

THAILAND : THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF DEPOPULATED RURAL AREAS

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Introduction Rural Development is considered as an important policy of Thai Government. The central government and local government have to take this policy as one of their development plan. In the central government the Ministries which mostly concern about rural development especially development in depopulated rural areas are the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Industry. All these Ministries will have their representatives working in the local government in the provinces, districts, sub—districts or communes level. The Governor will play an important role at the provincial level, the District Director or District officer will play an important role at the district level, the commune headman will play an important role at the commune level and also at the village level the village headman or the villagechief will play an important role at the village, level. In the past, the problems of the people who live in the rural areas can not be solved because the government could not know the real problems and situation of the rural people, most of rural development plans had been made by the central government itself and those officials who made the plans did not know the real situation of the rural people because the plans had been made from top to down or topdown policy. But at present, the government realize about this problems so that the policy has changed from down to top or Bottom—up policy. The rural development plans will be made in the form of Committee on National Rural Development System. This system had been introduced and started in the Fifth National Economic and Social Development Plans. Under this system rural development plans will start from commune and village level, that is to say the commune have to make commune rural development plans on the basis of rural people needs and requirement and then submit to district. At the district level, district also have to make rural development plans by collecting all communes rural development plans in its territory and consider that which projects is the most important and then fill that projects in the district rural development plans. However, to make district rural development plans there will be Development District Committee responsible for this matter. The chairman of this committee is the District Director and the secretary of this committee is senior assistant district director. The members of this committee compose of officials from various Ministries mainly from 5 main Ministries. These officials are representative of their Ministries working at the district level. The 5 main Ministries which concern with rural development are the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Industry.

At the provincial level, the province have to make provincial rural development plans by collecting all district rural development plans in its territory and consider to make provincial rural development plans. At this level also there will be

Development Province Committee responsible for provincial rural development plans. The chairman of this committee is the Governor of that province. The members of this committee compose of officials from various Ministries mainly from 5 main Ministries. These officials are representative of their ministries working in local government at the provincial level. The Governor will play an important role at this level.

Before we go further to the information about the role of local governments in the Development of depopulated rural areas I would like to draw your kind attention to have knowledge about local government system in Thailand and Thailand in general.

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy with a centralized government which controls all important agencies of power and policy. The local administrative units like provinces (changwats) districts (amphoes), communes (tambons) and villages (mubans) function mainly as field offices of the national government, though the local self-government system is promoted alongside.

Local Government in Thailand may be classified into local administration and local self-government. Local administration comprises, in hierarchical order, provinces (changwats), districts (Amphoes), communes (Tambons) and villages (Mubans). Local self-government is maintained by provincial authorities, municipalities, sanitary districts, and commune authorities. Here, we will not pay more attention on the role of local self-government but we will pay more attention on the role of local administration.

Local Administration Provinces and districts are administered by career civil servants appointed by the ministries. They are financed and hence controlled by the national government. As local administrative units they implement the policies and decisions of the national government.

Provincial Government At present, Thailand is divided into 73 Provinces including Bangkok Metropolitan. The most populated province is Bangkok, with a population of over 5 millions. Each province is composed of many districts depending on population and area. The province is administered by a governor, a professional civil servant of high rank, appointed by the Ministry of Interior. He is responsible for the implementation of the laws and policies of the national government as well as the overall conduct of provincial affairs, including the maintenance of peace and order in the province. Furthermore, he is charged with the supervision of the conduct of all officials within his jurisdiction. The governor is assisted in the administration of local affairs by the Provincial Board consisting of civil servants appointed by the Ministries concerned to provide technical services, such as the public prosecutor, the public health officer, the agricultural extension officer, the educational superintendent, the military conscription officer, the tax officer etc.

District Government The District (Amphoe) represents the lower of the two

levels of professional administration. At present there are over 700 districts and sub-districts in Thailand. Each district is under the charge of a district director (Nai Amphoe in Thai), a civil servant appointed by the Ministry of Interior, and responsible to the governor of the province in which his district is located. The district director, being the chief administrative officer of his district, is responsible for the execution of the laws and policies of the national government and the preservation of public order and peace within his jurisdiction. He also supervises the work and conduct of all officials within the district. The district director or district officer carries out administration with the assistance of a "district board" consisting of civil servants representing the Ministries which provide technical services within the districts. Thus in a large district, functions concerning police, education, agriculture, health, military conscription, taxes, etc are performed by the local representatives of the Ministries concerned. Not only districts one or more subdistricts also may be set up in large and populous areas within a district, which are difficult to look after due to their distance from the district office. Each sub-district is under the supervision of a deputy district director responsible to the district director.

Communes and Villages Communes and villages are at the crossroad between local administrative units (i.e. provinces and districts) and local self-government units. The communes and villages are not legally recognized as part of the administrative system of the country, though their existence is essential for government administration.

A commune consists of a group of villages. The number of villages which together form a commune varies greatly, according to population and geographical location. The boundaries of a commune are determined by the central government. The chief of the commune is called "Kamnan" in Thai, who is elected by the village headman (or puyaibans in Thai) of that commune. The kamnan, once elected, holds the office for an indeterminate term so long as he maintains good behavior. The kamnan is charged with several duties, involving both civil and criminal matters. He must assume responsibility for keeping law and order among villagers and looking after public welfare.

The village is the smallest unit and the keystone of local government. It consists of a cluster of houses situated close enough together to be combined under one control. There must be at least five households in a village. A village is headed by a village headman (puyaiban in Thai) who is elected by the inhabitants of that village. His term of office is indeterminate. He is responsible for the general duties of maintaining law and order, record keeping and leadership in public emergencies. On more important matters he must report to the kamnan. The village headman or puyaiban is not an official of the central government, although the government pays him a small honorarium. Both kamnan and Puyaiban are under direct supervision

and control of the district directors and provincial governors.

