



Thailand

1 Strengthening Vocational and Technical Manpower Production Program

This project was designed to improve the quality of vocational education by equipping facilities and training instructors at technical colleges, and thereby contribute to the development of human resources that are on a par with the technological level of the ever-advancing industrial world.

Loan Amount/Disbursed Amount: 7,806 million yen/7,226 million yen

Loan Agreement: September 1994

Terms and Conditions: Interest rate, 3.0%; Repayment period, 25 years (grace period, 7 years); General untied

Final Disbursement Date: January 2002

External Evaluator: Mitsue Mishima, (OPMAC, Ltd.)

Field Survey: June 2003



Evaluation Result

In this project, the provision of educational equipment, construction of school buildings, and training of instructors were carried out almost as planned. The project period was longer than planned due in part to the time required to obtain approval from the technical colleges concerning the equipment selected and the fact that complex adjustments in the shipment and installation of the equipment were necessary since it was procured from multiple countries. The project cost remained almost as planned. The educational equipment's operation time averages 19 hours per week, which is a generally satisfactory level. Among the 21 technical colleges involved in this project, the 18 colleges that replied to the beneficiary survey unanimously responded that "over 70% of all the equipment procured is being utilized." Moreover, statements were made that "classes can be conducted more efficiently due to the enhancement of the equipment," and "the class content has improved thanks to the establishment of new courses, etc." Furthermore, it was confirmed that companies who hired graduates of the beneficiary colleges rate the knowledge and skills of those graduates higher than the knowledge and skills of graduates from other colleges. The number of graduates has increased from approximately 2,700

persons in 1997 to a steady level in the range of 3,000 persons per year from 1998 to 2001. It was clear in the beneficiary study that the project contributed to an increase in educational opportunities in regional areas and to stimulation of industrial investment and hiring. There are no problems in the technical capacity or the operation and maintenance system of each college. Meanwhile, with regard to financial status, there is almost no fluctuation in the budget of the Ministry of Education, and the budget of each college has been declining since 1999. However, in 2005 the colleges' budgets are expected to increase by 5% compared to the previous year.

Third-Party Evaluator's Opinion

The high growth of manufactured exports during 2001-2004 could be cited as evidence confirming the strong competitiveness of the Thai workforce, to which this project has made contributions. The bureaucracy in Thailand has not been found to be efficient particularly in the area of equipment maintenance.

Third-Party Evaluator: Mr. Narongchai Akrasanee

Obtained a doctorate in economics from Johns Hopkins University. Formerly served as Member of the Board of Directors, Securities and Exchange Commission. Presently holds the post of Chairman, MFC Assets Management Plc. Specializes in economics and fiscal science.

Chiang Mai Technical College



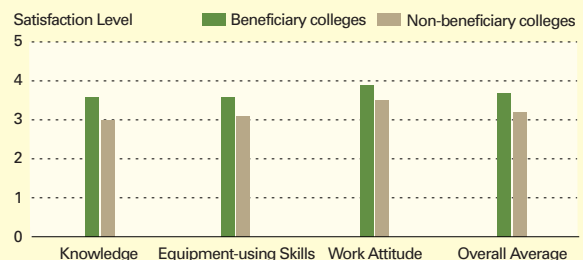
Student doing practical training using electric and electronic equipment



Classroom equipped with computers furnished by the project

Evaluation of Technical College Graduates by Their Employers (beneficiary survey)

Companies who hired graduates of the beneficiary colleges rate the knowledge and skills of those graduates higher than the knowledge and skills of graduates from other colleges.



Note: Result of interviews with 70 employers who employed 193 graduates from the colleges that benefited from this project from the classes of 1998 to 2000. The employers rated their satisfaction with each evaluation item, from "1" = very dissatisfied to "5" = very satisfied.