

Abstract

Water pollution in Tha Chin River is the problem that has been continually occurring from the past to the present time, and tends to increase its severity due to economic and social change of Thailand that has switched from an agricultural society to an industrial one, the increasing number of population, the expansion of urban communities. Several kinds of pollution have been released to Tha Chin River changing a clean and resourceful river to a polluted one. The sources of such pollution are industrial plants, communities, and agricultural fields that rely on chemical substances. Even though the water condition of the river is still agreeable to the standard condition that the governmental department has prescribed, the amount of pollution in the river exceeds the capacity of natural treatments causing the polluted conditions that we are facing nowadays. From the study on the measures of 'Water Pollution Control and Management in Tha Chin River', which consist of three categories: Preventive Measures, Control Measures and Treatment Measures, we can see that these measures have been prescribed in various Acts which can be divided into two main groups:

1. Regulations in Specific Laws

These specific laws have been issued in order to preserve certain aspects of environments. They have not been particularly issued for preserving Tha Chin River, but they are applicable such as the Act on Navigation in Thai Waters B.E. 2456, the Irrigation Act B.E. 2485, the Land Appropriation Act B.E. 2543, the Building Control Act B.E. 2522, and the Factory Act B.E. 2535.

2. Regulations in General Laws

These laws have been issued to work as general laws coordinating with, in addition to, or substituting specific laws so as to have the system of environmental laws that is flexible and applicable to social, economic, and technological changes such as the National Environmental Quality Act B.E. 2535, the Public Health Act B.E. 2535, and the Public Cleansing and Orderliness Act B.E. 2535.

The operations of each unit that is responsible for each law is separated from one another. The major roles of policies and law application still belong to the federation governmental departments without actual decentralization of authorities to the local administrative organization. Besides, the local administrative organization has its own responsibilities for missions assigned by the federal organization and for other tasks, and is lacking of readiness in all respects. This delays essential operations of pollution control. As a result, many problems to application of laws to control and manage pollution in Tha Chin River such as the redundancy of legal measures for water pollution prevention-in terms of both regulations and responsible units, the inefficiency and inappropriateness of such legal measures for Tha Chin River, and the lack of clear treatment measures. All the aforementioned problems lead to the failure in the control and management of water pollution in Tha Chin River. Thus, Tha Chin River is still polluted. The relevant units should have some corrective practices as suggested in the following part.

1. All out-of-dated laws should be cancelled; the laws that state the authorities of the stated should be merged into a single law which also prescribes preventive and control measures for each kind of pollution, together with more serious criminal punishment for those who violate its regulations; and regulations concerning treatment measures should be clarified in order to give authorities to the local administrative organization to find the ways that suit each area.

2. The related units should be restructured; otherwise, the local administrative organization should appoint particular units responsible for environment of Tha Chin River in different areas. Such particular units have to co-operate with one another in terms of policies and law application to file a law suit to anyone who has violated the law and to charge for compensation, to settle ways to treat polluted water in the river, to co-operate with other local administrative organizations in giving the public

water treatment services, and to establish a syndicate that is responsible for creating the public treatment system for polluted water in Tha Chin River.