General Information about Thailand Thailand covers an area of about 514,000 square kilometers and at present has a population of about 52 millions. The economy of Thailand is based primarily on agriculture, including forestry and fisheries. Rice and rubber are the most important among major crops, followed by maize, jute and kenaf, and cassava. Nearly 80% of the population in employment are engaged in agricultural production. Agriculture in Thailand is heavily dependent upon rainfall which is concentrated in the period from May to October. This dependence, however, is diminishing as a result of the government's expanded irrigation program. Differences in climate and soils affect the pattern of land use between regions. The central plain is the rice —bowl of Thailand. Mixed farming and fruit culture are appropriate for the North while high rainfall makes tree crops favorable for the south. In the northeast with low soil fertility and low rainfall, paddy is grown in combination with certain upland crops. Rice, the main crop of Thailand, has always been the backbone of the country's economy. It is the staple food of Thai people and is grown on all kinds of soil, provided water can be retained long enough to mature the crop. It is grown almost everywhere to assure the yearly supply of rice for the consumption of farming families. Consequently it has been rather difficult to induce farmers to grow other crops unless there is a ready market for them. Thailand is a Buddhist country. Buddhism has long dominated the Thai way of life. The influence of Buddhism inevitably has affected administrative practice of the Government. A good example of this influence was the issuing of a royal decree in 1956 to grant a temporary leave of absence with full salary to all civil servants, including public school teachers, who wish to spend sometime in a monastery as a Buddhist monk. It has been traditional for every young man in Thailand to enter the monkhood when reaching twenty years of age. The usual period of monkhood is during the three—month Buddhistlength. Almost all Thai young men, both of common and royal blood, have followed this practice of being ordained in the Buddhist religion since the Sukhothai period. The present king of Thailand was ordained a Buddhist monk in 1955. The above information are some information in brief about Thailand local government system and Thailand in general.

1. Present situation of depopulation in Thailand and the reason why it is necessary to develop such depopulated rural areas In rural areas of Thailand most of the population are farmers. Their way of living is based on agriculture and productivity depending on rainfall. Their income are very low and most of them are considerably poor. In the Northern part of Thailand there are group of people call "hilltribe" which are the minority group of people in Thailand. These groups of people living in depopulated rural areas and scatteringly in the highland areas of 22 northern and western provinces It is estimated that totally there are about 700,000 hilltribes, the majority of which are inhabiting densely along the northern border

areas. Not only these hilltribes in the northern part of Thailand but there are many villages also in the northeastern part of Thailand which are depopulated, most of the people who are living in these areas are economically deprived, inconvenient communications, low production or incomes, poor health, shortage of water for domestic consumption and lack of knowledge concerning methods of self-improvement. The head of the family and young men and women in the villages will leave their home villages to big cities like Bangkok and other cities to seek for a job after their cultivation to support their families so that the villages will become depopulated. Because of this reason why it is necessary to develop such depopulated rural areas.

2. How to make development plans for depopulated rural areas The Government of Thailand had well realized about the situation of depopulated rural areas so that the rural development programme had been adopted in the Fifth National Economic and Social Development Plan and also continue in the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan. Rural development, in the Sixth Plan will continue to be implemented on an uninterrupted and continuous basis. Implementation of the previous plan has resulted in substantial progress, therefore, existing strategies, targets and other measures will be continued and improved in accordance with present conditions. At the same time, past shortcomings will be rectified in order to ensure that the Programme for Rural Development of the Sixth Plan will be implemented more effectively and will consequently achieve the desired results of solving poverty problems in rural areas, improving the rural standard of living and distributing wealth and prosperity as much as possible to all depopulated rural areas. Rural development in the Sixth plan will concentrate on actual problems confronted by the rural population in different areas, and the nature of these problems will determine the areas and priorities for implementation. Target areas will be divided into backward rural areas, middle-level rural areas and progressive rural areas. But the Government will concentrate its development efforts and resources on the backward and middle-level areas especially in the depopulated rural areas. In general the approach of the Programme for Rural Development of the Sixth Plan has 2 outstanding characteristics. First, it concentrates on extending rural development throughout the country using the actual problems that confront the rural population as criteria in determining the target areas, the criteria will range from such basic problems as poverty, poor health and ignorance to problems in production and marketing, which have great impact on income and employment generation. Secondly, it encourages more participation by the private sector in solving their own and community problems in order to reduce the government's role and activities wherever people are able to manage on their own.

In order to encourage the general public and the private sector to increase their role in finding solutions to their own problems on the basis of selfreliance, the

following strategies will be implemented : local organizations at the village and sub —district levels will be strengthened and thus made more capable of planning and solving community problems; local resources will be mobilized to establish community development funds; the people will be encouraged to solve their own and community problems by using the concept of basic minimum needs as a guideline; and rural development activities in which the private sector increases its participation and the government reduces its role to that of a supporter will be encouraged and expanded.

The administrative system for making plan for development of depopulated rural areas will be under the Committee on National Rural Development which was need in the previous plan will continue to administer rural development in the Sixth, Plan, but mechanisms for administering and coordinating government agencies both at the central and regional levels will be improved. An information system will also be developed in order to carry out depopulated rural areas administration more systematically. In addition, efforts will be made to integrate all the economic, social and security targets for development of depopulated rural areas. All of these measures are expected to lead to the adoption of a supportive role by the government and to more participation by the private sector.

The development plans for depopulated rural areas will concentrate on finding solutions to the problems of every day life and work that face the rural population. It will also focus on creating more income and employment generation. The 4 major guidelines are as follows :

1. Develop the basic infrastructure for rural production and marketing.
2. Increase the efficiency and capabilities of the public sector in solving rural problems.
3. Improve the system for administering rural development in order to integrate the systemize the efforts of each agency.
4. Increase the participation of the private sector and people's organizations in rural development.

In order to implement the foregoing guidelines, the following 3 groups of accommodating work plan are specified :

1. Work plans to be implemented by government agencies with the cooperation of the people. These include work plans under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Education.
2. Work plans to be implemented mainly by the people or the private sector with the government adopting a supportive role, such as work plans on rural job creation, on developing the quality of life in rural areas according to the criteria of basic minimum needs and on rural development funds. Private sector work plans are also included funds. Private sector work plans are also included.

3. Work plans for promoting rural development administration through both training and briefing field officers in planning, monitoring and evaluating rural development.

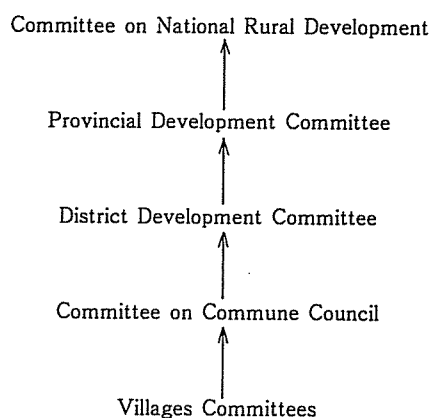
Who is responsible for making a plan and who authorizes that plan

To make development plans for depopulated rural areas it should started from the bottom to the top or bottom-up. It mean that the development plans will start from villages and communes, the village headman and the commune headman will play an important role for making plan. There will be Committee on Commune Council responsible for making Commune development plans.

