Thailand’s Annual International Training Course (AITC) 2017

Sufficiency Economy Practices in Community-based and Economic Development

I. Course Title: Sufficiency Economy Practices (SEP) in Community-based and Economic Development (CBED) (Priority for FEALAC Member Countries)

II. Duration: 3 July – 4 August 2017 (5 weeks)

III. Closing Date for Applications: 28 April 2017

IV. Background and Rational

There has been a recent shift in economic development paradigms from growth-based to community-based development as a mechanism to achieve sustainable development. Experiences have shown that community-based development has helped empowering communities by encouraging local citizens to undertake self-initiated development activities in response to their needs. “Sufficiency Economy Philosophy” or SEP was formulated by His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. The application of SEP focuses on community empowerment in order to enhance local economic prosperity.

The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy “stressed the middle path as an overriding principle for appropriate conduct by the populace at all levels”. “Sufficiency” means moderation, reasonableness, and the need of self-immunity for sufficient protection from impact arising from internal and external changes. To achieve this, an application of knowledge with consideration and prudence is essential. At the same time, it is essential to strengthen the moral fiber of the nation so that everyone adheres to the principles of honesty and integrity. In addition, a way of life based on patience, perseverance, diligence, wisdom and prudence is indispensable to create balance and be able to cope with adverse shocks.

The principles of SEP can be applied to all levels, i.e. individuals, communities, organizations and nations/global. Numbers of case studies in Thailand have shown good practices of SEP applications as a guiding principle for individuals (to be able to improve quality of life), for small enterprises and organizations (to be able to manage efficiently), and for communities (to be able to develop local productive capabilities and market networks). Principles of SEP can be applied to developing countries around the world at all levels. Particularly, they can be applied to community development as the SEP is fundamental to empowerment and building resilience.
The Annual International Training Course on "Sufficiency Economy Practices in Community-based and Economic Development" aims at providing understanding on the SEP with a linkage to economic concepts/theories and community-based development. During the training course, a number of case studies will be illustrated to explain how the SEP can be applied in practices. In addition, the training course will provide the tools for monitoring and evaluation in understanding the success and challenges of projects following the SEP.

V. Objectives: The programme is designed to;
- provide participants with understanding on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) and related economic theories and concepts;
- explain participants the applications of SEP (by individuals, SMEs, communities, organizations and macro policy implication);
- share experiences among countries on community-based and economic development;
- provide participants in exploring with multiple case studies following the SEP;
- equip participants with the practical skills and techniques required for monitoring and evaluation of projects following the SEP concept.

VI. Course Contents

Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction to Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) and Relevant Economic Theories
  1.1 Introduction to SEP
  1.2 Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and related concepts
  1.3 Applications of SEP
  1.4 Economic theories/concepts of resource constraints
  1.5 Economic theories/concepts of optimizations

Module 2: SEP in Community-based and Economic Development (CBED)
  2.1 Introduction to economic and community-based development
  2.2 Implementation plans and policies of the government, poverty analysis and poverty reduction strategies (poverty measures, income distribution, strategies following SEP to attack poverty).
  2.3 The role of rural financial institutions with the application of SEP in community-based and economic development (micro finance, saving and credit union and cooperatives).

Module 3: Practical experiences of SEP
  3.1 Experiences in agricultural sector
  3.2 Experiences in credit unions, cooperatives and communities
  3.3 Experiences in the business sectors (small medium and large enterprises)
Module 4: Monitoring and Evaluation tools for projects following SEP
   4.1 Project appraisal (financial and economic analysis)
   4.2 Market potential analysis
   4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks

Module 5: Practical experience of monitoring and evaluation of projects (Field case studies).

Module 6: Presentation of case studies and country reports

Study Trips/ Field Trips
   - Duration: 1 week field trip (week 4)
   - Place: in the northern part of Thailand
   - The objective of the field trip is to share a lesson learned from various case studies following His Majesty the King’s initiatives

Assignments

1) **Country Report**: Participants are required to submit a country report on relevant background of their respective countries/territories before the beginning of the course (Template will be circulated to successful candidates)

2) **Report**: By week 4, participants are required to prepare and submit a report on a possible application of the SEP to their respective countries/territories. The report, including abstract, should be approximately 10-15 pages. The outline should include topic as follow.
   2.1 Status of economic and social development in their countries/territories
   2.2 Development challenges facing their countries/territories
      (Individual/household/organization level or Community level or National level)
   2.3 Possible future project with the application of **Sufficiency Economy Philosophy** (SEP) to solve the chosen problem.
      - Project title
      - Project objectives
      - Project activities
      - Practical project of the SEP
      - Challenges

3) **Reading Assignment**
   Book: Inside Thailand Review: Sufficiency Economy

4) **Project Assignment**
   - group case study report and presentation (last week of the programme)
   - individual country report presentation (last week of the programme)
VII. Number of Participants 20 persons (Priority for FEALAC Member Countries)

VIII. Qualifications
Candidates must possess qualifications as specified in “Guideline for Thailand’s Annual International Training Course Programme” No. 2 “Qualifications.” Candidates with at least 5 years working experience in rural development area are preferred.

Apart from the AITC eligible countries/territories, nomination of candidates from the following FEALAC member countries is welcomed:

- Australia
- Brunei
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Republic of Korea
- Singapore

Successful candidates from the AITC eligible countries/territories will be offered Economy air ticket and domestic cost, while successful candidates from the above-mentioned countries will be offered an award which covers domestic cost (accommodation, allowance, social program, insurance and airport meeting service) during the period of training in Thailand.

IX. Application
- Nomination must be made by central government agencies in charge of nomination of national candidates (such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs) or by relevant central government agencies for which the nominated candidates currently work. Nomination must be in line with relevant rules and regulations of the nominating countries/territories.
- Each eligible countries/territories are invited to nominate up to two (2) candidates per course.
- The application must be submitted to TICA through the Royal Thai Embassy/Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations/Royal Thai Consulate-General accredited to eligible countries/territories. (See “List of Eligible Countries/Territories”)

For more information on qualifications, application forms, and application procedures, please visit our website at http://www.tica.tha.gov.net/main/en/information/73803-Annual-International-Training-Course.html
X. Venue and Training Institution:
Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University,
Bangkok 10900 THAILAND

XI. Contact
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