

ANSSR: Economy Priorities and Progress Assessment Measures

Thailand

Throughout the implementation of the Eleventh Plan (2011-2016), Thailand will inevitably confront with internal and external changes that will certainly affect the course of development. These changes will be more uncertain, complex, and unpredictable. As a result, Thailand is exposed to risks in various dimensions. Some of the particular risks are: weak public administration; unprepared economic structure for sustainable development; depreciating Thai cultural value; degrading natural resource and environment; and vulnerable security.

Therefore, the formulation of development direction and strategy under the Eleventh Plan will focus more on accelerating resilience building in all development dimensions to prevent such possible risks, and strengthening Thailand's foundation in every aspect. In addition, placing people and society at the center of quality development will be highly valued in order to increase their ability to keep pace with changes and to gain equal access to resources and benefits from social and economic development. Economic opportunity will be created based on knowledge, technology, innovation, and creativity, taking into account that production and consumption must stand on an eco-friendly foundation which will lead to stable and sustainable development. The approaches to building resilience in some important development issues under the Eleventh plan are to create a "balanced development" in all aspects.

For the government sector, the Eleventh plan will focus on the promotion of government transparency, and public participation in the development process. On 10 June 2011, the Thai Prime Minister announced "Collective Action" project to tackle corruption as a major structural reform in Thailand. Therefore, Thailand has chosen Anti-Corruption Strategy, which is aligned with APEC ANSSR's priorities in the area of "Promoting more open, well-functioning transparent and competitive markets," as one of its priority areas.

As for the private sector, promoting quality and sustained SMEs development will be emphasized with a focus on upgrading the skill and knowledge of entrepreneurs, particularly good governance management skill and improving their accessibility to financial resources. This priority area is aligned with APEC ANSSR's priority in the topic of "Promoting sustained SME development and enhanced opportunities for women and vulnerable populations."

For the community sector, to build an immune system towards quality society whereby people are not struck in poverty trap but could improve their quality of life; the people at all levels should have social and economic security, equal employment opportunity, equal protection and equal access to social services and resources. One main strategy in the Eleventh plan is to extend social protection to people at all levels, as well as to respond to their needs and necessities with policies, and legal and social measures to ensure social security for labour in both formal and informal sectors with equality and fairness. The provision of sufficient welfare to ensure quality of life, while developing a better and more connected database on social protection should also be emphasized. This priority would fit in the area of "Promoting effective and fiscally sustainable social safety net programs."

ANSSR Priorities

| Promoting more open, well – functioning, transparent, and competitive markets | |
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| Priority: | <p>Implementation of Collective Action Initiative in Anti-Corruption: Collective Action Initiative is a corporate governance program that is a collaborative and sustained process of cooperation among various stakeholders – government, private sector, external accountability agencies, and civil society. The ultimate goal of CA is to curb corruption and continuously improve transparency in order to reduce any chance of corrupt practices through binding agreement between the related stakeholders. CA focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing corruption • enhancing the efficiency of doing business by enhancing the fairness and transparency of law enforcement • promoting public awareness of CA • increasing the impact and credibility of individual actions, brings vulnerable individual players into an alliance of like-minded organisations • leveling the playing field between competitors • enabling companies to abstain from bribing • enabling government to reduce the high cost and the distortionary impact of corruption |
| Progress assessed based on: | <p>Quantitative Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption Perception Index (CPI) • Number of companies join in CA network • Number of government agencies join in CA agreement • Number of workshops/campaigns for raising awareness on the CA • Number of mechanisms for public participation in anti-corruption work <p>Qualitative Indicators: By using questionnaire survey on the degree of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception on the level of participation of different groups of stakeholders through the CA Strategy • Perception of the different group of stakeholders on the ability to prevent corruption • Perception on the success of the CA Initiative implementation • Satisfaction on the outcome of projects implemented by using CA <p>(Stakeholders could be asked to pin-point level of perception/satisfaction of a scale 1 – 5)</p> |
| Priority: | <p>Regulatory reform to comply with UN Convention against Corruption: The 14th International Anti-Corruption Conference held in Thailand in November 2010 has been described as a milestone in Thailand's effort to combat corruption. The Conference has not only resulted in awareness raising among the public about corruption in Thailand, but also resulted in the ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption of Thailand on 1 March 2011 and has been enforced from 31 March 2011, which leads to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reform regulatory framework related to anti-corruption • promote public awareness on UNCAC |
| Progress assessed based on: | <p>Quantitative Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of policies related to anti-corruption • Number of regulations amended to comply with UNCAC <p>Qualitative Indicators: By using the questionnaire survey on the degree of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception on the success of UNCAC implementation <p>(Level of perception could be pin-pointed on the scale of 1 – 5)</p> |

| Promoting sustained SME development and enhanced opportunities for women and vulnerable populations | |
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| Priority: | Promoting quality and sustained SMEs development will be emphasized with a focus on upgrading their skill and knowledge, particularly on good governance management skill and improving their accessibility to financial resources. |
| Progress assessed based on: | <p>Quantitative Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of SMEs on GDP. • Increased the number of SMEs registered to, at minimum, 250,000 within 2016. • Provide capacity building for, at minimum, 30,000 SMEs in the targeted sectors within 2016. • Strengthening at least 60 SMEs networks and clusters per year. <p>Qualitative Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grass-root economy is strengthened and an opportunity for community and small enterprises is enhanced. • Review and revise business factors that might affect SMEs by reducing their obstacles and improving business facilitation. • Improve efficiency and integrate the administrative management of SMEs promotion. • Enhance SME access to finance, including financing of SME innovation. |

| Promoting effective and fiscally sustainable social safety net programs | |
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| Priority: | Extend social protection to people at all levels and accommodate to their needs and necessities with policies and legal and social measures to ensure social security for labour in both formal and informal sectors with equality and fairness. The providing of sufficient welfare to ensure a quality of life while developing a better and more connected database should also be emphasized. |
| Progress assessed based on: | <p>Quantitative Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of people who are eligible for social protection categorised by gender, age and occupation. Proportion of workers who are not protected by social security but eligible for other social welfare, out of the overall labour force. • Community capacity index. <p>Qualitative Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have an equal and thorough access to high quality social services. • The poor and disadvantaged are immune and can keep pace with changes for development. |