At District level, the District Director and his colleagues will play an important role for making District Development Plans. There will be District Development Committee responsible for making District development plans. District will collect communes development plans from its territory and make district development plans and submit to the province.

At provincial level, the Governor and his colleagues will play an important role in this matter. There will be Provincial Development Committee responsible for making provincial development plans.

At national level, there will be the Committee on National Rural Development responsible for making National Rural Development Plans. The Prime Minister is the chairman of this committee. The structure from bottom to top or bottom -up are as follow :



How to reflect the public opinion in the plan For making development plans, it is necessary to collect problems and needs of the people in depopulated rural areas. As a result of the village Data Base Survey conducted in 1984, the following 5 major problems have been identified in rural areas are as follows :

1. Inconvenient transport and communications systems connecting villages with district and business centres.
2. Low productivity leading to inadequate income and unemployment.
3. Shortage of water for daily use and consumption in remote areas.
4. The health and sanitation of rural people.
5. Lack of knowledge for developing the quality of life, whether at the personal family or community levels. When we aware the major problems of the rural people then we can start solving their problems.

Guidelines for solving the Problems

The responsibility for solving the preceding problems lies with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Industry. Guidelines for solving each problem are as follow :

First guideline The policy of saving energy and reducing oil imports will form the basic in solving communications and transport problems. Existing roads will be repaired and maintained so that they can be used in any season while new roads will be constructed to connect villages, sub —districts and districts to the network of primary highways in order to facilitate transport of agricultural produce and rural commuters. Operational guidelines are as follows :

- (1) Accord priority to improving and maintaining existing rural highways especially where there is an urgent need. New construction will be limited to missing links that are necessary to connect the network to national and provincial highways under the responsibility of Department of highways.
- (2) Place special emphasis on the construction, improvement and main —tenance of rural highways that directly support local and reional economic activities such as development of tourism and rural industry, transport of products to markets and exports. Routing priorities will be selected with due regard to the other development activities.
- (3) Prioritize backward areas that have communications problems, especially in areas where there is an urgent need border areas where there are security problems. Construction and maintenance should aim at ensuring the avaiability of all —weather roads.
- (4) Encourage people's participation in building roads that link villages with fields and thus facilitate work activities and the transport of produce. This would develop the sense of ownership and the desire to keep the roads in good repair.
- (5) Avoid duplication of efforts and unconnected roads by basing the selection of routes for construction on the area of responsibility of each agency involved in road construction and maintenance.
- (6) Establish working groups under the supervision of the planning and project

sub —committee to study guidelines for developing rural highways and ensure that they conform to rural development policies.

Second guideline To solve the problems of low productivity, inadequate income and unemployment, it is necessary to accelerate the development of rural occupations in both the agricultural and industrial sectors. Guidelines are as follows :

(1) In the agricultural sector occupational development efforts will mainly concentrate on solving the problem of production in areas dependent on rainwater because these are areas where soil fertility and productivity are low. Farmer's do not earn sufficient income for their livelihood. Development guidelines are as follows :

- Promote cooperation between the government sector, private organizations and farmers in occupational development for farmers so that they may enjoy a higher standard of living. A fully integrated agricultural system that covers production and marketing will be developed for products not consumed in the farming household and for surplus products.

- Improve the species of crops and livestock to suit local conditions.

- Encourage farmers to use technology that is appropriate to their capability.

- Improve cropping and animal husbandry systems to soil and rain —water conditions in order to obtain maximum efficiency in resource utilization and sufficient supplies for household consumption.

- Promote production of raw materials, such as trees, for use in cottage industries in order to generate additional income

- Improve the basic agricultural conditions that are necessary for facilitating future development efforts.

(2) In the industrial sector occupational development consists of the following :

- Promote cottage industries by providing occupational training and developing production techniques. Sources of raw materials and marketing will be particularly taken into consideration.

- Support the expansion of small —scale industries, most of which are industrial plants in the provinces, in order to create more employment. The promotion effort will be in the form of assistance to overcome such problems as lack of capital and technology and assistance to develop administrative, managerial and marketing skills.

Third guideline It is necessary to accelerate the development of small-scale water resources in remote areas in order to satisfy the people's basic need for water. Water resources will be identified in order to ensure an adequate supply for the consumption of rural people and to constitute a supplementary water resource for agricultural use in areas dependent on rainwater. Moreover a higher priority will be given to extension activities project main —tenance and people's participation in the development of small-scale water resources. Operational guidelines are as follows :

(1) Accelerate construction of small-scale water resources throughout remote areas in order to eliminate the shortage of water for drinking and household consumption.

(2) Accelerate implementation of the programme for ensuring clean water and tap water for villages. Coordination and cooperation between the government, and the private sector will be emphasized and people will be encouraged to participate in the form of foundations or village funds.

(3) Allocate budgets for small-scale water resource development projects based on the actual problems and needs in each locality. The ranking of priorities will be based on the problems of each region : the northeast is accorded the highest priority. Project implementation should conform to the problems and needs of the people.

(4) Promote extension activities and project maintenance. Implementing agencies should ensure that people and officials cooperate in using small-scale water resources. Local authorities and people will be encouraged to make financial contributions to augment the government budgetary allocations for maintenance of small —scale water resource development projects.

(5) Establish a monitoring and evaluation system to ensure that smallscale water resource development projects are implemented according to the government policy.

Fourth guideline In order to combat the problems of rural health, operational guidelines are as follows :

(1) Promote and increase opportunities for people to participate in developing the quality of life in line with the concept of basic minimum needs. This could be accomplished through the processes of community preparation,improvement of methods and technology, and public relations, which aim at in—culating a proper sense of awareness among government officials and the general public.

(2) Encourage local people to intitiate and expand primary health care in order that they may be in a position to solve their own health problems, which is one of the basic minimum needs, in line with the actual condition and capability of each individual family and community.

(3) Encourage the delegation of administrative authority for public health

activities by increasing the role of the people in the decision-making process in regard to identifying problems, needs and problem-solving methods and determining how to manage resources that are derived from the efforts of the community and from the support of the government and private sector.

