

[DRAFT]

Minutes for the Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting

Advancing Anti-Corruption Efforts in Thailand – A Multifaceted Approach (AAA)

Tuesday, 28 April 2015

12th floor, Block B, UN Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue

Welcome remarks:

Mr. Martin Hart-Hansen, Deputy Resident Representative, welcomed participants to the LPAC. The objective of the today meeting is to share the outline of the project on the **Advancing Anti-Corruption Efforts in Thailand – A Multifaceted Approach**, which is a new project and relatively new approach for UNDP combining contributions of the public sector, businesses, and citizens.

Mr. Hart-Hansen further explained that the LPAC meeting was a mechanism for stakeholders to advise us on the soundness of the design of the project, and provide any recommendations for the finalization of the draft project document. He invited the participants to review the project aspects, such as relevance, feasibility, cost effectiveness, commitment, and management arrangements.

This project AAA is focusing on promoting an efficient government administration through the public procurement reform and societal culture of zero-tolerance towards corruption through youth empowerment. It builds on the initial results on our work last year on

- Assessing and Mitigating Integrity Risks in Public Procurement,
- Implementing the idea of “Refuse To Be Corrupt” social enterprise in Ubon Ratchathani University and Khon Kaen University with our partnership with True Coffee, and
- Piloting university students’ integrity survey and exploring potential and interests with a network of universities to develop integrity curricula for university teachings.

With expected financial contributions from the UK’s Foreign Commonwealth Office’s Prosperity Fund, True Coffee, and other public and private sector actors, the project will be implemented by UNDP through a direct implementation modality (DIM) with the Comptroller General’s Department, Ministry of Finance, Khon Kaen University, Ubon Ratchathani University, the Office of Public Sector Development Commission, the Anti-Corruption Organisation of Thailand, and the National Anti-Corruption Commission as cooperating agencies.

Project background and information

Mr. Kwanpadh Suddhi-Dhamakit, Programme Analyst, Democratic Governance and Social Advocacy Unit informed the meeting that the project builds on an analysis of the context, challenges and three programmatic pillars of UNDP’s anti-corruption.

Context: Mr. Suddhi-Dhamakit mentioned that despite past economic performance, Thailand is at risk of remaining in the “middle income trap” due to weak citizenry and struggles to improve overall democratic governance. Corruption is rooted in the values and structures of the society, undermining the country’s democracy and rule of law as well as creating social upheavals and impediments to Thailand’s development. In addition, it is claimed that businesses continue to pay kickbacks in a range of 25-35% of the project value, and that Thai youth, based on many survey results, show a particularly high acceptance of corruption.

Challenges: He then highlighted 3 specific challenges pertaining to the context – i) inadequate strategies and the need for more “actionable” information, ii) weak mechanisms to engage citizens and the need to make the engagement more instrumental, and iii) low civic knowledge and engagement among youth and the need to ensure that development of productive workforce goes hand-in-hand with development of engaged citizens.

Programmatic pillars: In this context, UNDP’s anti-corruption programme, thus, comprises 3 strategic pillars – i) sectoral corruption/integrity risk assessments for actionable information to inform anti-corruption strategies and better-targeted interventions (public procurement is the first sector which UNDP Thailand conducted the risk assessment), ii) Social innovations for anti-corruption and good governance initiatives to engage public and private actors, local social networks, and communities, and iii) Youth Empowerment for a culture of integrity.

Based on these pillars, an Initiation Plan was successfully implemented in 2014. Building on these initial results, the AAA project proposes a multifaceted framework with strong contributions of the government, businesses, and citizens to implement the following expected outputs:

Output 1: Relevant support provided to the Royal Thai Government in its efforts to reform and modernise the public procurement

- Output 1.1: A comprehensive review of legal infrastructure and development of additional guidance to support effective implementation of the new Public Procurement Law (PPL)
- Output 1.2: A strategy and roadmap for building an efficient institutional structure for public procurement under the new PPL
- Output 1.3: A national public procurement training and professionalisation strategy

Output 2: The Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network expanded and strengthened to become a platform to give youth a voice and ways to exercise their citizenship and promote civic education

- Output 2.1: Social enterprise “Refuse To Be Corrupt” cafés and student clubs are launched and serve as an active community for students to fight corruption
- Output 2.2: Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network’s constituency expanded

Output 3: Integrity education developed and incorporated into university teachings and curricula

With the background and information, Mr. Hart-Hansen asked the participants to share their views and comments.

