



**Thailand AERA Annual Activities Report
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Accelerated Economic Recovery in Asia
A US Government Funded Program
through the
US Agency for International Development
(USAID)**

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ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW

This report covers the fourth year of the Thailand portion of the USAID program Accelerating Economic Recovery in Asia during Fiscal Year 2003. With an economic recovery from the economic crisis of the late 1990s well underway, one part of USAID's objectives in Thailand were accomplished. A second objective, however, was becoming more important: strengthening and reforming practices and institutions so Thailand would be less likely to slip again into the kind of crisis that began in 1997. This objective was part of the AERA program from the beginning, but it came to the fore in 2002-2003. There were two main mechanisms for the Thailand program to work towards this objective: training and establishing higher standards of business. The Business Advisory Center increased its training activities; the education program was stepped up; the Bank Training Program completed most of its training. To raise standards and improve practices the Business Support Organizations Partnership Program worked with US partner organizations to help establish international standards in a wide variety of areas; the Thailand Competitiveness Initiative worked to strengthen intercompany dialog and strategy while raising the level of public-private cooperation.

Business Advisory Center

The Business Advisory Center began to shift away from individual company consulting in 2003 in order to provide more "wholesale" assistance to company development. Training was given greater emphasis, maintaining the focus on business planning but adding training for new entrepreneurs. The BAC's past success has led to funding from the Thai government for assistance to SMEs. These have included the "Invigorating Thai Business" (ITB) project and the "New Entrepreneurs Creation" and towards consulting projects whose costs can be more fully covered by the recipients. Thai government funding has allowed the USAID funding to be stretched further than originally expected and USAID officials have been supportive of efforts to build a funding base to continue the AERA projects after the end of the USAID funding. The project deepened the experience of BAC consultants and developed new consulting "products" that have value for Thai SMEs. New products such as "International Marketing" that utilizes consultants' field experience and US linkages to help Thai SMEs export their products were packaged for formal offering later in 2003.

The BAC completed its 29 projects under the ITB program on schedule with good results as evidenced by the numerous improvements at each SME company and the feedback received. A number of these projects were awarded "Outstanding Project Awards" by the Department of Industrial Promotion.

The BAC also worked with the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion to organize the prestigious APEC SMEs 2003 conference in Chiang Mai. The BAC started to reorganize its structure to improve effectiveness in meeting the needs of small and medium sized enterprises. Three product teams -- International Marketing, Financial Advisory Services and Management Tools -- were created to develop product and industry specialization. All the consultants were tasked with a dual role of developing their expertise and specializing in their individual product and selected industries while also consulting or managing government projects in various functional areas to earn revenue.

Business Support Organization Partnerships

Since the beginning of the BSOP program in October 1999, a total of twenty-nine large and small partnership projects have been approved and implemented under USAID-funded BSOP program. During this fiscal year, several BSOP activities were conducted to initiate and build linkages between US and Thai organizations. The Working Group Committee approved two proposals and the plan to assist the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to develop and implement the Strategic Framework and Operational Plan was approved. Ongoing activities included Capacity Building for Dispute Resolution, Judicial Reform, Thai Bond Market Development, Building Capacity and Professional Standards for Property Valuation in Thailand and the Regulatory Dialogue Program. The BSOP program also established a link between the Thai Logistics and Production Society and the American Production and Inventory Control Society, as well as a Regulatory Dialogue Program to encourage adoption of reform initiatives promoting improved corporate and public governance.

Bank Training Program

The success of the Bank Training Program has been indicated by continued participation in training activities and in the increasing number of banks adopting new policies, systems, and procedures. The Bank Training Program had five projects ongoing by the fourth quarter of this year. Siam City Bank received training courses from PricewaterhouseCoopers on topics regarding risk management. PricewaterhouseCoopers also concluded training sessions at EXIM, the Export and Import Bank of Thailand, on Risk Control and Export Financing. The BTP also helped the Thai Institute of Banking and Finance Association organize a self-study program to help finance industry professionals and other interested parties enhance their understanding of banking fundamentals. The BTP has worked in cooperation with NTU/Thailand to deliver a series of banking related courses to state bank staff throughout the country. Looking forward to the last two years of AERA, the program is being reorganized under the Better Business Practices Division and will focus on non-bank microfinance.

Education

During the first quarter, agreements between the Kenan Institute Asia, Thailand's Ministry of Education and Honolulu Community College were signed to support the East-West Community College Project, a five-day training for Thai community college administrators in Hawaii. The Mae Fah Luang University Project selected Oregon State University to assist MFLU in setting up an English language institute and train its faculty members. A course was specially designed for Mattayom 4 students who are weak in English under the English through Entertainment Program.

Education projects undertaken during the second quarter included a KIA Asia staff observation of the English Language Center established by experts from Oregon State University at Mae Fah Luang University. A consultant team from Chulalongkorn University reviewed and

recommended modifications for materials to be used in the English through Entertainment program designed to help students develop English-language skills through the use of entertaining learning materials.

Projects carried out by the Education program during the third quarter concentrated on innovative teaching methods, focused primarily on English Language Teaching (ELT) development. Two projects focused on English. The *English through Entertainment Project* reproduced and distributed 3,000 course packages that center on making learning English fun. KIAAsia also organized a conference to discuss new ideas for ELT, particularly applications of innovative technology. Other projects spearheaded by the Education program focused on web-aided instruction and community-based involvement for teaching.

Education Program projects in the last quarter focused on English teaching development and IT for education. English through Entertainment materials were distributed to provincial high schools nationwide and teachers using the materials have been able to adapt the contents to fit their classes and local circumstances.

Border Action Against Malaria

During the year, the BAAM Project carried on with its *In vitro* sensitivity monitoring and *in vivo* study of therapeutic efficacy of the currently used front line antimalarial drugs in 9 border provinces under the malaria sentinel surveillance drug resistance network initiative. If accepted by the Thai government, the results of this monitoring could result in important changes in the national treatment regimen policy for multi-drug resistant malaria.

Another project focused on the development of a dipstick malaria test. This effort was supported by progress in research on developing dye particle-linked monoclonal antibodies and cloning and expression enzymes from *P. falciparum*. Such a dipstick test will provide a tool for much better surveillance of malaria resistance development and will allow quicker diagnosis of malaria – particularly in remote areas and places where trained microscopists are not available.

The project's main focus, however, is on public health information and public health projects that make innovative use of community organizations and local schools for antimalaria projects and health information. Workshops in Mae Hong Son and Tak Provinces were held to enable implementation of community-generated malaria control projects and project-based learning on malaria for early primary grades. Partnerships for a School-Based Approach to Community Action Against Malaria Project carried out surveys of community health problems and malaria knowledge, attitudes, practices by school children in Tak, Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, Chantaburi, and Trat Provinces and training-of-trainers workshops for teachers. A series of workshops and community civil-society forums on malaria problems, analysis, and action planning were held in several border communities..

The project also supported a national-level meeting (co-sponsored with WHO) on treatment of multi-drug resistant malaria for government hospitals and international medical NGOs in border areas;

Thailand Competitiveness Initiative

The TCI, a team effort between the Kenan Institute Asia and J.E. Austin Associates, was launched in the first quarter, building on earlier work done by both organizations. The objective is to help enhance Thailand's competitiveness by providing facilitation, strategy formation, bench-marking and market analysis services to pilot industry clusters. Increased competitiveness leads to higher incomes for workers and more sustained growth for the nation.

An opening workshop and roundtable was organized that attracted more than 60 participants. US Ambassador Darryl Johnson said the US government is helping developing countries improve their competitiveness to reduce inequalities and tensions, support higher standards of living and accelerate global economic development. The TCI team also engaged the National Competitiveness Committee, providing training and information to its secretariat (comprised of officials from the National Economic and Social Development Board and brought in a senior expert from the US National Competitiveness Policy Council to make presentations to Committee members.

At the same time cluster formation and facilitation activities proceeded. The multi-media and computer graphics cluster in Bangkok is most advanced and undertook a variety of activities, including formation of new associations and achievement of quality certification. The vegetable cluster in western Thailand also conducted several activities. Other clusters beginning activities included handicrafts in Udon Thani province, tourism in Phuket, gems in Chantaburi and small manufacturing for export in Chiang Mai.

By the end of March 2003, the Thailand Competitiveness Initiative had engaged, to varying degrees, with eight clusters.

Dialogue with the public sector was also underway. In January, Mr. Howard Rosen, former Executive Director of the US Competitiveness Policy Council, made a presentation during a closed-door conference on the "Vision for Thailand" in Chiang Mai before the Prime Minister and selected participants from the government and business sectors. In February and March, the newly-hired senior consultant and a TCI staff member initiated meetings between relevant government entities and leaders, and the participants of the high-value agricultural products cluster in three western provinces, promoting cooperation to develop a policy action initiative (PAI) on health and safety standards for foods.

TCI established indicators of cluster progress. These included the presence of a secretariat, the willingness to pay for staff, and the interest of key stakeholders in attending meetings. The TCI also worked with KIAAsia's BAC in cluster development for the OTOP project. The workplan for Cambodia to develop the fishery cluster and provide technical assistance to the industry associations in Battambang and the northwest area was also approved by USAID.

PROJECT REPORTS

Business Advisory Center (BAC)

The Business Advisory Center works with Thai SMEs to create sustainable competitiveness by enhancing their management and technical capabilities. The BAC achieves this objective largely through consulting services to SMEs in a variety of functional areas. Working with the Thai Volunteer Consulting Services (TVCS), the BAC also matches needy SMEs with a database of volunteer experts who offer their consulting expertise. Sub-agreements with three US private voluntary organizations provided access to a wide variety of US expert volunteers available to provide specialist consulting for Thai SMEs. In addition, the BAC educates Thai organizations on preferable business practices through workshops, seminars, and specific projects aimed at particular business needs.

The Business Advisory Center began to change its strategic consulting focus in year four to prepare for a decline in USAID funding support and sustain its operations after the AERA project ends in September 2005. Training is emphasized to strengthen the capabilities of in-house consultants. Project focus will gradually move away from heavily subsidized consulting assistance. Government related projects such as the "Invigorating Thai Business" project and the "New Entrepreneurs Creation" project will deepen the experience of BAC consultants. New products such as "International Marketing" that utilizes consultants' field experience and US linkages to help Thai SMEs export their products were packaged for formal offering in 2003.

The number of subsidized volunteer expert projects decreased and the government's emphasis on SME assistance through various subsidized projects has had an adverse effect on the BAC program. The BAC joined forces with various government institutions to assist SMEs through these projects and as a result, there was less emphasis on seminars and workshops.

SME Assistance Projects

Volunteer experts from the Citizens Democracy Corps (CDC), International Executive Service Corp (IESC), Agricultural Cooperative Development International / Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA), the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Kenan Institute Washington traveled to Thailand during this fiscal year to assist Thai companies and organizations in a variety of marketing and production areas. Companies assisted included a garment manufacturer, a citric acid manufacturer, a rubber woodenware manufacturer, leather manufacturer, solid rubber tire manufacturer, the National Food Institute (NFI), a property valuation company, a household products manufacturer, a manufacturer of pet products, a major manufacturer of automotive wheel balance weights, a first class beach resort and spa on Lanta Yai Island and three One Tambon One Product (OTOP) projects in Udonthani province. A volunteer expert from CDC also provided consulting services for an international University in Chiang Rai province to develop a course curriculum for post-harvest technology and packaging for the school of Agro Industry.

International Marketing Workshops

Workshops on exporting to developed markets designed for companies that would like to begin exporting to advanced markets or improve their current sales and marketing in those markets were organized in October. Topics covered included advanced market characteristics, industry analysis, target market customer and retailer profiles, major competitors and participants, market segmentation and demographics, market share objectives and marketing strategies, export policies and procedures, and forms and implementation.

SIFC's "New Entrepreneurs Creation" Project

The Small Industry Finance Corporation (SIFC) initiated the New Entrepreneurs Creation (NEC) project to train owners and/or business inheritors of 1,238 businesses to learn how to analyze prospects of their businesses, formulate competitive strategies and develop practical business plans. The project aimed to assist participating business owners to plan for smooth transition of the management of their companies or to venture into new business opportunities, receive financial support from the SIFC or other financial institutions and ultimately to maintain or increase employment to ease the country's unemployment problem.

Invigorating Thai Business (ITB) projects

The Business Advisory Center received awards for two of the top five Invigorating Thai Business (ITB) projects in the northern Thailand region and one of the top ten projects in the central region, out of a pool of approximately 300 and 1,000 projects respectively. Sarit Sanguanwongse, Vorraphan Chuanpraphan and Wichai Limpitikranon received First Place and Vorraphan Chuanpraphan, Daranee Tattakorn and Brian August were awarded Fifth Place in the North while Wichai Limpitikranon, Wiwat Chutiwanichayakul and Sorasak Prechadet won sixth place in the Central region as the best ITB consultants for 2003. These awards came from only 20 projects completed by the BAC for the ITB program. The Fiscal Policy Research Institute Foundation (under the Ministry of Finance) was tasked with the evaluation of the projects. Winning projects were selected based on project success, business impact and customer feedback.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed with Office of SMEs Promotion

The BAC and the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion (OSMEP) signed a memorandum of understanding on April 23rd to cooperate in a number of SME-related areas. The OSMEP is an autonomous public organization established by the government to shape promotional policies for Thai SMEs. The office works with government agencies, state enterprises and relevant organizations to enhance entrepreneurship assistance and build up the capabilities of Thai SMEs to reach competitive sustainability. The cooperation was forged for the BAC to help the OSMEP in promoting entrepreneurship in Thailand, developing needed skill sets for Thai SMEs and creating a framework for developing the capacity of Thai SME exporters. Additional cooperation includes assistance in educating start-up Thai SMEs in various functional subjects such as finance, marketing, operations, and more. The BAC

will also help link the OSMEP with the US Small Business Administration to create collaboration between the two organizations and enhance the transfer of knowledge from the SBA to the OSMEP.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed with Ministry of Commerce

The BAC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Business Development, Ministry of Commerce, on April 25th to cooperate in providing assistance to businesses. The BAC will provide consulting services to businesses that seek assistance from the department as well as organize training workshops and seminars to benefit businesses.

The first cooperative activity was a training workshop entitled "Getting Started in Entrepreneurship" held in June. The seminar aimed to provide knowledge and data to entrepreneurs or new business owners in all relevant areas necessary to start and develop successful businesses. A large team of well-recognized, respected speakers as well as a small team of BAC consultants guided approximately 60 selected participants through an entrepreneurial journey from self-assessment, opportunity and business ideas analysis and evaluation, marketing models and competitive analysis techniques, business registration, tax and intellectual property right issues, financial basics, human resource management and legal issues to business plans and e-commerce. The participants also learned about various assistance entities from which they can seek help, as well as learned from the real-life experiences of successful businesses. The course was designed to blend theories and practice in a balanced format so as to enable the attending participants to apply the concepts to successfully start and run their own business and thus serve the department's objectives to truly promote businesses to become the growth engine of the Thai economy.

APEC SMES 2003 CONFERENCE

The BAC worked closely with the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion (OSMEP) to organize the APEC SMEs 2003 conference in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand during August 3-8, 2003. The agenda of the conference was based on the central theme of "Strengthening APEC Entrepreneurial Society" and included the three priority topics of:

- Capacity building to address impediments to SME exporters in the APEC region
- Entrepreneurship development
- Business creation, capital formation and financial access for SMEs and micro-enterprises.

The event started with an Entrepreneurship Development seminar on August 3. The seminar was organized by the OSMEP on behalf of Thailand's Ministry of Industry, in cooperation with the US Department of Commerce, Thai-US Business Council, US-Thai Business Council, and Kenan Institute Asia. A large team of BAC consultants and other Kenan Institute Asia staffs served as the seminar's secretariat to manage, take notes and prepare press releases for the seminar. The team assumed the same role during the remaining of the event. The Institute also brought in the keynote speaker for the conference, Mr. Arthur Lipper, a well-known entrepreneur and financier of start-up companies.