(4) Promote continuous coordination within the sector by developing a coordinating organization and mechanisms communication techniques and the exchange of information and experience between agencies that deal with health services, education, and training, research and technological development in order to accelerate the attainment of good health for all members of the public.

(5) Promote continuous coordination between sectors and between the public and private sectors by developing a coordinating organizations and mechanisms, communication techniques and a change of attitude in administrators and field operators in order that they may respond to the objectives involved in developing the quality of life of the people.

(6) Improve the health service system in regard to the structure of health centres within the referral system and the system for exchanging knowledge, techniques and knowhow between agencies. The aims are to expand and improve the quality of health services so that they can address the physical and mental health problems of the people in a more integrated and efficient manner, especially at the village and sub-district levels, and to make more basic services available in communities.

(7) Promote the transfer of knowledge and technology concerning public health activities that have already been developed and successfully applied in various communities. Models and techniques for developing leaders of groups and work teams should start to be developed and tried out, as should the transfer of knowledge and technology between groups, work teams and village which would lead to more self-reliance.

(8) Explore the alternatives and initiate financial methods and systems for health services based on the principles of public participation and of saving service fee expense as appropriate to the nature of the problems and the society. The funds thus mobilized could be used in the provision of health services, health insurance and health care to low-income and elderly people as necessary and according to the principle and regulations already laid down.

Fifth guideline The problem of inadequate knowledge for improving the quality of life of individuals families and communities could be solved by concentrating on the target group of rural people with little capability for self-help. This group should be given the opportunity to gain sufficient knowledge to improve their quality of life and ultimately attain self-reliance. Guidelines are as follows :

(1) Carry out campaigns to create public awareness of the problems and to enable the general public to be able to solve their own problems and those of their

communities based on the concept of basic minimum needs.

(2) Conduct literacy campaigns and reading compaigns to ensure that literacy is maintained.

(3) Promote various aspects of academic and occupational knowledges as appropriate to the local needs and in order that people may earn their livelihood. The initial target group will be those outside the formal educatio—nal system, followed by those within the school system.

(4) Educate children, women of fertility age and married women on nutrition and bringing up children.

In order to solve all those problems of people who live in depopulated rural areas the provinces, districts, sub—districts, communes and villages must take active role and cooperate with each other and follow the system of national rural development which I believe that the problems of rural people can be solved.

3. Implementing methods for the development of depopulated rural areas The implementing methods for development of depopulated rural areas are as follows :

- Improving administrative mechanisms by consolidating efforts in an integrataed rural development system.
- Create unity within and between administrative organizations for depopulated rural areas at the national, provincial, district, sub —district and village levels.
- Establish plans for depopulated rural areas in the provinces that may be used to achieve cooperation between the efforts of officials in all branches and at every level.
- Improvement of the administrative organizations and systems for development of depopulated rural areas
- Restructure the administrative system for development of depopulated rural areas at the national, provincial, sub—district and village levels to create flexibility in administering rural development within the framework of the committee on National Rural Development.
- Extend primery health care services (including nutrition) compulsory education and information dissemination to all people who live in depopulated rural areas.
- Accelerate the construction of access roads in all depopulated rural areas.
- Accelerate the development of communications networks by installing small—scale communications equipment to all villages in depopulated rural areas.
- Support the role of sub—district councils in developing their own localities by implementing projects in accordance with rural job creation plans in depopulated rural areas.
- Encourage the people in depopulated rural areas to develop their quality of

life in accordance with the concept of basic minimum needs.

- Support the mobilization of community resources to set up rural village development funds.
- Support the role of sub—district councils in developing their localities by continuing the work plan for rural employment generation.
- Support local fund raising efforts that aim at establishing rural development funds to be used in self—development.
- Extend counterpart loans and technical support to development projects initiated by people's organizations to all depopulated rural areas.
- Improve the management efficiency of rural development funds at all level.
- Strengthen special—purpose village funds in terms of business investment, management efficiency and people's participation in the funds.
- Extend counterpart loans to rural development fund projects in all villages throughout depopulated rural areas.
- Coordinate financial and technical assistance from domestic and foreign public and private sector organizations in order to strengthen the special—purpose funds.
- Improve administrative mechanisms, rules, regulations and procedures for operating rural development funds.
- Promote and create understanding of the principles, rules and regulations among officials at all levels and among the people concerned.
- Promote the integration of the resources of the various special—purpose funds in the village.
- Development of resources for tourism in villages which have beautiful natural environment.
- Support participation by the people in improving their quality of life based on the concept of basic minimum needs, which would lead to greater self—reliance.
- Support the role of Regional Joint Public/Private Sectors Consultative Committees and the Provincial Joint Public/Private Sectors Consultative Committees and increase the role of people's organizations, the general public and the private sector in development of depopulated rural areas.

Guidelines for development of depopulated rural areas for solving the poverty problem and upgrading the standard of living from the poverty level to the subsistence level, which would in turn lead to better living conditions. In this respect, the joint Public/Private SECTORS Consultative Committees at the regional and provincial levels may participate in development and in solving rural economic problems, which will lead to progress in production and agricultural marketing and in rural industry. The private sector, which plays a vital role in rural

development because of its manpower, budgetary resources and large number of organizations, could be the essential development force by increasing coordination with the government sector. It is therefore important that operational guideline for promoting the roles of Regional and Provincial Joint Public/ Private Sectors Consultative Committees, people's organizations, the general public and the private sector in rural development are specified as follows :

(1) Guideline for supporting the role of the Regional and Provincial Joint Public/ Private Sectors Consultative Committees.

- 1.1 Support and mobilize ideas from the private sector for solving rural economic problems. Farmers and the rural population will be encouraged to acquire technical knowhow and capabilities in agricultural and industrial production in line with the guidelines for overall economic development.
- 1.2 Distribute production technology in agriculture and industry.
- 1.3 Improve the quality of life farmers by developing their knowledge and abilities.
- 1.4 Develop efficiency in production, marketing and production control in correspondence to market demand.
- 1.5 Locate and expand markets for agricultural and industrial products.
- 1.6 Establish guidelines for production, marketing and finance in line with and in support of overall national development.
- 1.7 Promote and strengthen farmers' institutions.

(2) Guidelines for increasing the role of people's organizations, the general public and the private sector.

