

Terminal Evaluation

Asia

1. Outline of the Project

Country:

Thailand

Project title:

The Model Project for the Development of Hill Tribes towards Self-reliant Communities

Issue/Sector:

Rural Development

Cooperation scheme:

Dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Team

Division in charge:

Second Overseas Assignment Division, Secretariat of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

Total cost:

188 million yen

Period of Cooperation

1 October 1997 - 30 September 2002

Partner Country's Implementing Organization:

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Supporting Organization in Japan:**Related Cooperation:****1-1 Background of the Project**

The government of Thailand had emphasized the issue to cope with long-pending issue of hill tribes to enforce the efforts in order to narrow the gaps among regions related to its basic policies on the "7th Seven Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the Government of Thailand" commenced in 1992.

The total of 550 thousands people from nine hill tribes live in the twenty provinces of northern Thailand, and they are mainly engaged in burn agriculture. They faced various problems such as low agricultural productivity, low income, malnutrition and lack of access to education and health care. It was necessary to solve these problems by providing administrative services considering their unique culture and religions.

Under the circumstances, the government of Thailand requested the Japanese government a technical assistance by the dispatch of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Team in order to solve hill tribe problems.

1-2 Project Overview

The government of Japan dispatched JOCV as a team which targets the Tak province in Thailand as the project target and implemented cooperative activities on village management to solve poverty problems of hill tribes in Thailand.

(1) Overall Goal To improve the quality of living and self-reliance of villagers at the four target villages in the Tak province.

(2) Project Purpose

To arrange the basis for self-reliance at the four target villages in the Tak province.

(3) Outputs

- 1) To complete mapping land utilization and village development.
- 2) To collect basic data and information for village development
- 3) Partnership awareness is raised among the villagers.
- 4) Village community groups conduct development activities.
- 5) Infrastructures for villages are developed.
- 6) Education among children and villagers become widely spread.

- 7) A primary health care system is spread.
 8) Various productive activities become widely spread.
 9) The Hill Tribe Welfare Development Center Tak (HWDC TAK) obtains adequate outcomes from their regular programs.

(4) Inputs

Japanese side:

Senior JOCVs	4		
Cost Supporting Volunteers		Total 5.63 million baht (16 million yen)	
Senior Short-term Urgent JOCVs	2		
Regular Volunteers	14	Trainees received	12

Thailand's Side:

Counterparts	17
Project Cost	3.68 million baht (11 million yen)

2. Evaluation Team

Members of Evaluation Team

General: Takashi KATO, Director, First Overseas Assistant Division, Secretariat of JOCV, JICA
 Rural Development: Junkichi WATARI, Professor, Faculty of Humanities, Komazawa Women's University (Technical Adviser of JOCV)
 Evaluation Analysis: Ayako WATANABE, Regional Planning International CO. LTD
 Cooperation Planning: Suzuka MARUYAMA, Staff, Second Overseas Assignment Division, Secretariat of JOCV, JICA

Period of Evaluation

12 May 2002 - 21 May 2002

Type of Evaluation:

Terminal Evaluation

3. Results of Evaluation

3-1 Summary of Evaluation Results

(1) Relevance

The government of Thailand advocated the "Human Resource Development" and "Strengthening of Community Solidarity" as its development strategies, and the project was in line with those strategies to promote the self-reliance of hill tribes. The project was relevant for the following reasons: The construction of village foundation such as village infrastructure development and village organization and management was regarded as the major subjects. All the steps such as identifying needs and planning and implementing activities have been implemented with the participation of villagers.

The Implementation Plan of JICA Projects for Thailand refers to activities to the relief of socially vulnerable people as one form of support which is one of the five priority issues supported in the project. From this fact, implementing the project can be judged relevant as a Japanese ODA strategy. In other words, the project fits those sectors and issue.

Some unfavorable outputs were included in the Project Design Matrix (PDM), which revealed the problems on the PDM. More specifically, the level of techniques introduced by dispatched JOCV for survey technique was higher than the needs from the Thailand side. The terminal evaluation team found that there was no need to transfer such level of technique, and the PDM included the activities that JOCV could not be involved in such as acquiring citizenship and improving drug problems.

(2) Effectiveness

As a whole, the activities were implemented as planned and some effects of the activities were observed in the maps for land

utilization plan and developments of data system and village infrastructures. Roads were graveled and travelable even during the rainy seasons, and the diffusion of the water supply system improved the access to water for the villagers.

As for autonomous actions by the rural development activity organization, many villagers participated in the training / seminars and obtained deeper understanding on the importance and the roles of leaders and group organization. Some activities are managed or even planned and implemented independently by villagers.

Judging from the circumstances stated above, the project purpose will be mostly accomplished at the termination of the project. It is worth mentioning that the construction of the dormitory for children in the Huay Kanun village, one of the target villages, contributed to the drastic rise of school enrollment rate.

(3) Efficiency

Necessary personnel was assigned with appropriate timing from both the Japanese and Thai sides as a whole, and the acceptance of counterparts from the Thai side on the training in Japan and the inputs of facilities and equipment were both appropriate. Inputs of facilities and equipment from the Japanese side were purchased in Thailand, the facilities and equipment was consistent with the local environment and local needs. The development of exercise ground described above contributed to the increase of school enrollment rate and activation of juvenile activities.

