Lifelong Learning in Thailand

Professor Sumalee Sungsri
Lifelong Learning in Thailand
Necessity of Lifelong Learning

- The change of economic and occupation
- The change of social and culture
- The growth of knowledge and technology
- The change of politics
- the change of way of life and living situation of people
- the change of population structure
- the limitation of present educational system
Combination of Lifelong Education

- Formal Education
- Non – formal Education
- Informal Education
### Education and period of life

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**FE** : Formal Education  
**NFE** : Non-formal Education  
**IFE** : In-formal Education

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Lifelong Education in the old days

- Informal Education
- Non-formal Education
1884: the first school

- Formal Education

1940: the Division of Adult Education

- Non-formal Education

- Informal Education
1977: The National Education Plan
Objective: education should be lifelong learning process
1999 : The National Education Act 1999

- Lifelong education philosophy
- Lifelong education is a principle in providing all kinds of education for Thai people
According to the National Act:

- education reform towards lifelong education
  - formal education
  - non-formal education
  - informal education
  - government and NGO
Non-formal Education and Informal education for promoting Lifelong learning
Organization Structure

ONFE

R.C.

P.C.

D.C.
Adult Education Division (established 1940)

First Period (1940-1945): Literacy Campaign

- 68.8 adults illiterate (6.8 million)
- 1942 the first national literacy campaign project
Second Period (1946-1960): Adult Education

- functional literacy program
- adult basic education
- vocational skill training

- Functional Literacy
- Adult Basic Education
- Vocational Skill Training
- Knowledge and Information for quality of life development e.g. Village Newspaper Reading Centres, Wall Newspapers, etc.
Fourth Period (1977-1998): NFE towards Lifelong Learning

- The National Education Plan 1977
- DNFE was established in 1979
- Expansion of NFE activities through 5 Regional and 76 provincial centres
- Establishment of NFE District Centres throughout the country
Fourth Period (cont.)
NFE activities:

1) Adult Basic Education
   - second national literacy campaign (1982-1986) 14.5% illiterates
   - literacy program for specific groups
   - adult basic education
2) Vocational Skill Training  
   - income generating programs  
3) Knowledge and Information for improving quality of life (Informal Education)  
   - knowledge and information through Radio and television, newspapers, posters  
   - village meetings  
   - community learning centres (CLC)
Fifth Period (1999-Present): NFE towards L.L.

-The National Education Act, 1999

Non-formal and Informal education activities

1. Basic Education
2. Vocational skills training
3. Knowledge and Information for quality of life improvement
One of the examples:

NFE

ROADMAP
NFE: the Learning Buddy

Strategic plan for nonformal and informal education reforms towards lifelong learning: 2006-2008

Office of the Non-Formal Education Commission
Situational Analysis

- Thailand has lower average years of schooling as compared to other countries (7.2 years schooling)
- 73 out of each 100 Thai workforce have only secondary education level
- quality of life of people at every age group need to be developed
ONFEC’s New Missions

**Current**

- Service users: 2 millions per year
- Emphasis upon basic education equivalency programme
- Wait for applications from the general public
- 80% of activities are conducted by ONFEC
- Budget allocated via NFE’s mechanism

**New**

- Service users in 4 years (2005-2008): 13.59 millions
- Emphasis upon problem solving skills and life quality enhancement
- Learning results could be accumulated and transferred or accredited
- Proactive role: seek new applicants down to sub-district/community levels
- 80% would be co-hosted by the partnership networks
- Disbursement via coupon system distributed to learners
Working-aged population will upgrade their educational level to at least secondary education so as to make them knowledge workers with moral values and ethics, critical thinking and life skills leading to the learning society.

By year 2008
The general public serves as the centre of learning activities through creation of lifelong learning opportunity for all.

Find solutions to Learners’ questions
Put the emphasis on problem solving skills and life quality enhancement

Get to the target
Directly approach various target groups of all areas.

Find solutions to Learners’ questions
Put the emphasis on problem solving skills and life quality enhancement

Expansion and development of various learning sources
Provide more channels for all people to access learning opportunities.

Promote and support participation and cooperation of the partnership networks to conduct NFE activities across the country.

Improve management system to place the emphasis on quality service provision.

Strengthening cooperation among partnership networks.

Strategy 1

Strategy 2

Strategy 3

Strategy 4

Strategy 5

Implementation of Each Strategy
Strategy 1
Get to the target

Directly approach various target groups of all areas
Target Groups of Working-Aged Population

- Workforce in the industry
- Farmers
- Local community leaders
- Conscripts
- Public Health Volunteers
- Village fund members
- BAAC members
- Inmates
- Underprivileged people
- Hilltribes
Strategy 2

Find solutions to learners’ questions

Put the emphasis on problem solving skills and life quality enhancement.
Implementation plan

Year 2006 Pilot project by 1 Amphur 1 Tambon / 1 Amphur / 1 factory

2.871 million learners

During year 2007-2008 Full implementation across all areas: every factory / Tambon / Amphur

9.816 million learners
Strategy 3
Expansion and development of various learning sources

Provide more channels for all people to access learning opportunities
How to implement

1. Expansion and development of learning Sources
2. Introducing various kinds of learning Activities
3. Creating learning communities
Strategy 4

Strengthening cooperation among partnership networks

Promote and support partnership networks to provide NFE programmes and activities
How to implement

1. Search for partnership networks
2. Coordinate and promote cooperation
3. Creates intensives of individuals and networks
Strategy 5
Quality services

Improve management system to place the emphasis on quality service provision
How to implement

1. Restructuring of organizational and administrative system at central and regional levels

2. Personnel development to be professional performers

3. Revise the rules, regulations and practices, as well as decentralization of authority