The 17th meeting of the APEC SME working group meeting was held during August 4-6. The first meeting was of the SME sub-group on micro-enterprises on August 4. The group endorsed a micro-enterprise development action plan. The action plan identifies areas in which APEC economies are urged to work closely with micro-enterprises to build their capacity and allow them to benefit from the global economy. The outcomes from all the meetings were incorporated into the Ministerial Meeting later in the week.

The 10th APEC SME Ministers Meeting took place during August 7-8. The meeting was expected to further implement the APEC Leaders' call for priority to be placed on developing micro-enterprises that comprises around 74% of all formal sector businesses registered in the APEC Region as well as many more that operate in the informal economy, particularly developing areas.

The meeting also included a session that involved an interactive dialogue with representatives from the SMEs Business Forum. The ministers also held a Joint Session with the APEC Business Advisory Council and the Women Leaders' Network.

Indicator Tables

Intermediate Objective 1

Bank and Business Activity Restarted

Indicators	Total number of SMEs receiving AERA consulting assistance Increase in gross revenue
Unit of Measure	Number of firms assisted Average percentage change in gross revenue on the part of assisted firms.
Source	Company records and company reports to BAC
Indicator Description	Current GDP growth projections for Thailand are in the 2.5% range. SMEs receiving AERA assistance are expected to perform at least twice as well and a target of 5% growth in total revenue has been set. One year after assistance, firms' revenue for the most recent quarter will be compared to the same quarter the previous year.

Year	Target # of Assisted SMEs Cumulative	Actual # of Assisted SMEs Cumulative	Actual Average % Increase
2000	20	116*	31% ¹
2001	120	165	40% ²
2002	220	193	43% ³
2003	320	231	50% ⁴
2004	410		
2005	500		

* Including 40 for 1999

¹: 10 projects out of 32 respondents reported sales increase

- 16 projects reported no change in sales
3 projects reported sales decrease
3 projects did not reveal sales data
- ²: 2 projects out of 5 respondents reported sales increase
2 projects reported no change in sales
1 project did not reveal sales data
- ³: 16 projects out of 37 respondents reported sales increase
15 projects reported no change in sales
2 project reported sales decrease
4 projects did not reveal sales data
- ⁴: 2 projects out of 5 respondents reported sales increase
Q1&2 2 projects reported no change in sales
1 project did not reveal sales data
- Q3 5 projects out of 9 respondents reported sales increase (1 project reported 10% increase, 1 reported 5% and the 3rd did not reveal figures)
2 projects reported no change in sales
2 projects did not reveal sales data
- Q4 3 projects out of 6 respondents reported sales increase (1 project reported more than 10% increase, 1 reported about 200% and 1 did not reveal % increase)
1 project reported no change in sales
2 projects did not reveal sales data
- '03 total 10 projects out of 20 respondents reported sales increase
5 projects reported no change in sales
5 projects did not reveal sales data

Indicator Tables

Intermediate Objective 1	Bank and Business Activity Restarted
Indicator	Business plans or elements of business plans in use by SMEs receiving AERA assistance.
Unit of Measure	Percentage of SMEs with current business planning.
Source	Company follow-up reviews by BAC.
Indicator Description	Each SME receiving assistance will be encouraged where appropriate to use business planning methodologies. The percentage of firms that continue to maintain that planning one year after assistance is projected at 50%.

Year	Target	Actual
1999	0	Baseline - 0
2000	50%	100% *
2001	50%	100% *
2002	50%	97% **
2003	50%	100% ***
2004	50%	
2005	50%	

* All of the 32 and 5 responded projects in year 2000 and 2001 respectively either have business plans newly created or have existing plans in place

** 36 of 37 respondents have business plans in place and 1 does not

*** All of the 5 respondents for Q1&2, all 9 respondents for Q3 and all 6 respondents for Q4 reported having business plans in place

The Business Support Organizations Partnership Program (BSOP)

Since its inception in December of 1999, the BSOP program has been creating mutually beneficial partnerships between Thai and US organizations. The main objective of the BSOP is to build these sustainable partnerships in order to strengthen the regulatory and competitive environment, business standards, and good governance practices for the Thai private sector. The BSOP has concentrated on projects that develop transparency, business structural reform, business ethics, financial reform, and international competitiveness, all of which will help move Thailand toward a reformed system that can sustain economic recovery.

Through the life of the project, the Thai economy has struggled to regain strength following the 1997 economic crisis. Fears that economic reform will take a back seat to growth led the BSOP to support several important reform projects over the last year. It's essential to realize that not only does the BSOP need to continue to support reform of business practices, but it also needs to promote understanding of why these practices or standards are necessary. This is why the relationships and partnerships that the BSOP strives to create with respected US organizations are so important.

Activities to initiate linkages between US and Thai organizations:

A Forum on Thailand's intellectual property rights organized by KIAAsia was held to discuss IPR trends and needs to build capacity to better utilize IPR in Thailand. Outcomes from the forum included recognition of the need to support activities to encourage better use of existing IP law, build awareness in the Thai private sector, protect inventor's rights, and create public awareness to promote IP rights protection.

A videoconference on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award was held between the Thailand Productivity Institute (TPI), the administrator of the Thailand Quality Award, and a senior Kenan-Flagler professor. US practices and lessons-learned as assessor and judge for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in the United States and New Zealand were shared with the TPI to assist them in organizing the TQA which is modeled after the Baldrige Award.

Intellectual Property Law Symposium. This activity was part of joint effort between KIAAsia and the Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court to educate key stakeholders on IPR issues. With USAID support, Thailand's Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court organized the "5th Annual Symposium on Intellectual Property Law: New Dimension in Present and Future" held between December 2 - 3, 2002. Over 200 participants associated with intellectual property rights attended the conference. Mr. Win Dayton, First Secretary, Economic Affairs, US Embassy in Thailand, shared US experiences with the Thai participants.

Quality Assurance Review Project

An internal audit quality assessment and implementation of the Quality Assurance Review concept for Krung Thai Bank Public Co., Ltd. was completed by the US Institute of Internal

Auditors (IIA) in October 2002. QAR is an internal auditing approach developed by IIA and piloted for the first time in Thailand with KTB. The objective of the QAR process is to improve internal auditing governance practices and to identify ways to significantly reduce traditional audit tasks.

Following the QAR program, the IIA expert delivered a QAR train-the-trainer program on November 2-4, 2002 to fifteen participants from IAT, universities and government supervisory bodies including the Bank of Thailand, the Stock Exchange of Thailand, the Securities Exchange Commission, and leading state enterprises. In addition, a supplementary two-hour meeting session was arranged for 20 representatives from state enterprises and government organizations to attend an introductory session on QAR concept and services.

Upgrading the Capability of Accounting Instructors

The project of developing accounting instructional aids, started in 2000, was completed in December 2002. The Institute of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Thailand (ICAAT) presented customized teaching aides, including CD-ROMs, transparencies, and teachers' manuals, to 400 Thai accounting instructors from throughout Thailand. The teaching materials were developed by ICAAT, with technical support from Michigan State University and various Thai experts. ICATT completed workshop to train professors and lecturers from 147 educational institutions, primarily outside of Bangkok, on how to use the materials. Those institutions include regional universities, Rajabhat and Rajamongkala institutes, and vocational and technical colleges.

Thai Bankers Handbook

The project to develop a Thai Bankers Handbook, begun in 2000, was completed in March 2003. The Thai Institute of Banking and Finance Association (TIBFA) introduced the "Thai Bankers Handbook" to 130 financial sector professionals and the media on March 14, 2003. The handbook is Thailand's first comprehensive source of information on Thai banking practices for banking and finance professionals applying international banking best practices to the Thai market. The Handbook is also a useful resource for business persons and students. With BSOP support, this project received technical assistance from the American Bankers Association (ABA). TIBFA worked in cooperation with Thai bankers, lawyers and university professors to write, adapt and edit the contents of this 18-topic handbook. One thousand copies have been published and distributed to TIBFA's members, associations, and educational institutions.

Public Education Program on Credit Bureaus

Mr. D. Barry Connelly, Former President of the US Consumer Data Industry Association (CDIA), and Ms. Peggy L. Twohig, Assistant Director of the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC), joined with the Thai experts from the Fiscal Policy Office, Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Thailand to deliver a credit bureau seminar. The event, held on February 25, attracted 250 bankers, regulators, credit information managers and consumers. Ms. Nataliya Mylenko, a Financial Sector Operations and Policy consultant from the World Bank joined with the US credit bureau experts to share the international experience developing credit bureaus with the Thai participants. The seminar aimed at increasing the public awareness of Thailand's new Credit Information Business Act. The new Act was scheduled to go into effect on March 14, 2003. The main goals of the Act are to ensure consumer confidence,

facilitate the use of credit information to make knowledgeable loans, and give the government the regulatory tools needed to provide appropriate oversight. This seminar was supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Kenan Institute Asia, the World Bank, and the Thai Credit Bureau Co., Ltd. In addition to the seminar, the credit bureau experts conducted a series of roundtable discussions to share the US and international experiences on credit bureaus with Thai regulators, bankers, members of Thai Credit Bureau Co., Ltd. and members of Thai Bankers' Association between February 26 - 27.

These activities are part of the Public Education Program on Credit Bureaus , a joint effort between the Ministry of Finance, Bank of Thailand, Thai credit bureaus, the US Federal Trade Commission, the Credit Data Information Association, and KIAAsia. The project was successfully completed.

Developing a Thai Class Action Law

With support from the AERA Regional Regulatory Dialogue program, five US experts, led by Judge Frederick Motz from the Maryland US District Court, traveled to Thailand to deliver a workshop on International Class Action Law. The experts also hosted a wrap-up discussion to review a new Thai class action law and to share the US experiences on class action law with Thailand's Council of State, Class Action Research Team, and Class Action Law Subcommittee. The workshop and wrap-up session were held in Pattaya between June 13 and 15, 2003. Fifty participants, including judges, lawyers, and related government officials, attended the workshop with twenty key stakeholders from the Council of State, Class Action Research Team, and Class Action Subcommittee who attended the wrap-up discussion to finalize the draft class action law. This activity was part of a partnership project between Thailand's Council of State and the American Bar Association that is managed by PADCO under the USAID-funded AERA Regional Regulatory Dialogue program.

Upgrading the Capabilities of Post and Telegraph Department's Staff for National Telecommunications Commission's Secretariat Office

Kenan Institute Asia's BSOP assisted the capacity building program for telecom regulators at Post and Telegraph Department (PTD). The course, entitled "Spectrum; Standards and Management" was organized internally by the PTD and held from August 18-20, 2003.

The project received technical assistance from Mr. Thomas Derenge, Chief-Spectrum Policy Branch, Office of Engineering Technology from the US Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and Mr. Jonathan Streeter, telecom consultant. A total of 57 officials from PTD's technical operations division, legal department and management attended the course. The training course presented a US model of spectrum management, rules and regulations and guidelines for international negotiation to the Thai PTD to assist in compliance with obligations under the WTO's agreement on Basic Telecommunications Services.

This project was the third training session that received technical assistance from FCC to assist PTD during the transition period to becoming the secretariat for the National Telecommunication Commission (NTC).

Regional Dialogue on Public Participation in Government Decision-making

With support from AERA Regional Regulatory Dialogue program and The Asia Foundation, thirteen Vietnamese delegates, led by the Vice Chairman of Vietnam's Office of the National Assembly, traveled to Bangkok between July 7 –11, 2003 to participate in a Thailand-Vietnam Forum on Public Participation. The program included an observational program and workshop on public participation. During the observational program, the Vietnamese delegation visited Thai organizations, including government agencies, business associations, NGOs, and academics associated with public participation to discuss and exchange views on public participation in agency decision making and legislative drafting process. Kenan Institute Asia hosted a Vietnam – Thailand Business Forum on Public Participation. The business forum brought representatives from U.S. and Thai business associations to meet with the Vietnamese delegation to exchange views on approaches and methods for business associations to provide input into the legislative process and government decision making.

To ensure a more complete understanding of public involvement methodologies, two U.S. experts, including Mr. Douglas Sarno and Mrs. Crystal Sarno from Perspectives group conducted a two-day Thailand-Vietnam Public Participation Workshop for the Vietnamese delegation and Thai participants from government agencies, NGOs, and academic. The workshop included presentations on international best practices, as well as interactive training and discussion sessions to facilitate the development of specific action agendas.

Capacity Building for Dispute Resolution

Four US experts from the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) led by the Honorable Fern M. Smith, FJC Director, delivered a series of seminars on case management, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), and testimony digital audio recording for Thai judges, lawyers, and academics. The seminars were held from September 19-23 as part of the "Capacity Building for Dispute Resolution Project," a partnership program between Thailand's Office of the Judiciary and the US Federal Judicial Center. Judge Smith also provided expert advice to Thailand's Council of State on class action law and to the Administrative Court on administrative contracts.

Judicial Reform Project

On September 10, H.E. Mr. Darryl N. Johnson, US Ambassador to Thailand, hosted a reception in honor of Thailand's legislative and judicial reform programs managed by KIASia with support from US Agency for International Development (USAID) on the occasion of the visit of experts from the US Federal Judicial Center (FJC) to Bangkok. KIASia Chairman, Mr. Anand Panyarachun and FJC Director Judge Fern M. Smith spoke about the importance of an effective court system in national development. In addition to the FJC representatives, senior members of the American Bankruptcy Institute and the American Bar Association also joined the reception. H.E. Mr. Chaturon Chaisang, Minister of Justice, and senior judges from the Supreme Court, Office of Judiciary, Administrative Court, Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court represented the Thai side. KIASia is currently working with its Thai and US partners to implement nine legislative and judicial reform projects focusing on alternative dispute resolution, case management, intellectual property rights, bankruptcy, secured transactions law, class action law, and administrative contracts.

Vice President of the US Bond Market Association shares US lessons-learned on securitization

On September 23, Mr. Michael Decker, Vice President, Research and Policy Analysis of the US Bond Market Association (TBMA), traveled to Bangkok to speak at a securitization seminar organized by the Thai Bond Dealing Centre (ThaiBDC). The seminar, attended by 250 participants from asset management corporations, secondary mortgage corporations, financial institutions, and companies with large pools of assets, provided fundamental knowledge and understanding of securitization to potential issuers and related market participants in an effort to promote securitization in Thailand.

Mr. Decker also conducted a roundtable discussion on market conventions with Thai regulators and key organizations related to the Thai Bond Market. He shared US experiences in setting up market conventions for issuing and trading Securitization products. The roundtable discussion was hosted by Thailand's Security Exchange Commission. Both activities are part of the Bond Market Development project, a partnership program between ThaiBDC and TBMA.

Building Capacity and Professional Standards for Property Valuation in Thailand

On September 26, KIAAsia hosted a videoconference between Thailand's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the US Appraisal Foundation (TAF) to discuss the development of property valuation standards in Thailand. The videoconference was part of the "Building Capacity and Professional Standards for Property Valuation in Thailand" project. The project, which began in December 2001, allows US and Thai property valuation experts to collaborate on drafting Thai valuation standards in close coordination with the SEC. The videoconference was held at the KIAAsia headquarters at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok.

Public seminar on standards for property valuation in Thailand

On December 17, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and The Appraisal Foundation in the US (TAF) hosted a seminar entitled "The Appraisal Foundation's Perspectives on Property Valuation Standard in Thailand" in Bangkok. Mr. James R. Park, Director of Research and Technical Issues gave an overview of property valuation practices and regulatory and enforcement system in the US. Mr. Carl Schultz, Jr., TAF consultant, presented key issues regarding property valuation standards from international models for Thailand's consideration. 120 participants from the property valuation industry, banks, and the government sector attended this seminar. Development of an internationally accepted Thai standard will provide supervisory and regulatory bodies industry guidelines for good practices. The ultimate goal is to increase user reliability in valuation for the financial and real estate sectors.

