

This study is hypothesized that :

When the structure of political system has been changed such that political parties become involved in the executive and legislative branches and thereby perform the policy-making function, and the policy-making structure has been changed such that political parties have formal control over the policy-making process in place of the government bureaucracy, the tourist industry interest groups

a. change its channel for exerting influence on policy from the government bureaucracy so as to rely more on the political parties, the parliament and the government.

b. continue to use in formal rather than formal methods of exerting influence.

The study was found that:

When the structure of political system has been changed such that political parties become involved in the executive and legislative branches and thereby perform the policy-making function, and the policy-making structure has been changed such that political parties have formal control over the policy-making process in place of the government bureaucracy,

a. the tourist industry interest groups still aggregated their interests and influenced the policy-making process through the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT.), the government bureaucracy and the government or the responsible minister rather than through political parties and the parliament and its Standing Committee on Culture and Tourism. They made use of these access channels because the ministerial position is deemed to be most effective in granting them benefits. It is irrelevant to them whether the minister is an elected official or a party member or not.

b. the groups still used informal methods but less so and in conjunction with formal methods.

The groups' relationship with the TAT. was one of interdependence.

The groups were able to exert their influence on the policy process at the implementation stage rather than at the policy-initiation stage. However, they were able to curb, in a manner, government efforts to control them and tourism business. This may have been possible because since 1982 the government and the groups have generally shared similar interests and objectives in tourism industry.