



ASEAN Sustainability Series: Issue 1

Thailand's Icons

2018

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Foreword

For over seven decades, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej tirelessly devoted his life to help develop better lives for Thai people, especially the poor in rural areas. His Majesty's life-long effort resulted in more than 4,400 royal development projects which improved the lives of millions across Thailand.

However, His Majesty's effort did not end in the rural communities. During the aftermath of 1997 economic crisis, HM King Bhumibol turned His attention to the business sector and advocated the "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" as a framework to prevent future economic crises and to allow a more sustainable economic development of the nation.

While the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) provides our pathway, the encompassing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), proposed by the United Nations, can be viewed as our aspirational targets. They serve to remind us that economic development which focuses on growth alone, at the cost of social and environmental imbalances, can no longer be sustained. Attention and resources need to be invested into making our society and our planet a decent habitat for the future generations.

For this reason, we at C asean, are taking an active role in moving forward the Sustainable Development agenda across the ASEAN countries, as well as advocating His Majesty's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy as the pathway. Among our many activities, we believe it is very important to recognize those who have dedicated their lives to Sustainable Development, even before the birth of this term. This book, the first of an upcoming series covering each ASEAN country, introduces you to the lives and accomplishments of outstanding Thai citizens who shaped and drove our sustainability agenda over the last decades. Their dedication to this cause profoundly impacted Thailand's development, and in many instances, resonated throughout ASEAN and beyond. We hope their stories will inspire our younger generation to build upon the strong foundations of our Icon's life-long dedication.

I hope you enjoy reading this book.

Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi
Chairman
C asean



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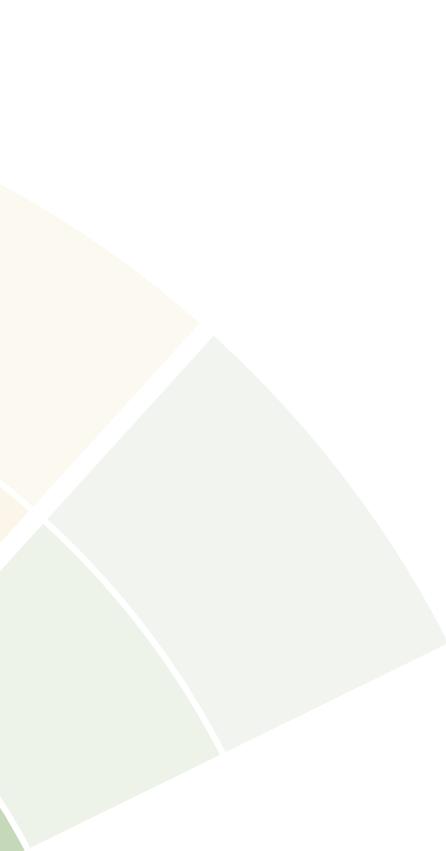
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ASEAN Sustainable Development



His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej

In remembrance of His Majesty for his commitment to better the lives of Thais.

For his countless journeys across the country to understand and learn about the many challenges his people face, which ultimately led to Sufficiency Economy.

An economic philosophy and way of life. A guidance for his citizen.



Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) is a framework that the late King Rama IX, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, bestowed on his citizens during the past three decades. It is a philosophy that guides livelihood and development at multiple levels, from individual/family, to collective community, as well as to the macro-economic management of a nation. After the 1997 economic crisis, faced by Thailand and many Asian countries, HM King Bhumibol reiterated this philosophy in several speeches and suggested it as a path which can lead Thailand to a more resilient and sustainable economic development.

Somewhat resembling the Buddhist “middle path” approach, the SEP framework consists of 5 key elements. Firstly, two foundations for decision making are:

- **Knowledge:** comprising of insight, right understanding, and prudent application of the knowledge. To find appropriate solutions for any given issue, one needs to look for adequate information and gain deep understanding of the issues, as well as full understanding of the potential alternatives.
- **Virtues:** such as honesty, altruism, perseverance and mindfulness. This foundation reminds us that information alone cannot always lead our decisions in the right direction. To find solutions and development pathway which are beneficial to all stakeholders in the society, one needs to be guided by ethical standards such as honesty and altruism. And to effectively implement these solutions to their completion, as well as dealing with adverse events during its course, perseverance and mindfulness will be required.

Building upon the two foundations of Knowledge and Virtues, there are three guiding principles for decision making, namely:

- **Moderation:** This principle suggests that, when facing with issues, decision makers need to choose alternatives which are within the capacities of the group/organization/society involved and avoid options which could have extreme consequences on the stakeholders.
- **Reasonableness:** This principle reminds us to evaluate the potential consequences of our decisions in advance. We need to assess if the chosen solution can really address the root causes of our issues, and whether it could have unintended impacts on any stakeholder.
- **Prudence:** Also known as “risk management” in the business world. This principle suggests the importance of external environment and the changing world around us. It reminds us of the need to re-evaluate our decisions and course of actions from time to time.

The ultimate goal of the SEP framework is to create a development path which is well balanced across 4 dimensions: economic, social, environmental, and cultural. In other words, the ambition of developing a resilient society, capable of facing challenges from rapid external changes, while sustaining its resource bases such as environmental and cultural, creating high level of well-being across all segments of stakeholders.

HOW “SEP” GETS US TO “SUSTAINABILITY”

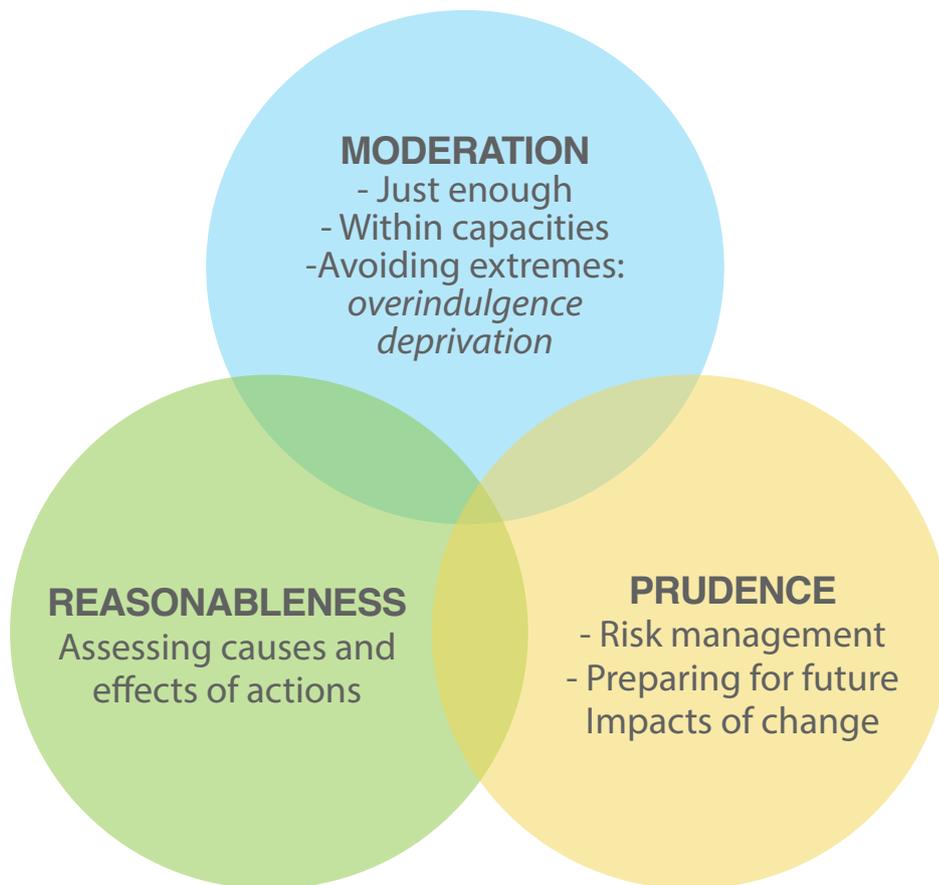
KNOWLEDGE

- Insight
- Right understanding
- Prudent application



VIRTUES

- Honesty
- Altruism
- Perseverance
- Mindfulness



ECONOMIC

SOCIAL

ENVIRONMENTAL

CULTURAL

PROGRESS
WITH BALANCE
IN LIFE'S FOUR
DIMENSIONS

Balance in life promotes sustainability for the world.

Example of SEP application in Thailand: The “New Theory of Agriculture”

The main purpose of the New Theory Agriculture is to help farmers become more self-reliant through a holistic management of land, while living in harmony with nature and the society. In this model, the farm land is divided into 4 main parts: 30% for rice farming, 30% for vegetables and fruits, 30% for maintaining a pond, and 10% for household usage. Through mixed usage of land, the owner of the farm can generate income throughout the year as well as maintain adequate source of water for farming and consumption.