Kenan Institute Asia's BSOP program, in collaboration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) organized another session to discuss concepts for property valuation in Thailand contained in a new draft profession standard. This session was organized as a springboard for further discussion among appraisal professionals including property appraisers, commercial bankers, and academics from both private and public sectors. The industry anticipates further practical and effective revisions to the current professional standards in Thailand. This program originated with a seminar for the concept release led by

a Thai expert team nominated from the SEC's short list of valuation companies, which was followed by a discussion among industry delegates including The Valuers Association of Thailand (VAT), the Thai Valuers Association (TVA), and the Thai Banker Association (TBA). A total of 250 participants attended the seminar.

Establishing TLAPS Linkage with APICS

Under the USAID-funded BSOP, the Thai Logistics and Production Society (TLAPS), in partnership with the American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS), is preparing Thai candidates for the Certified Production and Inventory Management (CPIM) examination to be held in Thailand. The partners invited Mr. Keith Launchbury and Mr. Joel R. Karum to deliver a 3-day pilot review class for Thai candidates for the exam on July 19. This class was the second pilot review focused on the Master Planning of Resources (MPR) module. The class was attended by 36 middle management staff from the private sector, all working in the areas of logistics and production. The third review class on Detailed Scheduling and Planning will be delivered on November 20 through 22, 2003. APICS-TLAPS has been conducting the first CPIM exams in Thailand scheduled in March, July, and December 2003. Prior to this, the nearest exam locations for Thai candidates were in Singapore and Malaysia.

Technical Assistance for Thailand Rating Information Services (TRIS)

With financial support from USAID, Kenan Institute Asia's BSOP assisted TRIS Rating Co., Ltd. (TRIS) to upgrade the capabilities of TRIS analysts during June 30, 2003 to July 15, 2003. The project received technical assistance from Mr. Kenneth Pinkes, volunteer expert from Financial Services Volunteer Corps. (FSVC) in providing on-the-job training of rating techniques for corporate and financial institutions and rating of asset-back securitization, commercial paper from private and Government Related Entity. Mr. Pinkes also gave a presentation entitled "An Overview of the Credit Rating System" and share lesson-learned on credit rating in the US to the Institute staff and KIASIA's counterparts from Bank of Ayudhya, Stock Exchange of Thailand, and Thai Bond Dealing Center.

US Senior Judge and Court Executive share judicial development lessons-learned

With BSOP support, Judge D. Brock Hornby, US Chief District Judge from the District of Maine and Mr. James G. Woodward, US District Court Executive from the Eastern District of Missouri, delivered a series of roundtable discussions in Bangkok between August 25 - 29, 2003 to share US experiences in judicial development. Topics included the testimony recording system, case management, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and the audience included Thai judges, lawyers, and academics. During their trip to Bangkok, Judge Hornby and Mr. Woodward also joined with the Office of the Judiciary to deliver a seminar entitled "Testimony Recording System for Court and Arbitration" for approximately 300 participants, including judicial management committees, judges, court administrators, prosecutors, academics, and stakeholders. The seminar aimed to promote the use of new testimony recording technology for court arbitration.

Regulatory Dialogue Program

With funding from USAID, KIASIA and PADCO, a consulting firm, worked with a range of U.S. and Asian partners and donors to support country-led reform initiatives by facilitating access to international best practices that promote improved corporate and public governance.

Developing a Thai Class Action Law Project.

Vietnam Supreme People's Court Judges Visit Thailand

With support the USAID support, eight delegates from Vietnam Supreme People's Court (SPC) traveled to Bangkok to visit Thailand's courts, government agencies, and law firms involved with intellectual property rights between December 10 - 18, 2002. During the SPC delegation's visitation to Bangkok, KIASIA in collaboration with Thailand's Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court held a round-table discussion to share Thailand's experiences in handling IPR disputes with the SPC delegation. This activity is a joint program between the Vietnam STAR program and AERA's Regulatory Dialogue Program to assist the Vietnamese government in establishing a specialized bench or court to handle IPR disputes.

Judges Forum on Administrative Contracts

The Office of the Administrative Courts organized a two-day Thai-US forum entitled "Government Contracts: Sharing International Experiences on Government Contracts and the Role of the Courts" held between March 12 - 13, 2003. The first day of the forum hosted over 250 participants including judges and lawyers. Fifty key stakeholders participated in the forum on the second day. Three US experts joined with Thai judges from the Administrative Courts to share US and international experiences on administrative contracts with Thai participants. Three US experts in attendance included Judge Eric G. Bruggink from the US Court of Federal Claims, Professor Joshua I. Schwartz from George Washington University Law School, and Mr. Daniel J. Mitterhoff, President of China Mekong Law Center. In addition, Mr. Carey Gordon, Contracting Officer at the US Agency for International Development, shared his experiences as US Federal Contracting Officer. The forum is part of the Capacity Building Program for Thailand's Administrative Courts to develop court policy guidelines for handling administrative contract cases.

These examples illustrate the type of impact the BSOP is having on Thailand's economic recovery and reform.

Challenges

It has often been a challenge to find the most appropriate US organization to partner a particular Thai organization and then encourage members of that US organization to make the considerable time commitment to come to Thailand. This challenge has been met through good communication between the BSOP staff in Thailand and the staff in Washington provided under a sub-agreement with the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise. The close partnership between the two institutes has often meant that the Washington staff devotes extra time and care to finding the best partner. The challenge that lies ahead is to strengthen the partnerships that have been initiated so that they continue the relationship even as funding declines and ends. While many US organizations have demonstrated their willingness to

work with their Thai partners without compensation, it is difficult for them to justify the considerable out-of-pocket expenses for travel and accommodation. It is hoped that by the time the USAID funding ends, the Thai organizations will be sufficiently motivated and sufficiently funded to undertake some of these expenses.

Indicator Tables

Intermediate Objective 1 Corporate and Financial Governance Improved

Indicator	Policies, systems, or procedures adopted by participating partner organizations
Unit of Measure	Number of participating organizations implementing policies, systems, or procedures introduced or strengthened through the partnership fostered by the BSOP

Year	Expected Measures Cumulative	Actual
1999	0	Baseline - 0
2000	2	7
2001	7	17
2002	10	23
2003*	15	25
2004	20	
2005	25	

* Q3 of Year 2003 (July – September 2003): In total, 25 policies and systems have been changed.

Intermediate Objective 2 Financial and Corporate Governance Improved

Indicator	The number of long-term partnerships initiated and maintained
Unit of Measure	Number of partnerships

Year	Expected Partnerships Cumulative	Actual
1999	0	Baseline - 0
2000	2	7
2001	4	16
2002	8	22
2003*	12	23
2004	10	
2005	8	

*Q3 of year 2003 (July – September): 23 partnerships between Thai and U.S. organizations are maintained.

Projects which partnerships are no longer existed were TRIS (one time consultant for technical assistance) and Institute for Management and Education for Thailand Foundation (IMET) (project ended).

Bank Training Program (BTP)

The Bank Training Program (BTP) funds training projects with the goal of reforming and retraining Thai banks to help the country achieve economic recovery. The program's focus is on helping commercial banks and specialized financial institutions improve their personnel's capabilities, so they can make better lending and risk-management decisions while also improving governance standards.

The BTP works primarily with Thai-owned banks, both state-owned and private, to assess their training and reform needs. Once these needs are clear and detailed, the BTP works with outside consulting companies to provide customized training programs to the banks. The companies providing this training included PricewaterhouseCoopers Risk Management Service Ltd., Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Corporate Restructuring, Ltd., and Development Alternative Inc. The BTP staff manages the relationship between the training company and the bank to ensure that USAID's development and cost objectives are met.

Accomplishments

KIAsia, the Thai Institute of Banking and Finance Association (TIBFA), and NTU/Thailand in cooperation with the state banks led by the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) co-organized a distance training program entitled "The New Bank Professionals Development Network". Other institutions joining the project included the Government Savings Bank, the Government Housing Bank, the Krung Thai Bank, and the Small Industry Finance Corporation. The training program aimed to educate managers and staff of these institutions, particularly in province branches, to enhance their knowledge and skills in order to operate more efficiently and effectively. Training topics included risk management, legal issues for bank professionals, internal auditing, developing sales and customer relations, assets and liabilities management, and economics issues for bank professionals.

The training was delivered via satellite broadcast to more than 100 receiving sites of NTU/Thailand and BAAC throughout the country. This efficient training approach requiring less time and travel expense allows participants in provincial areas to attend the class at the same time without leaving their work sites. The training program was well received and over 18,000 banking staff participated the program. The average number of participants per course increased to 3,000 from the 2,000 previously expected. Overall evaluation by trainees indicated satisfaction with the course content, instructors and the training schedule/approach.

As a result of successful feedback from a pilot distance training program for government banking personnel, the government banks decided to continue running the program for a second year. Their proposal on "*New Bank Professionals Development Network Phase II*" was approved by the AERA working group on April 4, 2003. Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives continues as the project leader this year and participating banks include Government Savings Bank, Government Housing Bank, Krung Thai Bank, and the Small Industry Finance Corporation.

The training topics for year 2003, agreed upon by all participating banks, included 1) Good Governance; 2) Credit Analysis on SMEs and Microfinance; 3) Marketing and Customer Relationship Management; 4) Knowledge of Cheques and Money Laundering Protection; 5) Banking Account Law; and 6) NPLs Management and Techniques.

Small Corporate Skill Improvement Training Program for Thai Farmers Bank

The Small Corporate Skill Improvement training program for the Thai Farmers Bank (TFB), conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers FAS Ltd., was successfully completed. A total of 156 SME senior managers attended the training program during period of January – March 2003. Main topics included identifying business risks, developing cash flow projection, structuring credit line and pricing the loan particularly for SMEs borrowers. The result of the training indicated that the course contents, instructors, and presentation methodologies were satisfied. The knowledge gained from the training was designed to be applied to actual work situations.

E-Business and Entrepreneurship Seminar

The Bank Training Program jointly organized two seminars with the Rajabhat Institute Suan Dusit and with the Institute for Small and Medium Enterprises (ISMED) in cooperation with the Bangkok Bank (BBL) on E-Business and Entrepreneurship. The first seminar, co-organized with the Rajabhat Institute Suan Dusit, was held on March 24-25, 2003 at Rajabhat Institute Suan Dusit. Participants in this seminar were approximately 100 directors and instructors of the 41 Rajabhat Institute nationwide. The second seminar, co-organized with the ISMED and the BBL, was held on March 26-27, 2003 at Miracle Grand Hotel, Bangkok. Nearly 300 SMEs managers attended the seminar. Five successful SMEs were invited to share their lessons learned in e-business during the presentation.

Led by professionals with experience in e-business and entrepreneurship from the College of Business Administration of the California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, both seminars were very well received. They were presented by a team of lecturers consisting of Dr. Henry C. Co, Dr. William J. Cosgrove, and Dr. Gail R. Waters. Topics discussed included some of the key underlying concepts of e-business, illustrating their impact on entrepreneurship and on existing enterprises as well as various tools, procedures, and processes in e-business which could be employed in the participants' organizations.

Risk Management Training for Financial Institutions

PricewaterhouseCoopers delivered several training courses including introductory, credit, market, and operational risk management to SCIB executives and staff in the risk management unit during February through June of 2003. Over 400 participants attended the training program.

The final session included a credit risk management workshop held in the second week of July 2003 for 10 credit related management staff. Main topics discussed included credit risk structure, principles of credit risk management, quantitative and qualitative credit assessment techniques, financial analysis, credit risk rating systems/tools, credit risk mitigation techniques, risk adjusted pricing, and credit approval and the limit setting process.

Risk Control on Export Financing Training

Export and Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM) continued its training in Risk Control on Export Financing. PricewaterhouseCoopers conducted the last two training sessions on Credit Risk Management for the related credit management staff on July 18 and 19, 2003. Topics of discussion include organizational credit risk structure, best practice credit control, credit management processes, relationship and credit risk management, economic and regulatory capital, and portfolio management.

Self -Study Fundamentals of Banking

The BTP supported the Thai Institute of Banking and Finance Association (TIBFA) with the organization of a self-study program on the fundamentals of banking. The target group of this program consists of the working professionals in the banking and financial institutions, particularly in outlying branches. In addition, college and university students, including interested people in other professions, could join the program to enhance their knowledge of the banking business.

Topics in the self-study program include banking operations, fundamental accounting and finance, banking law, economics for banking professionals, and organizational behavior.

Distance Training for Government Banks

The BTP is cooperated with NTU/Thailand and with four state banks to deliver a series of banking related courses to their staff in branches throughout the country. The program enabled staff for more than 1,000 bank branches around the country to participate in courses in or near their work places during May through November.

Employees of the Government Savings Bank, Government Housing Bank, Krung Thai Bank, and SME bank joined the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperative (BAAC) staff in their distance learning centers. Topics presented include Good Governance, Credit Analysis on SME and Micro Financing, Marketing and Customer Services, Knowledge of Checks and Money Laundering Protection, Banking Accounting Procedure, and Managing Difficult Loan Accounts. After the last course, a closing session was conducted and the training program was officially completed in December 2003.

Distance Training for Cooperatives

The distance training program on “Modern Cooperative Management” began with two training courses in June 2003. The program provides modern management knowledge and techniques aiming at improving the management skills of the cooperatives leaders. The program comprises 4 training courses and each training course will be broadcast to 40 receiving sites in 40 target provinces. Approximately 2,000 participants attended each session.

Indicator tables for Bank Training Program

Intermediate Objective 2

Corporate and Financial Governance Improved

Indicator	Policies, systems, or procedures adopted by the participating banks
Unit of Measure	Number of participating banks implementing new policies, systems, or procedures
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Executive orders, and implementing rules and regulations of the participating banks ◆ Reports from the participating banks
Indicator Description	1. Implementation of new procedures and systems related to the training courses, i.e. new Credit Policies or Credit Policy Manuals, Risk Management Procedures, Internal Control System, Responsibility Accounting Centers or Systems

Year	Target # of banks Cumulative	Actual # of banks Cumulative
1999	0	Baseline - 0
2000	4	4
2001	5	7
2002	10	12
2003	12	16

Intermediate Objective 2

Corporate and Financial Governance Improved

Indicator	Training activities in related topics
Unit of Measure	Number of banks continuing training programs using concepts, skills and materials provided through AERA assistance
Source	Training units of the participating banks
Indicator Description	1. Number of banks conducting related courses, including development of the Manuals and Guidebooks developed to the Banks' training units

Year	Target # of banks Cumulative	Actual # of banks Cumulative
1999	0	Baseline - 0
2000	3	3
2001	6	8
2002	10	13
2003	12	16
2004	12	

Education Program

The main objective of the Education Program is to support educational reform through better use of teaching techniques and technology and the promotion of international education. Under KIAAsia's Human Resource Development Division, the AERA Education Program is involved in projects assisting education in three areas: secondary education, higher education, and life-long learning. Because education is the foundation of a country's sustainable competitiveness and development, the education team from KIAAsia continues to search for new ways to overcome the disparities and problems within the educational system of Thailand.

Community College Project

In October, twenty-seven Thai community college directors, board members, senior officers from the Ministry of Education, and a representative from the Kenan Institute Asia visited Honolulu, Hawaii to attend a training program on community college administration, teaching, and faculty development, hosted by the Honolulu Community College. Presentations and lectures delivered by the colleges' experts, coupled with campus visits, allowed the Thai delegates to see, firsthand, the success of community colleges under the University of Hawaii. The training covered key areas of community college administrations and teaching, including roles and functions of the Board of Regents, mission, administrative structure and roles of administrators, workforce and economic development, K-12 partnership, curriculum development process, and conflict resolution for community colleges. The Hawaii training was part of the East-West Community College Project funded by USAID's AERA Education program. The AERA Education Program and the Kenan Institute Asia will continue to assist the Thai Ministry of Education in its community college development efforts, as community colleges are an important driving force of Thailand's economic and community development.

