

MANAGEMENT TOWARD GOVERNMENT POLICY IN RESPONSIBILITY TO
DISASTER IN THAILAND: CASE STUDIES OF FLOODS BETWEEN 1942-2012

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of the study are 1) to study disaster management in Thailand, focusing on floods, by the government, public, and private sectors at 4 levels: international, national, provincial, and local level; 2) to analyze factors affecting the efficiency and effectiveness of the formation and implementation of public policies related to risk reduction and management of disasters caused by floods; and 3) to develop management guidelines for government policy in response to disasters in Thailand and appropriate approach in response to future disasters. The researcher used qualitative research methods to collect data by interviewing 18 informants and organizing two group conversations with 32 participants. The tools used were a semi-structured interview, a set of questions for group conversations, and a recording form for data collection from documents.

The results of the research are as follows: 1) before 2011, a specific disaster management agency had not yet been established. In 2011, the government clearly formulated a disaster policy according to the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act, B.E. 2550, which clearly specified the roles and duties. After 2011, an organization was established that was in charge of preventing and mitigating disasters from water and floods; 2) the factors which affected the efficiency and the effectiveness of the policy formation and the management according to the government policy could be divided into technical factors, human performance factors, and systemic and organizational performance factors; and 3) the management pattern in the future should encourage a relationship that results from mutual values and trustful cooperation. Also, there should be immediate action taken when severe floods take place. The person who has the power to decide and give orders according to the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act, B.E. 2550 is the prime minister, and the operating agency is the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

KEY WORDS: MANAGEMENT TOWARD GOVERNMENT POLICY /
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