The “New Theory of Agriculture” is clearly based on the 3 SEP principles i.e.,

- **Moderation:** to make good livelihood and create economic independence within one’s own piece of land
- **Reasonableness:** to divide the land usage according to the needs of the family. In this case, the key objective of the farmland is to provide constant cash flow and adequate/ balanced nutrition for the family throughout the year.
- **Prudence:** to spread the farming risks and avoid being reliant on one crop only. Hence, reducing potential impact of any adverse change in the climate





Thailand's New Theory Agriculture divides the field into 4 parts with the approximate ratios of 30:30:30:10

**30%
PADDY FIELD**

- One crop/year
- Storage for year round consumption

**30%
POND**

- Help store water for all year round use
- Fish aquaculture to increase in income
- Grow vetiver grass at the edge of pond to prevent soil erosion

**30%
TREES/CROPS**

- Fruit trees
- Perennial trees
- Annual trees
- Herb & spice
- Multi-purpose trees
- Field crops

**10%
RESIDENTIAL**

- Other activities: housing, vegetables, herbs, mushrooms, livestock

UN SDGs Concept

What Are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action set by the United Nations in 2016 to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Comprising of 17 Goals, the SDGs are built on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with additions of new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. These goals are interconnected, hence the key to success on one will often involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another. Unlike the MDGs, the application of SDGs does not differ between “developed” and “developing” nations. Instead, these goals apply to all countries. As the lead UN development agency, UNDP is working alongside 170 countries and territories to help realize targets set out in the SDGs by 2030.¹



Goal 1

Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. While the number of people living in extreme poverty dropped by more than half between

1990 and 2015, there are still more than 800 million people still living on less than 1.25 US dollar a day. Many still lack access to adequate food, clean drinking water and sanitation. Although, rapid economic growth has lifted millions out of poverty, progress has been uneven.

The SDGs are a bold commitment to end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030. This involves targeting the most vulnerable, increasing access to basic resources and services and supporting communities affected by conflict and climate-related disasters.²

Global Top 5 Performers: Bosnia and Herzegovina; Chile; Iran; Islamic Republic; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Moldova; Montenegro; New Zealand; Poland; Russian Federation; Thailand; Turkmenistan (all received average score of 100)



Goal 2

Despite targets set out by the first Millennium Development Goals having made significant progress, extreme hunger and malnutrition remain a huge barrier to the development of many countries. As of 2014, approximately 795 million people remain chronically undernourished and over 90 million children under the age of five are dangerously underweight.

The SDGs aim to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, making sure all people – especially children – have access to sufficient and nutritious food all year round. This includes promoting sustainable agricultural practices, such as supporting small scale farmers and allowing equal access to land, technology and markets. It also requires international cooperation to ensure investment in infrastructure and technology is available to support improvement in agricultural productivity.³

Global Top 5 Performers: Belgium (99.6); South Korea (97.7); Austria (99.4); Germany (99.8); Denmark (98.8)



Goal 3

Poor health and premature death remains huge challenges for many countries across the globe. Each year, more than 6 million children still die before their fifth birthday.

Over 16,000 children die daily from preventable diseases, such as measles and tuberculosis. Hundreds of women die every day during pregnancy or from child-birth related complications. Diseases such as AIDS are still the leading cause of death in many countries. With proper prevention and treatment, education and healthcare, these deaths can be prevented.

The SDGs look to end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases by 2030. The aim is to achieve universal health coverage and provide equal access to safe and affordable medicines and vaccines.⁴

Global Top 5 Performers: Sweden (97.6); Switzerland (97.3); Norway (96.7); Finland (96.5); Israel (96.1)



Goal 4

Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people's lives and sustainable development. Significant progress has been made towards increasing access to education

at all levels, race and gender. However, there are still over 100 million youth worldwide lacking basic literacy skills, over 60% of them are women.

The SDGs committed to ensuring equal access to education for all and nurturing important skill sets for all.⁵

Global Top 5 Performers: UK (99.8); Canada (98.8); Germany (98.3); Norway (97.5); Lithuania (96.8)



Goal 5

The ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only an exercise of basic human right. It is an accelerator for sustainable

development, as well as a multiplier that drives economic growth. However, there are still huge inequalities in the labor market in some regions. In some parts of the world, women are systematically denied equal access to jobs. Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work and discrimination in public office, all remain huge barriers.

The SDGs aim to build on these achievements to ensure that there is an end to discrimination against women and girls everywhere.⁶

Global Top 5 Performers: Iceland (92.6); Finland (87.9); Norway (86.8); Sweden (86.5); Namibia (84.1)



Goal 6

Water scarcity affects more than 40% of people globally. Although 2.1 billion people have access to clean water, dwindling supplies of safe drinking water is a major problem

impacting every continent. Increasing drought and desertification continues to worsen the situation. By 2050, it is projected that at least a quarter of the global population will be affected by recurring water shortages.

To ensure universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030, the SDGs looks to drive investment in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities and encourage hygiene at every level. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems such as forests, mountains, wetlands and rivers will be essential to mitigate water scarcity. International cooperation will be needed to encourage water efficiency and support treatment technologies in developing countries.⁷

Global Top 5 Performers: Argentina (98.5); Uruguay (98.2); Chile (98.1); Bosnia and Herzegovina (98.0); Serbia (97.7)



Goal 7

Energy is fundamental to almost every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. Be it for jobs, security, climate change, food production or increasing incomes,

access to energy is essential for all. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of people with access to electricity grew by 1.7 billion. The global population will continue to rise, so will the demand for cheap energy. However, global economy reliance on fossil fuels and the increase of greenhouse gas emissions has creating drastic changes to the climate system. This is impacting every continent.

Ensuring universal access to affordable electricity by 2030 means investing in clean energy sources such as solar, wind and thermal. Adopting cost-effective standards for a

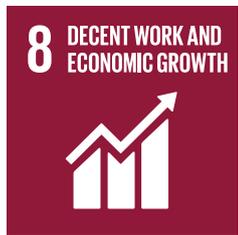
wider range of technologies could also reduce the global electricity consumption by buildings and industry by 14 percent. This means avoiding roughly 1,300 mid-size power plants. Expanding infrastructure and upgrading technology to provide clean energy in all developing countries is a crucial goal that can both encourage growth and help the environment.⁸

Global Top 5 Performers: Barbados (99.9); Iceland (98.9); Norway (97.5); Sweden (97.5); Uruguay (94.6)

and renewable energy are becoming ever more important, as are the growth of new industries and information and communication technologies.

The SDGs is committed to bridging the digital divide through equal access to information and knowledge, promoting sustainable industries, investing in scientific research and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.^{10,11}

Global Top 5 Performers: Switzerland (93.9); Denmark (89.8); Sweden (89.6); Finland (87.6); Japan (87.3)



Goal 8

Over the past 25 years, the world has come a long way in terms of economic growth. The number of workers living in extreme poverty has dramatically declined, despite

global recessions. The middle class now contributes to almost 40% of total employment in developing countries. However, the world is seeing slower economic growth, widening inequalities and job scarcity. According to the International Labour Organization, over 200 million people remained unemployed in 2015.

The SDGs looks promote sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation. Encouraging entrepreneurship, job creation and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, slavery and human trafficking will be the key. By 2030, SDGs aim to achieve full and productive employment, as well as provide decent work for all women and men.⁹

Global Top 5 Performers: Norway (95.8); Singapore (95.0); Malta (93.1); Luxembourg (92.5); Japan (92.1)



Goal 10

It is well documented that income inequality is on the rise. The world’s richest 10% earn up to 40% of total global income, whereas the poorest 10% earn only 2 – 7%.

Income inequality is a global problem that requires global solutions. Widening disparities will require adoptions of sound policies to empower the bottom percentile and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of sex, race or ethnicity.

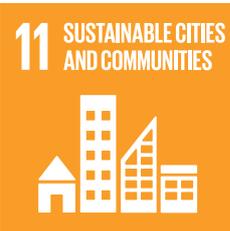
The SDGs, through national and international cooperation, looks to improve the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions, encourage development assistance and foreign direct investment across all regions and facilitate safe migration and mobility of the people.^{12,13}

Global Top 5 Performers: Ukraine (100.0); Slovenia (99.9); Norway (99.0); Slovak Republic (98.4); Czech Republic (98.4)



Goal 9

Investment in infrastructure and innovation are crucial drivers of economic growth and development. With over half the world population now living in cities, mass transport



Goal 11

The rapid growth of cities in the developing world, coupled with increasing rural to urban migration, has led to a boom in mega-cities. By 2050, more than two-thirds of

all humanity will live in urban areas. However, extreme poverty is often concentrated in urban spaces and national and city governments in the past have struggled to accommodate the rising population in these areas. It is believed that sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way urban spaces are built and managed.

To make cities safe and sustainable, the SDGs aims to provide access to safe and affordable housing and upgrade slum settlements. To do so, investment in public transport, creating green public spaces and improving urban planning and management will be crucial.^{13,14}

Global Top 5 Performers: Sweden (100.0); New Zealand (100.0); Australia (100.0) ; Canada (99.6); Finland (99.4)



Goal 12

Achieving global economic growth and sustainable development cannot be achieved without reducing our ecological footprint. To do so, the world must change the way it produces and consumes goods and resources.