Mae Fah Luang University (MFLU) Project

Under the AERA Education Program, KIAAsia provided support for two TESOL experts from the English Language Institute, Oregon State University to assist Mae Fah Luang University (MFLU) set up an English language center. The experts arrived in Thailand in December of 2002 and began to conduct a needs assessment through discussions with key faculty members. The language laboratory is now ready for operation in a skeletal mode and will form the model for other language labs in near future.

IT for Education: English Through Entertainment

All draft contents and supporting materials for the English Through Entertainment Program were proofread by a professional consultant team from Chulalongkorn University and 3,000 course packages were reproduced and distributed to high schools nationwide. The course package included a lesson plan, a teacher's manual, and a supportive video and cassette tape to help improve the English skills of high school students through various engaging topics. In August, representatives from Kenan Institute Asia and the Supervisory Unit, Ministry of Education, visited two high-schools in Ratchaburi province to observe how the provincial English teachers apply the materials of English through Entertainment to the classes. From the observation, the teachers were capable of adjusting and applying the lesson

contents and materials to suit their locality. Supervisory Units will continue to monitor and evaluate the program and provide a written evaluation report to Kenan Institute Asia.

2003 Chula Conference

An international conference entitled “The 5th International Conference 2003-ELT in a Globalized World: Innovations and Applications” was held in December 2003 at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel. The conference focused on innovative ideas for ELT, including the applications of innovative technologies that can be applied to classroom instruction or self-access learning centers.

Thai Youth Development by ICT Project - Web Aided Instruction Train-the-Trainer Component

The first three-day training supported by the AERA-IT for Education project was launched on May 1, 2003 at Khon Kaen University. This training course equipped teachers with ICT knowledge in think.com software, computer graphics, and internet browser programs and is part of the Thai Youth Development by the ICT project initiated by MICT. This E-education project aims at expanding learning opportunities for Thai youth by building capacity and increasing the capability of ICT skills for them, leading the country towards becoming a knowledge-based society.

Participatory Learning Leading to Integrated Community Development

This project is funded by the American Corporations for Thailand (ACT) and the AERA program. The activities of the project focus primarily on staff development for all related participants, such as school staff and key members of the community. There are 8 schools in Phayao and Chiangrai to pilot this new learning approach, which fits nicely with the main objective of educational reform that emphasizes child-centered learning, meaningful learning, and the development of school curriculums.

The first teacher workshop was held on May 3 through 10, 2003 in Chiang Rai, organized by the Thai Women of Tomorrow Project, ONPEC, and KIAAsia. The function of the workshop was to introduce the project, inform the related parties for better understanding of the project, and prepare the participating teachers for the new teaching-learning process. Teachers learned the process of community-based study, such as data collection methods, community map preparation, chronological planning, data interpretation, and doing case studies. A follow-up training workshop was held on May 15-20 for the project working team comprised of field workers, teacher supervisors, and the project team.

Indicators

USAID did not recommend any specific indicators for the Education Program.

Border Action Against Malaria

The Border Action Against Malaria Project (BAAM) works with a broad national coalition to slow the emergence and spread of multi-drug resistant malaria in Thailand's border areas. The program is developing new models of cooperation and partnership, particularly with community organizations, to monitor and respond to the threat that such resistant strains will spread, not only in Thailand, but also across the region. This is intended to contribute to decentralization and reformation of public health systems, making them more effective and sustainable. The purpose of the project is to improve the national capacity to monitor and respond to multi-drug resistant malaria.

Project Activities

Sentinel site monitoring of antimalarial drug resistance

In vitro sensitivity monitoring and *in vivo* study of therapeutic efficacy of the currently used front line antimalarial drugs is being carried out in 9 border provinces under the malaria sentinel surveillance drug resistance network initiative. Structural reform and re-organization of units responsible for malaria control necessitated ad-hoc arrangements and resulted in the emergence of issues for longer-term changes in assignment of responsibility for the operational aspects of sentinel surveillance in the future. The previous 5 regional offices for vector-borne disease control were merged into the 12 regional offices of disease control and the Malaria Division became a unit of the new Bureau of Vector-Borne Disease Control in the Department of Disease Control (formerly Department of Communicable Disease Control). In addition, the National Malaria Training Center has been transformed into a research and training center, and will play a role in managing information on sentinel surveillance.

BAAM also supported an annual technical workshop to review results of sentinel surveillance and other research on anti-malarial drug resistance and consider changes in the national treatment regimen policy for multi-drug resistant malaria held by the Bureau of Vector-Borne Diseases in the Department of Disease Control (formerly Department of Communicable Disease Control). After considering the evidence of increasing drug resistance on the Thai-Burma border, a general consensus emerged (for the first time in Thailand) in support of adopting artesunate-based combination therapy throughout the country.

BAAM management held consultations with the new Bureau of Vector-Borne Diseases and the research and training center regarding future implementation of sentinel surveillance and studies on drug use practices. It appears that the newly constituted research and training center will play a key role in managing information on sentinel surveillance and drug resistance, and will take the lead in developing studies on drug use practices.

Research and development of an affordable, reliable, locally produced malaria antigen rapid test (Ministry of Public Health)

Research continued on developing dye particle-linked monoclonal antibodies against pLDH and pGAPDH for malaria antigen detection; research for cloning and expression of LDH and GAPDH enzymes from *P. falciparum* by genetic engineering method; and research and

development for production of a dipstick kit utilizing dye particle-linked monoclonal antibodies against pLDH and pGAPDH for malaria antigen detection.

Partnerships for a School-based Approach to Community Action Against Malaria Subproject (Life Skills Development Foundation)

- Workshops in Mae Hong Son and Tak Provinces with partner agencies and local sub-district council members to mobilize multi-sectoral support to enable implementation of community-generated malaria control projects -- community and school representatives were guided through a process to review and improve upon design of their projects to enhance effectiveness and impact on the malaria problems;
- Multi-sectoral coordination meetings were organized to plan and orient partners on expansion of coverage to 15 additional schools in Tak, Chiang Mai, Chantaburi, and Trat Provinces;
- Workshops to summarize experience in teaching-learning about malaria in 25 schools and draft content of an integrated thematic curriculum unit on *Mosquito-Borne Diseases: Malaria* for implementation in grades 1-9 in border area schools in 2003-4 school year;
- Surveys of community health problems and malaria knowledge, attitudes, practices by school children in 15 phase 2 border schools in Tak, Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, Chantaburi, and Trat Provinces under replication trials on expansion of the Partnerships for a School-based Approach to Community Action Against Malaria Project;
- Training of trainers/team-building workshop followed by two five-day teacher training workshops for 15 expansion sites on participatory learning and action processes under the Partnerships for a School-Based Approach to Community Action Against Malaria project.

Community-Based Malaria Control through Civic Partnerships along the Thai-Cambodia Border

- Community civil-society forums held on malaria problems, analysis, and action planning in Chantaburi and Trat Provinces;
- Training on improved diagnosis and treatment of malaria in Trat Province;
- Orientation workshops, screening and approval of support for community-based malaria control projects in Chantaburi and Trat Provinces;
- Training and implementation of GIS for development of a community-based epidemiology information system for malaria control in Chantaburi Province;
- Development of a community-based epidemiology information system focusing on malaria control in Trat Province.

Treatment of Multi-Drug Resistant Malaria

A national-level meeting (co-sponsored with WHO) was organized for border area government hospitals, international medical NGOs in border areas, and professors of medical school faculties. Professor Wernsdorfer delivered a keynote presentation on the dynamics of

MDR malaria; presentations, case studies, and Q&A sessions covered treatment of severe MDR malaria, and treatment of children and pregnant women. Working group session discussions highlighted the need for a single standard treatment regimen for MDR malaria to be used by all treatment facilities in Thailand. International/regional participants included WHO Mekong Roll Back Malaria Coordinator, WHO malaria officers from Burma and Cambodia, and Olya Duzey from MSH.

Indicators

USAID did not recommend any specific indicators for the BAAM Program.

Thailand Competitiveness Initiative Implemented by J.E. Austin Associates and Kenan Institute Asia

The objectives of the Thailand Competitiveness Initiative are to promote competitiveness in Thailand by demonstrating that clusters of companies and related organizations can work cooperatively together to gather information, develop strategies and overcome policy obstacles so they can compete more effectively in their markets. The TCI will also work to help the selected clusters develop Policy Action Initiatives that will be pushed forward with the help of the National Competitiveness Committee. The ultimate objective is to help Thailand's private sector provide for the larger and more sustainable margins that will raise incomes and thus standards of living over the long term. The TCI brings together the Kenan Institute Asia and J.E. Austin Associates in a team effort. KIA Asia and JAA are also working together in Cambodia and Vietnam as well as Thailand.

Competitiveness and clusters seem to be familiar concepts in many Thai industries. The credit may be shared by the preliminary work JAA as well as by pioneering efforts by a group of Thai business consultants calling itself C4C - Clusters for Competitiveness. Moreover, Thai businesses reportedly raised the funds to bring Dr. Michael Porter to Thailand in 2003.

Therefore, less time is needed to explain the twin concepts of competitiveness and clusters to potential cluster participants. Experience to date indicates that potential clusters are immediately looking for value-added contributions from the project in terms of market information, bench-marking, value-chain analysis, and assistance in setting and implementing medium-term strategic plans. In terms of project implementation, however, clusters are often reluctant to share the basic internal information needed to build cluster-wide strategies and value chains.

Workshops/Roundtables for Key Regional Stakeholders

- As part of a joint effort with VNCI to engage with key stakeholders, TCI Chief-of-Party made a presentation at the Hanoi School of Business Educators Workshop on "Clusters and Competition Catalyst for Vietnam's Economic Development".
- As part of a joint effort with VNCI to engage with key stakeholders, TCI Chief-of-Party made a presentation on August 27, entitled "Cooperation for Competitiveness" at the CIEM Workshop on Global Competitiveness Report.
- TCI made a presentation to the "Asia Cooperative Dialogue Tourism Business Forum" in Phuket. ACD comprises 18 countries whose objective is to promote regional tourism based on four themes: Intra-Regional Promotions, Safety & Security, HRD, and SME Development. The presentation focused on the last theme, and is available as an annex. As a result of the presentation, ACD prepared a draft resolution, and the following statement is a direct consequence of the presentation: "Classify tourism development targets into specific clusters to best suit the joint promotion of SMEs."

Mobilization of Competitiveness Advisors

- TCI hired a new cluster consultant on Aug. 20, at which time there was a reorganization of assignments. (Note that the cluster consultant in charge of multi-media resigned at the end of June).
- TCI hired another new cluster consultant on August 18. TCI now has two new consultants. One of them has marketing and logistics experience and will supervise future locally-contracted market research on clusters. The other is a PhD in Economics (University of Florida) who will assist Dr. Warner in developing the paper for Thailand in relation to the GCR, and who will assist Marcos Arocha in preparing and analyzing data on the clusters for the M&E. Dr. Andrew Warner met with the new consultant on Aug. 29, to discuss the content and research work need to develop the paper, scheduled for delivery in late October.

Country Orientation and Training of Local Counterparts

- Three training sessions were held for the TCI staff. The “standard” training approach is a continuous process every two weeks based on the following sequence: (1) A diagnostic tool is discussed. (2) Over a two-week period, the team applies it to their respective cluster. (3) At the next training session, each team member presents the results of applying the tool for discussion, and another tool is discussed, and the cycle continues.
- As part of TCI training activities, during his M&E trip, Dr. Andrew Warner undertook a series of one-on-one training sessions with the TCI cluster consultants. Due to the cluster participants’ limited language ability, the TCI team members would “transfer” and apply the lessons learned from Dr. Warner’s sessions to their respective clusters.
- TCI staff also attended content-driven seminars on “Food Safety” and “Marketing Strategy” for the HVAP cluster, “Innovations in Asian Economies” and “E-Learning” for the multi-media cluster.
- TCI consultants undertook training in competitiveness with faculty of Kasetsart University. KU is the secretariat overseeing the sustainability of the HVAP cluster.

Accomplishments by Core Activity Area

TCI Activities can be classified into five sectors: Cluster Formation and Development, Public and Private Sector Dialogue, Institution Building and Networking, and Other Activities and Cambodia Activities

A. CLUSTER FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

OTOP

OTOP in Udon Thani was initially a BAC project supported by the TCI team. As one of the less developed regions of Thailand, the villages that make up the Udon Thani cluster are still in a "pre-cluster" stage, meaning that associations are informal, products are still undergoing a transition from a seasonal household activity to a regular income generating business, and market access is still limited, even locally. TCI's objective was to document the process of development of products and markets in Udon Thani, and to assess lessons learned on the OTOPT policy, using the Udon Thani experience as one indicator.

There is a possibility that the relevant provincial government agency will secure funds to extend the OTOPT project in Udon Thani. However, as of end-September, TCI decided to reduce its engagement with OTOPT since the villages were not coalescing into a cluster.

MULTIMEDIA

In the multi-media cluster, Thailand appears to have the potential to be a regional hub of multimedia and computer graphics. However, there is very little agreement on key questions: Who are the major stakeholders? What is the cluster's economic impact for the country? What can be done to propel the cluster forward? Too often the cluster has been lumped with either the software sector or entertainment industry, preventing any real understanding of the clusters needs. With the support of the multimedia working group and the pioneers of Bangkok SIGGRAPH, in this quarter, a PAI is being developed to assist the ministry in promoting the multimedia cluster. After preliminary diagnostics and individual / group meetings the cluster intends to move beyond low cost electronic piecemeal work towards more innovative and profitable projects. To this end, four additional SAI were put forward in the quarter: (1) Mastering Production Skills, (2) Building Brand Awareness, (3) Accelerating Technology Transfer and Dissemination, and (4) Understanding Global Distribution Channels.

Small group meetings were the most effective means for engaging the cluster. Several meetings took place in April to prepare the multi-media cluster for the major animation events. SIGGRAPH is one of the largest and most prestigious multi-media associations, and the annual conference will be held in San Diego in July 2003. The Thai multi-media cluster set up a "Bangkok Chapter" of SIGGRAPH.

The TCI Cluster Consultant assisted in completing the first cluster brochure including an industry analysis and portfolio of computer graphics work along with a companion website under development.

Four members of the multi-media cluster went to San Diego to attend the annual conference of SIGGRAPH and to search for possible market connections and to seek possible expertise for STTA. This was an action in line with the cluster strategy of building closer links to US entertainment companies.

TCI, with the assistance of Mahidol University, developed a plan for an IT-design center that will be linked with the gem and multi-media clusters. Representatives from Mahidol University made a presentation of the preliminary feasibility study on August 21.

HIGH-VALUE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Work on the high-value agricultural cluster focused on a policy initiative on GAP. A university in the region has taken the lead to pull together the participants by providing a venue and a secretariat, and to assist in research. In this cluster, the development process was reversed. The standard process involves diagnostic tools leading to a strategy to improve exports, raise productivity, or enhance quality and reduce rejects. In this cluster, the issue of GAP emerged as early as the last quarter, so that more effort to explore a possible PAI took place in this quarter.

With the help of Khun Piyabutr Cholvijarn, Vice Minister for Commerce, an advisor to TCI, the cluster brought together the heads of related government agencies to the monthly cluster meeting in April 26, 2003: Dr.Ampon Kittiampon, Director General of the Office of National Standard for Agriculture and Food; Dr.Suthiporn Chirapanda, Secretary General of the Office of Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. Three representatives from Thai FDA, Department of Export Promotion, and NESDB also participated in the meeting.