(4) Impact

There were some positive technical impacts for the projects. The construction of the dormitory for children led to an increased awareness among parents in the Huay Kanun villages. The residents of Umyom village established the village office for information sharing and other activities. One of the former counterpart personnel, who was transferred to another administrative area was said to have highly appreciated learning much about having a good attitude towards work from JOCV.

There were also some positive institutional impacts for the projects. Through the implementation of the project, the villagers has obtained connections and network with health centers, the Department of Public Welfare (DPW), the provincial government, the district government and other Thai administrative bodies.

Positive impacts were also observed in social and cultural aspects. Women, mainly in Ton Mamuwang village, have obtained confidence to express their own opinion in public places. Through implementing various activities with JOCV as study visits and marketing their own products in markets, the villagers' fear and hesitation to be exposed to outside cultures and the language barrier have been reduced in four target villages. Awareness for their own culture has been raised through the implementation of the project activities, especially through that of eco-tourism promotion.

(5) Sustainability

The counterpart personnel are regularly transferred to other institutions, divisions, and positions every two or three years. Therefore, it is very important and indispensable for the Thai side to have enough takeover activities in order to guarantee high sustainability of the project results. Compared to the situation prior to the project, the villagers' awareness for rural development activities has been significantly improved. Some of the villagers came to participate keenly in the activities. It is highly expected that those people take the initiative and leadership in the future. The lack of matrons at the dormitory for children is anticipated to result in the negative effect for the sustainability of the project activity. The Thai side recognized that it was their responsibility and that there was an urgent need for assigning a matron and expressed their intention that HVDC TAK would cope with the issue. However, considering the current financial situation, it would be difficult to hire a full-time matron and realistically would hire one who serves concurrently.

The Thai side recognized that HVDC TAK had a responsibility to provide social welfare services and provide financial support in rendering services in the four targeted villages after the termination of the project.

There were some cases that villagers were actively involved in planning, implementation/operation, and management in some activities without any suggestions or support. It is expected that those villagers take the key role in managing and developing those activities. Therefore, it is necessary for the Thai side to implement appropriate instruction and cooperation activities to those villagers after the termination of the project.

3-2 Factors that promoted realization of effects

(1) Factors Concerning the Planning

N/A.

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

1) The active leaders of villages played central roles to implement group activities proactively. The activities that were implemented proactively by the villagers with high consciousness and strong responsibility resulted in affluent positive effects like in Umyom and Ton Mamuwang villages. There were villagers who became more conscious and were fostered as leaders through the project activities.

2) The project selected appropriate activities that met the local needs (such as an electrification work in Ton Mamuwang village). Toilet funds were limited to target villages with high needs and they achieved high results. The electrification work and water supply business in Ton Mamuwang village were actively promoted with the participation of villagers, and were operated and managed proactively.

3-3 Factors that impeded realization of effects

(1) Factors Concerning the Planning

The preliminary survey for the project was not enough and the technical level and the techniques provided by JOCV were not matched with the needs of the Thai side in some fields.

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

1) There were needs to the vegetable cultivation and livestock breeding at the beginning of the project. However, because of the activities that made progress and the change of social and economical conditions during the five-year project period, the needs from the Thai side diminished in some areas. It would bring higher effects by understanding and confirming the change of those needs during the project implementation period at mid-evaluation, the communication among JOCV/JICA and the counterpart organization or at the discussion at the Steering Committee.

2) A drug problem occurred in one of the targeted villages and was widely spread. Drug addicted villagers lowered the willingness of participating in the project, and spent most of their income to purchase drugs, which hampered the sustainability and brought vicious circuit to the project. The effects of the project activities were hardly obtained and the progress of the project was far behind than the other three targeted villages.

3-4 Conclusion

As the project targeted four villages with different tribes and locations, the ways to achieve effects were different. However, some precious effects were realized through the project activities.

Developing village infrastructure, gathering and settling basic data and reference on village development, and building child-care centers and dormitories and improving their facilities contributed to the improvement of education, health care, and sanitary environment surrounding the children in the targeted four villages.

The project also contributed to foster village leaders, women groups and juvenile groups. It was worth being appreciated that there were some positive effects in the fields that were hardly improved for such a short term: People became confident through each activity, they realized the importance of the leadership and the group, they utilized their obtained knowledge through project activities such as the site visit and started applying the knowledge in their everyday activities.

3-5 Recommendations

(1) The villages should be visited frequently and activities implemented with villagers.

(2) Ample follow-ups in the field of market development should be implemented.

(3) More attention should be paid to the social/cultural and natural environment.

(4) A matron should be assured for the dormitory for the Huay Kanun village children.

(5) The effects and techniques of the project should be disseminated.

(6) The support activities for the villagers should be continued, having HWDC TAK play the central role.

3-6 Lessons Learned

(1) It is necessary to consider the PDM organizing policy (PDM for JOCV activity plans should be flexible to deal with the actual condition) in particular when implementing similar projects through the Dispatch of JOCV Team.

(2) It is necessary to carefully conduct the preliminary survey in order to confirm the local needs accurately.

(3) It is necessary to enforce the logistical support system in order to understand the project issues accurately and to implement the next activity plan promptly (e.g. Set up the Steering Committee in Japan, assuring an appropriate team leader and enforcing mid-term evaluation).

3-7 Follow-up Situation

N/A