Sustainable consumption and production focuses on promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Its implementation helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty.

Therefore, the SDGs aim to encourage industries, businesses and consumers to recycle and reduce waste and move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption by 2030. It will also require a systemic approach and cooperation among all parties along the supply chain, from producer to final consumer. Emphasis

on food security and efficient management of the global shared natural resources and proper disposal of our toxic waste and pollutants will shift us towards a more resource efficient economy.^{16,17}

Global Top 5 Performers: Timor-Leste (93.6); Mozambique (84.7); Nepal (84.5); Malawi (83.9); Burundi (83.1)



Goal 13

In the world today, every country in every continent is experiencing first-hand the drastic effects of climate change. The annual average losses from earthquakes, tsunamis, tropical cyclones and flooding amount to hundreds of billions of dollars.

To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in December 2015. The implementation of the Paris Agreement is crucial for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.^{18,19}

Global Top 5 Performers: Republic of Yemen (95.0); Republic of Congo (94.7); Moldova (94.4); Cote d'Ivoire (94.0); Cameroon (93.2)



Goal 14

Over 3 billion people or almost half of the world depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. However, approximately 30% of the world's fish stocks are being overexploited today. Oceans are absorbing about 30% of the carbon dioxide produced by humans, resulting in rising ocean acidification and affecting all lives on earth.

The SDGs aim to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, as well as address the impacts of ocean acidification. Enhancing conservation and sustainable use of ocean-based resources through international law will also help mitigate some of the challenges facing our oceans.²⁰

Global Top 5 Performers: Finland (76.0); Estonia (74.4); Russian Federation (70.5); Suriname (67.4); South Africa (66.9)



Goal 15

Human life depends on the earth as much as the ocean for our sustenance and livelihoods. Plant life provides 80 percent of our human diet, and we rely on agriculture as an important economic resource and means of development. Forests account for 30 percent of the Earth's surface, providing vital habitats for millions of species and important sources for clean air and water; as well as being crucial for combating climate change.

Today we are seeing unprecedented land degradation, and the loss of arable land at 30 to 35 times the historical rate. Drought and desertification is also on the rise each year, amounting to the loss of 12 million hectares and affects poor communities globally. Of the 8,300 animal breeds known, 8 percent are extinct, and 22 percent are at risk of extinction.

The SDGs aim to conserve and restore the use of terrestrial ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, drylands and mountains by 2020. Halting deforestation is also vital to mitigating the impact of climate change. Urgent action must be taken to reduce the loss of natural habitats and biodiversity which are part of our common heritage.²¹

Global Top 5 Performers: Bulgaria (61.2); Central African Republic (57.8); Namibia (69.9); Republic of Congo (66.9); Guyana (52.7)



Goal 16

Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance. The world remains divided. While some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, security and prosperity, others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence.

The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.²²

Global Top 5 Performers: Iceland (92.4); Luxembourg (91.8); Finland (91.3); Singapore (89.8); Denmark (88.7)



Goal 17

The world today is more interconnected than ever before. Improving access to technology and knowledge is an important way to share ideas and foster innovation. Coordinating policies to help developing countries manage their debt, as well as promoting investment for the least developed, is vital to achieve sustainable growth and development. As a result, the SDGs can only be realized with a strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation.

The goals aim to enhance North-South and South-South cooperation by supporting national plans to achieve all the targets. Promoting international trade, and helping developing countries increase their exports, is all part of achieving a universal rules-based and equitable trading system that is fair and open, and benefits all.²³

Global Top 5 Performers: Algeria; Cuba; Gabon; Haiti; Kuwait; Lesotho; Montenegro; Myanmar; Republic of Yemen; Saudi Arabia; Trinidad and Tobago; UAE; Uzbekistan (all received average score of 100)

SDGs Global Top Performers

Rank	Country	Score
1	Sweden	85.6
2	Denmark	84.2
3	Finland	84.0
4	Norway	83.9
5	Czech Republic	81.9
6	Germany	81.7
7	Austria	81.4
8	Switzerland	81.2
9	Slovenia	80.5
10	France	80.3

The 2017 SDG Index²⁴ shows a country's position between the worst (0) and best (100) performance. Sweden's overall index score of 85.6 suggests that the country is on average 85.6% of the way to the best possible outcome across the 17 SDGs. However, at the level of individual Sustainable Development Goal, the performance of each global top performer varies, as demonstrated in the SDG Dashboard below²⁵:



For more information on the dashboard methodology and SDG index, please refer to www.sdgindex.org

Source: SDG Index

A green rating on the SDG Dashboard above indicates SDG achievement, and is assigned to a country on a given SDG only if all the indicators under the goal are rated green. Yellow, orange and red indicate increasing distance from SDG achievement. It is notable that among the top global performers, their performances towards Goals 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), and 14 (Life below Water) remain to be improved.

Although none of ASEAN countries is ranked among UNSDG's Global Top 10 Overall Performers, in certain individual SDGs, ASEAN members are topping the world ranking. For example, Thailand tops Goal 1 (No Poverty), while Singapore ranks top 5 on Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and Myanmar tops Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

- Current rate of progress needs to be **MAINTAINED** to meet the target (progress gap less than 10% of progress needed)
- Need to **ACCELERATE** current rate of progress to meet the target (progress gap is more than 10% of progress needed)
- Current trend needs to be **REVERSED** to meet target

ASEAN SDG Performance

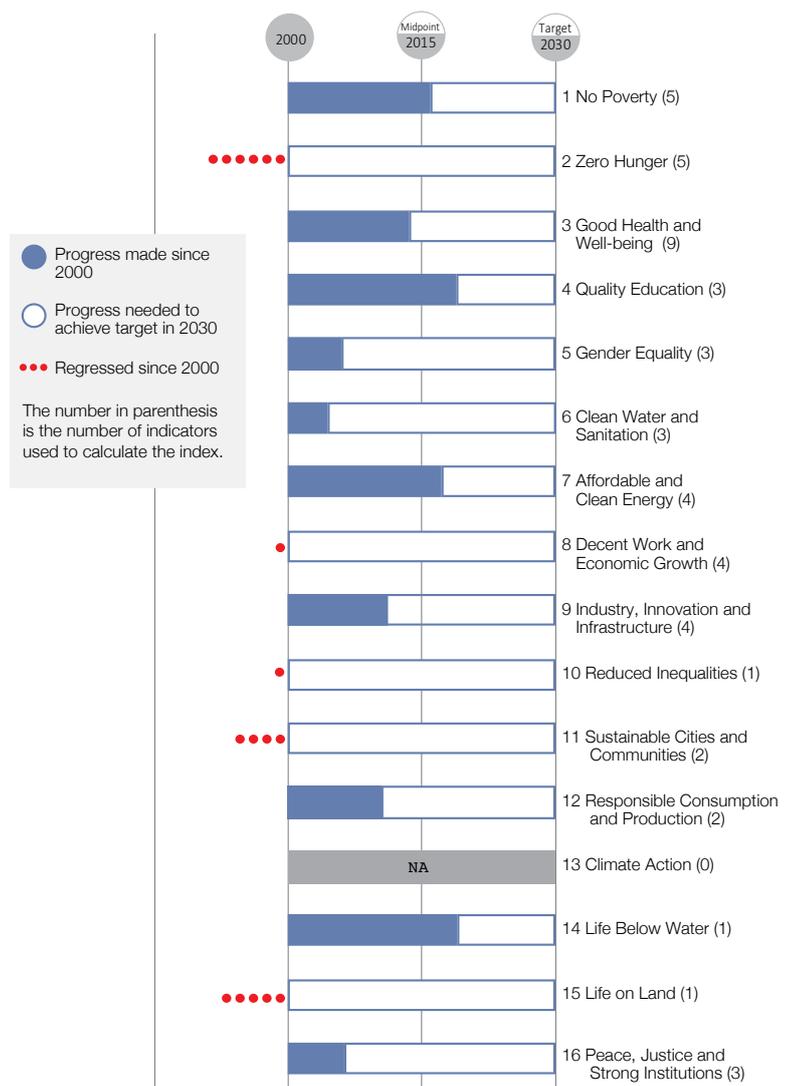
Overview

Like many other countries across the globe, ASEAN continues to build upon the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation. As we will outline below, while some member States have long track records of sustainable development practices, others are in the process of localizing SDGs.

Between 2000 and 2015, ASEAN as one has made significant progress in four goal areas: poverty eradication (Goal 1) quality education (Goal 4) affordable and clean energy (Goal 7) and life below water (Goal 14).

Slower progress is being made in the areas of good health and well-being (Goal 3); gender equality (Goal 5); clean water and sanitation (Goal 6); industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9); responsible consumption and production (Goal 12); and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16). ASEAN countries are working hard to improve on these areas.²⁶

Where did the ASEAN region stand in 2015?