The next meeting, held on May 22 at Kasetsart U., Kampaengsean resulted in a commitment to create and fund a cluster staff and a coordinator. If this effort can be sustained, it will reflect a clear measure of success for this cluster. Prior to the meeting, a small group from the public and private sectors and academia worked on details of the activities, budget, and plan to convince the cluster, especially exporters, and agreed to undertake a market survey for market expansion in the future and to indicate possible niches.

There are now Four Western Provinces. Participation by farmers/growers has increased from the original core of 30, to 1,200+. Potentially, 10,000 farmers could become part of the HVAP-GAP activity although much depends upon the capacity of the extension officers and technicians of the agricultural department to keep pace with the GAP requirements.

The HVAP cluster also reviewed the possibility suggested by the cluster consultant of reducing their dependence on the export market by selling to the “higher-end” local supermarkets and is undertaking preliminary research on the potential to sell the cluster’s produce to “higher-end” local supermarkets.

Meetings continue with the HVAP cluster with Kasetsart University and with the Ministry of Agriculture on food safety and good agricultural practices. The latter agreed to a TCI initiative for a wider dissemination of practices to apply not only to the contract growing farmers selling to the export markets but also to the much larger numbers of small farmers selling to the domestic market.

CHIANG MAI

The “launch” of the JAA office in Chiang Mai took place on August 6, in conjunction with a KIAAsia signing ceremony with the SME Network in Thailand. JAA on-site consultant Jack Kelly made a presentation (in Thai) to approximately 85 cluster participants and other guests. The conference proceedings appeared in his July 17-Aug. 15 report.

The cluster consultant in Chiang Mai worked on several product clusters—wood and furniture, woven materials and cloth products, traditional ceramics, and on both eco-tourism and “high-end” health-oriented tourism. He focused on two clusters as his permanent assignment—tourism and a handicraft product of NOHMEX starting in the next quarter.

PHUKET

The key objective for the Phuket tourism cluster was to discuss ways and means to improve competitiveness in the tourism sector with an emphasis on increasing the revenues per tourist per day for the local community. A secondary objective was to encourage the cluster to consider a sustainable, eco-friendly approach to tourism development for the future of Phuket.

The low season combined with the Iraq war and the SARS epidemic resulted in a sharp fall in tourism business for Thailand by 30-40%. The Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) worked closely with TAT to launch a promotion call “Bugna Andaman Program” (Flower of Andaman) for local tourists to help maintain business.

The TCI team contacted PTA to determine future STTA. The association seemed concerned with the negative news and bad image of Phuket and was looking for a marketing plan combined with a PR strategy for immediate action. TCI will seek JAA assistance to find a tourism strategist who has hands-on experience to work with both Phuket and Chiang Mai. As of end-September, TCI decided to disengage with Phuket and instead focus on the tourism cluster in Chiang Mai.

GEMS

The gem cluster in Chantaburi appears to be a “classic” cluster, with a long tradition in processing gems, with some activity in jewelry, but the area has been losing to the Bangkok-based jewelry sector that buys much of the Chantaburi gems. According to the director of the Gem Institute of Thailand, based in Chulalongkorn University, Thailand has attained “world-class” status in gemstones, particularly in sapphires and rubies. The Gem Institute’s grading system is internationally recognized and certified. Thailand’s gem mines are largely depleted,

and gemstones are imported from other areas such as Madagascar, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka. Chantaburi was the traditional source of gemstones in Thailand. Over time, as the mines ran down, and importation increased, Bangkok developed as the primary buying area both for gems processed in Chantaburi (3-4 hours away from Bangkok) and for designed jewelry (gems set in gold and or silver). The largest gem and jewelry exporters work out of Bangkok. Chantaburi itself is still the primary source for purchasing processed gems. However, the buyers are primarily traders from Bangkok, who earn a commission of up to 20%.

Chantaburi is attempting to regain its prior status in both gems and jewelry, and to move up the value chain. There are retail outlets for jewelry and even an online gem site. However, at present, processing and trading make up the bulk of Chantaburi's activities. Practices in Chantaburi thus range from the traditional to the modern, with the latter still prevailing. Many Chantaburi gem factories still import and process goods as much for the artistry of working with each specific gem (that may end up as an odd-size and kept in stock) as to meet market needs (for standardized sizes in bulk). Most of the firms are family-owned, and the owner-managers have maintained long relationships with their traders and commission agents that they are loathe to cut, despite a changing business environment; for example, some traders have been "abandoning" Chantaburi to buy directly, and more cheaply, processed gems from Sri Lanka.

Apart from the depletion of gems in Chantaburi, several other problems have emerged over time. Since the 1997 crisis, pressure is building up for traders to maintain their commissions by squeezing the Chantaburi firms. Sri Lanka and China are emerging threats to the position of Thailand (and Chantaburi) in the world market. Labor is becoming a problem since most Chantaburi firms are family-owned, and the nature of the business requires trust and confidentiality. Chantaburi is responding to the challenges. The heat-treating process is a "trade secret" among the mostly family-owned gem factories, but some processors are coordinating and cooperating with the Gems and Jewelry Institute in Thailand to help in "making the case" for Thai gems. One association is attempting to "set up shop" in Bangkok. A new training center expects to address the skilled labor issue. Another firm is examining technology to standardize the cutting process to make it closer to international standards in NY and elsewhere, similar to the process used in the international diamond trade.

The TCI consultant presented the first draft of her study on the gem cluster in Chantaburi. One preliminary conclusion is that there are two large clusters— gems in Chantaburi and jewelry in Bangkok. Although the focus is on Chantaburi, further study of the linkage with the Bangkok cluster is essential since the former attends trade fairs in Bangkok and Bangkok brokers buy gems from Chantaburi.

A two-day conference culminating in the signing of the MOU was held with the gem cluster in Chantaburi. At its peak, over the two days, almost 100 participants attended the sessions. Between 60-70 participants stayed through out the conference. Keynote speakers included the governor of the province, the director of the gemological institute, government officials from NESDB and the DEP, and members of the media. The report on the conference will be incorporated in the new website.

The Chantaburi gem cluster opened a booth at the September gem and jewelry fair in Bangkok. The TCI Senior Consultant (Mr. Piyabutr Cholvijan) in charge of policy initiatives was the opening speaker.

SILK

The silkworm cluster remains in the early stage of exploration and engagement. Nevertheless, the TCI consultant conducted a preliminary study, established the value chain, and identified main participants in the potential cluster.

The cluster consultant completed an industry overview of the silk growing and weaving in Korat and the surrounding areas. He also undertook preliminary research on setting up a “Silk Development Board”.

The silk industry is one of the projects of the Royal Family, and according to the TCI cluster consultant, the Queen has expressed concern over the “depreciation” of the “grandeur” of Thai silk. The TCI cluster consultant engaged in meetings with the sericulture association, and with universities engaged in technical research. The Korat cluster itself includes two other areas, and the strategic issue revolves around how to convert informal “community” silk production into a “quasi-industrial”, commercially viable cluster.

The consultant for the silk cluster is developing the organizational structure for the cluster and will seek STTA for this structural change.

The silk cluster is now holding regular meetings every Friday. At present, the government bureaus are more involved than the private sector because of the possibility for a “policy action initiative” on silk. However, private sector participation is increasing with each meeting.

SEAFOOD – SONGKLA

TCI prepared to engage with the seafood cluster in the south, a task that will involve cooperation with Prince of Songkla University (PSU), the largest institution serving the region which comprises provinces in southern Thailand that are adjacent to northern Malaysia.

TCI and PSU have discussed undertaking the following joint activities:

- Provide research and develop case studies on issues affecting the seafood cluster.
- Design courses for both the degree programs of PSU (such as for the MBA programs) and for shorter, continuing education seminars for the business community.
- Act a secretariat for the meetings of the different stakeholders of the seafood cluster.

- Since the seafood business by its very nature was not confined to Hat Yai & Songkla but included other areas in southern Thailand, it seemed more logical to develop a cluster that was more regional in scope.
- Furthermore, since the seafood business involved countries besides Thailand that shared the ocean where deep-sea fishing occurred, it seemed more logical to consider a “multi-country” cluster.

TCI met with Tropical Canning Corporation, a relatively large canning company whose Malaysia joint venture partner provides marketing, and the company appears to be financially stable and up-to-date in its technology. However, the meeting with the TCC Operations Manager indicated that fish and labor supply and quality might be quite different issues, especially for the smaller operators— both fishermen and canning companies. Although labor is cheap, the canning firms compete with the rubber industry (when it hires labor to tap the rubber). And the small fishermen in particular cannot meet the export quality requirements.

Since TCI has a deliverable on workforce productivity improvement and skill development, this deliverable might be attained by working with the seafood cluster on labor supply and quality. Both the fishermen and the canning factories in the seafood cluster are located over a wide area, so that the seafood cluster might have to be a regional cluster covering several areas. Although more meetings are needed in the near future, the initial exploration of the potential for the seafood cluster appears promising. There are areas for value-added activities, and for engaging the academe and assisting in labor development. There is a policy role for the local and provincial government and the possibility of a regional and even a multi-country cluster is a new approach to cluster and competitiveness work.

B. PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE

A major activity was the visit to Bangkok of Mr. Howard Rosen, former Executive Director of the US Competitiveness Policy Council, to brief NESDB and business leaders, including directors from the Federation of Thai Industries. Mr. Rosen also visited the American Council for International Labor Solidarity in preparation for a meeting in January with selected labor leaders. The December visit was a success and he was invited a second time in January.

From November 4 – 7 a workshop and roundtable were successfully completed. The November conference had at its peak over 60 participants. The proceedings were included in the KIAAsia website, which includes a summary overview, most of the PowerPoint presentations, the agenda and participant list. The access address is www.kiasia.org/download/competitiveness. In the November 7 Roundtable, there were 36 participants from two-dozen Thai institutions that represented most of the key players in competitiveness in both the private and public sectors.

In February, a newly hired, part-time senior consultant began coordinating a policy action initiative with the high-value agricultural products cluster in three western provinces. The TCI cluster consultant was encouraging the farmers to make less use of herbicides and pesticides and to develop “Good Agricultural Practices”. The objective was to create organic foods but safer and healthier products for both the local and export markets. With concern over food safety rising globally, TCI began involving government agencies in the discussions

to establish food health and safety standards, and to enforce them. GAP became a government policy issue and not merely a business strategy, because the application of standards had to be as widespread as possible. With the help of the two TCI consultants, a series of meetings took place over the past two months. The discussion is continuing, and a conference between the public and private sectors is scheduled for the end of April.

C. INSTITUTION BUILDING AND MEDIA NETWORKING

TCI developed a preliminary training module on competitiveness for the staff of NESDB. In this quarter, TCI developed a training program on competitiveness composed of three half-day sessions. For the first introductory session, TCI invited participants from its external constituents, and NESDB, FTI, the International Finance Corporation of Thailand (IFCT), and Bangkok Bank attended the first session. The other two sessions in March covered cluster methodology and family firms, and most of the participants were from TCI and KIASIA's BAC unit.

KIASIA and one of the TCI staff traveled to Viet Nam to assist in the development of the software cluster. In March, at the request of the country manager of the Viet Nam Competitiveness Initiative, another TCI staff member went to Ho Chi Minh City to attend a two-day conference of the fruit cluster, under the lead association, Vina Fruit. The TCI member had a doctorate in agribusiness and previous experience as a consultant in high-value agricultural exports. The two-day conference focused on applying the diagnostic tools of competitiveness to specific products and markets. On the first day, the TCI consultant offered examples from different clusters in different countries to demonstrate the key success factors for different agricultural export products. On the second day, the participants divided themselves into groups in order to work out possible implementation plans to address common issues, such as quality, packaging, brand image, logistics, and securing information on the needs of export buyers and end-consumers.

D. OTHER ACTIVITIES

TCI made a presentation to representatives (Chairmen and/or Secretary Generals) of the 30 industry groups in the FTI on the topic of private sector led policy initiatives. The presentation and subsequent question-and-answer discussion focused on how to "make a case" for the Thai manufacturing sector to government decision makers. The possibility that FTI might develop a position paper on the competitiveness of Thai manufacturing in a global environment (e.g., China's entry into the WTO) which might then provide one element in the government's policies for a globally competitive Thailand.

The KIASIA web page section on competitiveness has been expanded from material covering presentations and other documents relating to the November 2002 "start-up conference" to include a "pilot" TCI web page (www.kiasia.org/comp) that incorporates materials up to mid-March. Presentations, training programs, working papers, cluster cases, media articles and/or photographs were included in the updated site. However, the TCI web site is still in its preliminary stage, and its basic function is to provide a vehicle to view and download materials.

One TCI consultant, on his own initiative, began working on a data base and a method for inputting all activities per cluster per consultant, on a daily basis if necessary, using Microsoft Access, for its convenience and ease of use. Later renamed the “TCI Tracker,” in its present form, it identifies activities by categories (e.g., conferences, strategies, policy initiatives), cross-referenced by time, cluster, and consultant. It is therefore possible to “track” the progress of engaging each cluster. Assuming specific parameters are created, the TCI Tracker should also serve as a performance monitoring and evaluation tool.

E. CAMBODIA

The preliminary plan for Cambodia had two components. The first was to train trainers on the concept of market-driven competitiveness, and clusters as a tool of competitiveness. The program included a 3-day training module that the instructors can use to disseminate the twin concepts directly to businesses and to academic institutions and training firms in order to achieve a multiplier effect.

The second step was to assist the SME Cambodia in expanding its rice-milling group into a rice-cluster, and in building a second cluster. With regard to this second step, the basic issue is how to establish a cluster in a (very) low-income, emerging economy, with no significant private sector and no history of business cooperation.

The competitiveness project in Cambodia is run in partnership with SMECambodia. However, its chief operating officer, Mr. Tony Knowles, is not under contract with the project. There is no resident manager and supervision falls under TCI (in Bangkok).

The USAID-approved workplan for Cambodia is based on an initial presentation involving Thailand and Cambodia made on 29 April, 2003 to Tom Elam (USAID) and subsequent discussions with Tony Knowles throughout May. This was followed by e-mail communications with Kevin Murphy, Kate Grubb and Maureen Harrington of J. E. Austin Associates, and culminating in a series of meetings from June 3-5 with Tony Knowles and members of the staff of SME Cambodia, Steve Paterson and faculty members of the National Institute of Management, and Lisa Chiles and Scott Harding of USAID.

BASIC TASKS

The project will develop and work with the fishery cluster. Businesses in Cambodia are at a “pre-cluster” state as far as industries and industry associations are concerned. The fishery industry is a “natural” cluster in that it involves several “related and supporting” firms (if not industries) such as freezing, packing, transport, quality control, etc. In the last two years, SME Cambodia has been successful in forming industry associations with a sense of purpose beyond simply surviving and making money for the individual businesses.

Development work on the fisheries cluster will take place in the context of Cambodia’s economy and infrastructure. For example, in Thailand, the fishery cluster might require sophisticated, bulk-handling, third-party logistics providers. In Cambodia, well-located ice plants might prove to be a simple but critical success factor.

The project will assist SME Cambodia in implementing its vision of a “Regional Economic Development Plan for Northwest Cambodia” by working with SME and SME industry associations to formulate strategic initiatives along the lines of a regional competitiveness council. This will take place using an approach and structure similar to the work of Michael Porter on the New England economy and related to the presentation by Maureen Harrington on the state of Massachusetts.

SME Cambodia envisions a regional development plan that is private-sector initiated rather than mandated by government directives, with industry associations grouped together with other stakeholders in the region. The overall plan will be socio-economic and system-wide. The project is focused on the more modest but specific goal of formulating and implementing strategic initiatives within the project’s time period. Once again, the caveat is that the project must “adapt” the strategy and structure to the Cambodian economic environment.

