

THAILAND

Feedback Seminar on "Thai Eastern Seaboard Development Plan Impact Evaluation"

One of the most important objectives of ex-post evaluation is to feed the evaluation findings back to the project executing agency, in order to provide valuable recommendations for the operation of the relevant project and for the implementation of future projects. Local feedback seminars are held in cases where it is highly important to ensure that the evaluation findings are fully informed and understood by the executing agency, the staff concerned in the recipient government and other interested parties. Among the ex-post evaluations represented in "Ex-Post Evaluation Report for ODA Loan Projects 2000," a feedback workshop and a seminar were staged in Thailand and in Vietnam respectively concerning Thai Eastern Seaboard Development Plan Impact Evaluation.

In August 1999, a feedback workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand on the evaluation results of the "Thai Eastern Seaboard Development Plan Impact Evaluation." As the feedback of ex-post evaluation results on the plan was considered highly relevant to infrastructure improvements in Vietnam, a further feedback seminar was held in Hanoi, Vietnam in June 2000. Thai government officials concerned with the Eastern Seaboard Development Plan and Vietnamese government officials responsible for planning and implementation of infrastructure improvements displayed high degree of interest in both opportunities. Many participants commented that "the opportunity to receive this kind of feedback was very meaningful." The following is a brief report on the two local events.

1. Feedback Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand (August 1999)

This workshop aimed to feedback and discuss the results of the Eastern Seaboard Development Plan Impact Evaluation among executive-level officials of related Thai government ministries and agencies. The outcome of the discussion was reflected in the final Evaluation Report. The workshop was comprised of the following three parts:

- [1] A presentation on the overall impact of the Plan, delivered by a JBIC evaluation officer in charge of the impact evaluation,
- [2] A presentation from political economy perspectives on the changes in the Plan and their significance, delivered by Professor Yasutami Shimomura, then of National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, who conducted the third-party evaluation of the Plan, and
- [3] A presentation on the results of the third-party evaluation on environmental monitoring and pollution control policies in Map Ta Phut Industrial Complex (featured in "Post-Evaluation Reports for ODA Loan Projects 1999").

The presentations were followed by a spirited question-and-answer session which developed into a very fruitful debate.

JBIC vigorously promotes the sharing of evaluation results between those who conduct the evaluation (the ODA donors) and the developing country's government and executing agency (the recipients). In accordance with this attitude, the progress of this evaluation work has been accompanied by continuous dialogue with the Thai side since the start of the evaluation. This workshop was an extremely valuable way of furthering the sharing of evaluation results. The conclusions of the discussions have been reflected, to the fullest extent possible, in the final evaluation report.



A Scene of Workshop



JBIC Technical Advisor Demonstrating Triangle Bag Method for Odor Sensory Measurement



Feedback to the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand concerning Evaluation on Environmental Monitoring and Pollution Control Policies in Map Ta Phut Industrial Complex (appeared in "Post-Evaluation Report For ODA Loan Projects 1999").

2. Feedback Seminar in Hanoi, Vietnam (June 2000)

As around thirty of the ODA loan projects under implementation in Vietnam will reach each completion in the coming few years and will become subject to ex-post evaluation, this seminar was staged to explain the "Objectives and Methodology of Ex-Post Evaluation," and to provide feedback of the ex-post evaluation results on the Thai Eastern Seaboard Development Plan as an established example. The seminar appealed to 87 participants from 30 agencies, including local JICA, JETRO and representatives of the embassies of some of ASEAN countries. Most participants came from Department of Infrastructure and Foreign Economic Relations Department of Ministry of Planning and Investment in Vietnam and the PMU (Project Management Units) of individual ODA projects.

The most notable point of the seminar was that, in addition to the JBIC evaluation officer and Professor Yasutami Shimomura, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (at the time of evaluation), the third-party evaluator, it was able to welcome a Thai government official who had been involved with the Development Plan. His participation created an opportunity for a so-called "South-South Cooperation."

Vietnamese project executing agencies at the seminar seemed to be very interested in the ex-post evaluation and in monitoring methodology of their future completed projects. The audience asked so many questions that the chairmen were hard pressed to divide the limited time available among them. Some participants made a comment that the seminar was a very significant and timely event and were well aware of the importance of ex-post evaluation. Others also commented that Vietnam had much to learn from Thailand, who has made effective use of aid in its development process.

Speaking from his experience in the actual implementation of the Eastern Seaboard Development Plan, Mr. Suranan Wognvithayakamjorn (Assistant Secretary-General, National Economic and Social Development Board of Thailand), the guest speaker from Thailand, emphasized the importance of delegating authority to the executing agency. His presentation encountered frank and earnest questions from Vietnamese officers, such as "Could a development of a specific region, such as the Thai Eastern Seaboard, impede the progress of nationally-balanced development?," which was developed from the same standpoints responsible for project planning and implementation.



Prof. Shimomura Introducing Evaluation Results



Attentive Audience