

การป้องกันและแก้ไขปัญหาสาธารณภัยในระดับจังหวัดอย่างมีประสิทธิภาพ

The Effective Prevention and Disasters Preparedness Management : A Case Study of Natural Floods

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Executive Summary

Thailand has been much affected by natural disasters every year especially from natural floods. If there is no approach to prevent and manage the disasters appropriately, this will be an important obstacle to the country's socio-economic development. The effective management of disasters in the high-risk for disaster provinces is therefore very crucial and need to be implemented in a systematic way. Thus, this report aims to study the problem situation and propose some necessary approaches for the prevention and management of the natural disasters as well as propose some policy implications for flood-related disasters at the provincial level.

This study finds that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has conducted an assessment of Thailand and found that the country has high risks in term of natural floods when compared to other types of natural disasters. Furthermore, the value of losses incurred on the country has been estimated to be about 27,800 million baht in the last 6 years (2003 - 2008)

For the management of the disasters in Thailand, the time frame of the management has also been taken into account. That is, the pre-disaster period, during the actual disaster period and after the disaster is over. There are various activities called for in each period.

In term of the management structure, there are two components. One is the policy level which is composed of the Disaster Prevention and Alleviation Committee who is responsible for the overall policy formulation and there is the Department of Disasters Prevention and Alleviation as the central unit. Second is the operational level where there is those responsible from national to local levels. For the disasters prevention and alleviation at the provincial level, the responsibilities will be those of the provincial governors.

For the problem situation related to disasters at the provincial level, it is found that these are caused by at least 3 main factors. First, the weather and natural geography, when there are heavy rainfalls in the plains or plateau and nearby areas, the waters cannot be irrigated and channeled effectively. Secondly, the basic infrastructure may obstruct or delay the floods. Third, the management which

lacks knowledge about natural disasters. The agencies lack necessary equipments as well as the unified overseeing system and lacks of effective crisis management.

This researcher therefore proposes two effectiveness-enhancing measures in disasters prevention and management at the provincial level which are as follows :

1. The structural measures approach. This approach emphasizes on building civil engineering construction that is suitable to the coverage area by integrating and aligning each agency's plans to those of the province.

2. The non-structural measures approach. This approach emphasizes on diverse or varying measures according to the time period which the disasters take place. These consist of the preparedness before the disasters measures, the urgency measures during the disasters occurrence period, and third, the rehabilitation measures after the disasters are over.

3. With respect to the policy implication to enhance the capacity and effectiveness in disasters prevention and management at the provincial level, this researcher views that the natural disasters should be considered as the national agenda proper when there is an integration of all sectors involved from national level to local government level to work together in a systematic approach. The role of the Department of Disasters Prevention and Management should be strengthened as the central agency so that there will be an agency that is anchored in providing a guidance in policies related to natural disasters prevention and management at the operational level in the local areas. Furthermore, there should be a proactive approach in disasters management by setting up mission on disasters prevention and reduction rather than the alleviation and rescues of the disasters effects.

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