In a discussion on June 5, one issue raised was the inability of the private sector to present itself to other major players, such as the government and other multilateral aid agencies, as a critical component in the country’s economic growth. Although the private sector’s role should emerge as a consequence of the industry and cluster work in the northwest region, perhaps more direct action, such as presentations to key government and multilateral agencies, may accelerate the process of building an engaged private-sector.

The National Institute of Management expressed an interest in learning about case writing. In an exploratory meeting on June 3, the possibility of running a public program on case writing was discussed. The participants would consist of staff members from SME Cambodia and NIM. Other Cambodia-based NGOs would also be invited in order to diversify the participant mix. The output would be an analytical note and a series of cases on a key industry, such as tourism. Tourism is another “natural” cluster where related and supporting firms, such as tour operators, travel guides, etc. must work in concert with the “core” business of hotels and travel agencies.

Indicators

USAID did not recommend any specific indicators for the Competitiveness Program.

The Asia Foundation Promoting Good Governance Project

The Asia Program is coordinating a program to provide technical assistance on transparency and good governance for government organizations. In the first quarter, the majority of project activities under this program had been completed or were in their final phase with the exception of two training projects, one focusing on the development of human rights monitors and the second promoting the development of multi-disciplinary teams to combat trafficking in persons. The Foundation drafted the terms of reference for a contractor to evaluate the project prior to the formal end of the cooperative agreement on May 31, 2003.

Since the inception of the AERA Promoting Good Governance Project in September 2000, The Asia Foundation has invested in 20 sub-project activities. Fourteen of these activities were completed by the end of the 9th Quarter. Two activities, the design and implementation of a Human Rights Training Program for Master Trainers, and the related publication of a Thai-language handbook on human rights, were completed during this reporting period.

Project Evaluation

The Promoting Good Governance Project will come to a formal end May 31, 2003 after 33 months of operation. To evaluate the lessons learned from this project, and to determine the effectiveness of project activities in terms of achieving stated performance indicators, on April 4, 2003, the Foundation entered into an agreement with the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) to conduct the evaluation under the coordination of Dr. Deunden Nikomborirak. TDRI has a sound reputation for project evaluation and Dr. Deunden is a well-known Thai expert on good governance and counter-corruption. Although several other organizations could have conducted this evaluation, TDRI is the only institution among them that was not a direct or indirect beneficiary of the AERA Good Governance Project. The selection of TDRI should therefore ensure an unbiased evaluation.

PROGRAM SUB-PROJECT PROGRESS

Research on e-Procurement to Reduce Corruption

Initial findings by the Chulalongkorn Political Economy group on corruption at the district level of government highlighted the fact that the procurement of public goods and services is one of the most perplexing accountability and transparency issues in local governance. The Public Administration Association (PAA) is in the final phase of a 14-month research project to clarify: 1) the generic causes of procurement corruption; 2)

budgetary procedures that contribute to procurement corruption; and, 3) the role of public participation in the process of budgetary and procurement oversight.

The researchers have collected hundreds of sample case studies of corrupt procurement actions that have been reported in the press over recent years. Through an initial analysis of each case study, the team has categorized each problem into one of the three stages of the budgetary process (drafting, authorization, and oversight). By closer examination of each incident, the PAA team believes it will be able to catalog the specific actions or inactions that lead to or cause corruption to occur during each of the three stages of procurement. In this manner the team will be able to pinpoint specific problematic areas in the Thai procurement process.

The National Human Rights Commission's Grass Roots Monitoring System

In order to assist the National Human Rights Commission to create a nationwide network of monitors, the first benchmark that had to be achieved was the development of master trainers with the potential, in pyramid fashion, to create a nationwide pool of trainers to provide potential monitors with the knowledge and skills they will require to effectively, and safely, monitor human rights abuses in the country-side. As the first step in achieving this benchmark, the Foundation coordinated the design of a participatory, human rights training of trainers program to initiate the process of developing a pool of master trainers. After evaluation of the views expressed during an inception workshop, "Creation of a Human Rights Training Curriculum" on May 30, 2002, the Foundation organized a core working group to design the training curriculum.

The working group consisted of thirteen participatory training curriculum design experts and human rights education specialists from seven cooperating organizations: The Asia Foundation, the Women and the Constitution Network, the Coordinating Committee of Thai NGOs on Human Rights, the Union for Civil Liberty, the Association for the Promotion of Equal Rights, the Peace Information Center and Amnesty International Thailand. Members of the working group met for a series of strategy meetings and design sessions from July 1, 2002 through January 15, 2003. During this period they completed the basic design of a 70-hour training curriculum consisting of six sections. These sections are:

1. Human Rights Principles and Gender Perspectives
2. Basic Rights and Their Affirmation in Thai Laws and International Conventions
3. The Causes of Human Rights Violations and Protection Mechanisms
4. Non-Violence and Human Rights

5. Principles and Techniques for Participatory Human Rights Training
6. Hands-On Training and the Planning to Implement a Training Program

As the second step in developing the pool of master trainers, the Foundation in cooperation with its six partners, tested the 70 hour (nine-day) training program from January 20-29, 2003 in Nakorn Prathom Province to 1) test the training curriculum under actual field conditions, and 2) to training an initial 44 master trainers. In addition to the 13 master trainers drawn from the cooperating organizations, the working group invited 7 specialists to provide background lectures. These specialists included Khunying Amphorn Meesuk (NHRC Commissioner), Dr. Khothom Ariya, Phichai Srirat, Dr. Withit Mantaraphorn, Dr. Sriprapha Phetcmsiri, Dr. Phusadi Tamthai, and Dr. Chaiwat Satha-anand.

A total of 44 participants, 20 men and 24 women, successfully completed the January master training of trainers program. The participants were drawn from a cross-section of organizations, government and non-governmental, with a collective nationwide coverage and with individual missions to provide training in human rights to various target audiences. As part of the development of the training curriculum, the Foundation issued a grant to the Center for Human Rights Law and Peace Education, Sukhothai Thammathirat University Faculty of Law to publish a comprehensive handbook on human rights in the Thai language. The handbook was used as a resource for the Master Trainer Training Program and will be subsequently provided to participants in a broad range of other human rights training programs organized by partner organizations.

Enhancing Citizen Participation in Suppressing Corruption

Since the initiation of this project, the Foundation has been providing administrative and program support to two NGO's, Transparency Thailand (TT) and the Anti-Corruption Network (ACN), to promote citizen participation in suppressing corruption. The focus of TT has been on national policy level issues, while the ACN has a greater focus on participation at the local level. The organizations cooperate together in developing and implementing programs that focus on students.

In February 2002, the ACN produced 12,000 pamphlets for public distribution focusing on the government's policy toward the proposed Telecommunication Act. The pamphlet sought to draw attention to issues of conflict of interests and the emerging practice of policy corruption. Through ACN efforts these issues have attracted increased public attention and assisted in raising many questions concerning the government's policy on corruption.

In a training exercise focused on preparing a new generation less willing to accept corruption, the ACN organized a pilot training program for 27 high school teachers and administrators from Bangkok and surrounding provinces in order to promote development of a teacher's Democracy Buds Network. Given the continued sensitivities of the word "corruption" at the local level, the organizers focused on democracy as a theme, where corruption and transparency were central elements.

As the next step in creating counter-corruption clubs in schools, from March 16-26, 2003, The ACN organized two trainings programs back to back for two groups of high school students (grade 10-12) from Bangkok and surrounding provinces at the Soi Yok National Park, Kanjanaburi. Many of the 100 students (50 in each program) were drawn from the schools whose teachers had attended the November teachers' training program.

The ACN, in cooperation with Student Federation of Thailand, organized a seminar on the Rights and Freedoms of Students at Thammasat University. The students concluded that they should carefully consider what role they should play in promoting social change, as well as what should be done to raise awareness among the new generation.

Development of Public Interest Litigators

Research has demonstrated that a large percentage of corruption cases and related human rights abuses arise over land rights disputes and concerns by local communities over degradation of their immediate environment. The Thai legal system, however, is ill prepared to deal with environmental-based disputes because Thailand has few independent advocates for public interest environmental law. In order to provide citizens with access to information on these issues, as well as technical and legal aid support in disputes arising from land and environmental issues, the Foundation provided a grant in April, 2002 to the Environmental Litigation and Advocacy for the Wants (EnLAW).

EnLaw has continued development of databases to be used for public interest litigation. The database on Cobalt 60 has been completed. Other data bases under development concern groundwater lead poisoning arising from mining, industrial sewage treatment, public rights and participation in sustainable management of natural resources and a community's environment, and guidelines for the estimation of cash claims for environmental damages.

In October 2002, EnLaw conducted a training program in environmental law for younger lawyers. This was followed in late-January 2003 with a training program on Cobal-60. EnLaw had anticipated that it would subsequently conduct a series of focused training programs but a thorough evaluation of the October and January programs indicated that the focused programs were far too complicated for the participants as they lacked sufficient background in general environmental law. Therefore, they decided to cancel the focused programs for the time being, and in late-March

organized a second general training program. They anticipate there may have to be a larger series of general environmental law training programs before participants will be able to handle more focused issues.

Business Support Organizations Program Matrix

<i>BSOP Project Matrix – Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
<i>Large Grants</i>				
Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/outcomes	Partners	Status
Standards of Practice Handbook: Certified Investment and Securities Analyst Program / <i>Financial Governance</i>	The Association for Investment Management and Research (AIMR) and the Securities Analysts Association (SAA) promoted a "code of ethics" for the Thai corporate sector by translating and adapting the AIMR's manual for the Thai environment.	To build up a strong ethics and professional standards program	SAA (Thai), AIMR (US)	The project was completed in September 2001.
Support programs related to the Chartered Financial Analyst Designation/ <i>Financial Governance</i>	AIMR experts traveled to Bangkok to conduct a workshop on Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS). In addition , the 10-day review sessions in tutorial classes were delivered to prepare CISA/CFA candidates for level 1 and level 2, year 2002 exam, using Schweser materials.	to raise the quality of Thai practitioners in finance and capital markets.	SAA (Thai), AIMR (US), Schweser (US)	The project was completed in May 2002.
Upgrading the Capability of Accounting Instructors / <i>Financial Governance</i>	The Institute for Certified Auditors and Accountants of Thailand (ICAAT) developed accounting instructional aids including video tapes, computer programs and teacher's manuals to use in higher education with assistance from a US counterpart university.	Improved accounting standards particularly outside of Bangkok.	ICAAT (Thai), U.S. University	The project was completed in December 2002.
Comparative Study on Thailand's Savings and Investment Tax Policy / <i>Financial Governance</i>	The study was to examine the impact of Thailand's present tax structure on the financial and capital markets from both the economic and administrative aspects. The Security Exchange Commission of Thailand (SEC) asked for the Thai Development Research Institute with assistance from U.S. experts to conduct the study.	More attractive tax provisions for investors.	Thai SEC, TDRI,U.S. Counterpart	The project was completed in September 2001.

<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
<i>Large Grants</i>				
Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	Status
Bankruptcy Court Administration Program Part I / <i>Legislative and Judicial Reforms</i>	The American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) has provided technical assistance to the Thai Central Bankruptcy Court (CBC) in training and establishing systems to deal under the revised laws with the backlog of corporate bankruptcies.	To improve the capabilities of the CBC and develop a relationship between CBC & ABI	CBC (Thai) ABI (U.S.)	The project was completed in March 2002
Bankruptcy Court Administration Program Part II / <i>Legislative and Judicial Reforms</i>	As a result of ABI's recommendation in Part I of the program, additional technical assistance and training is to be given to CBC by the ABI-member team in area of IT. With BSOP support, the videoconferencing equipment was also installed at the CBC to connect with the Office of the Judiciary.	To increase the capabilities of CBC in handling bankruptcy cases.	CBC (Thai) ABI (U.S.)	The last training component in Thailand is pending.
Thai Bankers Handbook / <i>Corporate Governance</i>	Under a licensing agreement with the American Bankers Association (ABA), the Thai Institution for Banking and Finance Association (TIBFA) develops a handbook for all Thai Bankers by adopting ABA materials.	Completion and use of handbook throughout Thailand	TIBFA (Thai) ABA (U.S.)	TIBFA introduced a Thai Bankers' Handbook to 130 financial sector professionals and the media on March 14, 2003. The project was already completed.
Establishing TLAPS Linkage with APICS/ <i>International Competitiveness</i>	To continue its effort to establish a sustainable relationship with APICS, TLAPS will deliver a pilot training program for APICS certification. APICS CPIM certification consists of five modules. The pilot program includes five review courses to cover the CPIM's five modules. The results of the pilot program will determine future support for subsequent training programs.	To establish a sustainable relationship with APICS	TLAPS (Thai) APICS (U.S.)	The second review on Master Planning of Resources, the second module of CPIM, was held between June 20 - 22. The review course is scheduled for November 20 - 22.

<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
<i>Large Grants</i>				
Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	Status
Performance Audit Workshop / <i>Corporate Governance</i>	The training program was delivered as a two-week workshop introducing the fundamental principals, concepts, and methods of performance auditing. This workshop includes a three-day module on instructional skill to improve the ability of participants to pass on their newly acquired knowledge and skills to the Office of the Auditor General's auditors throughout the country.	To improve the capability of the OAG's auditors in performance auditing	OAG (Thai) GAO (U.S.)	The project was completed in April 2001.
Development and Implementation of the Strategic Framework and operational plan./ <i>Corporate Governance</i>	The US General Accounting Office and the Office of Inspector General, Department of Transportation (OIG/DOT) is providing technical assistance to increase the capabilities of the Office of the Auditor General of Thailand (OAG) and its officials in developing and implementing a new strategic framework and operational plan for OAG.	To devise the strategic framework and operational plan for OAG	OAG (Thai) GAO, OIG/DOT (U.S.)	Four delegates from OAG visited the U.S. organizations associated with state auditing between July 7 – 11, 2003 to learn more about best practices of the U.S. state auditing system. Ms. Suzanne Murrin, Director of Audit Planning and Technical Support, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Transportation, joined with the Thai experts to deliver the second workshop on OAG's Strategic Framework. The workshop was held between July 23 – 25 in Pattaya. The OAG strategic framework working group is working with the Thai expert team to finalize the strategic framework.

<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
<i>Large Grants</i>				
Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	Status
Building Capacity and Professional Standard for Property Valuation in Thailand / <i>Financial Governance</i>	The Appraisal Foundation (TAF) is providing technical assistance to the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) to develop a single standard, code of ethics and its audit manual for Thai valuation profession. A single, neutral standard, code of ethics and audit manual for supervision will improve the transparency and accuracy of appraisals and will have a positive impact on financial and capital markets sector.	Single standard, code of ethics, and its audit manual for Thai valuation profession	SEC (Thai) TAF (U.S.)	SEC organized a public hearing session to release concept for property valuation in Thailand contained in a new draft profession standard. The session was held September 24, 2003. After the public hearing, SEC is working to finalize the professional standard for property valuation in Thailand.
ABIH Certified Industrial Hygienist Program / <i>International Competitiveness</i>	The Occupational Health and Safety at Work Association (OHSWA) of Thailand joined with the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) to provide training and establish a certificate program	To upgrade the professional skills of Thai health officials and strengthen the relationship between OHSWA and ABIH	OHSWA (Thai) ABIH (U.S.)	The project was completed in September 2001.
Public Education Program on Credit Bureaus/ <i>Financial Governance</i>	The Fiscal Policy Office (FPO), and the Bank of Thailand (BOT) partnered with the U.S. Consumer Data Industry Association (CDIA), the Federal Trade Commission, and the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) to exchange knowledge and information on credit bureaus through public education programs.	To increase the awareness of credit information, credit reporting, credit bureaus, and the establishment and use of credit among the public, including private and government sectors	FPO, BOT (Thai) CDIA (U.S.)	The project was already completed.

