

4036741 PHPH/M : MAJOR : MEDICINE & PUBLIC HEALTH LAW ADMINISTRATION ;

M.Sc. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

KEY WORDS : NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION / APPLICATION OF RIGHTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTON

KANYARAT WONGPOOKA : NGOs' APPLICATION OF RIGHTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDER THE ENHANCEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF NATION ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, B.E. 2535. THESIS ADVISORS : NAWARAT SUWANNAPONG, Ph.D. CHAWEEWAN BOONSUYA, M.S.P.H. SUTET SILAPANANTAKUL, Ph.D. 150 p. ISBN 974-662-666-3

At present, NGOs (non government organizations) play a role in conservation and protection of the environment. The Enhancement and Conservation of Nation Environmental Quality Act, B.E. 2535 provided people the right to participate in environmental protection. This research aimed at assessing NGOs' application of rights for environmental protection under the Enhancement and Conservation of Nation Environmental Quality Act, B.E. 2535. These rights consist of the right to obtain information from government agencies, the right to claim damage or compensation from the state and the right to lodge complaints against environmental violators. The study sample consisted of NGOs which were registered to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment. Sixty NGOs were established in Bangkok Metropolis. In order to collect data, 31 NGOs' agencies were interviewed and 12 managers of NGOs received in-depth interviews.

The results of this research showed that the NGOs were examined established 13.2 years ago on average. For 23.5 % of the main financial source was a donation from the public. The majority of NGOs (87.1 %) applied the right to participate in environmental protection at a low level. The right to obtain information from the government was applied by 22.9 % of NGOs, the right to lodge complaints against environmental violators was applied by 6.5 % of NGOs and the right to claim damage or compensation from the state was applied by only 3.2 % of NGOs. The management organization of NGOs (90.3 %) should be improved. Agencies (71.0 %) had knowledge of environmental law at a low level. The majority of the agencies (80.6%) had an unsupportive attitude towards environmental law, especially law enforcement. Management was significantly associated with the application of rights ( $P=0.001$ ). Planning and organizing were also significantly associated with the application of rights ( $P=0.001$  and  $0.000$  respectively). Knowledge and attitude were not associated with the application of rights. This qualitative research found that unclear environmental law concerning application of rights made NGOs to apply only a few rights. Government and involved people should improve the issues of law regarding the application of rights and promote people to have more understanding and knowledge of environmental law. NGOs should improve planning and organizing.