

Terminal Evaluation

Asia

1. Outline of the Project

Country:

Thailand

Project title:

The Project on Strengthening of the National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment

Issue/Sector:

Work Safety

Cooperation scheme:

Project-type Technical Cooperation

Division in charge:

First Technical Cooperation Division, Social Development Cooperation Department

Total cost:

756 Million Yen

Period of Cooperation 1 June 1997 - 31 May 2002

Partner Country's Implementing Organization:

Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW), Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare,
National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (NICE)

Supporting Organization in Japan:

Industrial Safety and Health Department, Labour Standards Bureau,
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association

Related Cooperation:**1-1 Background of the Project**

The Government of Thailand had been promoting economic policies focusing on quantitative economic expansion and structural adjustment. The country adopted a policy to improve the people's quality of life as one of its aims in the 7th National Economic and Social Development Plan (1991 - 1996). The Government had been establishing the Labour Protection Act, conducting Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) education, promoting medical examinations, etc., and promoting the prevention of occupational accidents. In this regard, the Government identified human-centered development as its primary objective in the 8th National Economic and Social Development Plan (1997-2001) and the 1st Labour and Social Welfare Department Plan (1995-2001) to secure the OSH in dealing with the sharp increase in occupational accidents due to the rapid industrialization in the country. In order to realize these objectives, Thailand requested cooperation from Japan to strengthen the functions of the National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (NICE), which was in charge of providing guidance, conducting research and studies, and providing training to secure the OSH.

1-2 Project Overview

To strengthen the functions of NICE, The Project developed manuals and established standards for labour safety and labour environment, reviewed the training course for health inspectors and persons in charge of safety and health management in enterprises and improved public relations programs on working conditions and environment.

(1) Overall Goal

Workers are protected from industrial accidents and occupational diseases.

(2) Project Purpose

Functions of NICE are strengthened.

(3) Outputs

- 1) Technical capability of NICE is improved.
- 2) Training courses for safety and health inspectors (basic training course for newly-appointed and advanced training course for middle-level inspectors) are improved.
- 3) Training courses for persons in charge of safety and health management in enterprises are improved.
- 4) Public relations by NICE with regard to safety and health are improved.

(4) Inputs

Japanese side:

Long-term Experts	8	Equipment	220 Million Yen
Short-term Experts	25	Local Cost	32 Million Yen
Trainees received	21		

Thai side:

Counterpart	40		
Local Cost	144.84 Baht (444 Million Yen)		

2. Evaluation Team

Members of Evaluation Team

Team Leader/General: Motosige SASAKI, Director, International Office, Industrial Safety and Health Department, Labour Standards Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Industrial Safety: Hiroshi, TAKAHASHI, Central Expert Officer, Industrial Safety Division, Industrial Safety and Health Department, Labour Standards Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Operational Health: Nobuto OKUMURA, Deputy Director, Chemical Substance Investigation division, Industrial Safety and Health Department, Labour Standards Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Evaluation Planning: Atsushi, MAEKAWA, First Technical Cooperation Division, Social Development Cooperation Department, JICA
Evaluation Analysis: Tomihide CHISHINA, Sekkei Keikaku. Inc

Period of Evaluation 9 January 2002 - 19 January 2002

Type of Evaluation:
Terminal Evaluation

3. Results of Evaluation

3-1 Summary of Evaluation Results

(1) Relevance

The Overall Goal of the Project is "Workers are protected from industrial accidents and occupational diseases." The Goal was consistent with the 8th National Economic and Social Development Plan (1997-2001) which was aimed at strengthening the prevention of occupational hazards. The Goal was also in line with the National goal "to reduce occupational hazards below the Ministerial standards", which was aimed at achieving the important goal of DLPW. Under the current 9th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2002-2006), the issues taken care of by OSH retain the same priority as in the past plans. NICE is the core organization which conducts OSH in Thailand consistent with the plans, so the relevance of the Project meet the National policy requirements of Thailand. Judging from above, the Project Purpose of enhancing the functions of NICE has been accomplished in line with the policy of Thailand.

(2) Effectiveness

NICE can now implement versatile training by the newly improved curriculum and textbooks developed through the Project. Since the beginning of the Project, a total of 152,623 people have participated in the various training courses at 85 training

organizations nationwide to acquire and improve instructing capabilities through OSH. Participants passed the capability test under the Labour Protection Law and obtained certificates of completion.

