

Independent Study : Roles of District Administrative Officials in the  
Forestry Preservation : A Case Study of Mae Rim  
District, Chiang Mai Province.

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abstract

There has been a great destruction of forest and forest degradation in Thailand in the last few decades. It is a great national problem. To solve this problem, cooperation of activities of public and private agencies, as well as cooperation of all the people are very important. At the present time the forest preservation plan is in the responsibility of the Royal Forestry Department. This sometimes leads to misunderstanding between the local people and the government authorities. If the situation continues like in the past, the problem of forest destruction will not be solved.

The researcher thinks that the district officials should play more role in the forest preservation. They can also play the role of the middle-man between the forestry officials and the local people. This research is concerned with the role of district officials and public institutions working for preservation of forestry. The area of study is the Mae Rim National forest area and Doi Suthep-Pui National Park.

This study hypothesizes that governmental agencies at district level and public institutions can play important role in preservation of forestry. There are 3 main sources of data:

1. From relevant documents,
2. From interviewing local officials, and
3. From observation of the researcher himself.

The study found that the officials of the Royal Forestry Department have the authority over the forest preservation matters. this is because it is believed that they have accumulated technical knowledge and experience in forest preservation.

This practice prevents the other governmental agencies, who can help in the forest preservation, from giving the supporting roles needed. This is an important factor that lowers the efficiency of the government in forest preservation. It can be concluded, from the data

collected, that the efficiency of the forest preservation can be increased by allowing other agencies to participate. These other agencies include the district officials, public institutions, private organizations and local people.