



**Governing Council
of the
United Nations
Development Programme**

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/CP/THA/NOTE/4
3 October 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Special session
February 1987, New York
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THAILAND

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. The country programming exercise started with a comprehensive assessment of the third country programme which, in addition to an appraisal of overall programme and project performance in relation to national development priorities, examined and reviewed the methodology and experience with new dimensions and modalities and implications for the future. All the constraining factors were discussed frankly with the Government and steps are being taken to solve the problems identified, among other things by a more realistic analysis of national capacities and the capacity of executing agencies for timely delivery of inputs at the project design stage.

2. The Resident Representative's Note was developed shortly afterwards and provides a framework for technical co-operation in the fourth country programme. The Note reflected the Resident Representative's perceptions, based on the assessment of the third country programme, discussions with the Government co-ordinating agency, the Department of Technical and Economic Co-operation (DTEC) and the national planning agency, the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) as well as with key ministries on sectoral priorities. In this connection, the Government's Summary Direction of the sixth development plan provided a basis for setting the direction of the next country programme. In addition, the Economic Review Report of the World Bank and sectoral studies undertaken by Government and national research agencies provided valuable information.

3. The Note articulated, in particular, national concerns on the need for administrative reform to keep pace with the Government's development strategies; the development of educational skills and training relevant to national needs; the

growth of exports through diversification of production with less dependence on primary products, and the preservation and conservation of natural resources. These concerns are reflected in the themes eventually selected for UNDP assistance.

4. United Nations agencies, notably the United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), fielded programming and project formulation missions while the DTEC and UNDP offices maintained a close dialogue with regional offices of United Nations agencies located in Thailand. Advantage was also taken of visiting missions from UNIDO, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), the United Nations Department for Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCO), the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Bank (IBRD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to discuss technical issues in programme development with DTEC, Government agencies and UNDP. Several United Nations agencies also provided written proposals.

5. Regular consultations were held with representatives of IBRD, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Japan, Australia and Italy, for possibilities of joint programming and co-financing. Successful negotiations were concluded for joint programming with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) for an integrated rural development project in the highlands. Further possibilities of joint programming with UNFPA and UNFDAC were also explored.

6. Through such processes, some 160 project proposals received from government line ministries, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were screened for inclusion in the country programme. In the selection of projects for the country programme, cognizance was taken of the availability of technical assistance resources from other donor agencies. Because of the need to carry out detailed investigations before allocation of project-specific financial resources, many of the projects identified in the country programme are reflected only as concepts at this stage.

II. THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

7. Given the joint conclusions of the Government and UNDP that the thematic approach adopted for the third country programme had worked well in providing a framework for the development of projects in support of government priorities, the continuation of this approach into the fourth country programme is welcomed.

8. Within the policy framework of the Government's sixth development plan and the priorities articulated in its ten Working Programmes, the following four themes were selected as focal points for the development of clusters of projects with common linkages: (a) economic management and institutional reform; (b) human resources and social development; (c) production, marketing and research and development in new technologies; and (d) natural resources and environmental management.

9. The objectives of each of the themes will contribute towards the achievement of the two main targets of the sixth plan, i.e. an economic growth rate of 5 per cent through policies geared to encourage effective employment generation, distribution of income and maintenance of economic balance and the development of human resources by improving the quality of education, training and the delivery of basic services.

10. The selection of projects within the themes required taking account of the fact that Thailand receives assistance from a wide range of donors whose budget allocations exceed UNDP's resources in many instances. Linkages therefore became particularly important and the Government and UNDP carefully identified projects and clusters of projects which are expected to play a catalytic role in critical areas by complementing the inputs of other donors.

11. In addition to provisional resource allocations to themes, 8.7 per cent of the total IPF has been allocated to the unprogrammed reserve so as to respond to unforeseen requirements and contingencies.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

12. Given the need for flexibility in the implementation of the country programme so as to be responsive to emerging national needs and priorities, as well as to ensure the continuing relevance of ongoing projects to national needs, periodic reviews of the programme will be held. The country programme will also serve as a frame of reference for the co-ordination of activities with donor agencies to identify opportunities for joint programming and/or project cost-sharing and co-financing.

13. Projects will be continuously monitored to ensure quality, delivery and cost-effectiveness. The Government's role in project execution will be strengthened through the use of add-on funds earned from support cost refunds for staff training and development in project design, appraisal and monitoring.

14. The country programme reflects the Government's intention to co-operate closely with UNDP in the development of projects identified in the country programme, not only to ensure rapid project appraisal and approval, but to pay special attention to the design of projects so that they have maximum potential of achieving their objectives. The Government has therefore invited UNDP to be directly associated with the Technical Services Division of its Aid Co-ordinating Agency, DTEC, in the technical appraisal of projects.

15. The Project Development Facility will be used, on a selective basis, in the formulation of those projects which require particularly extensive investigations. It is also foreseen that in the formulation of projects, specific attention will be paid to the many implementation options available under the "New Dimensions in Technical Co-operation", cost-sharing, Government execution, national experts, umbrella projects and TCDC.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

16. The Administrator endorses the country programme for Thailand and recommends its approval by the Governing Council.
