

Independent Study :

The Role of the District Officer and the
Expectations of the Community Leaders : A
Case Study of San Pa Tong District, Chiang Mai

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Abstract

This independent study has the prime objective in examining the roles in various perspectives of "District Directors" such as the roles which have to be performed in accordance with the regulating laws, with social norms, customs, traditions and Thai social values as appeared in the expectations of "local leaders". The term "local leader" refers to Kamnan and Village Headman in Amphoe San Pa Tong as a particular case study.

Data are collected by conducting field questionnaires of which the respondents are Kamnan and Village headman in Amphoe San Pa Tong. All of which there are 109 respondents, 9 are Kamnan and 100 are Village Headman.

The study finds that expectations of local leaders towards the roles of a district director are mainly focused on the roles in being the top administrator at Amphoe level as enacted in the Procedures of the Kingdom Administration Act B.E. 2534 which there are 4 main capacities:

1. The role in the capacity of Amphoe level's administrator which is regulated by laws, by cabinet's decrees, by social, economic and political regulations. In addition, district director must administer to serve the policies of the government, the ministries, the government bureau and departments.

2. The role in the capacity of a local social leader of which a district director has to perform various social duties in state ceremonies, state fairs, local festivals including in other social gatherings.

3. In the perspective of acquired power, a district director is a charismatic leader, in the perspective of using powers, a district director is a democratic leader, and in the perspective of the manifested roles, a district director is a participative leader.

4. From the perspectives of Kamnan and Village Headman, a district director is anticipated and desired to play the role of a local developer.

The study's findings indicate that there are 10 desired characteristics of a district director which are expected from local leaders; these characteristics are: being a developer, have a casual personality, keep promises, have knowledge and capacities, have responsibilities, have honesty, have justice, have kindness, have polite speaking, and routinely go out to meet local people.