

An Introductory Overview

Thai Public Policy Forum

May 10, 2007

Boston, MA

Background

- ❑ The Thai Public Policy Forum (“TPPF”) was founded in 2005 by a group of Thai students at MIT and Harvard with the intention of fostering multi-disciplinary dialogue on the most relevant public policy issues affecting Thailand and its people
- ❑ The complexity of globalization, democratization, and capitalism has blurred the boundary between public and private spheres. Actions taken by the private sector inevitably affect the greater public and vice versa, making public-private partnership a necessity
- ❑ TPPF was born out of the believe that positive changes and socioeconomic development can be brought about through mutual understanding and cooperation among individuals across different disciplines
- ❑ Boston provides the right venue for TPPF given its sizeable population of Thai scholars and researchers across diverse fields of studies such as: engineering, medical science, business administrations, political science, social science, etc.

Objectives of the Organization

The objectives of TPPF are four folds:

1

Raise Awareness of Problems

- Raise social awareness of the most pressing problems
- Decipher the implications on the future of the Thailand and its impact to the Thai people

2

Identify Causes & Develop Solutions

- Use multidisciplinary approach to identify root causes to public policy problems
- Develop holistic solutions and policy tools integrating the breadth and depth of expertise across disciplines

3

Promote Positive Changes

- Translate knowledge into individual actions in our own respective fields
- Encourage small individual actions across fields and industries to facilitate system wide change

4

Create Social & Cooperative Network

- Create a multidisciplinary network of future leaders who strive to make a positive difference in their respective field
- Promote cooperation among Thai scholars and working professionals

Long-term Development of
Thailand Public Policy

“The goal of TPPF is to promote multidisciplinary cooperation among Thai scholars, policy makers, and professionals to identify problems facing Thailand and develop an integrated solution for political, social, and economic welfare of its people”

Past Thai Public Policy Forums

Date	Forum Topic	Issues Covered in the Discussion
October 6, 2005 <i>Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University</i> <i>Guest Speaker:</i>	<i>“Contemporary SEA Regional Affairs, the Thai-Malaysia Relations, and the Southern Unrest”</i> <i>Khun Kittti Wasinondh, the Director-General of Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ International relations between Thailand and Malaysia❑ Unrest in Southern Thailand❑ Current ASEAN regional affairs
November 2, 2005 <i>Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University</i> <i>Guest Speaker:</i>	<i>“Privatization and Liberalization of the Telecommunication Industry in Thailand”</i> <i>Sopon Asawanuchit, Former Financial Advisor on Privatization Plan to TOT</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Deregulation of the telecom industry❑ Privatization of TOT and CAT❑ Implications socioeconomic development
November 20, 2005 <i>Sidney & Pacific Graduate Dormitory, MIT</i>	<i>“EGAT and the Privatization of State-owned Enterprises in Thailand”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Cost benefit analysis of EGAT privatization❑ Stakeholder analysis (consumers, producers, regulator/government, labor union, etc.)❑ Balancing public goods with national competitiveness

Past Thai Public Policy Forums (Cont'd)

Date	Forum Topic	Issues Covered in the Discussion
<p>December 10, 2005 <i>Harvard Center of Population and Development Study, Cambridge, MA</i></p> <p><i>Guest Speaker:</i></p>	<p>“Thailand Commercial Sex Industry and its Implications on Social and Public Health Policy”</p> <p><i>M.D. Piya Hanvoravongchai, Sc.D. Candidate Harvard School of Public Health</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ HIV/AIDS and other public health issues relating to the Thai commercial sex industry□ Socioeconomic analysis and case studies□ Costs and benefits of sex worker registration
<p>February 4, 2006 <i>Sidney & Pacific Graduate Dormitory, MIT</i></p> <p><i>Guest Speaker:</i></p>	<p>“Thailand's Central Bank and its roles in the future”</p> <p><i>Vijak Sethaput, Ph.D. Candidate Computer Science, Harvard University and Bank of Thailand Scholar</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ History of the BOT and its role in Thailand economic and financial sector development□ BOT during and after the financial crisis□ Thailand monetary and payment system□ The future role of BOT in the globalization and liberalization of the Thai economy

Past Thai Public Policy Forums (Cont'd)

Date	Forum Topic	Issues Covered in the Discussion
February 10, 2006 <i>Sidney & Pacific Graduate Dormitory, MIT</i> <i>Guest speaker:</i>	"Life Lessons of a Policy Maker Turned Leading Business Professional" <i>Sigve Brekke, CEO of DTAC</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Life experience of Mr. Brekke as Norway's Deputy Minister of Defense and his transition to become CEO of DTAC□ Telenor takeover of DTAC□ Competitive landscape of the Thai telecom industry
March 4, 2006 <i>Sidney & Pacific Graduate Dormitory, MIT</i>	"Current, Past, and Possible Future of Thai Politic and Government"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Events leading to the political crisis□ History of the Thai constitutions□ Implications of Thai Rak Thai policies
March 9, 2006 <i>Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University</i>	"Proposal to the Current Political Gridlock in Thailand (2006)"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Drafted an open letter and proposal to resolve the political stalemate□ Submitted the open letter with our recommendations to Prime Minister Thaksin, Democrat Party, Newspapers, etc.

