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THESIS ABSTRACTS

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TVA : A Study and Analysis for the Chao Phya River Development

The purpose is to study and analyze the story of TVA for the development of the Chao Phya River.

Before the TVA was created, people who lived in the Tennessee River basin and adjoining area suffered from flood damage, danger in navigation, and natural resources were still unexploited.

The failure in administration of two nitrate plants owned by the United States in the vicinity of Muscle Shoals became a serious problem. For the purpose of maintaining and operating these properties including the national defense, agricultural and industrial development, navigation improvement and flood control in this region, the Congress created the "Tennessee Valley Authority" in May 18, 1933.

Senator Norris proposed the progressive ideal "corporation freedom" to the Congress which then became the TVA Act. The Act provide wide authority to the Board of Directors to create various projects cooperatively with and through the States and local governments and other agencies for mutual benefits. In the philosophy of decentralization, TVA was a federal autonomous agency, with authority to make its own administrative decisions and responsibility to deal with resources, as a unified whole, clearly fixed in the regional agency to avoid the evils of regimentation, redtape, and bureaucracy.

The responsible heads of the TVA were a board of director because the organization had been established in the form of a corporation. TVA had three fulltime men board of directors which was appointed by the President of the United States and one was designated to be chairman. All functions of the board were mostly to direct the policy to the General Manager, the chief administrative officer of all divisions, for the policy execution of program. The General Manager, acting as the coordinator between the board and his subordinates in engineering, finance, personnel and technical fields, played many important role in the organization.

The board shall act without regard to the provisions of Civil Service laws applicable to officers and employees of the United States. The appointments of all personnel are necessary for the transaction of its business, fix their compensation, define their duties, and provide system of organization to fix responsibility and promote efficiency. In the appointment, selection, and promotion of any such employees or officials for said Corporation, no political test or qualification shall be permitted or given consideration, but all such of this system shall be given and made on the basis of merit and efficiency.

The TVA has its own budget preparation approved by the board and presented it to append with the National Budget of the United States through the Congress for appropriation. The TVA has full financial administration because the budget system is carried on the basis of the Hoover Commission's performance budgeting.

According to the heavy rains the characteristics of the Tennessee Valley are hillsides stripped of their forest cover and farms planted in row crops. Land does not store water; top soil is swept into the rivers, there are flood damage and soil erosion. The system of water control will be taken by building 9 dams on the main river and several storage dams on its tributaries throughout the watershed of 40,000 square miles.

For navigation, the TVA development will mean, with the completion of main-river dam, the providing of a reliable waterway with a minimum depth of nine feet from the mouth of the Tennessee River to Knoxville about 652 miles stretch. The water transportation with the lowest cost provides basic facility of industrial growth of the region.

The TVA was authorized to sell surplus power to States, countries, municipalities and cooperative organizations of citizens or farmer, not organized, or doing business for profit at rates cheaper than sale to the industry for the purpose of wide-scale utilization in reducing unit cost.

The Major contribution which the TVA has to make in agricultural service to the farmer was the fertilizer experimentation and production. The technique developed for this purpose is the test-demonstration farm. Both TVA and private firm jointly produced a large amount of fertilizer at the lowest cost and sold through the farmer cooperatives after the test - demonstration showed great results to them and their neighbourhoods. The TVA's activity is concerned in the carrying out most of any measures for economic development and social improvement - such as reforestation, recreation and reservoir management and so on.

The great success of the Tennessee River development in the United States have been increasingly influential to development of many other rivers of the world. It seems timely to take TVA's experience to another area for water resource development particularly to the Chao Phya River. The Government of Thailand have been developing the River's tributaries, namely Ping, Wang, Yom and Nan. Bhumiphol (Yan Hee) Dam is the first multiple purpose development on the Ping River and the second one is the Son Hee Dam on the Nan River which is now under survey. The physical achievements that science and technology now make possible may bring little benefit unless they have a moral purpose, unless they are conceived and carry out for the benefit of the people themselves. If we integrate the Bhumiphol Dam Project, Yan Hee Authority and Lignite Project at Memoh by set up a new organization. A new and modern task requires new and modern tools; a spirit of enterprise and a creative outlook are required in this new organization for getting things done similar to TVA. The purpose is to stimulate the businessmen and farmers for earning a return from natural resources, with the dominant public interest in their unified and fruitful development.

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By Triratana Promsiri

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