- 2.1 Support private sector consolidations by setting up a central organization for coordinating private sector activities in rural development.
- 2.2 Designate government agencies as centres for coordinating with the private sector.
- 2.3 Improve coordinating mechanisms by attempting to incorporate private sector work plans into provincial rural development plans.
- 2.4 Encourage the private sector to use provincial rural development plans as a basis for planning projects and work plans.

4. Financial resources for development and how to collect them There are many financial resources for development of depopulated rural areas, they are as follows :

1. Yearly budget from the government.
2. Assistant from international organizations such as UNICEF for development activities for women children and teen-age people project.
3. Assistant from private sector agencies in the country such as various associations and foundations.
4. Collecting funds from the villages people themselves by setting up rural

villages development funds.

How to collect them

In order to collect funds for development of depopulated rural areas the communes or sub —districts, districts and provinces should make rural development plans in the Committee on National Rural Development System by submitting from down to top or bottom—up, for instance at the commune level the commune will make commune rural development plans, at the district level, the district will make district rural development plans and also at the provincial level the province will make provincial rural development plans.

In the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan, the Programme for Rural Development consists of 3 main groups of work plans, as follows :

1. Work plans of the principal ministries, namely, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Education. This group consists of the following work plans :

- Work plan for Improving Infrastructure, consisting of road construction and maintenance projects, electricity, land allocation and issuance of land ownership documents.

- Work Plan for Increasing Production, Income and Employment, consisting of occupational promotion projects in agricultural and non—agricultural sectors and improvements in productivity.

- Work Plan for Water Resource Development, consisting of construction and maintenance of small —scale and medium—scale water resource projects and land development to benefit from small and medium —sized water resources.

- Work Plan for Public —Health, consisting of projects for health and sanitation services and the promotion of sports and recreational activities.

- Work Plan for Promoting Knowledge and Educational, consisting of projects to promote non —formal education and vocational training in agricultural and non—agricultural sectors.

The foregoing are part of the regular work plans of the 5 ministries. The plans have been integrated under the Programme for Rural Development within the administrative systems of the Committee on National Rural Development. As a result, the operations of the ministries should support rather than duplicate each other. Each project should follow these operational conditions ;

- (a) Projects may be directly requested by the people in line with the procedures for preparing provincial rural development plans.

- (b) Projects may be jointly requested by government agencies and the people, for instance, by district development committees in conjunction with sub—district councils or by sub —district working groups on development in conjunction with sub—district councils or village committees.

(c) Projects may be requested by provincial authorities in agreement with district, sub —districts and village on the subject of beneficiaries.

2. Work Plans for encouraging participation by people's organizations and the private sector include the following 5 work plans :

- Work Plan for Rural Employment Generation
- Work Plan for Developing the Quality of Life of the Rural Population Based on the Criteria of Basic Minimum Needs.
- Work Plan for Rural Development Funds.
- Work Plan for Government and Private Sector Cooperation.
- Work Plan for Private Sector Organizations.

3. Work Plans for rural development administration consist of the following main activities.

(1) Develop plans for provincial regions so that the central and provincial regional agencies responsible for planning administration receive budget allocations and are able to coordinate assigned work in line with the rural development policy on a regular and continuous basis.

(2) Organization personnel training and supervision in order to improve the level of knowledge and efficiency of government officials at the central and provincial regional levels in regard to rural development administration.

(3) Monitor and evaluate rural development work. Ministries responsible for work plans under rural development plans will be encouraged to monitor and evaluate their own projects.

Ministries and Departments are to draw up plans to accommodate and expand the benefits accruing to royal—initiated projects that have started up in rural areas to solve immediate problems. The projects aim at producing direct benefits for the people and could be expanded and incorporated into the regular system.

In implementing the work plans, sub —district councils will be encouraged to develop their own development plans that integrated local resources with external assistance. By using primary village data, the requests and project arrangements of the various agencies will be harmonized and the benefits derived from various projects will be integrated.

It is anticipated that in the Sixth Plan period at least one sub—district in every district in the country should be able to accomplish the prescribed activities.

5. Role sharing with upper governments

The central government have the role in making policies, cooperate rural development plans/projects and support budgets for rural development. For development of depopulated rural areas the upper government will send their representatives for working in the lower government in Provinces, Districts, Communes and villages. The Ministries which concern with rural development are 5 main Ministries. They are Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of

Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Industry. All these Ministries will have their representatives in all level of local governments. For instance in commune and village level, the village headman and commune headman are representative of the Ministry of Interior. There are also an officials from the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives working in the commune (Tumbon in Thai) level. The Provincial Governor, the District Director are representative of the Ministry of Interior working at Provincial and District level respectively. However, not only representatives of the Ministry of Interior working at the Provincial and District level but also there are representatives of the other 4 main Ministries as I have mentioned above working at the Provincial and District level. In every Ministry they will have their own projects for rural development and development of depopulated rural areas.

I would like to give an example about policy of Rural Development of the Department of Local Administration (DOLA). According to the policy, DOLA expects to solve the problems of the rural people and for the development of depopulated rural areas under the concept of new rural development strategy they are as follows :

1. To give the first priority to poverty stricken areas.
2. To improve and distribute a basic economic structure to all part of the rural areas such as transportation sysytem, water supply for agriculture, clean water for drinking.
3. To improve an efficiency of rural people organizations in order to strengthen their ability to solve their own problems. It is also to provide the people a knowledge of how to use an appropriate technology.
4. To encourage the people and private sectors to participate fully in rural development in which the government official will act as the coordinator.
5. To promote a job creation activity in rural areas in order to decrease the problems of rural unemployment and migration.
6. Increasing the efficiency of governing officers to work on any projects regarding rural development and encouraging role of the public as much as possible on self —reliance upon solving their problems. This can be accomplished by formulating district development plans, commune development plans, increasing performances and roles of village committee to the level of being a basic public organ bringing out the public cooperation in solving their problems and rural development problems. The plan provides as follows :
 - Training, developing, and publishing manuals for the performances of village committees.
 - Establishing development plan for districts. The plan must be formulated in accordance with the government policy, National Economic and Social

Development plans; policies and plans of any ministries and subministries, also department, provincial plans; and district plans. This results to systematic administration and the fulfillment of the public needs.

- Holding seminars in order to create commune and village leaders such as commune heads, village heads, and high—qualified people.
- Establishing certificate course of local government for commune heads, village heads, assistant commune heads, village heads, assistant commune heads, and assistant village heads.