Source: UN ESCAP

In order to track the performance of each country towards the 17 SDGs, the United Nations has set up a measurement framework comprising a total of 232 indicators in 50 sub-goals. These indicators can be used to signify the current strengths and improvement areas required to reach each particular Sustainable Development Goal.

As shown in the below table, there are several areas that ASEAN countries as a region are performing well. These areas are indicated in green, while areas which require accelerated progress are highlighted in yellow, and areas of worrying trends are in red. For example, to achieve Goal #3 of “Good Health and Well-being”, ASEAN countries should aim to maintain current progress in reducing maternal and young children mortality while we need to accelerate progress in other areas such as family planning, prevention and control of Tuberculosis and Malaria, as well as reverse the current worrying trend of rising adolescent fertility.²⁷

GOAL	Target area				
GOAL 1	Employed poor	International poverty	National poverty	Expenditure on education	Expenditure on health
GOAL 2	Undernourishment	Stunting	Agriculture investment	Overweight	Wasting
GOAL 3	Maternal mortality	Under-5 mortality	Neonatal mortality	Tuberculosis	
	Family planning	Malaria	Health workers	Adolescent fertility	
GOAL 4	Organized learning (primary)	Teachers' training (primary)			
GOAL 5	Women in parliaments				
GOAL 6	Improved water	Improved sanitation			
GOAL 7	Renewable energy	Energy supply	Clean fuels and technology		
GOAL 8	Unemployment	GDP growth	GDP per employed		
GOAL 9	Mobile-cellular	CO ₂ emissions	R&D investment	Manufacturing % in GDP	
GOAL 10	Labour share of GDP				
GOAL 11	Urban slums	PM10 Concentration			
GOAL 12	Material consumption	Material Footprint			
GOAL 13	NA				
GOAL 14	NA				
GOAL 15	Natural forest area				
GOAL 16	Intentional homicide				

Source: UN ESCAP

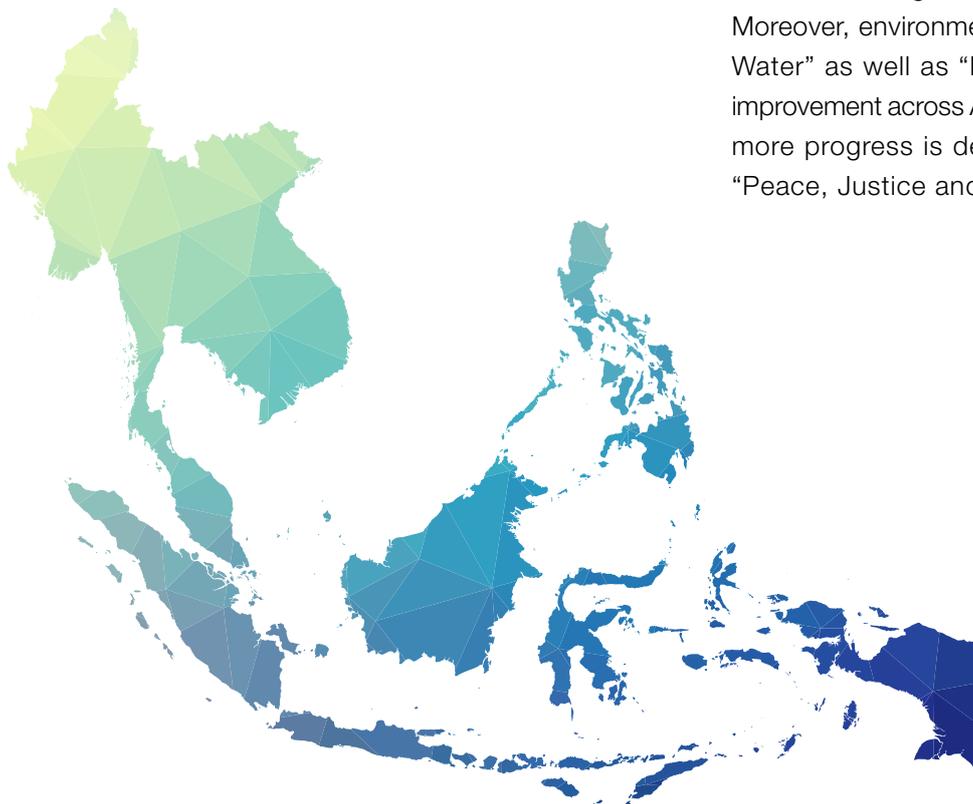
SDGs Performances by Country²⁸



For more information on the dashboard methodology and SDG index, please refer to www.sdgindex.org

Source: SDG Index

- Current rate of progress needs to be **MAINTAINED** to meet the target (progress gap less than 10% of progress needed)
- Need to **ACCELERATE** current rate of progress to meet the target (progress gap is more than 10% of progress needed)
- Current trend needs to be **REVERSED** to meet target



Comparison of performance across ASEAN countries reveals several insights. While most ASEAN countries have progressed well in the eradication of poverty (defined as people living on USD 1.25 or less per day), extreme hunger and malnutrition, as well as overall well-being of the population remain key challenges. Moreover, environment protection, both for “Life below Water” as well as “Life on Land”, requires significant improvement across ASEAN region. On the political front, more progress is desirable in establishing Goal# 16- “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”.

Cambodia

Cambodia currently is in the process of localizing Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs). Out of all the 17 Goals set, Cambodia is outperforming in Goal 1 (No Poverty).²⁹ Prior to the SDGs, the country has been integrating the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to its national plans. The CSDGs is built on the MDGs and aims to complete what was not achieved.³⁰

In terms of the MDGs, Cambodia has achieved at least 4 out of the 9 set goals, namely child care, maternal health, communicable diseases and partnership. The country is also moving close to meeting the poverty reduction goal.³¹ Cambodia's poverty rate has been decreased from 53% in 2004 to 16% in 2013 meaning that the country's poverty has been cut by more than half.³² One of the factors contributing to Cambodia's reduction in poverty is the country's consistent and stable economic growth of 7 – 8%.³³

One of the highest priorities for the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) over the past 20 years has been

to reduce poverty, especially in rural areas. In 2011, the RGC formulated the National Social Protection Strategy for the Poor and Vulnerable.³⁴ The strategy consisted of four pillars: 1) vocational and skills training; 2) social insurance (contributory system); 3) social safety nets (noncontributory system) and 4) complementary social welfare services. A variety of governmental and non-governmental agencies are also on board to help with poverty reduction. This included the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), which provides social welfare services and assistance to the vulnerable. As part of the CSDGs, Cambodia plans to achieve more than 1 percentage point reduction in poverty incidence annually.³⁵

In institutionalizing the SDGs, the RGC has delegated the Ministry of Planning (MOP) to coordinate preparing the CSDGs. All 17 Goals along with 169 targets will be adopted, as well as 230 indicators are being considered.³⁶ Additionally, an 18th goal related to landmine clearance has also been added to CSDGs.³⁷



CAMBODIA SDG DASHBOARD

Source: SDG Index



Indonesia

Sustainable development is a national goal in Indonesia. Balancing economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection is crucial. Like its global counterparts, the implementation of the UNSDGs' 2030 Agenda is built upon the country's MDGs achievement. Indonesia has enacted a Presidential Decree as the legal basis for SDGs implementation. In order to realize the SDGs, an inclusive National Coordination Team, represented by all stakeholders, has been established and overseen under direct leadership of the President. Among the 17 Goals, Indonesia is outperforming in Goal 13 (Climate Action).³⁸

As the world's fourth most populous country, Indonesia is an emerging economy and already one of the world's largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions. However, Indonesia has a long history as a leadership in global climate negotiations. Indonesia's rapid ratification of the Paris Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol and Doha Amendment, as well submission of its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) reflect the country's determination to be a true partner for climate actions.

Indonesia also hosted the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the UNFCCC in 2007. The meeting laid the foundation for a new negotiating process and

sets out guidance and direction to enhance international climate change cooperation as reflected in Bali Road Map and Bali Action Plan, which led to the conclusion of the Paris Agreement in 2015. In 2009, to continue the momentum for climate action, Indonesia announced voluntary commitments to reducing its greenhouse gas emission up to 26% by 2020 and up to 41% with international support.

For 2030, Indonesia is committed to reducing emission up to 29% with national efforts and up to 41% with international support. To meet this commitment, Indonesia looks to enhance the use of new and renewable energy from 17% to 23% of total energy consumption in 2025 and up to 29% in 2030.

As a developing country, Indonesia supports the efforts of other developing countries through South-South and Triangular Cooperation on various sectors, inter alia, agriculture, forestry, and coastal management. Indonesia has also been elected as one of the member of the Paris Committee on Capacity building to support and enhance capacity building for developing countries in undertaking their climate actions.³⁹



INDONESIA SDG DASHBOARD

Source: SDG Index



Laos

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a priority for Laos. Its local government has mainstreamed these goals into its National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016-2020), the Development Strategy 2025, and Vision 2030. In terms of SDG implementation, Laos will focus on green growth and sustainable development, maintaining steady economic growth, achieving constant reduction of poverty and graduating from Least Developed Country status.