<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
Large Grants				
Project Name / Objective	<i>Description</i>	Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	<i>Status</i>
SET Junior Achievement Thailand / <i>International Competitiveness</i>	The BSOP is providing support to the Thailand Securities Institutes (TSI) of the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) to organize, develop and deliver economics education programs for Thai youth and to promote Thai capital markets. Junior Achievement International (JAI), an International arm of the well-known US economic education organization, has provided the TSI with curriculum, education materials, and expert technical and training.	To promote the long-term development of the capital market and stock market in Thailand	SET-TSI (Thai) JAI (U.S.)	The training is ongoing. the translation of JAI materials has been completed.
The Bond Market Development/ <i>Financial Governance</i>	The co-operation between Thai BDC and TBMA was focused on the technical assistance and consultation, translation and adaptation of standards materials, as well as the introduction of an appropriate organizations in the U.S. to provide training course to the Thai BDC. This cooperative program aim at developing bond market in Thailand.	To develop the bond market in Thailand	Thai BDC TBMA (U.S.)	The project was already completed in September 2002.
Secured Transaction Law Development and Implementation/ <i>Legislative and Judicial Reforms</i>	American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) provided technical assistance to the Office of the Judiciary (OJ) to promote a new law on Business Secured Transaction in Thailand and to prepare the establishment of Registry Office	To promote a new Business Secured Transaction Law and to prepare for the establishment of a Registry Office	OCJ (Thai) ABI (U.S.)	The project was already completed in September 2002.
Community Leadership Training Program/ <i>Corporate Governance</i>	The Institute for Management Education for Thailand foundation (IMET) joined with The Community Leadership Association (CLA) to conduct a training on Community Leadership program to promote good community leadership throughout Thailand	To promote good community leadership throughout Thailand	IMET (Thai) CLA (U.S.)	The project was completed in September 2002

<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
<i>Large Grants</i>				
Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	Status
Mediation Center for Financial Disputes Program/ <i>Legislative and Judicial Reforms</i>	American Bankruptcy Institution (ABI) provided technical assistance and training to enhance the efficiency and capabilities of a newly-established Mediation Centre for Financial Disputes (MCFD), including mediators, financial advisors, and staff.	To enhance the ability and creativity of mediators, financial advisors, and MCFD staff	DRO (Thai) ABI (U.S.)	The project was successfully completed in September 2002
Organic Inspection Training Program/ <i>International Competitiveness</i>	The Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA) provided technical assistance to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to develop the organic crops inspection process in Thailand	To build Thai government officer's capabilities to inspect organic crops	DOA (Thai) IOIA (U.S.)	The project was completed in June 2002.
Productivity and Workplace Improvement/ <i>International Competitiveness</i>	Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA) and the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) are joining with the National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (NICE) to deliver a train-the-trainer program on "Productivity and Workplace Improvements" in Thailand.	To upgrade the skills of regional NICE officers.	NICE (Thai) OSHA (U.S.) NIOSH (U.S.)	The project has been pending.
Upgrading the Capabilities of Post and Telegraph Department's Staff for National Telecommunications Commission's Secretariat Office/ <i>Corporate Governance</i>	This training and technical assistance program is to upgrade the capabilities of the officials of the Post and Telegraph Department (PTD) in the preparation of the organization to be transformed into the Secretariat of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) which is to operate as an independent regulator regulating telecommunications, and promoting competition and liberalization.	To upgrade the capabilities of PTD's officials	PTD (Thai) FCC (U.S.)	Two U.S. experts traveled to Bangkok to conduct the third training session on "Spectrum; Standards and Management" for PTD officials. The training was held between August 18 – 20. The project was successfully completed.

<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
<i>Large Grants</i>				
Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	Status
Judicial Reform Project/ <i>Legislative and Judicial Reforms</i>	The Office of the Judiciary (OJ), the Federal Judicial Center (FJC), and the American Bar Association (ABA) have joined together to exchange knowledge and information on judicial reform issue. This training and technical assistance program aims to promote the application of new measures in the Thai courts in order to eliminate unnecessary delays and to improve efficiency in the court proceedings of economic cases.	To improve efficiency in the court proceedings	OCJ (Thai) FJC (U.S.) ABA (U.S.)	Two U.S. experts, including judge and court administrator traveled to Bangkok between August 25 – 29 to deliver a series of roundtable discussions to share the US experiences in judicial development. During their trip, they also joined with Thai judges to deliver a seminar on “Testimony Recording System for Court and Arbitration” for 300 participants, including judges, lawyers, and stakeholders.
USFDA-Approved Better Process Control Scholl (BPCS) in Thailand Year II and III/ <i>International Competitiveness</i>	The National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC) has provided the assistance to King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) to establish USFDA approved BPCS in Thailand. BPCS is the first ever school in Thailand which aims to assist Thai food exporters of low-acid canned food (LACF) and acidified foods (AF) in exporting to foreign markets.	To establish a USFDA certified BPCS in Thailand	BIOTEC, KMUTT (Thai) Purdue Univ. (U.S.)	The project was already completed.
Internal Audit Quality Assessment – Professional Practices and Training on Quality Assurance Review Program/ <i>Corporate Governance</i>		To provide KTB with quality QAR services that will help improve its good governance.	KTB, IIAT (Thai) IIA-US (U.S.)	The project was completed in November 2002

<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
Small Grants				
Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	Status
Technical Assistance for Thailand Rating Information Services (TRIS) / Financial Governance	Mr. Reed C. Parker, Volunteer Executive from IESC, had spent one month in Bangkok to provide technical assistance to TRIS in the area of credit rating from January 17 - February 11, 2000.	To strengthen Thai corporations' abilities to raise funds by improving the capabilities of TRIS in bond rating.	TRIS (Thai), IESC (US)	The project was completed in February 2000.
Technical Assistance for Thailand Rating Information Services (TRIS) - Trip # 2/ Financial governance	An expert from Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC) is providing technical assistance and training on traditional credit rating methodology to TRIS analysts. The program will also include the on-the-job training on specific cases to be rated.	To strengthen the capabilities of TRIS in credit rating methodologies and procedures, securitization	TRIS (Thai), FSVC (US)	Mr. Kenneth J.H. Pinkes, a volunteer expert from FSVC, traveled to Bangkok between June 30 - July 15 to conduct a two-week training program for TRIS staff.
APICS-TLAPS Partnership / International Competitiveness	With BSOP Support, Mr. Richard Welch, former President of APICS to travel to Bangkok to attend the TLAPS conference and to build the relationship with TLAPS in May 2000. TLAPS President and Advisor also attended APICS conference held in October 2001 under BSOP support.	To establish long-term cooperation between TLAPS and APICS	TLAPS (Thai), APICS (US)	The project was already completed.

<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
Small Grants	Description			
Project Name / Objective		Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	Status
The International Auditor Fellowship Program's field office placement 2000 / Corporate Governance	The program is a continuation of the International Auditor Fellowship program and is designed to provide the participant with training, which includes gaining practical experiences in designing and implementing audits. Mr. James Park, Director of Research and Technical Issues from the Appraisal Foundation (TAF) came over to hold talks with key Thai organizations involved in the land assessment in late August.	To improve the capabilities of the OAG staff and develop ties to the US GAO	OAG (Thai) GAO (U.S.)	Mr. Phaisarn Vorasetsiri, the 2000 GAO Fellow, was selected to participate in the on-the-job training at GAO's field office in Chicago.
Land Assessors' standard and procedures / Financial Governance	BSOP provided financial support to Mr. Dan Agopsowicz, the Board Chair of the American Board of Industrial Hygiene to deliver a seminar to the Occupational Health and Safety at Work Association in Thailand	Improve knowledge of assessors in Thai assessment organizations	Association of Thai Assessors, TAF (U.S.)	The program was completed in August 2000.
Certificate for Occupational Health and Safety / International Competitiveness	Mr. Robert B. Gilmore, an expert consultant, came to provide technical assistance and training to the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) to improve SET's knowledge of derivatives and systems to offer derivatives products.	To initiate training programs and establish a certificate program to comply with the new Labour ACT.	OHSWA (Thai), ABIH (U.S.)	The program was already completed.
SET Derivatives Program / Financial Governance	With BSOP support, the executives from the Central Credit Information Services Co., Ltd. (CCIS) and the Thai Credit Bureau Co., Ltd., attended The Credit Reporting World Conference	To prepare the SET's staff for delivering of new derivatives products.	SET (Thai), U.S. partner	The program was completed.
Thai Credit Bureau / Financial Governance	With BSOP support, the executives from the Central Credit Information Services Co., Ltd. (CCIS) and the Thai Credit Bureau Co., Ltd., attended The Credit Reporting World Conference held by the US Consumer Data Industry Association (CDIA) in 2000 and 2002	Better knowledge on credit bureaus	CCIS, TCB (Thai), CDIA (US)	The program was completed.

<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
Small Grants	Description			
Project Name / Objective		Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	Status
	Mr. Michael Decker, Vice President of Research and Policy Analysis at the Bond Market Association (TBMA) held the meetings with the Thai Bond Dealing Centre (Thai BDC) and the Thai regulators in the area of bond market development in Thailand. This is the first step of building the partnership between Thai DBC and TBMA.			
BMA – Thai BDC Partnership/ <i>Financial Governance</i>	Three US. experts from Pacific Pension Institute (PPI) provided technical assistance to Government Pension Fund (GPF) of Thailand and gave their presentations at the "World Class Fund Management" conference held by GPF.	To build the partnership between Thai BDC and TBMA	Thai BDC, TBMA (U.S.)	The trip has been completed
International Pension Exchange Program/ <i>Financial Governance</i>	With BSOP support, Dr. Thammanoon Phitayaporn, to attend the International Colloquium on Secured Transactions to discuss the first preliminary draft Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)	To educate GPF staff on pension fund management	GPF (Thai), PPI (U.S.)	The project was completed in May 2001.
Secured Transaction Law Development and Implementation/ <i>Legislative and Judicial Reforms</i>	Under BSOP support to the Post and Telegraph Department (PTD), the Communication Authority of Thailand (CAT) and the Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT) sent the delegation to attend the "Southern Asian Telecommunications Regulatory Workshop" in Jakarta, Indonesia. In addition, the BSOP also has provided expert assistance to set up regulatory procedures for Thai National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).	To share Thailand's views on Secured Transactions Law with international communities	OJ (Thai) UNCITRAL	The project was completed.
<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				

Small Grants	Description			
Thai Telecommunication Development/ <i>International Competitiveness</i>	Under BSOP support to the Post and Telegraph Department (PTD), the Communication Authority of Thailand (CAT) and the Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT) sent the delegation to attend the "Southern Asian Telecommunications Regulatory Workshop" in Jakarta, Indonesia. In addition, the BSOP also has provided expert assistance to set up regulatory procedures for Thai National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).	To develop regulatory procedures for Thai NTC.	PTD (Thai), CAT (Thai), TOT (Thai), U.S. expert	The project was completed.
Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	Status
Bankruptcy Law Reform Project/ <i>Legislative and Judicial Reforms</i>	Mr. George M. Kelakos made his preliminary trip to Bangkok to discuss the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI)'s technical assistance in the issues related to bankruptcy law reform with the Council of State (COS). With BSOP support, the Supreme Court of Thailand sent two judges to participate in Judicial Administration and Reform Course held in Sydney, Australia between June 2 – 21, 2002. The course was organized by the International Development Law Institute (IDLI) to review international and regional initiatives in the field of judicial administration and governance, and to provide forum for discussion of judicial reform issues arising in the Asia-Pacific region.	To promote bankruptcy law reform in Thailand	COS (Thai) ABI (U.S.)	The project was completed in April 2002.

<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	Status
Judicial Administration and Reform Course/ <i>Legislative and Judicial Reforms</i>	Three senior judges from the Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court participated in the conference on Judicial Capacity regarding Intellectual Property – Enforcement and Dispute Settlement held in Washington D.C., U.S. between September 12 – 13, 2002. The conference is organized by the United States Patent and Trade Mark Office (USPTO) and the International Intellectual Property Institute (IIFI) to provide a forum for participants from developed and developing countries to share their experiences in Intellectual Property Enforcement and Dispute Settlement.	To promote judicial administration and reform	The Supreme Court (Thai), IDLI	The project was completed.
Judicial Capacity regarding Intellectual Property – Enforcement and Dispute Settlement/ <i>Legislative and Judicial Reforms</i>	Three senior judges from the Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court participated in the conference on Judicial Capacity regarding Intellectual Property – Enforcement and Dispute Settlement held in Washington D.C., U.S. between September 12 – 13, 2002. The conference is organized by the United States Patent and Trade Mark Office (USPTO) and the International Intellectual Property Institute (IIFI) to provide a forum for participants from developed and developing countries to share their experiences in Intellectual Property Enforcement and Dispute Settlement.	To share Thailand’s experiences on IPR with international	IP&IT court (Thai), IIFI (U.S.)	The project was completed in September 2002

<i>Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ outcomes	Partners	Status
	BSOP provided partial support for the Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court to organize the 5 th Annual Symposium on Intellectual Property Law: New Dimension in Present and Future. The symposium was held between December 2 – 3 in Bangkok.			
The 5 th Annual Symposium on Intellectual Property Law: New Dimension in Present and Future/ <i>Legislative and Judicial Reforms</i>	The BSOP in collaboration with the Thai Bankers' Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Office, and the World Bank organized a one-day workshop entitled "Negotiating and Mediating NPL Settlements Effectively." The workshop was conducted by two U.S. experts from the American Bankruptcy Institute, Mr. Jacob Esher, Senior Mediator, JAMS, and Mr. George M. Kelakos, Special Counsel, Heller Ehrman Attorneys. The participants included 50 bankers and representatives from Thai Asset Management Corporation (TAMC) and the Corporate Debt Restructuring Advisory Committee (CDRAC) of the Bank of Thailand.	To expose Thai public to international practices of IPR	IP&IT court (Thai), IIFI (U.S.)	The project was completed.
Workshop for bankers on negotiating and mediating NPL settlements effectively/ <i>Financial and Corporate Governance</i>	Two US experts, Dr. Mark Tang of World Technology Ventures, and Dr. Frances Toneguzzo, Director of Licensing, MGH, Harvard Medical School, traveled to Thailand to deliver an introductory training course on IP Management to BAC consultants. Subsequently, KIASIA and BIOTEC co-organized a full-day workshop on "Bioentrepreneurship" on July 18, as part of the BioThailand 2003 conference in Pattaya. The US experts joined Thai and international experts presented to 80 researchers, entrepreneurs,	to promote mediation to resolved financial cases in the courts in order to strengthen Thailand's financial and judiciary systems	TBA, ADR (Thai), ABI (U.S.), World Bank	The activity was completed.

	government and corporate participants.			
IP and Bioentrepreneurship Training Workshops/ <i>International Competitiveness</i>		To raise the awareness concerning bioentrepreneurship in Thailand	KIAsia, BIOTEC (Thai), IPI (U.S.)	The activities were completed. A series of follow-up training courses are planned.

