

Thesis Title : Kurasapa and the Control of Teachers' Professional
Ethics in Thailand : Past, Present and Future

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Abstract

This study aimed to analytically examine developments of Kurasapa or Teacher Council and its supervision and control of ethical codes of the teaching profession, past, present and future. Historically speaking, Kurasapa was fond to have tries this supervisory and controlling power. However, simutaneously it had to exercise teacher personnel administration power on behalf of the Civil Service Commission (CSC). As far as Kurasapa is concerned, it felt all along that the latter power also covered teachers' professional ethics issues. Thus, when this power was taken away from it in 1980 and placed in the hand of the newly established Teacher Personnel Civil Service Commission, Kurasapa moved to seek a new role. It proposed ideas and plans to help uplift the teaching profession status which, in the end, would lead to the issuing and granting of teacher licenses. At the same time, Kurasapa had/have to engage in a number of activities regarding welfare services for its members around the

country. Therefore, and inevitably, controversies arose as regards Kurasapa's real role as a professional organization. These controversies subsequently ushered in a number of draft laws proposed by politicians, teacher organizations and even Kurasapa itself to replace the existing one. Conflicting points contained in those draft laws centered around such issues as whether the new Kurasapa should be entirely independent from bureaucracy and whether it should have the power to issue and grant teacher licenses, etc. Pros and Cons continue to these days.

One thing this study can point out clearly is that Kurasapa has not by and large performed its functions as a real professional organization of teachers. One reason was, probably that it had assumed the teacher personnel administration power for 3 decades. Moreover, besides this "attractive" power Kurasapa also operated a highly profitable commercial enterprise under its banner. It is this researchers opinion that for Kurasapa to be able to help uplift the sinking teaching profession it has to urgently seek ways and means to obtain the teacher license granting and issuing power and the licensing Should cover all teachers in the country. As regards the issue of the new professional organization's autonomy Kurasapa must be independent from both bureaucracy and politics in order for the teaching profession to be uplifted and respected. And to become an authentic professional organization the new Kurasapa must be run by teachers themselves not by high-ranking or retired government officials and politicians the way it has been.