In addition to the 17 SDGs, the Laotian government has agreed on a national SDG, Goal 18: “Lives Safe from UXO – Unexploded Ordnance”. The target of this additional SDG is to reduce the impact of unexploded bombs (UXO). It is to ensure that, by 2030, residual UXO activities are undertaken, all known UXO contamination in high-priority areas and all villages that are defined as “poor” are cleared and casualties from UXO accidents are eliminated, as well as ensure all UXO survivors and victims’ needs are met.⁴⁰

Laos has scored high on Goal 13 (Climate Action).⁴¹ The country is highly vulnerable to climate change and action is needed. In the past decades, Laos has seen an increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, which occurs mostly in the central and southern parts of the country, along the Mekong plain.

Between 1990 and 2015, the country has had 11 severe floods and storms, affecting 430,000 people each time. Reducing the impact of these disasters will require adaptive measures, including effective disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Since 2014, Laos has successfully phased-out ozone-depleting substances, which have declined to near-zero. Steps are also being taken to address greenhouse gas emissions. Of the total CO2 emissions, nearly all were emitted by land-use change and forestry. The agriculture sector has also produced the greatest share of methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O). The local government is currently looking to create stronger policies and legislation by drafting a disaster risk management and climate change law.⁴²



LAOS SDG DASHBOARD

Source: SDG Index



Malaysia

Since the 1970s, sustainable development has been at the heart of Malaysia's development approach. Eradicating poverty, improving the well-being of the people, providing universal access to education and caring for the environment are the country's main emphasis. In 2009, Malaysia renewed its commitment to sustainable development by launching the New Economic Model, which featured three goals: achieving high income, inclusivity and sustainability, aligning with the three components of the SDGs: economy, social and environment. Currently, the country is doing well on Goal 1 (No Poverty).⁴³

Over the past four decades, Malaysia has done a remarkably in reducing absolute poverty. Its national poverty has reduced from 49.3% in 1970 to 0.6% in 2014. Malaysia current national poverty line is estimated at 2.02 US dollars per capita per day, which is above the international benchmark of 1.90 US dollars per capita per day. As of 2014, low poverty rates also were recorded across ethnicity, gender and rural-urban strata. The poverty rate of female and male headed households stood at 0.8% and 0.6%, respectively. Only 0.2% are considered incidence of hard-core poverty.

Malaysia's achievements have been made possible through the implementation of several nationwide

multidimensional poverty eradication programs that dated as early as the 1960s. Malaysia's efforts to eradicate poverty have continuously emphasized on education and skills development, income generation, employment creation and provision of access to basic needs such as electricity, clean water, transportation and housing, as well as social safety nets. Other programs by NGOs, CSOs and the private sector have also further complemented these efforts. Additionally, the eKasih, Malaysia's centralized National Poverty Data Bank which kept detailed information about poor households, had allowed better profiling and targeting of assistance.

With absolute poverty largely eradicated, Malaysia is now focusing on uplifting the quality of life of the bottom 40% of households (B40). By 2020, the country aims to double the average income of B40 households, from 700 US dollars in 2014 to 1,500 US dollars, thereby raising these household into the middle class. This can be done through outcome-based support and productivity-linked assistance, including entrepreneurship, skills training, technology adoption and asset ownership. Moreover, the Malaysian government is also looking to improving B40 access to affordable housing, quality health services and basic amenities.⁴⁴



MALAYSIA SDG DASHBOARD

Source: SDG Index



Myanmar

Like many of its counterparts, SDGs adoption is in the process of localization. Among all goals, Myanmar has scored high on Goal 17 (Partnerships for The Goals).⁴⁵

Prior to 2011, Myanmar was largely isolated from both international aid and commerce. Since that time, it has engaged on an ambitious “state building” effort. Its international relations have normalized, many more developed countries have invested or are looking to invest

in the country, and the country is undergoing a broad shift in its relationship with international aid.

Currently, aside from the assistance received on agendas of civil society and community-based organizations and entities linked to various opposition movements, the country is willing to cooperate on economic reforms and embrace development partners from across a vast range of countries and organizations.⁴⁶



MYANMAR SDG DASHBOARD

Source: SDG Index



Philippines

Building on the lessons learned from the MDGs, the Philippines is committed to the bigger challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since its adoption, local government, spearheaded by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and its partners have taken steps into building awareness, engaging stakeholders and institutionalizing the SDGs. Aside from creating special committees to oversee SDG-related work, the SDGs have been included in the country's yearly Budget Priorities Framework, as well factored into the country's long-term vision, medium-term development plan and sectoral plans. These goals are being compared and integrated into the goals, targets, and indicators with those of the 2017-2022 Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and the Regional Development

Plans (RDPs).⁴⁷ Moreover, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has already included the SDGs in the Philippine Statistical Development Program for progress monitoring and data generation.⁴⁸

Amongst many, the Philippines is committed to addressing the multidimensional aspects of poverty as one of key implementation of the SDGs.⁴⁹ In the Philippines, poverty is widespread in rural areas. Farmers, fishers and indigenous peoples are among the poorest and most marginalized members of its population. Many lack the income and resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods, as well as lack opportunities and capabilities in many interlinked areas, which further keep them in a cycle of poverty.⁵⁰



PHILIPPINES SDG DASHBOARD

Source: SDG Index



Singapore

As a small, densely populated island nation with no natural resources, Singapore's sustainable development has been focusing on four key areas of 1) building a sustainable economy, 2) creating a sustainable living environment, 3) ensuring sustainable development for its people and 4) contributing to international collaboration.

In term of SDGs, Singapore has performed well in regards to Goal 1 (No Poverty), 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), 8 (Good Jobs & Economic Growth) & 9 (Innovation & Infrastructure)⁵¹. The country's long track record of foreign investments has done favorably for its economic growth, technological advancement and human capital development. With economic growth, there are enough resources to invest in education, research and development, security, infrastructure and public services. With no natural resources, its people are its most precious and only resource, investing in them is of utmost importance.

Since the 1960s, Singapore have worked to achieve mass education at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Their next frontier is mass continuing education to prepare for the future of work. By constantly upskilling and reskilling, Singapore's human capital will remain relevant regardless of how rapid technology advances, hence low unemployment and no poverty.⁵²

Moreover, Singapore is now on the path to become a sustainable and smart city. By doing so, it will be able to harness solutions across industries to ultimately create green, digital and efficient urban spaces. After having successfully exported urban solutions in areas like built environment and city management, urban mobility, energy, safety and security and environment and water, Singapore is ready as ever. As an urban living laboratory, several companies now are testing and developing smart city technologies in Singapore to boost efficiencies and comfort of lives of millions in the region.⁵³



SINGAPORE SDG DASHBOARD

Source: SDG Index



Thailand

Thailand has its own unique framework for sustainable development. It is called the “Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)” and it is based on work, insight and observations over four decades by His Majesty King Rama IX, King Bhumibol Adulyadej. While the philosophy was conceived by His Majesty in the mid-1970s, it was formalized in the wake of the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis and has since become the nation’s guiding spirit.⁵⁴

Since the 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been used in addition to the SEP to transform mindsets across the board, refocus collaborative efforts on safeguarding the planet’s health and longevity and

prioritize long term sustainability over short-term benefits. In terms of SDG performance, Thailand is considered a great success story in the area of poverty reduction and has sets the bar for Goal 1 (No Poverty). Among Thais, only 6 out of 1,000 people or 0.06% of the population are currently living below the poverty line. Additionally, only about 11% live below the national standard of about US\$2.50 per day. Building on the successful implementation of SEP, the local government and related agencies and foundations have expanded the approach to remote provinces through cover more than 4,400 royally initiated projects.⁵⁵



THAILAND SDG DASHBOARD

Source: SDG Index



Vietnam

Since the early 1990s, sustainable development is a priority for Vietnam and its local government. Upon the launched of the SDGs, the local government, led by the Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), has rolled out an action plan for Vietnam's Sustainable Development Goals (VSDGs). The action plan includes all 17 SDGs along with 115 targets covering all three dimensions of sustainability-socio-economics and environment. The MPI be responsible for the coordination of the implementation, monitoring and reporting of these goals. The VSDGs implementation will take place during two phases, 2017-2020 and 2021-2030.⁵⁷

With the VSDGs, Vietnam looks to maintain sustainable economic growths, while continuing to exercise social progress and equality, as well as protect the ecological

environment. Amongst the goals, the country aims to encourage effective management and use of natural resources, proactively respond to climate change, ensure all Vietnamese are able to rise to their full potential and participate development processes. Moreover, the VSDGs aims to build a peaceful, prosperous, democratic, equitable, civilized and sustainable Vietnamese society.⁵⁸