Past Thai Public Policy Forums (Cont'd)

Date	Forum Topic	Issues Covered in the Discussion
<p>April 6, 2006 <i>Sidney & Pacific Graduate Dormitory, MIT</i></p> <p><i>Guest Speaker:</i></p>	<p>“Higher Education Reform in Thailand”</p> <p><i>Prof Dr. Pornchai Matangkasombut, President of Mahidol university and chairperson of the Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Problems and challenges facing Thai university system□ Implications and social impact of privatization plan of Thai state universities□ Cost and benefit analysis of Mahidol University□ Career development and career path of scientists in the "new" educational system
<p>April 24, 2006 <i>Sidney & Pacific Graduate Dormitory, MIT</i></p>	<p>“Thailand's Path to Sustainable Development and How Each of Us Can Contribute”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ National competitiveness and challenges facing Thailand economic development□ Implications of bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTA)

Past Thai Public Policy Forums (Cont'd)

Date	Forum Topic	Issues Covered in the Discussion
<p>November 4, 2006 <i>Sidney & Pacific Graduate Dormitory, MIT</i></p> <p><i>Guest Speakers:</i></p>	<p><i>“The Future of Thailand After the Military Coup”</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Kriengsak Charoenwongsak, Member of Parliament and Executive Board of Democrat Party</i></p> <p><i>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Parichart Sthapitanonda, Faculty of Communications, Chulalongkorn University</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ History of Thailand political and democratic struggles□ Analysis of the military coup d’etat and its implications to the socio-political development of the Thai people□ Future of Thai democracy, politics, and civil society□ The role of media in the development of current Thai politics (e.g. populist policies)
<p>March 17, 2007 <i>Sidney & Pacific Graduate Dormitory, MIT</i></p> <p><i>Guest Speaker:</i></p>	<p><i>“Sufficiency Theory”</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ What is sufficiency theory and how is it compatible with neoclassical economic theory?<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Can sufficiency theory be translated into practicable policies?■ Will sufficiency theory limit growth and reduce long-term competitiveness of Thailand in the global economy?■ Will sufficiency theory prohibits entrepreneurial and risk taking spirits necessary to promote innovation?

Future Thai Public Policy Forums

Upcoming Forums

- “The Future of Bangkok” by Khun Apirak Kosayodhin, Governor of Bangkok
 - May 17, 2007 in Boston
- Conflict Resolutions in Southern Provinces of Thailand
 - History of Pattani Kingdom
 - Evolution of political struggle, causes of dissents, and current conflicts
 - May 2007 in Boston (*Tentative*):
 - Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
 - June 22 2007 in Bangkok (*Tentative*):
 - Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs

Other New Initiatives of TPPF

- Launch of new TPPF Chapter in Thailand
 - Expand network to Thailand starting in June 2007
 - Access knowledgebase and experience of TPPF alumni in Thailand
- Create TPPF Website to further facilitate dialogues and knowledge sharing
 - Centralized database of research papers and analytical work
 - Web board discussions
- Joint-initiatives and forums with other Thai organizations in Boston area
 - Thai Research Forum, Thai Health Service Forum, etc.

Thai Public Policy Members

Founding Members

- **Piya Hanvoravongchai**
 - Sc.D. Candidate, Harvard School of Public Health
 - M.Sc. International Health Policy, LSE
 - M.D., Mahidol University
- **Thunyachate Ekvetchavit**
 - MBA, MIT Sloan (2006)
- **Borwornsom Leerapan**
 - Ph.D. Candidate in Health Policy and Administration, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
 - M.Sc., Harvard School of Public Health (2006)
 - M.D., Mahidol University
- **Warit Wichakool** (*contact person for TPPE, Boston*)
 - Ph.D. Candidate in Electrical Engineering, MIT
 - Contact information: waritw@mit.edu
- **Edpawin Eddy Jetjirawat** (*contact person for TPPE, Bangkok*)
 - MBA, Harvard Business School (2007)
 - Contact information: ejetjirawat@mba2007.hbs.edu
- **Sopon Asawanuchit**
 - MPA International Development, KSG, Harvard University (2006)
 - MBA, MIT Sloan (2006)
- **Vijak Sethaput**
 - Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Science, Harvard University
- **Lalita Chanwongpaisarn**
 - Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Boston University
- **Santhitarn Sathirathai**
 - Ph.D. Candidate, KSG, Harvard University
 - MPA International Development, KSG, Harvard University (2007)
 - M.Sc., Public Policy, LSE (2003)
- **Thai Students in the Greater Boston Area, MA**
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
 - Harvard University
 - Boston University
 - Babson College
 - Tufts University