Discussion points:

- Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich of Political Science Faculty of Ubon Ratchanthani University (UBU) shared his concern on the Thai value of “respect for elders”. In practice, he thinks it means that Thai children are taught to be obedient and discouraged from questioning the elders. This is also evident in school teachings in Thailand and it goes against the need for children to develop skills to think critically. Thus, the teaching needs to change and the development of integrity and anti-corruption education/curricula will have to address this issue.
- Ms. Paavani Reddy, Anti-Corruption Specialist of UNDP’s Bangkok Regional Hub, mentioned that the emphasis should be not only on courses and curricula, schools and universities will need to provide mechanisms for students to participate. Schools and universities should be accountable

and transparent and could, for example, provide budget and financial information regarding infrastructure building and their activities to allow students to monitor. Dr. Phakdeewanich then explained that students are often seen as children and adults do not think they have the right to this kind of information. His research also suggested that people in rural areas wanted to stand up against corruption, but they were not empowered and could be threatened if they were to do that. This goes against a common belief that people in rural areas tolerate and accept corruption.

- Ms. Nithiyaporn Aimjai, Finance Technical Officer of The Comptroller General's Department expressed her concern that the project might not have sufficient time to review the draft Public Procurement Law since it will soon be submitted to the Cabinet and the National Assembly. In addition, she would like to see Output 1 to include development of a red-flag system to monitor integrity risks, leveraging data and information the CGD has in its databases.
- In response to Ms. Aimjai's comments, Mr. Suddhi-Dhamakit said that Output 1 would review the secondary and tertiary regulations as opposed to the new Public Procurement Law (PPL). He explained that UNDP would not be in a position to influence the process and would take the new PPL as given. He welcomed also Ms. Aimjai's suggestion to develop a red-flag system, but it was discussed and agreed that it might be a better idea to develop it after the passage of the new law and subsequent institutional and organization re-arrangements.
- Ms. Supasiri Leelapornpinit, Assistant Director of True Retail Lifestyle Co. Ltd. briefed the participants on the café development progress. She said many public and private universities are interested to have the "Refuse To Be Corrupt" café in their campuses. This is a good initiative and True Coffee is proud to be part of this development. The café construction at UBU will be completed next month and True Coffee will send our trainers to train the students who will run and manage the café. The café at UBU will be open for business on 8 June 2015.
- Mr. Passakorn Tuaprakhon, Students' Affairs Officer of Khon Kaen University (KKU) also updated the participants on the progress of café construction at KKU. He said the café would be housed in a brand new building. The delayed construction of this building has resulted in postponement of the opening date of the café at KKU – which is now tentatively scheduled to be in August or September 2015. Due to the sheer space of the café at KKU, the University has also agreed to provide USD50,000 of additional funding.
- Mr. Jiravat Limkhaewprasert, Director of Anti-Corruption Organisation of Thailand updated the participants on ACT's work that is relevant to the project: i) working with a number of government agencies to introduce integrity pact and the use of independent, external observers in their procurement contracts; ii) Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (COST) to be applied to large construction projects, and iii) Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative. The projects that ACT has been asked to be involved include the purchase of 490 Bangkok City buses and procurement for the service provider of MRT Blue Line extension. He said one of the main challenge is to find external observers with the right expertise in time, and would welcome support from UNDP.
- In response to Mr. Limkhaewprasert's request, Mr. Suddhi-Dhamakit said that our expert has worked on a similar issue in other countries and it is something that the AAA project would look into since the use of integrity pact and external observers has also been introduced in the draft PPL and this aspect relates also to Output 1 of the AAA project.
- Mr. Jakapop Adam, Project Coordinator of "Refuse To Be Corrupt" caCfé initiative briefed the participants on private-sector sponsorships. He said a number of corporations have expressed an interest to fund the "Refuse To Be Corrupt" café initiative, including Thai Beverage, Bangkok Bank, Central Group, and Thai Insurance. The sponsorship from the private sector is expected to be in a range of THB700,000-800,000.