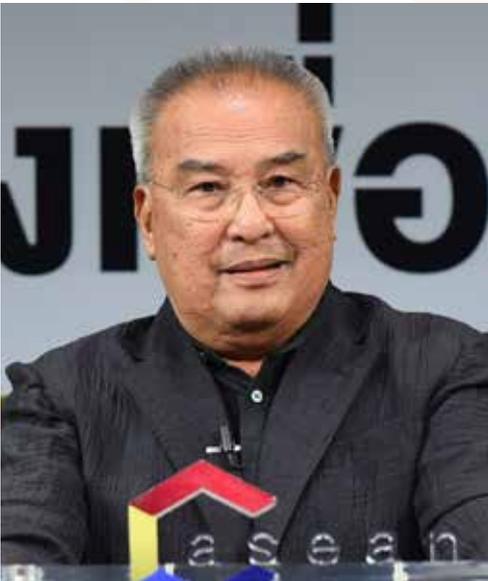
In terms of its current progress on realizing the SDGs, Vietnam has scored high in Goal 1 (No poverty). The country's efforts to eradicating poverty has been focused two main areas: 1) support to multi-dimensional poverty reduction and 2) strengthening capacity for human development policy making in Vietnam.⁵⁹ The has earned a new poverty rate. Its national poverty line has declined from 14.2% in 2010 to 4.5% in 2015.⁶⁰



VIETNAM SDG DASHBOARD

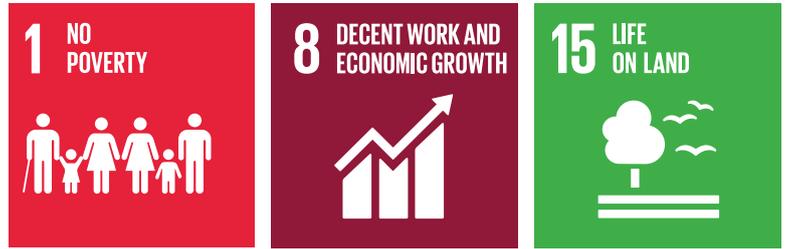
Source: SDG Index





Thailand's Sustainability Icons





Mom Rajawongse Disnadda Diskul

About him:

Mom Rajawongse Disnadda Diskul has devoted 50 years of his life to sustainable development efforts to improve livelihoods of marginalized communities and foster harmonious co-existence between humans and nature. M.R Disnadda served as Private Secretary to Her Royal Highness Late Princess Srinagarindra for 28 years from 1967 until HRH's passing in 1995. He has continued to

carry on the legacy of HRH in working to provide livelihood opportunities for underprivileged members of society, regardless of race, religion, or gender and narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, in his role as development practitioner and leader of many frontline organizations.





“The people must be at the very center and involved in every part of the development process. Our goal is to empower people and “help them to be able to help themselves” over the long term, so that they can live lives of choices, dignity, and aspirations.”

– M.R. Disnadda Diskul

His work in brief:

M.R. Disnadda is currently Chairperson of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage (MFLF) and has been the Foundation's Secretary General since its establishment in 1975 by HRH the late Princess Srinagarindra. In 1988, the MFLF initiated the Doi Tung Development Project in a major opium producing area in Northern Thailand to create new opportunities for the marginalized ethnic minority communities to be able to emerge from the vicious cycle of poverty, sickness, and lack of knowledge, and to build better lives in harmony with their environment, by 'helping the people to help themselves'. The Project carried out activities in the areas of health, livelihoods, and education and applied the concept of social entrepreneurship— establishing social businesses whose profits are redirected towards community development activities. This holistic and integrated area-based approach, where the local people are at the center of the entire development process, has resulted in complete transformation of the lives of the previously impoverished opium-growing community – economically, socially, and environmentally. The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recognizes the Doi Tung Development Project as a successful example for other countries in addressing illicit drug crop cultivation problems through poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement. Based on the success of the MFLF's Sustainable Alternative Livelihood Development (SALD) approach applied at Doi Tung, M.R. Disnadda has spearheaded the sharing of this approach widely in Thailand and internationally, leading the implementation of many projects throughout the country as well as in Myanmar, Afghanistan and Indonesia, at the same time also influencing policy making at the national and global levels.

In 2008, M.R. Disnadda founded and has since served as the Chairman of the Royal Initiative Discovery Foundation (RID), whose mission is to integrate efforts of royally

initiated projects, government agencies and apparatuses, and civil society in bringing people-centric development principles and practices to implement development projects to improve the lives of communities nationwide. The RID currently implements projects in several provinces. In 2009, the MFLF and RID forged collaboration on a livelihood development and major reforestation project in Nan Province to tackle the issues of poverty, environmental degradation through slash-and-burn cultivation, mono-cropping, and massive deforestation, and high levels of chemical pesticide and herbicide usage, which have entangled the communities in a vicious cycle of debt, health risks, and environmental threats including severe droughts, floods and landslides. The Project worked with the communities on irrigation and soil improvement techniques, provided access to agricultural funds, introduced short-, medium-, and long-term expense reduction and income generating options, engaged the communities in reforestation, importantly in growing economic crops with high income and value-adding potential, and forest prevention and other natural resource management measures. This Project in Nan covering a total area of approximately 250,000 rai is looked to by the Government, private sector, and civil society as a model for sustainable reforestation in the highland areas, effective irrigation development through integrated efforts, and effective community-based land management.

M.R. Disnadda also serves as Board Member of numerous organizations, such as the Thailand Sustainable Development Foundation (TSDf), Rakkaew, Prostheses Foundation, etc. In 2009, M.R. Diskul was awarded 'Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award' for East Asia/Southeast Asia by Schwab Foundation, as part of the World Economic Forum.

M.R. Disnadda graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Business Administration. He received honorary PhDs in Agricultural Science from Mahidol University and Social Science from Mae Fah Luang University.





Dr. Krisana Kraisintu

About her:

Dr. Krisana Kraisintu has dedicated her life as a leader and pharmaceutical consultant in the local production and increased access to life-saving medicines in Africa and Asia, specifically, in the areas of malaria and HIV-AIDS-related drugs production. Currently, Dr. Krisana is a Member of the Board of Trustees, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand and President of Krisana Kraisintu Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation for humanitarian, social and community work in Thailand and overseas. She is also a Visiting Professor of Oriental Medicines at Harbin Institute of Technology,

China and Visiting Professor at Saint Paul's University Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Philippines. Previously, she served as Director of Research and Development Institute of the Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO), Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, and between 2002 and 2007 as a pharmaceutical consultant for Action Medeor, a non-profit German aid organization dealing with local production and distribution of medicines in Africa.





“My life is dedicated to bringing about local pharmaceutical production by formulating and manufacturing affordable generic drugs to treat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases to improve people’s health.”

– Dr Krisana Kraisintu ⁶⁸

“Dr. Krisana Kraisintu has dedicated her life to making medicines more affordable and accessible. Her efforts have saved countless lives.”

– Bill Gates ⁶⁹



Her work in brief:

Dr. Krisana does not personally boast of great financial wealth, but her contribution enriches the world in many ways. She has tirelessly improved the health and wellbeing of people across countries, regions and continents, and her work has been an inspiration to those who want to make a difference in their society.

Having the empathy and compassion for the suffering of people, she has worked hard for the rights of everyone to get access to treatment regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds. For instance, in 1992 there were 150,000 HIV patients in Thailand, and only the rich could get access to treatment. Working closely with HIV patients who were taking three pills in the morning and three in the evening, she made a pharmaceutical breakthrough in formulating this treatment into one pill – a combination of three antiretroviral drugs. Due to her revolutionary “3-1 cocktail” for HIV patients, the cost of treatment was substantially reduced from 850 to 27 US dollars per person per month and as a result it became one of the cheapest therapy in the world.

In 2002, Dr. Krisana left Thailand for Africa and worked there for 12 years. She went to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and started manufacturing ARV drugs. In DRC, she was involved from the start in designing the factory and supervising its construction as well as teaching the local people to manufacture ARV drugs. 80% of the employees of the factory were HIV infected that needed treatment.

Dr. Krisana believes that being a pharmacist, it is her duty to develop drugs. For 20 years, she has developed more than hundred generic products for hypertension, diabetes and other diseases for both adults and children. She has set up manufacturing facilities in poor areas in China, India, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Africa; people in Africa affectionately call her “the Gypsy Pharmacist” because she “does not have a home and travels a lot for work”. “Everywhere is my home,” she says as she acknowledges that there are many projects still to do, but fortunately for the world, “[she] will not give up. [she] never gives up”.⁶¹

Dr. Krisana is the recipient of multiple local and global awards for her pioneering work in generic drugs for treatment of both malaria and AIDS which helped make affordable care available for millions of poor people across Africa and Asia. In 2009, she received the Decoration “The most admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn” created by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the beloved late King of Thailand in 1991 to reward the individuals who devote themselves and their actions for the benefits of the country, the religion and the people of Thailand. She is also the recipient of the “Asian of the Year Award”, Reader’s Digest Magazine in 2008, and the “Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2009 in Public Service” (which is Asia’s equivalent of the Nobel Prize) among other prestigious accolades. Her work is the inspiration behind a Broadway Show called “Cocktail” and her life is portrayed in an award-winning 2006 documentary named “A Right to Live – Aid Medication for Millions.”

