

Draft research paper proposal

By Ms. Ariya 'NARM Aruninta'¹

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Entitled:

**Importance and Relevance of the Country Strategy Paper (2002-2006)
The Future of Co-operation Between EU and Thailand in Urban Development**

1.1 Problems statement

Even there is not yet bilateral co-operation agreement between the EU and Thailand, but the EU and Thailand maintain long history of friendly contacts, especially on trade and economic. Therefore the 1980 EC –ASEAN Co-operation Agreement is the main framework for co-operation. The ASEM dialogue process provides another framework for bilateral exchanges. Bilateral issues are addressed in regular EC-Thailand Senior Officials' Meetings.² In addition, Country Strategy Paper³ also emphasized on EC-Thailand co-operation as quoted below:

The European Commission has adopted the Country Strategy Paper, which sets out a five year (2002-2006) strategy for its financial assistance to Thailand. At the same time, it announced that over the next three years, 2002-2004, an indicative sum of €10 million has been earmarked to finance this strategy. The paper has been prepared in consultation with the Government of Thailand and EU Member States.

The Country Strategy Paper provides the framework to focus and target all European Community assistance. The overarching objective of EC-Thailand co-operation will be to support the sustainable economic and social development of Thailand. The paper outlines two focal areas for action: *trade and investment, and public health and health services*.

Briefly, strategy of EC's bilateral co-operation with Thailand focuses on technical assistance and capacity-building activities in the sectors of trade, investment, and related areas for sustained co-operation (focal area 1) and non-focal areas (cross-cutting issues) which will be addressed under the existing thematic and regional (ASEAN, ASEM, Asia) programmes. Those non-focal areas are as shown in the following table;

¹ PhD Candidate (Urban Environmental Management FoS, School of Environment, Resources, and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand)

² THE EC-THAILAND COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER 2002-2006 (28 February 2002), Online - http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/thailand/csp/02_06en.pdf [June 2003]

³ Thailand: Commission adopts framework for co-operation (Country Strategy Paper) IP/02/677 - Brussels, 8 May 2002 - http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/thailand/csp/index.htm [June 2003]

Table 1: Focal and Non-focal technical assistance and capacity-building activities

Focal issue	Non-focal issues
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Trade, investment, and related areas for sustained co-operation</i> 2. Public health and health services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Science and technology</i> 2. <i>Education and human resource development</i> 3. <i>Environment</i> 4. Energy 5. <i>Social policy related issues</i> 6. Fight against drug production and trafficking 7. Good governance 8. The fight against trafficking of persons in particular women and children 9. The death penalty 10. The budget lines on drugs, co-financing of NGOs, democracy and human rights 11. Care and assistance of refugees and displaced people 12. Knowledge-based economy and culture

Further to the focal and non-focal key areas outlined above,

The EC will consider, in the wider context of its relations with ASEAN, the possibility of supporting joint EC-Thai initiatives for the benefit of certain neighboring South-east Asian countries (trilateral cooperation), as well as sub-regional co-operation activities in South-east Asia, where appropriate, which aim at promoting regional integration.

It can be noticed from the list (table 1) that some of the issues ; such as in the areas of environment and Social policy related ; could possibly link to urban development, which cover the wide variety of *non-economical profit* in public policies and public projects.

France and especially Paris has a very strong character of knowledge contributor, which can be found in the history of urban development through out Asia. At the same time, in the case of Paris, many urban development projects have been involved several public and private agencies. Parks, urban spaces, rehabilitation/revitalization of transportation network (i.e. ; the périphérique ring road) were from international bidding. Cooperation among either European states has always be concerned.

1.2 Specific focus

Urban development is part of non-focal activities since there is no direct benefit in term of trade and investment. The activities can be included education/technology transferring and consultancy, fund/loan/donation for urban development and

infrastructure projects. Sustainable development and environment policy in urbanization are also the key issues.

1.3 Key words

- CSP (The EC - Thailand : Country Strategy Paper 2002-2006)
- ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting)



- Agenda 21 (UN) - Chapter 2 : International cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies, Chapter 34 : Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, Chapter 37 : National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building in developing countries.
- Sustainable development
- Integrated approach
- Etc...

1.4 Methodology

- Policy analysis – using SWOT⁴
- Review of nature of urban development – in Thailand

1.5 References/literatures

- CSP 2002-2006
- ASEM paper
- The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Having met at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992 , A/CONF.151/26 (Vol. I)⁵
- Doha Development Agenda (WTO)⁶

⁴ SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat)

⁵ <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>

⁶ http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/min01_e.htm

- GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs And Trade)
- Detail project information on ZAC (Zone d'Aménagement Concerté)
- BMA development plan, projects and vision
- Etc....

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