- Mr. Kasame Jittiwittinonon, Corruption Prevention Officer of the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) said that the NACC has been working with youth and to create a youth network for more than 10 years. The main challenge is the lack of continuity – once students attend NACC’s youth camps, they would find it hard to work with their peers to establish or grow the network. He mentioned that the NACC has been aware of the “Refuse To Be Corrupt” café initiative in the past two years and still finding ways to work with UNDP. He would report back to the Commissioners and would like to have a follow-up meeting to discuss further on the possibility to collaborate.
- Mr. Suddhi-Dhamakit reiterated the multi-partner nature and multifaceted approach of the AAA project. He also mentioned that UNDP was successful in bringing the different stakeholders together during the implementation of AAA Initiation Plan last year. To continue leveraging this comparative advantage of UNDP, he sought an approval from the LPAC members for the DIM modality of this AAA project. The LPAC members agreed to the recommendation.
- Mr. Hart-Hansen informed the participants that all comments had been noted down and that the draft Project Document would be finalized accordingly. Mr. Hart-Hansen thanked the participants for the time and contribution.

The meeting ended at 11.40 hrs.

Annex 1: List of Participant

Mr. Martin Hart-Hansen, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP

Ms. Supasiri Leelapornpinit, Assistant Director, True Lifestyle Retail co. Ltd.

Ms. Dussadee Vasiknanon, Assistant Director, True Lifestyle Retail co. Ltd.

Ms. Atcharaporn Thongsan, Educator, Ubon Ratchathani University

Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich, Deputy Dean of Political Science Faculty, Ubon Ratchathani University

Mr. Passakorn Tuaprakhon, Student Affairs Officer, Khon Kane University

Mr. Jiravat Limkhaewprasert, Director, Anti-corruption Organisation of Thailand

Mr. Boonthip Chuchocknak, The Office of Public Procurement Management, The Comptroller General's Department

Ms. Nithiyaporn Aimjai, Finance Technical Officer, Professional Level, The Office of Public Procurement Management, The Comptroller General's Department

Mr. Tana Aawawut, Corruption Prevention Officer, Office of National Anti-Corruption Commission

Ms. Wanna Khaiprapai, International Affairs Officer, Office of National Anti-Corruption Commission

Ms. Pathama Polmai, International Affairs Officer, Office of National Anti-Corruption Commission

Mr. Kasame Jittiwittinonon, Corruption Prevention Officer, International Affairs Officer, Office of National Anti-Corruption Commission

Mr. Jakapop Adam, Project Coordinator, Refuse to be Corrupt Café,

Mr. Kwanpadh Suddhi-Dhamakit, Programme Analyst, Democratic Governance and Social Advocacy Unit, UNDP

Ms. Mallika Lertsuwanwong, Programme Associate, Democratic Governance and Social Advocacy Unit, UNDP

Annex 2: Presentation on Project background and Information



UNDP
Empowering lives,
Transforming nations.

Advancing Anti-Corruption Efforts in Thailand – A Multifaceted Approach (AAA)

Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting

28 April 2015
UNDP Thailand

Context

- “Middle income trap”
 - Strong economic development, but weak citizenry
- Corruption rooted in the values and structures of society,
 - Undermines the country’s democracy and rule of law
 - Creates social upheavals and impediments to Thailand’s development
- Businesses continue to pay kickbacks in a range of 25-35% of the project value
- Thai youth - showing a particularly high acceptance of corruption
- Public and key stakeholders demanding more actions and broader reforms to improve anti-corruption policies/measures, strengthen the regulatory regime, and eliminate corruption

Challenges

- Inadequate strategies and the need for more "actionable" information
- Weak mechanisms to engage citizens and the need to make the engagement more instrumental
- Low civic knowledge and engagement among youth and the need to ensure that development of productive workforce goes hand-in-hand with development of engaged citizens

