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THE PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

TONGCHOOB BOONSEUR: FACTORS AFFECTING THE PARTICIPATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR ADMINISTRATION ON THE PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN: A CASE STUDY OF PITSANULOK PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS: RUNJARAT HUTACHAROEN M.Sc., SANCHAI SUTIPANWIHAN M.Sc., PIYAKARN TERATISUP M.Sc., 214 p. ISBN 974-664-254-5.

Environmental issues are very important to both Thais and other people around the world. According to the Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act of 1992, the Thai Government has attempted to solve this by decentralizing the power of handling it to local and the provincial levels where they can organize their own The Provincial Environmental Quality Management Action Plan. Pitsanulok, a province in the North has set the Provincial Development Committee to organize various involved agencies responsible for environmental management. But, the overall result has yet to get the desired level of satisfaction. Thus, it was a point of interest to study the factors affecting the success or failure of participation among agencies at the provincial level and this province was then selected as a case study. The survey method and questionnaires were used throughout the study. The variable factors were categorized and tested by using closed and open-ended questionnaires. ANOVA was used to justify the level of significance at 0.05 by the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS/PC⁺)

The results of the study revealed that government agencies had a low participation level due to various independent variables such as: variables of the Ministry; sectoral agencies; experiences in environment of personnel; making project on The Provincial Environmental Quality Management Action Plan; number of persons in committee; delegation for specific person; class-level of the specific person responding; number of projects in each plan; sectors' helping; outcome of projects; ready state of environmental data; receiving message on The Provincial Environmental Quality Management Action Plan; support from top agencies; opportunity for experience in environmental plan; community's request; perception for environmental policy of the province; external budget; needs for external budget; and coordination among co-operate agencies.

Therefore, it is recommended that all cooperating agencies including responsible and concerned sectors must be reorganized and an indepth seminar given to develop a cooperative package to apply and promote an effective participation in environmental quality management suitable for eager either the local or provincial area. These agencies must be tested and evaluated prior to implementation.