses that create jobs. SME now has a growing role in creating jobs.

6. Cooperation between organizations

- Each civil society and other organizations have their own database and useful knowledge, but there is a need for cooperation of efforts to turn this information into practical implementation.

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

1. **SME Development** – The World Bank Group could provide information on best practices in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and public sector initiatives to support SME development.
2. **Public Sector Reform** – The World Bank Group could provide the tipping point that can change the public sector. Civil society could be strengthened to balance public sector. Change is needed at the regional level and not only at the central/national level. Making the public sector more capable, accountable and transparent is important.
3. **Voice** – Thai civil society looks to the World Bank Group for voice rather than funding. The World Bank Group could partner with the government to adopt policies that support a more equitable distribution of wealth. Civil Society also needs the World Bank Group's advice on how to work with the government on policies and laws that are more inclusive of marginalized groups (LGBTI community, for example)
4. **Smart Social Protection System** – Now the children need better protection than before (for example, the child prostitution case in Mae Hong Son).
5. **Knowledge/Data/Information** - For example global experience in education, mobilizing private sector support in collaboration with civil society, say, a percentage of income of private companies goes to development.