This course results from a coordination between the Local Administration Department and Sukothaithammathirath University. (one of University in Thailand)

In order to understand more about the Dept. of Local Administration (DOLA) which is an organization which play an important role in rural development and development of depopulated rural areas and have staff official both in Central and Local Government, I would like to draw your king attention to have knowledge about the structure/functions of DOLA in brief.

The Department of Local Administration compose of two components : one is the central administration and the other is the provincial administration. The central administration compose of 22 divisions. They are as follws :

1. Office of the Secretary is responsible for general service, inspecting and reporting of the senior officers, and public relations.
2. Administrative and Civil Registration Division is responsible to civil registration, family and will registration, name and firearm registration, registration inspection and registration microfilm.
3. Election Division is responsible for the directing of the General Election, the election for members of provincial council, the election for members of municipality council, political party registration, election analysis and report and the promotion of democratic form of the Government.
4. Investigation and Legal Actions Division is responsible for cases that are under the responsibility of DOLA, border service, law and regulation affairs, wireless and the maintenance of the radio set at tambon, amphur, changwat level and the central, the suppression of crime and investigating administration.
5. Security Affairs Division is responsible for operating concerned with intelligence in both studying and analysing, promoting people in order to participate in local government by emphasising on political activities according to democratic system.
6. Finance Division is responsible to financial and accounting affairs, budgetting, supplying, budgetary allocation, pension and fiscal regulation.
7. Local Finance Division is respons
ible for local budgetary allocation, local budgetting inspection and analysis, finance

inspection, taxes allocation, government grants analysis, local finance administration, local finance and accounting, local finance analysis and regulation, local pension and welfare and local revenue improvement.

8. Identification Card Division is responsible for the identification card and checking in accordance with the Identification Card Act B.E.2526, microfilm filing, training for the photographer at district and sub —district levels, the analysis of identification card issue process, and the prevention and suppression the illegal way of identification card issuing.

9. Provincial Administration Division is responsible to the policy of the provincial administration improvement, the setting up of province, district, sub —district, Tambon and village, the collecting of provincial taxation and revenue, the occupational promotion and land tenure, provincial development, provincial record, Tambon Chiefs and Village Chiefs affairs and village committee affairs.

10. Co—ordinating Affairs Division is responsible for the Administrative Center for the Southern Border Provinces and Islamic affairs in development project planning, problems analysis, monitoring and evaluation, educational promotion and Thai traditional recovering in Islamic community.

11. Civil Defence Division is responsible for disaster prevention and relief, disaster prevention planning, master plan for civil defence, victim relief, village scouts, volunteer corps and volunteer development and self defence.

12. Changwat and Tambon Administration Division is responsible for personnel administration, finance and budgeting of Changwat administrative Organization, Changwat Council and Tambon Council.

13. Local Self—Government Affairs Division is responsible for personnel administration of municipalities and sanitariums, studying and analysis the structure and comparative study of local government.

14. Technical Service and Planning Division is responsible for administering, directing and supporting a planning process of the department. It also involves in an indication of the department's policies both in long term and short term.

15. Personnel Administration Division It is in charge of directing, co—ordinating and carrying out personnel administration of DOLA officials and employees both at central and provincial levels. The functions include man —power planning, job analysis, position classification, personnel recruitment and selection, discipline and development of working capability and personnel advisory services to DOLA, etc.

16. Territorial Volunteer Defense Division Its main functions include maintaining peace and order, giving support to administrative officials and police for crime prevention and suppression with the use of politics and volunteer defense corps, assistant village chief for security affairs, etc.

17. Institution of Government Administration and Local Development It is in charge of personnel development as well as system analysis and technical development for provincial and local government. Its main activities include training of DOLA officials and employees as well as local leaders.

18. The Office of Local Education Its main functions include development of municipal and Pattaya City education like supporting finance and accounting, personnel administration, technical development, and training, etc.

19. Office of DOLA Inspector Its main functions include inspecting and advising DOLA Officials and employees at provincial and local levels on legal welfare, discipline and policy matters.

20. Accounting system Audit Division Its main functions include accounting audit, accounting system audit, central accounting audit etc.

21. Office for Regional City Development Program Its main functions include infrastructure development, city development planning and system, project appraisal, technical support for regional city development, etc.

22. Central Civil Registration Office Its main functions include administering the civil registration affairs like collecting population census and statistics, issue population number, etc.

Provincial Administration is composed of

1. Provincial Administrative Office (PAO) It falls under the responsibility of Deputy Provincial Governor and Assistant Deputy Provincial Governor. The main functions include administering district and local administrative affairs as well as maintaining peace and order with the provincial jurisdiction. The Provincial Administrative Office consists of 4 branches as follows :

1.1 Provincial Administrative Branch : Its main functions include the following

- Directing and controlling of the administration of the district administrative office

- Administering of personnel administration of DOLA officials, including commune headman and village headman.

- Administering Civil and administrative registration.

- Supervising election both at local and national levels.

1.2 Local Administrative Branch : Its main functions include lending advise and support to the local administrative units like municipal government, sanitary districts, province and commune council etc.

1.3 Financial and accounting Branch : It is responsible for financial and

accounting affairs including budgeting and supplies section of Provincial Administrative Office District Administrative Office and Sub—District Administrative office as well as special financial and accounting matters.

1.4 Special Activity Branch : It is responsible for maintaining of peace and order, administration promotions volunteer defense unit, civil defense and intelligence.

2. District Administrative Office (DAO) The head of DAO is District Director. Its main functions include district administration, local development administrative and civil registration, relief of people grievances, volunteer defense mission, etc.

District Administrative Office is divided into 3 branches, they are as follows :

2.1 Administration and Development Branch. This branch is divided into 3 sections. They are as follows :

a . Administration Section : Its main functions include personnel administration of DOLA and local officials like commune and Village headman.

b . District Development Section : Its main functions include administering various district development projects like local development project, rural job creation project, and collecting local development tax etc.

c . District Accounting Section : Its main functions include administering financial, accounting and supplies related affairs of DOLA and sanitary district, etc.

2.2 Registration and Identification Card Branch. This branch is divided into 3 sections, they are as follows :

a . General Registration Section : Its main functions are to administering the 10 general registrations like family, will firearm registrations etc.

b . Civil Registration Section : Its main functions are to enforcing Civil Registration Act like registration for birth and death, etc.

c . Identification Card Section : Its main functions include enforcing Identification Act 1983 (B.E.2526) like preparation of identification card, etc.