^{62,63,64,65,66,67}



Mr. Mechai Viravaidya

About him:

Mr. Mechai Viravaidya is a development economist and activist known for his pivotal role in initiating immensely successful programs in public health, education, Social Enterprise and community development across Thailand. In 1974, he founded one of the country's most successful private, non-profit, development organizations, the Population and Community Development Association (PDA). Others of his notable contributions include the establishment of Thailand's first Social Enterprise in 1975 which operates the Cabbages & Condoms Restaurants and Resorts and the establishment of the Mechai Bamboo School as a model to re-engineer rural Thai education.

While acting as Chairman of PDA, Mr. Mechai was made a member of the Senate during 1987-1991 and 1996-2006. He was also appointed to such key positions as Thailand's Cabinet spokesman, Deputy Minister of Industry, Minister of the Office of the Prime Minister, and Chairman of several of Thailand's largest government-owned enterprises including Krung Thai Bank, The Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT), and PTT-EP. In addition to these responsibilities, he also served as a Council Member at several Thai Universities. In 2014, the National Reform Assembly elected him as a member of the Constitution Drafting Committee. He also played an important role in helping to establish Thailand's first Social Enterprise law.



“The Bamboo School is one of the world’s most innovative schools.”

– Roy Wadia, Regional Communications, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) ⁷⁰

“When I first met Mechai Viravaidya, Thailand’s “Condom King,” 15 years ago, it became clear that he places a high value on action and impact, even if it means making some people uncomfortable.”

– Dr. Helen Gayle, TIME magazine ⁷¹





His work in brief:

Among his many contributions to society, Mr. Mechai endeavored to bring about rural development in Thailand, geared towards the five key areas of family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, the promotion of Social Enterprises, poverty reduction and education.

In 2008, he established the Mechai Bamboo School in Buriram province, Northeast Thailand, to re-engineer rural education in order to enable the school to be a life-long learning center for all as well as a hub for social and economic advancement. Today, with the help of the private sector, this concept is being expanded to 50 small rural schools each year to enable them to take on a greater role in their surrounding communities. The Bamboo School receives enrollment of rural students from across Thailand. The school aims to foster a new generation of rural youth who are honest and innovative social entrepreneurs and community development leaders.



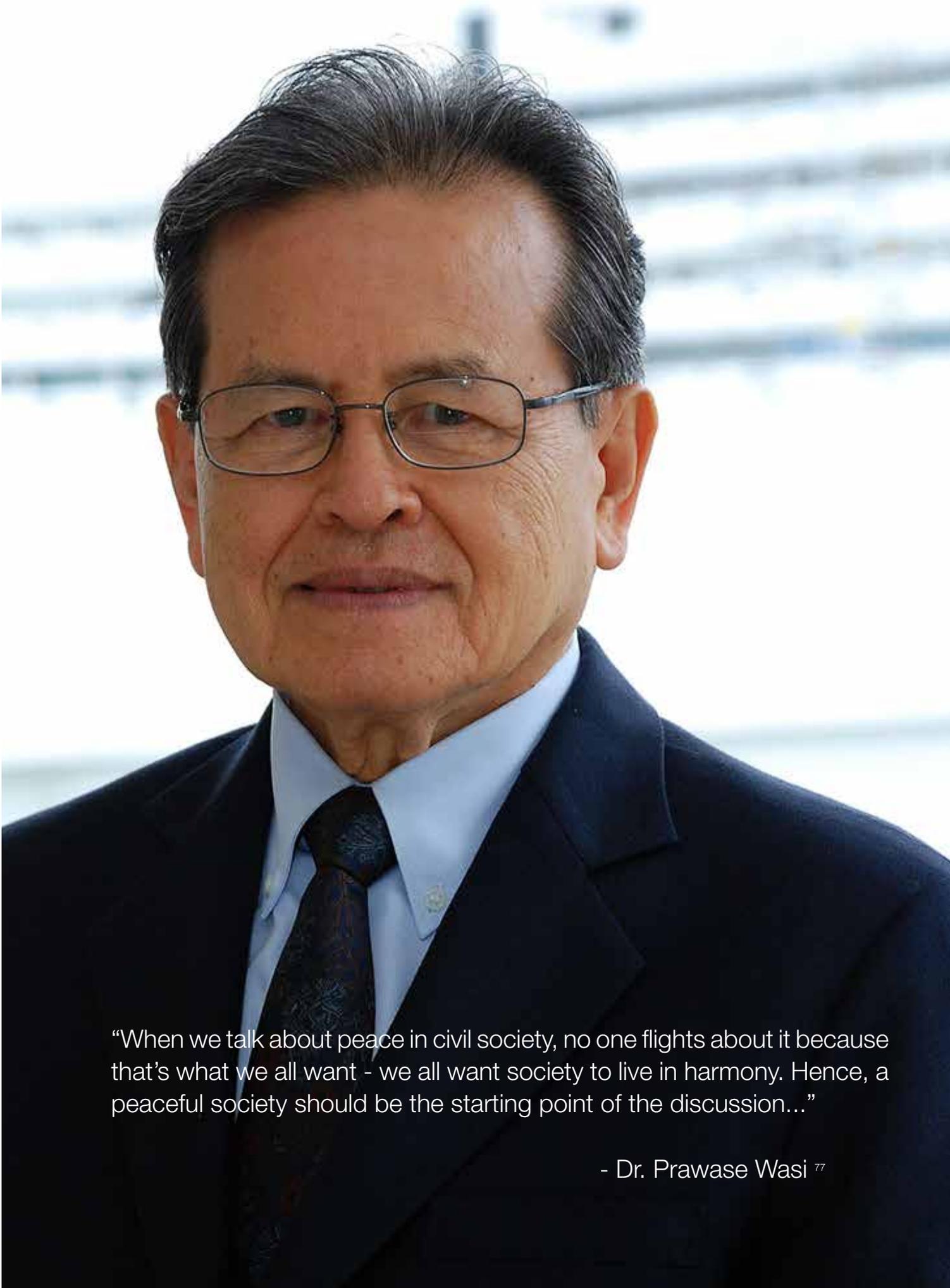
Dr. Prawase Wasi

About him:

Dr. Prawase Wasi is a medical doctor, who is also known for being an influential social critic, public intellectual, author and government person. He has played an important role in the country's social development through various political twists and turns in the past few decades. He is also considered as the brains behind the Thai Health Promotion Foundation or ThaiHealth.⁷² His thought

leadership in bringing about political reforms, peace and justice has also earned him much respect from various sections of the society. In 1981, Dr. Prawase received the Raymond Magsaysay Award for his contribution in Government Service. He has served as chairman and committee members of several universities and national reform committees.⁷³





“When we talk about peace in civil society, no one flights about it because that’s what we all want - we all want society to live in harmony. Hence, a peaceful society should be the starting point of the discussion...”

- Dr. Prawase Wasi ⁷⁷

His work in brief:

Dr. Prawase has shown that the medical profession offers an opportunity to serve others and one's country consequentially. Born in the province of Kanchanaburi and realized as a boy that the less fortunate were helpless, he had vowed to aid them. Working his way through school, he graduated the top of his class at the Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, University of Medical Sciences. Dr. Prawase received the King's Scholarship to advance his study in hematology at the University of Colorado and conducted postdoctoral research on human genetics at University of London. He returned to join the Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital in 1961.

Dr. Prawase is one of the world's leading hematologists, most notably in identifying the genetic mechanism of alpha thalassemia, a blood disease prevalent among Thais and other Southeast Asian and Mediterranean people. He has published over 100 articles in scientific journals and has welcomed scientists from across the globe to work with him.⁷⁴ During his early days, Dr. Prawase focused on improving of the health of the rural Thai population. His work in this area included a Handbook for Health of the People which he co-authored with 10 other prominent public health professionals, as well as campaigning for the government to build hospital to reach every district of the country. Through the Folk Doctor Foundation, Dr. Prawase helped launch the Thai Anti-Smoking Campaign Project in 1986 which eventually led to a comprehensive governmental plan for tobacco control. In addition to many of his own initiatives, Dr. Prawase inspired

his medical students to "go where the problems of health are most urgent; among the poor, mostly in rural villages". He has become the role model of doctors in public health service.

Beyond medicine, Dr. Prawase has also long made his mark in the Thai political and peace-building scene. He is known for being an architect behind many of Thailand's political reforms⁷⁵ as well as his efforts to resolve the violence in the three-southern provinces of Thailand through peace. His notable work included the introduction of the 'Triangle that Moves the Mountain' concept. The triangle consists of the three interconnected powers of wisdom, society and the state. Initially identified to help address public health issues, he proposed that the model could also be used to bring about other social changes. He believes that one power cannot do without the others. For instance, if a leader has the power of the state and popular support from the people, he/she may not be able to solve the problems of poverty and social injustice if he/she lacks the power of wisdom. Similarly, another leader may fail in public health reforms because he only has the powers of the state and wisdom but lacks support from the society.

