

Country Report of Thailand
Topic III) Challenges facing each National Statistical Office

Title: Implementation of Thailand's Statistical Master Plan

Abstract

Thailand has developed a national statistical system for over a century and the statistical system is decentralized by law. The National Statistical Office (NSO) produces basic statistics from surveys in almost all sectors while a number of government agencies produce statistics, largely administrative data from their reporting and registration system. However, this system has increasingly fragmented and resulted in an insufficient use of statistics for decision making. An important need was called for linking and integrating statistics among government agencies to support policy development.

Under the Statistical Act of B.E.2550 (2007), the NSO has the mandate for management of national statistical system by using Statistical Master Plan as a tool, so as to ensure that Thailand's statistical development supports national policies and development plans. The biggest challenge is then the implementation of the Thailand Statistical Master Plan (TSMP). The TSMP mechanism has been built to coordinate, link and integrate needs of statistics information in both policy level and agenda level. The NSO, in collaboration with all line ministries, has developed the 1st TSMP (2011-2015) which comprises of 21 Sector Statistical Master Plans and 76 provincial statistics development plans.

The most critical success factor for the TSMP is the collaboration from line ministries which depends largely on the perception of the high-level executive on the significance and usefulness of statistical data for national development as well as for the development of their agencies. Moreover, the success depends on how well the TSMP directions are understood and pursued by involving staff from all agencies. In supporting the evidence-based policy / decision making in the country, sets of selected official statistics are investigated and needed to be communicated for policy making.