2.3 Special Activity Branch : This branch is divided into 2 sections They are as follows :

a . Defense Sections : Its main functions include district volunteer defense affairs, civil defense, coordination with security forces and the masses to maintain peace and order, etc.

b . Administrative Promotion Section : Its main functions include psychological operation project by means of rendering services and curing people grievances, promotion of democratic ideology and administering "Village Volunteer Development and Self—Defence Project", etc.

3. District Director Office (DDO) The head of DDO is district director. Its main functions include administering district policy making and planning as well as district secretary affairs, etc.

4. Sub —District Administrative Office (SDAO) The head of SDAO is sub —District Director. Its main functions are similar to the District Administrative

Office.

5. Commune and Village It is local administrative unit sub —divided from district and sub—district. The elected head of commune and village is called Commune and Village Chief, respectively. As provided by the Local Administrative Act 1914 (B.E.2457), a commune (or Tambon in Thai) consists of cluster of villages. It is administered by commune chief or commune headman, first —aid man, assistant commune chief and commune council committee. A village is administered by village headman or village chief, assistant village chief and village committee.

The above information is a brief structure of the Department of Local Administration which have personnel throughout the country. The staff officials of the Department of Local Administration both in the central administration and local administration will cooperate with each other to carry out various rural development projects especially development projects in depopulated rural areas. An officials from the central Administration will follow the rural development projects by monitoring and evaluating the projects and find the way to improve the projects by considering the basic needs of the rural people as the main principle. However, officials who work in the local administration will also cooperate with those officials from the central administration in monitoring and evaluating the rural development projects. By this method, they can find out the problems and basic needs of the rural people especially those people who live in depopulated rural areas easily and then collect all problems and submit to the upper government for consideration and further action.

Not only officials of the Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior which officials in the central and local administration have cooperated with each other for implementing the rural development projects but the staff officials of the other 4 main Ministries who work in the depopulated rural areas also will do the same thing as officials of the Department of Local Administration do. By this method, I believe that the problems and basic minimum needs of the rural people will be met and the upper and lower governments will join hand in hand to correct and improve them.

6. Some successful and/or failure examples and their reasons

I would like to give an example for successful in development of depopulated rural areas in Thailand. There are one group of people who live in the highland areas of 22 northern and western provinces in Thailand. They are called "hill —trive". These people are considered as a minority group of people and living in depopulated rural areas. Most of the tribal communities are usually located in remote mountainous areas, to which communication network, basic government service and local administration have not as yet been made accessible. The tribals are distinct in language, culture, tradition and ways of life from the majority Thais : Their living is based on shifting agriculture which results in the increasing destruction and

depletion of forest, soil and natural water resources. Moreover, opium cultivation has been practiced by some of these tribes. The majority of them are illiterate with poor health and low income.

To develop these "hilltribes" the Royal Thai Government has, over the years, realized the unfavourable nature of the problem in regard to national security over highland areas and constantly made a determined effort and a strong commitment to identify and solve the problems which affect the hilltribes and the nation as a whole through the implementation of the hilltribe welfare and development program. The Department of Public Welfare, Ministry of Interior is responsible for this development program and hilltribe people. The administrative structure and the strategies for welfare and development of the hilltribes are as follows :

1. At national level : The Directorate Board for Solving National Security Problem relating to Hilltribes and Opium Cultivation.

2. At ministerial level : Central Hilltribe Committee which is chaired by the Minister of Interior, with the Department of Public Welfare as the Secretariat. This committee is responsible for policy —making and plan formulation at the ministerial level in harmony with those at the national level, including the coordination among the concerned governmental sectors and program evaluation.

3. At provincial level : The Provincial Hilltribe Committee each in respective provinces, chaired by the concerned governor while the provincial Authority Office is assigned as the secretariat thereto. This committee functions as the focal point in planning and evaluation at the respective provincial level.

The objectives of the hilltribe welfare and development strategies are threefold.

1. Local Administration : to enable the hilltribes to live peacefully and in integration within the Thai society as self —sufficient and law—abiding Thai citizens.

2. Evadication of opium production and consumption : to persuade the hill tribes to shift from opium growing to other alternative income —generating occupations and to decrease their opium consumption, including helping them be self —defensible and not to be under the influence of any armed minority.

3. Economic development : to uplift socio—economic status of the hill people to the extent t they are capable of maintaining their own life and developing their quality of life and communities, and to decrease the population growth rate among the hilltribes to 1.5%

The Department of Public Welfare has set up the Hilltribe Welfare and Development Centres, each in 13 provinces in which the hilltribes are densely inhabiting namely, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, Lampang, Lumphun, Tak, Nan, Petchabun, Phrae, Phayao, Kamphaeng Phet, Unthai Thani and

Kanchanburi. These centres not only serve as operational and cooperating bodies for development and welfare work for the hilltribes, but also serve as the bases for the development and welfare are mobile units stationed at various core villages, each of which will outreach about 4 to 10 adjacent tribal villages. Every unit is teamed by a public welfare officer as the head, an agricultural officer, a health officer and a teaching aid. Over the past two decades, the welfare and development program designed for the hilltribes has been diversely implemented in order to meet their changing socio-economic needs, by which priorities have been given to occupational educational, health and community development.

Generally, the highland economic base is centered around the production of subsistent crops mainly by employing traditional techniques known as "Slash-and-burn" or "Shifting cultivation". The major drawback is due to the lack of technical know-how on proper cultivation which reflects on a low production and a high rate of natural resource deterioration. The current development approach therefore places a stronger emphasis on modern agriculture industry with the aims to introduce a stable type of agriculture and occupations which generate a higher cash income. The hilltribes have gained considerable benefit from a better job opportunity being promoted through various planned development-based projects such as those on plantation of coffee and perennial crops, animal husbandry etc. There are also equipped with such relating knowledge as fertilizer, insecticide, bio-gas, and co-operatives establishment.

