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The objectives of this thesis are to study the international background of the environmental auditing concept, to consider the possibility of applying environmental auditing, and to suggest the appropriate application of the environmental auditing for Thailand. Documentary research is used, together with the qualitative approach by an in-depth interview method. Forty-one case studies of the management level responsible for environmental issues of industries, government agencies, and also non-governmental organizations were interviewed. The present status of environmental auditing in Thailand, and the factors affecting the desirability of implementing environmental auditing are examined. Viewpoints regarding how to approach the issues are also addressed.

The main conclusions are : (1) The principle factors limiting the adoption of environmental auditing in Thailand are lack of know-how, motivating factors, and the perception of the nature and the role of auditing. (2) Government, through agencies such as Department of Industrial Works and Office of Environmental Policy and Planning should adopt environmental auditing as a favoured mechanism to fulfill their responsibility. (3) Government should play a significant role in promoting voluntary auditing by informing, motivating, and increasing capability to adopt auditing. (4) Partnerships should be established between government, industry, environmental consultants, non-governmental organizations, and academia to foster voluntary implementation.