

ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER : A Study on Problems and Obstacles of the Hajj
Management Thailand
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The purpose of the study was twofold : first, to find out the problems and obstacles to Hadji arrangements in Thailand and second, to identify the causes of the problems. Both primary and secondary data were employed in the study. The secondary data were taken from related documents, while the primary data were collected by interviewing 23 key informants consisting of representatives from the government sector, Hadji arrangement persons and people who had already attended a Hadji ceremony. An interview schedule was used as a research tool. The data from the interviews were analyzed along with the related documents.

The findings were summed up as follows :

1. Problems with Saudi Arabian Officers. One problem stemmed from the lack of data and clear regulations about the exact number of those who would attend the Hadji ceremony. Another problem was the illegal immigration of some Hadji participation. That is, they did not retrain to their home country after the ceremony but tried to find jobs there. These people became illegal workers.

2. Problems from the Thai government. The government did not have a long-term plan on this matter. Also, there was poor coordination between Thai agencies and Saudi Arabia.

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3. Problems arising from the Hadji arrangement persons. Some did not coordinate with the government and did not follow the state law.

4. Problems of the people themselves. They received poor quality services from the Hadji program arrangers in terms of accommodation and food. The government agencies were slow in helping them, especially in case of losing the way or becoming ill.

The following recommendations were made :

1. An independent organization should be set up to directly look after the Hadji activity.

2. The Hadji program arrangers and subgroup leaders (Sae) should be required to attend a test to get a license.

3. Muslim people should be constant by given a correct knowledge of the Hadji ceremony.

3.1 There should be an organization of Muslims who have an good understanding of Islam, especially the Hadji ceremony. These people should be responsible for testing the readiness of those who are going to attend the Hadji ceremony. Emphasis should be on the ability to correctly behave in the ceremony, and on the amount of money to spent during the trip.

3.2 Related agencies should make preparations one year in advance to facilitate the Hadji program arrangers and these who want to attend the ceremony.

3.3 The government should set up the Hadji Affairs Office and lodgings as many countries are doing now.