In addition the promotion has been made on household industry as a supplemental source of income, for instance, dress making, handiworks, and iron works. Occasionally, these traditional hand-made products are displayed and sold in various exhibitions and fairs such as in the annual Department of Public Welfare Product Exhibition. Apart from promoting these products through exhibitions or displays, a job has been open in Chiang Mai province to sell hilltribes handicrafts especially collected from local Hill Tribe Welfare and Development Centres where handicraft from promotion projects are being implemented. The shop was initially operated under the U.N. -supported program. Subsequently, its ownership has been transferred to the Department of Public Welfare since 1981 with the capital fund of 400,000 baht. During 1981-1984, the shop had earned 1,886,515.70 baht from selling hilltribe handicrafts both in the country and abroad. In order to help promote the marketing of the hilltribe products, a revolving fund is made available to the tribal village committees. Additionally, collaboration is sought from commercial banks particularly the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives for extension of credit to the hilltribes under the projects areas.

The Department of Public Welfare has also viewed that training on agriculture, home industries and formulation of groups particularly on occupational bases are essential for further strengthening agricultural extension and production. In 1984, a

total of 8,113 hilltribes participated in various training courses relating to occupational development.

There are other essential projects for development of hilltribes who are living in depopulated rural areas, they are

— Hilltribe Population Census Projects It is aimed at collection at the data on the size of hilltribe population, domiciles, socio —economic conditions and other problems faced by the hilltribes all over the countries, including the identification of the location of tribal villages by utilizing modern scientific techniques. The project has been carried out through the cooperation of such concerned government agencies as the National Statistical office, the Office of the National Research Council of Thailand, Police Department, the Local Administration Department, the Royal Forestry Department, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, and the Third Army Area. The project was first launched in Tak province. The activities of the survey teams include mapping, field survey, and studies of villages sites by utilizing remote sensing techniques.

— Land Allocation Project The main objectives of this project are to allocate the suitable land to both the hilltribes and the general Thai people who are living in highland areas, for living and earning livelihood permanently and legally, to help prevent opium cultivation and destruction of natural forest resources, and to maintain the national security along the northern highland border. The Department of Public Welfare in cooperation with land Development Department, the Royal Forestry Department and the Third Army, plan to conduct the land survey, the outcome of which will be proposed to the government for consideration in granting the right to land utilization to the relevant hilltribes.

— Hilltribe Civil Registration Project To be in harmony with the Government "Integration Policy" the Hilltribes Civil Registration Project has been implemented with the cooperation of the Local Administration Department. The main objective of this project is to locate and to certify the identities of the hilltribe who were born in Thailand in order that their names and their "Thai nationality" could be entered in the House Register.

— Highland Agricultural and Social Development Project (HASD)

HASD project is the experimental, integrated development project using the loan from the World Bank. The Project areas are divided into 8 Development Zones in 5 upper northern provinces namely, Chiang Mai, Chiang Pai, Mae Hong Son, Lampang and Nan. The goal of this project is to fold i.e. agricultural and social development in the tribal communities. Accordingly, the project activities include the construction of water resources and access track, land developmet, promotion of perennial fruit—tree plantation, and provision of education services and primary health care.

— Thai — Norwegian Church Aid Highland Development Project

It is a 5 year project (1985 — 1989) funded by the Norwegian Church Aid through the office of the Narcotics Control Board. Its implementation covers 3 different project areas situated in Chiang Mai, Payao and Lampang provinces, the objectives of the project are

- to increase food sufficiency and improve subsistence farming.
- to assist and enable the hilltribe farmers to replace opium with viable alternative crops.
- to assist and enable the hill population to maximize the use of the services extend to them.
- to encourage and support local initiatives, for self —development and overall improvement of socio —economic conditions.

In order to achieve the stated objectives, the main activities under this project are directed towards agricultural development, transportation, infrastructure, education and primary health care.

Effects of Hilltribe Welfare and Development Activities

1. National security The implementation of welfare and development program for the hilltribes is regarded as a measure for helping solve the problem of opium growing which is the origin of narcotic drugs, as well as the problem of political infiltration along the highland border area. As a result, the tribal communities have been developed to be a secured locality for the hilltribe to settle down permanently and peacefully.

2. Economic Development In implementing the welfare and development program in the tribal communities, the magnitude of the problem of deforestation has been lessened which results in the prevention of shifting agriculture and destruction of forest and natural water resources. Simultaneously, the deserted areas have been developed and utilized to the utmost, by which the economic life of the hilltribes has been continuously uplifted.

3. Social Development The educational and health promotion activities under the hilltribe welfare and development program have solved the problems of ignorance, illiteracy, poor —health and unsanitation, highland disease epidemic, and improper labour use. Particularly, the frequent migration and the high growth rate among the highland population could be put under effective control.

In order to achieve the project goal more efficiency, the Department of Public Welfare has sought and received collaboration from all sectors concerned, both government and non—government, for example, the Royal Northern Development Project, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Industry, the Regional Army, Police Department, UNICEF and the Government of Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and, etc.

Failure example For failure example of development of depopulated rural areas, I would like to say that the results of rural development during the first 4

development plans did not reach all poor people in rural areas; a considerable number of the rural population especially in depopulated rural areas were still facing rudimentary problems which are the basic causes of poverty. These problems, for which proper remedies have yet to be applied, include food shortages, disease, poor health and the lack of skills and education. Such problems have prevented poor people from improving the quality of life of their families and communities. The mentioned problems of the rural people made the Government realized and emphasis on rural development in the Fifth and Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan.

Conclusion In conclusion, we can conclude that the local Government had played an important role for development of depopulated rural areas. The rural development projects of the Ministries concerned will not success without the cooperation of those officials who work in local governments. Rural Development plans for development of depopulated rural areas should follow bottom —up— system so that the basic minimum needs of the rural people can be met and the problems of the rural people also can be solved. The commune headman will play an important role for making commune development plans, the District Director will plan an important role for making district development plans and the Governor will play an important role for making provincial development plans. The Upper Government or the central government will support and cooperate with the local governments by supporting annual budgets and searching for foreign assistant from international organization such as UNICEF, FAO, WHO, etc. and developed countries such as Japan, the United States of America, West Germany, the Netherlands etc. for rural development. The Ministries which have an important role for rural development and development of depopulated rural areas are the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Industry. All these Ministries will have their own rural development projects and have their representatives working in all level of local governments. These representatives will cooperate with each other for making district development plans, province development plans for rural development on the basic minimum needs of the rural peoples. Lastly, I would like to conclude that rural development especially development in depopulated rural areas is very important for developing the country. And the organization which have an important role for rural development is the local governments. Without cooperation of the local governments I believe that rural development will never success. And the first step to lead the country to become developed country is "rural development" by using local governments as the core for cooperating all rural development projects.

Notes The following are reference books and sources of information for writing this paper.

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