Dr. Prawase believes that the path to reforming Thailand is mainly through solving social inequalities, upholding justice, and eradicating poverty rather than making reconciliation upfront. In his view, when social reforms succeed, unity and reconciliation will automatically come.⁷⁶





Ms. Somsook Boonyabancha

About her:

Ms. Somsook Boonyabancha has been working extensively on slum upgrading and urban poor housing development in Thailand and in various countries around Asia for the past 40 years. Currently she is the Chairperson (formerly Secretary-General) of the Asia Coalition for Housing Rights

(ACHR), a coalition of organization working on city development and urban poor housing in Asia. Previously, she was Director of Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI) in Thailand.

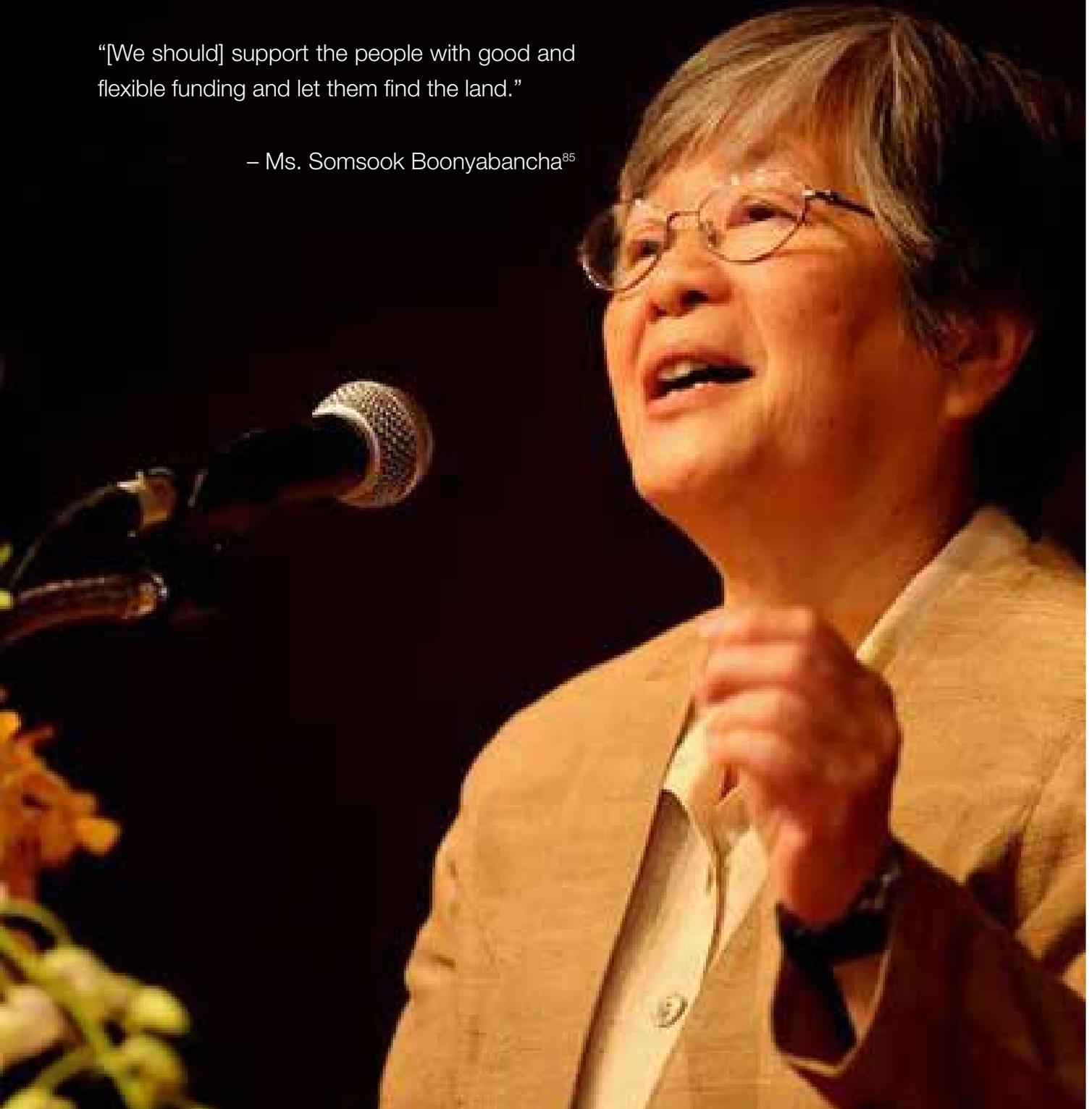


“I wish to see communities of the underprivileged people have the opportunity to mobilize power as a group, to develop themselves as part of the ongoing social development.”

– Ms. Somsook Boonyabancha⁸⁴

“[We should] support the people with good and flexible funding and let them find the land.”

– Ms. Somsook Boonyabancha⁸⁵



Her work in brief:

Ms Somsook's work extends over four decades. She has worked for community-led and community-driven development, disaster rehabilitation, community welfare, urban and rural community land and housing development.

She believes urban poor communities have great potentials to make changes by themselves if they work together and learn how to work with others as a group to develop secured housing, to build strong social community and to build their community funding system in order to support their various development activities. Ms Somsook also believes that community people themselves can become active actors and active citizen.

At the Asia Coalition for Housing Rights, she has supported various city-wide upgrading activities under the Asian Coalition for Community Action Program (ACCA) in more than 200 cities in close to 20 countries in Asia. Previously, during her time at the Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI), she designed and implemented in Thailand a national city-wide community upgrading which has been employing in 300 cities utilizing new community finance and revolving fund mechanisms.

Ms. Somsook was born in Thailand in 1951, and she graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand and from the Housing and Urbanization Course in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1977-1978.^{78,79,80,81,82,83}





DR. Sumet Tantivejkul

About him:

Dr. Sumet Tantivejkul is recognized for his prominent role as the Secretary General of the Chaipattana Foundation, a non-governmental organization under the royal patronage of the late King Rama IX, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.⁸⁶ For 35 years, he served His Majesty on countless visits to the rural areas. Due to his extensive service to the king, he is a well-known author of books on

His Majesty's works and often speaks on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.⁸⁷ He also sits as the chairman and board of directors for many of Thailand's leading foundations and institutions. Now at 78, Dr. Sumet continues working for the greater good as inspired by King Bhumibol.





“His Majesty realizes that most of the people are farmers, and that’s why the most important [of his development] programs concern water...”

- Dr Sumet Tantivejkul⁹⁰

His work in brief:

The Chaipattana Foundation was established in 1988 by the late King Rama IX, King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Following through His late Majesty the king's principle for sustainable development, most of the projects administered by the foundation focuses on the long-term results that would improve the people's quality of life and allow them to become self-reliant.⁸⁸

Due to Thailand's economic and societal composition, farmers and their livelihoods are at the heart of the Chaipattana Foundation's development work. Many of the foundation's efforts involves improving production inputs, such as soil, water and the conservation of natural resources and the environment.

"Water is life" was His Majesty the king's acknowledgement that water is a basic necessity of life for humans, animals and plants alike. Therefore, the foundation has been well known for its water management projects, which range from solving water shortage, flood and drought problems to the treatment of waste water. Simplicity and sustainability are underlying principles of His Majesty's initiatives on the development of natural resources. One of the late King Rama IX and foundation's notable work include the Monkey's Cheek project, which was designed lessen the flood problem. The project consists of a system of canal excavation along the coastal areas to the west and the east of the Chao Phraya River. These canals serve as storage reservoirs and drain floodwaters away using the power of gravity and tidal flow. The foundation's other widely recognized project is the Royally-Initiated Laem Phak Bia Environmental Research and Development Project (LERD) Project, which involves wastewater treatment and garbage management by natural means. Today, the LERD Project serves as a model for environmental improvement and conservation.⁸⁹





ABOUT C asean

C asean

Established in 2013, C asean is a social enterprise aiming to strengthen regional connectivity. As a collaborative platform looking to connect ASEAN business, arts and culture, one of roles is to be the sustainability hub for the ASEAN region. Among our many activities, we aim to be a vibrant center for those pursuing entrepreneurial endeavors by shaping a supportive environment for ASEAN business, enhancing public knowledge and awareness on business acumen, and fostering integration

into a wider regional network. We aim to provide a networking platform for collaboration among business leaders across the region in support of the development of the ASEAN community, especially the new generation through various connectivity initiatives. Equally important, C asean will serve as a platform for ASEAN arts and cultural dialogues, as we believe in arts and culture as an essential tool to blend our heritages and create a special bond of harmonious friendship and a people-oriented ASEAN identity.

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