

ABSTRACT: FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY IN COMMUNITY  
WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN THAILAND: A CASE STUDY OF  
SAMUTSAKORN MUNICIPALITY

AUTHOR : Dararatt Anantanasuwong, Ph.D.

ADDRESS : School of Development Economics

National Institute of Development Administration

Klong Chan, Bangkok, Bangkok 10240, THAILAND

Tel. No.: (66-2) 375-2043, 377-5069, 377-7400-19 ext. 439

Fax No. : (66-2) 375-8842

E-mail Address: dararatt@as.nida.ac.th

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This feasibility study focuses on the financial ability of Samuthsakorn Municipality, a city located in the south-west of Bangkok and on the Gulf of Siam, in managing a community wastewater collection and treatment system, in terms of the system's construction (capital) and operation and maintenance (O&M) costs, and the collection of fees/charges to cover the costs. The financial ability or capacity of the Municipality is considered from its revenues for development, i.e., the revenues collected locally and being netted by the fixed expenditures. The revenues for development is compared with the expenditures for development, i.e., the expenditures spent on local development projects, and with the capital and O&M costs of the system. The fee/charge is a unit cost calculated from the "average incremental cost" of the system. The laws and regulations as well as government agencies concerning

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community wastewater management by local authority in Thailand are reviewed as supplement to the financial capacity analysis, especially on the collection of fees/charges of the system.

Purpose of Study  
The results of the study indicate that Samut Sakhon Municipality's revenues for development are not adequate enough to cover the capital and O&M costs of the least-cost system of wastewater collection and a central treatment plant. The financial capacity of the Municipality is enough only to cover the O&M cost. The fees/charges to the polluters in the city area should reflect only the O&M cost. Despite the authorization by laws and regulations to deal with water pollution, the Municipality is reluctant to manage the wastewater collection and treatment system, especially in the issue of fee/charge collection.

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