Border Action Against Malaria Project Matrix

<i>BAAM Projects Approved for Funding</i>				
<i>Large Grants</i>				
Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ Outcomes	Partners	Status
<p>Strengthening of Sentinel Surveillance System for Anti-malarial Drug Resistance in Thailand / <i>Surveillance of MDR Malaria</i></p>	<p>With the Malaria Group of the Bureau of Vector-Borne Diseases (MOPH) as focal point, the ADR surveillance network comprises malaria clinics under responsibility of regional Vector Borne Disease Control Offices 1-5, provincial and district community hospitals, and academic field research stations. Nine border provinces with high malaria incidence are selected as sentinel sites, <i>i.e.</i>, Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, Tak, Kanchanaburi, Ranong, Ratchaburi, Ubon Ratchathani, Chanthaburi, and Trat. Main activities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training on <i>in vivo</i> therapeutic efficacy assessment and <i>in vitro</i> sensitivity study; 2. <i>In vivo</i> therapeutic efficacy assessment of the first line treatment regimens; 3. <i>In vitro</i> sensitivity study of the currently used anti-malarial drugs; 4. Establishment of an information center for ADR network at the Malaria Division. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To establish a network of sentinel surveillance sites for monitoring anti-malarial drug resistance in Thailand 2. To study the current situation of anti-malarial drugs in Thailand both <i>in vivo</i> and <i>in vitro</i> 3. To strengthen the cooperation among sentinel sites in country and among neighboring countries towards sharing anti-malarial drug resistance information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Malaria Group, Bureau of Vector-Borne Diseases • Provincial and district hospitals • Mahidol University • Siriraja Hospital • Thammasat University • The Royal Thai Armed Forces Research Institute for Medical Science • WHO 	<p>Initial training completed; sentinel surveillance by <i>in vivo</i> therapeutic efficacy study and <i>in vitro</i> sensitivity study of the currently used anti-malarial drugs is on-going in 9 sentinel sites.</p> <p>Results of monitoring drug resistance in were analyzed at national technical workshops in 2002 and 2003. Revisions to sites where combination therapy is recommended as first-line therapy and revised treatment regimen is being finalized. The national malaria drug policy committee is revising manuals on treatment guidelines for physicians and health workers.</p>

BAAM Projects Approved for Funding

Large Grants

Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ Outcomes	Partners	Status
<p>Community-Based Malaria Control Along the Thai-Cambodia Border Through Civic Partnerships in Chantaburi and Trat Provinces / Health System Reform –Decentralized Response Strategies and Effective Partnership Models</p>	<p>The main concept of the project is to strengthen community involvement in malaria control and toward self-reliance in the long run through the process of standardized method of working for prevention, cure, and control, by community-based work to improve the potential of community and local agencies to address the malaria problem by themselves with support by related health personnel and other multi-disciplinary teams.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To initiate malaria epidemiology information center in the community. 2) To improve prevention in high-risk groups. 3) To promote community participation in solving problem of prevention in high-risk groups, and promote use of dipstick test for early diagnosis. 4) To promote community participation to address malaria with support by government organizations 5) To build capacity of health personnel and volunteers, including health personnel from Cambodia border areas if requested to create a network for disease control by communities themselves in the long run. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOPH, VBDC, VDDUs • Chantaburi and Trat Provincial Public Health Offices • District Health Offices and Health Centers • Schools • High-risk groups • Village health volunteers • Government agencies • Community leaders 	<p>Orientation workshops on conducted, community civil-society forums on malaria problem, analysis, and action planning conducted in Chantaburi and Trat Provinces.</p> <p>Training on use of GIS for malaria control conducted in Chantaburi Province.</p> <p>Workshop conducted on community epidemiology for multi-sectoral local malaria control core participants in Trat Province, and training held on improved diagnosis and treatment of malaria in Trat Province.</p> <p>Community malaria core teams established and trained; stakeholder awareness and planning sessions conducted for community-based control projects..</p>

BAAM Projects Approved for Funding

Large Grants

Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ Outcomes	Partners	Status
<p>Developing and producing dipstick dye immunoassays utilizing dye particle-linked monoclonal antibodies developed against pLDH and pGAPDH for malaria antigen detection / Increased Access to Rapid Parasitological Diagnosis and Effective Treatment</p>	<p>Preparing and purifying pLDH and pGAPDH for raising monoclonal antibodies, followed by research and development to determine the feasibility of local production of dipstick dye immunoassays utilizing dye particle-linked monoclonal antibodies developed against pLDH and pGAPDH for malaria antigen detection of both <i>P. falciparum</i> and non-<i>P. falciparum</i>.</p> <p><i>General objective: To locally produce a rapid, simplified, reliable and maximized sensitivity dipstick dye immunoassay utilizing dye particle-linked monoclonal antibody against pLDH and pGAPDH for detecting malaria antigens of falciparum and non-falciparum malaria in human blood by using our national resources.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To raise/characterize MABs against pLDH and pGAPDH, maximize test sensitivity, genetic diversity to the <i>P. f.</i> parasite population, and not react to non-malaria antigen. 2. To develop a rapid, simplified, sensitive, and specific dipstick assay to detect asexual erythrocytic stage of <i>P.f.</i> and non-<i>P.f.</i> 3. To increase sensitivity, aiming at 100% for densities of >100 parasites per μl blood in four species. 4. To improve readability of tests (better signal intensity & avoidance of mix-ups). 5. To evaluate relative sensitivity/specificity of the antigen detection dipstick method for <i>P. f.</i> malaria field diagnosis compared to microscopy. 6. To set up a quality control system for sensitivity and specificity. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bureau of Vector-Borne Diseases, Department of Disease Control, MOPH 2. National Institute of Health, Department of Medical Sciences, MOPH 	<p>Cloning and expression of pLDH in <i>E. coli</i> by genetic engineering obtained expressed fusion protein. By affinity purification, the protein obtained had high purity and good yield, and these proteins show the pLDH enzyme activity; Pre-immunized sera of rabbits were determined for the reactivity with pLDH and GST proteins by western blot analysis. Reactivity of the immunize sera was characterized by western blot analysis, followed by standardization of ELISA assay, determination of appropriate blocking solution in ELISA assay, and titration of polysera, which showed that the titer of reactivity with GST was lower than pLDH about 10-100 fold, indicating that the sera could react with pLDH with more specificity than GST.</p>

BAAM Projects Approved for Funding

Large Grants

Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ Outcomes	Partners	Status
<p>Partnerships for a School-based Approach to Community Action Against Malaria / <i>Effective Partnership Models</i></p>	<p>The project builds partnerships to develop a model for a school-based approach to community action against malaria as a strategy for developing knowledge, attitudes, skills and behavior necessary for community-based self-reliant action against malaria in highly endemic border. The model comprises the following key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A process for participatory learning and action against malaria by the school and community; • Use of case study approach on a whole school basis to study the local malaria situation and identify alternative solutions; • Use of life skills education methods to enhance the case study approach and develop/change behavior to prevent and reduce malaria; • Development of learning materials to support discovery learning; • Mobilization of communities for self-reliant action against malaria; • Provision of technical support to schools and communities; • Leveraging resources from local sub-district councils to support community malaria prevention and control plans and projects <p>Phase II (replication trials) began in October 2002 with expansion to include 40 schools in Tak, Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, Chantaburi, and Trat Provinces.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To strengthen capacity of schools and teachers to facilitate participatory learning and action by students and communities to prevent and control malaria. 2. To raise awareness and mobilize community action to prevent and control malaria. 3. To set up an example of a working model with multi-sectoral organizations collaborating as equal stakeholders. 4. To build on lessons learned and best practices for expansion of coverage to other endemic border areas facing increasingly multi-drug resistant malaria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Education - Office of National Primary Education Commission: Office of Special Projects, Office of Supervision and Standards, Offices Provincial Primary Education Commissions in Tak, Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, Chantaburi, Trat • Health Behavior Development Group, Malaria Division • Regional Disease Control Offices, Vector Borne Disease Control Centers and Units • The Life Skills Development Foundation • Rajabhat Institute Chiang Mai • Border Patrol Police Bureau 	<p>Phase I (model-building): 200 teachers, principals, education supervisors from 25 schools in 4 districts received 25 days of training in 5 workshops. Students completed community malaria situation assessments, analyzed alternatives, and shared with community leaders in consultation workshops to reach consensus on action plans and projects. Community-generated malaria control projects were screened and approved for funding support. A participatory process evaluation was conducted in August 2002</p> <p>109 grade 4-9 teachers and supervisors from 15 expansion schools received 10 days of training, conducted surveys of community health problems and malaria KAP, teachers trained on in-depth malaria situation analysis; situation assessments completed in 15 expansion communities.</p>

BAAM Projects Approved for Funding

Small Grants

Project Name / Objective	Description	Objectives/ Outcomes	Partners	Status
<p>Thailand Roll Back Malaria Strategic Planning Workshop / <i>Effective Partnership Models</i></p>	<p>BAAM Project Coordinating Unit organized a multi-agency gathering of key stakeholders in malaria control. Working group sessions were held to obtain input on key strategies for renewed joint efforts to control malaria with special focus on border areas and multi-drug resistant malaria. Deliberations focused on the following thematic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis, treatment, case management • Community/household prevention • Epidemiology, surveillance, mapping, GIS • Decentralization, health system reform, responsibilities, and processes for community participation • Staff capacity building and training methodologies • Participatory learning processes, and prototypes for action in target communities • International organizations/agencies and their contribution to Thailand Roll Back Malaria <p>The thematic working groups presented results of their discussions in the form of recommended strategies, activities, support needed, and potential partner agencies for comments and plenary discussion.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To seek approaches and mechanisms for mutual cooperation for more successful malaria control. 2. To provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to present experience and share ideas to move toward formulation of key joint strategies for collaboration in systematically advancing as appropriate and necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOPH • Mahidol University • Thai and US AFRIMS • Royal Project Bureau • Royal Thai Army • Border Patrol Police Bureau • Hilltribe Welfare Division, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare • Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board • Office of the National Primary Education Commission • The Life Skills Dev. Foundation • IMPECT • IRC • ACTMalaria • MSF • PATH Canada • UNICEF • WHO • USAID 	<p>Workshop completed in July 2000. Participants from the wide range of organizations involved in anti-malaria efforts in Thailand were able to achieve a considerable degree of consensus on four principal strategies for rolling back malaria in Thailand.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surveillance and response: epidemic preparedness, prevention and control 2. Early diagnosis, prompt and effective treatment 3. Household and community prevention 4. Health system reform and decentralization to support local self-reliance in malaria control 5. Collaboration and coordination with equal partnerships among local implementing agencies <p>Program strategies, operational strategies, and potential partner agencies were compiled into a national strategic framework for Roll Back Malaria in Thailand.</p>

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Participatory action research planning workshop in Chantaburi Province / <i>Effective Partnership Models</i>	Following on focus group discussions conducted with more than 200 malaria high-risk villagers in Chantaburi Province, MOPH Vector Borne Disease Control Office No. 5 organized a planning workshop with local government officials, informal employers and high-risk forest-related occupation groups from Pong Nam Ron and Soi Dao Districts. Working groups provided input into formulation of proposals for subgrants to support development of appropriate interventions for a community-based approach to malaria control in Thai-Cambodian border areas.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To review results of focus group discussions with malaria high-risk groups. 2. To generate input on interventions emphasizing self-reliance. 3. To identify collaborating partners and their potential roles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOPH VBDO No. 5, VBDC, VDDUs • Chantaburi Provincial Public Health Office • District Health Offices and Health Centers • Border Patrol Police • Royal Thai Marines • Principals and teachers • Informal employers • High-risk groups • Village health vols. 	Workshop completed in August 2001. Input used to formulate action research proposal planned for funding in FY 2002.
Participatory action research planning workshops in Trat Province / <i>Effective Partnership Models</i>	MOPH Vector Borne Disease Control Office No. 5 organized two planning workshops in Trat Province, with local government officials, informal employers, subdistrict council members, and high-risk forest-related occupation groups from Bo Rai, Muang, and Klong Yai Districts. Working groups provided input into formulation of proposals for subgrants to support development of appropriate interventions for a community-based approach to malaria control in Thai-Cambodian border areas. These workshops were followed by consultations with key officials of Vector Borne Disease Control Office No. 5 on formulating a proposal for subgrant support from BAAM.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To review results of focus group discussions with malaria high-risk groups. 5. To generate input on interventions emphasizing self-reliance. 6. To identify collaborating partners and their potential roles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • , MOPH VBDO No. 5, VBDC, VDDUs • Chantaburi Provincial Public Health Office • District Health Offices and Health Centers • Border Patrol Police • Royal Thai Army and Marines • School Principals and teachers • Informal employers • High-risk groups • Village health vols. 	Workshops completed in November 2001. Input used to formulate action research proposal planned for funding in FY 2002.

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USAID Roll Back Malaria Partners' Meeting: Informal Consultation on Monitoring Anti-malarial Drug Quality and Use Practices / <i>Surveillance of MDR Malaria</i>	BAAM Project Coordinating Unit organized a series of meetings from September 12-14, 2001 for consultations on monitoring drug quality and use practices among representatives of USAID Roll Back Malaria partners in Thailand, Cambodia, the U.S.A, and WHO.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To identify important issues related to drug quality control and drug use practices in border areas; To identify priority actions needed to initiate study and monitoring of drug quality and use practices as components of sentinel surveillance; To identify potential implementing actors in study and monitoring of drug quality and use practices; To identify opportunities for technical cooperation, and support needed to implement study and monitoring of drug quality and use practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USAID WHO Royal Thai Government Ministry of Public Health Cambodian Ministry of Health US Pharmacopeia Management Sciences for Health ACTMalaria KIAsia - BAAM PCU 	The consultation meetings are completed. The consultations resulted in identification of important issues and priority actions needed to initiate/implement study and monitoring of drug quality and drug use practices as integral components of sentinel surveillance of anti-malarial drug resistance with a focus on Thailand and Cambodia.
Training of village health/malaria volunteers and sub-district council members / <i>Health System Reform – Decentralized Response Strategies and Effective Partnership Models</i>	BAAM Project Coordinating Unit collaborated with VBDO Nos. 1 and 2 to organize 2 training workshops for village health/malaria volunteers and sub-district council members on in-depth community malaria situation analysis; prevention, control and treatment of malaria; and coordinating planning for community action against malaria.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To increase knowledge, attitudes and behavior related to malaria. To understand analysis of risk and community malaria epidemiological situation. To prepare for collaboration with schools in analyzing alternative actions and formulating community malaria action plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VBDO No. 1 and 2, VBDCs and VBDOs Village health/malaria volunteers Sub-district council members Provincial Primary Education Offices The Life Skills Development Foundation 	Training workshops were completed in February 2002. Volunteers and sub-district council members from communities served by 25 schools in 4 districts have increased knowledge about malaria, situation/risk analysis, and are prepared to collaborate in school-community malaria action planning workshops in July 2002.

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Write shop to summarize one year implementation of the Partnerships for a School-based Approach to Community Action Against Malaria Project / <i>Effective Partnership Models</i>	BAAM Project Coordinating Unit collaborated with the Special Projects Office of the Office of the National Primary Education Commission to organize a write shop to summarize implementation at the whole-school level and at each grade level from kindergarten to grade 9 under the Partnerships for a School-based Approach to Community Action Against Malaria Project.	1. To summarize results of first year implementation including learning processes, curriculum linkages, and teaching plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Projects Office of the Office of the National Primary Education Commission • Provincial and District Offices of Primary Education • The Life Skills Development Foundation • BAAM PCU 	Write shop completed in April 2002. Representatives of 25 schools in 4 districts summarized implementation, learning processes, content, life skills, problems, and solutions.
Transfer of technology training on preparing and purifying pLDH and pGAPDH for raising monoclonal antibodies / <i>Increased Access to Rapid Parasitological Diagnosis and Effective Treatment</i>	Dr. Pongwit Bualombai of the Malaria Division was sent to the University of Manchester to participate in a short training course on preparing and purifying pLDH and pGAPDH for raising monoclonal antibodies. If this is successful, it will be followed by research and development to determine the feasibility of local production of dipstick dye immunoassays utilizing dye particle-linked monoclonal antibodies developed against pLDH and pGAPDH for malaria antigen detection of both <i>P. falciparum</i> and non- <i>P. falciparum</i> .	1. Transfer of technology on preparing and purifying pLDH and pGAPDH for raising monoclonal antibodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malaria Division, Department of Communicable Disease Control, MOPH • National Institute of Health, Department of Medical Sciences, MOPH 	Dr. Pongwit Bualombai is undergoing training at the Department of Molecular Biology, University of Manchester, and will return in July.