



Thailand Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCD)

Public Engagements



SCD Meeting with civil society in Udon Thani on May 11, 2016

From March 17 to May 31, 2016 extensive public engagement meetings were held with government, academics, civil society, local experts, and a broad range of other stakeholders to identify Thailand's development priorities, challenges and priorities to end extreme poverty and share prosperity widely.

Seven public engagement meetings were held in total. Two meetings were held in Bangkok on March 17, two meetings in Pattani on April 25, two meetings in Udon Thani on May 11, and one meeting in Chiang Mai on May 31 to solicit feedback on both findings and the key opportunities to create growth that benefits everyone. In total, 421 participants joined the meetings.

Meetings were hosted by Thammasat University in Bangkok, Prince of Songkla University in Pattani, Udon Thani Municipality Center and Chiang Mai University.

Invitations and materials for public engagements were sent out two weeks in advance for each event (in both English and Thai), and meetings were also announced on the World Bank Group Thailand website and Facebook page. An [online survey](#) on the SCD was also posted on the website.

All meetings commenced with a [video](#) and a [presentation](#) which covered the preliminary findings of the SCD in regard to the main pathways to reduce extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity in Thailand. The presentation was given in English, which simultaneous translation into Thai. After the presentation, an open discussion was held around this question to identify Thailand's priorities:

- In your view, what are the biggest and most important development areas for Thailand where programs should be focused to end poverty and share prosperity widely among people throughout the country?

Different tools were used during these meetings to enlist local experts to help identify priorities. First, all participants were given a questionnaire which asked them to identify the top five opportunities for eliminating poverty and creating shared prosperity. The questionnaire was completed by 300 participants, and their priorities are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Top five priorities emerging from individual questionnaires and group discussions: opportunities for ending poverty and creating more shared prosperity

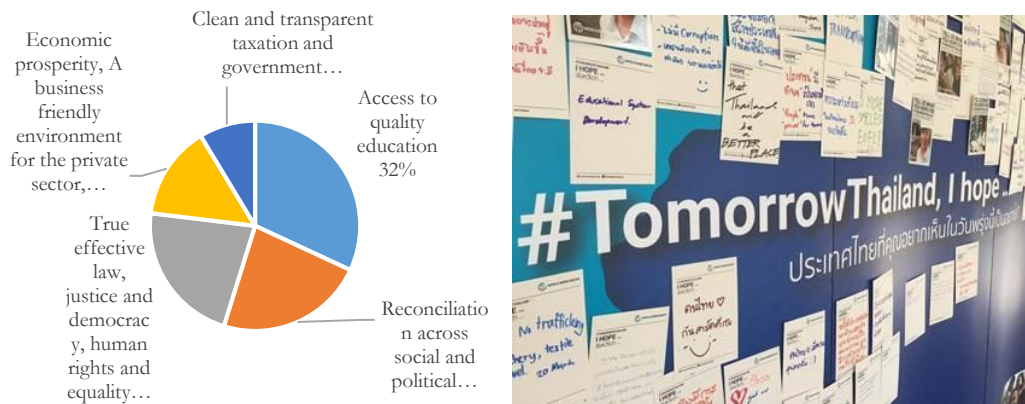
Priority	% of respondents picking as top 5	% of groups picking top 3 priority
Access to quality education	17	96
Increasing productivity and incomes in agriculture, including through access to irrigation	10	70
High quality, expert government bureaucracy and central and local administrations	11	52
Reconciliation across social and political divisions	8	17
Access to quality health services	7	13

Source: Results obtained from consultation meetings

Second, in three of the meetings, groups of 8-10 participants were asked, as a group, to identify their top three constraints. Approximately 180 people in 23 groups participated in this exercise, and their results are also summarized in Table 1.

Finally, the World Bank team brought and installed a “Wall of Hope” at all locations. On this wall, participants and individuals passing by could write their hopes for Thailand on a postcard and post it on the wall. Postcards were filled out by 544 individuals and have been analysed and summarized in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Results from Wall of Hope postcards



Irrespective of the tool used, a clear list of “Tier 1” priorities emerged from the consultations, with very little variation across the regions of Thailand where consultations were held. In particular, the three top priorities that emerged were:

- i) Education (as critical for both growth and to create shared prosperity);
- ii) High quality, expert government bureaucracy and central and local administrations (as a critical cross-cutting issue);
- iii) Increasing productivity and incomes in agriculture, including through access to irrigation (as critical to providing the 15 million farmers with more opportunities).

Participants at the Meetings



SCD Meeting at the Prince of Songkla University Meeting on April 25, 2016



Group activity to discuss Thailand's priorities during the SCD Meeting in Udon Thani, May 11, 2016

Questionnaire Used for Consultations

SHARE YOUR VIEWS!

THAILAND: HOW TO END POVERTY AND SHARE PROSPERITY MORE WIDELY?

The World Bank Group (WBG) is undertaking engagements with stakeholders in Thailand on the country's development opportunities, pressing challenges and ways to address them. The schedule of these meetings is posted on the World Bank Thailand website. We are using this survey to get feedback from as many stakeholders as possible. Please take a few minutes to fill out this short survey. The feedback we get will not be attributed to any individual but will be reflected and posted on the website, through a collective summary of feedback from all engagements.

- 1. In your view, what are the biggest and most important development areas for Thailand where programs should be focused to end poverty and share prosperity widely among people throughout the country? (please pick max. 5)**
 - Reconciliation across social and political divisions
 - High quality, expert government bureaucracy and central and local administrations
 - Clean and transparent taxation and government spending, without corruption
 - Access to quality education

- Access to quality health services
- Effective transport services – roads, rail, public transport
- Access to clean water and sanitation
- Energy efficiency (Thailand’s economy has remained very energy intensive until now)
- A business friendly environment for the private sector, including small and medium enterprises
- Effective competition, with a level playing field and equal opportunities among private sector firms
- Access to financial services – bank accounts, credits for individuals or firms, mobile financial services, investment products, consumer financial education
- The balance of economic activity across Thailand’s regions and the extent of economic concentration in Greater Bangkok Area
- Increasing productivity and incomes in agriculture, including through access to irrigation
- Social protection for the poor
- The rapid ageing of Thai society, including care for the elderly
(list continues on the next page)
- Preventing and protecting against the impact from natural disasters – such as floods, droughts, earthquakes
- Protection of Thailand’s environment and natural resources
- Equality and no discrimination among genders, including LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex people)
- Foreign language skills
- Foreign labor (please see below)
- Others 1: _____
- Others 2: _____

If you identify “foreign labor” as one of the top 5 priority development areas for Thailand, please indicate whether, in your view, there:

- There should be more foreign labor, and it should be easier for businesses in Thailand to hire foreign workers and for foreign workers to work in Thailand
- There should be less foreign labor, and regulation should be more strict for businesses in Thailand to hire foreign workers and for foreign workers to work in Thailand

2. Would you like to share any other ideas, suggestions, or questions about development opportunities and challenges for yourself, your family, or other people in Thailand?

3. What is your gender: _____

4. If you work, for what type of organization do you work?

- Government Agency
- Civil Society
- Academia
- Private Sector
- Development Partner
- Other: _____