Programmatic pillars

- Sectoral corruption/integrity risk assessments for actionable information to inform anti-corruption strategies and better-targeted interventions
- Social innovations for anti-corruption and good governance initiatives to engage public and private actors, local social networks, and communities
- Youth Empowerment for a culture of integrity

Results and Impact (1)

- Integrity risk assessment in public procurement
 - Key **integrity risks identified**: kickbacks/bribery, conflict of interests, discretion, and political interference
 - **Findings, policy recommendations**, and risk mitigation measures **adopted** by National Reform Council and Government
 - Public Procurement law
 - Risk indicator “red-flags” system
 - Checklist/Guideline on integrity aspects
 - UNDP’s convening role – bringing concerned agencies and private sector actors together
 - UNDP as a knowledge broker – world-class expertise tailored to context of Thailand

Results and Impact (2)

- Youth Empowerment for a culture of integrity
 - Formulation and implementation of UNDP-led **Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network**, reaching more than 7,000 students in 90 universities nationwide (FB: tyanticorruption)
 - Private-sector engagement and partnership
 - **“Refuse To Be Corrupt” Social Enterprise Café**, a space created by the youth, for the youth, with the profit going directly to support their anti-corruption activities
 - A joint initiative with **True Coffee, Anti-Corruption Organisation of Thailand, and Universities**
 - International Symposium on Integrity and Anti-Corruption Education as well as piloting University Students’ Integrity Survey – partnerships with UBU and KKU
 - **Broad recognition** from national and international actors (World Economic Forum – Creative for Good Award)

UNITED NATIONS TO OFFER HAVEN FOR EDUCATED YOUTH

Coffee shops to serve up a shot of anti-corruption




UNDP university survey reveals integrity gap among Thai students
Bangkok, Thailand, 10 October 2014

Students from 10 Thai universities are being encouraged to get involved in social enterprises or to start their own businesses to help solve social problems. The survey also revealed that 60 per cent of Thai students believe that corruption is a major problem in their country. The survey also found that 70 per cent of Thai students believe that corruption is a major problem in their country.

Bangkok Post
THE NEWSPAPER YOU CAN TRUST

Students unfazed by graft, survey finds

Students would pay bribes to get their way

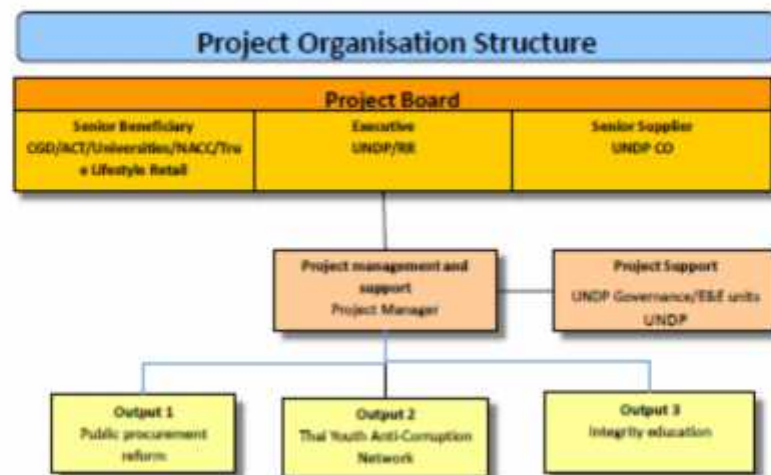
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AAA Project

Proposing a multi-faceted framework with strong contributions of the government, businesses, youth and citizens to implement the following activities and expected outputs:

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Programme Structure and Management



Monitoring and Evaluation

- Regular discussions with key counterparts to agree on Annual Work Plan (targets, indicators, activities, and budgets) and project teams
- Project assurance
 - Quarterly progress reports on the completion of key results
 - Annual Project Review: shall be conducted during the fourth quarter of the year to assess the performance of the project and appraise the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the following year
 - A final assessment in the last year of project implementation with focus on the extent to which progress is being made towards outputs, and that these remain aligned to appropriate outcomes

Partners