Information has been exchanged mutually among NICE and the organizations related to labour safety and health, and the utilization of the information and its importance has been highly recognized. A large quantity of study results were published at universities and research institutions and by scientific journals. By improving NICE's public relations function and expanding information media in the field of OSH, NICE has already produced 150 items of information media releases which were accessible by a variety of readers. As for independent public relations, NICE created an Internet Website and established a system of posting up-to-date information on OHS.

(3) Efficiency

There was some delay in the dispatch of experts, but the Long-term Experts followed up the delay with the appropriate actions. The quality and quantity of inputs by the Japanese experts and the counterparts on the Thai side were for the most part appropriate, which enhanced efficiency and accomplished the Project Outputs.

(4) Impact

The techniques transferred through the Project enhanced the technical activities of NICE. As a result, NICE became widely recognized as a specialty executive office of the Ergonomics Society of Thailand. The importance of the further dissemination of OSH has been recognized by governmental organizations and agencies and private-sector enterprises related to OSH in the local areas of Thailand, which have been widely expanded. NICE offered technical information in the preparation of drafts of the OSH regulations. This is the result of the functions of NICE including the training on labour safety and public relations having been enhanced, and the many positive impacts of the Project.

(5) Sustainability

The 9th National Economic and Social Development Plan advocates "to promote working safety and management efficiency" and specifies nine items such as promoting activities on OSH. The staff of NICE published a research paper on conducting chemical analysis and inspection and help seminars in the field of OSH. Highly educated, the staff was able to accumulate a store of techniques. Judging from these facts, the Project has technical sustainability. From the organizational point of view, the reorganization of the central body occurred at the time of terminal evaluation; however, after the reorganization, NICE will continue to maintain the current organizational set-up, activities and staff. Meanwhile, the major concern is assuring medical specialists in the field of Industrial Health who need the cooperation of other organizations and technicians who can operate machines in the field of OSH. From the financial point of view, NICE is assured a budget from the Central Government, NICE will be systematically budgeted from the occupational injury insurance fund; therefore, for now, the Project has financial sustainability. Judging from above, NICE will utilize the effects of the Project continuously and effectively from now on, and the Project has high sustainability.

3-2 Factors that promoted realization of effects

(1) Factors concerning Planning

At the planning stage, it was assured that the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare would support the Project, and that the staff of NICE would maintain their technical levels and Persons-concerned consciousness.

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

Technical transfer by Japanese experts was carried out efficiently using creative illustrations, posters on OSH, on-site video presentations of alternative methods.

3-3 Factors that impeded realization of effects

(1) Factors concerning Planning

1) In generating the original plan, there was not enough time to make some of the equipment. This delayed some of the Project activities.

2) The counterparts' delayed decision on an exhibition management plan, caused a delay in the dispatch of experts.

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

The linkage among the sections of Industrial Safety, Industrial Health and Public Relations was not sufficient, resulting in the organized guideline and manuals not being used to a satisfactory level.

3-4 Conclusion

The Project Purpose; "Functions of NICE are strengthened" has mostly been accomplished.

3-5 Recommendations

(1) It is necessary to put the results of the Project into practice and to endeavor to reflect them in the enactment of the relevant ordinances, notifications, etc., in the field of the OSH according to the need.

(2) It is desirable to disseminate the results of the Project to the companies across the country through DLPW and NICE, including Provincial Offices of the Labour Protection and Welfare and Regional Centers for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (RICE), and research institutions.

(3) In the near future, NICE may become an autonomous public organization, so it is necessary for NICE to strengthen its functions and its structure. To achieve this, it is important for NICE to implement its project plans on its own, such as carrying out training courses and clarifying the demarcation of roles among NICE and other private sector interests.

(4) It is necessary for NICE to develop strategies, guidelines and manuals, targeted to the small and medium-sized enterprises based on the results of the Project, because the National plan places importance on the protection of workers in the small and medium-sized enterprises.

3-6 Lessons Learned

(1) While the Thai side placed high priority on OSH, the implementing timing of the Project matched the settlement timing of the new Labour Protection Law (1998), and the new NICE building which has training halls (2001), and these are linked to the success of the Project. This case can be referred to by other project plans.

(2) In the Project, the plan for organizing equipment and expert dispatch for the exhibition management was not appropriate. At the commencement of the cooperation, it is necessary to prepare a detailed plan according to the target technical field that fully and precisely considers cooperation components, such as the selection of trainees, expert dispatch and selection of equipment.

3-7 Follow-up Situation

N/A.