

KEY WORD : IMPACT/GEM STONES INDUSTRY/CHANTHABURI/TRAT

NIPA MANEEJINDA : A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF GEM STONES INDUSTRY IN
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It is the current national development policy to distribute industry to the regions in order to generate regional employment, to alleviate the migration towards the great cities and to bring about better income distribution. However the achievement of this policy depends on the development outcome in the areas, because some distributed industries may deplete a large amount of natural resources while contributing only a little to the region. The major objective of this research is, therefore, to conduct an in-depth study on the economic impacts of gem stones industries on Chanthaburi and Trat provinces, taking into account the local income generated in these areas through the spendings by gem industries, labours and residents. The income generation has been calculated through multiplier effect. Furthermore, this research incorporates environmental issues obtained from empirical approach in comparison with the environmental impact measurement adopted by the Office of the National Environment Board of Thailand in terms of the changes in physical and biological aspects as well as quality of life values.

The result of the study reveals evidences that the expenditure of gem cutting industries are more favorable to the growth of Chanthaburi and Trat than gem mining industries, with respect to income generation and employment. This is due to the nature of these industries which tend to be more stable. By taking environment aspect into consideration, it is clear that gem cutting industries should be promoted and given high priority in these areas while gem mining industries should be given closer control in order to bring about a more efficient use of the remaining natural resources.