Green Growth

Case Study

Low Carbon Green Growth Initiatives

March 2013

Jaroenpong Suppatheerathada
Budget Analyst, Bureau of the Budget, Thailand
Email: jaroenpong@bb.go.th

Myanmar
Laos
Thailand
Cambodia

Quick facts

Zone	Thailand
Time Frame	Since 2012
Topic	Sustainable and low carbon econmic growth in Thailand
Implementing Agency	The Bureau of the Budget in Thailand

Policy Details

The term Green Growth refers to sustainable economic and social dimensions within a supportive environment. The vision, mission, and objectives of the Eleventh National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016) are major steps for Thailand in supporting Green Growth. The basis of this development plan is recognizing the issues surrounding the country.

The first issue that needs to be addressed pertains to carbon emissions, as Thailand ranks 24th in countries leading in carbon emissions. It has been estimated that the average person in Thailand contributes about 5.6 tons of carbon emission annually. This rate, which has been increased due to the expansion of industry, transportation, and energy, is very high when compared to other nations in ASEAN.

The second issue is land use and how the land in Thailand needs to be utilized and distributed better in order to decrease the percentage of deforestation. Lastly, health problems need to be addressed, focusing especially on sanitation and contaminants in food.

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To be more sustainable, manufacturers must change their manufacturing process to be more eco-friendly and consumers must encourage manufacturers to be more aware of pollution. Modifications to the transportation system are essential as well, with an emphasis on a road to rail transfer to reduce energy consumption, traffic congestion, and carbon emissions. Efficient use of resources and regulations regarding tax and financial measures must be implemented.

The Bureau of the Budget in Thailand is responsible for national fiscal and budget policies, as well as the allocation of the budget to support Green Growth in the future. The Bureau has collaborated with the Ministry of Finance to set fiscal and budget policies to support a green economy by creating tax incentives to change consumer behavior. Other priorities include reducing subsidies of import tariffs on equipment that aids environmental issues, providing benefits to businesses that modify devices to save energy, improving the rate of duty to promote natural gas for transportation, and implementing penalties for companies causing pollution.

Currently, the Council of State Committee is considering financial measures and budgets that support the environment. Some of these measures and budgets include adjusting car taxes, adjusting rates of carbon emissions, encouraging the private sector toward energy saving research, reducing corporate income tax for using energy efficient equipment, and monitoring projects and funds focused on supporting Green Growth.

All proposals and suggestions are still in the early stages of preparation and initiation. Ultimately, there needs to be a commitment from all the parties involved and capable individuals who can apply the proposed fiscal and budget policies to support Thailand in Green Growth initiatives in the near future.

References

The following documents informed the development of this paper:

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