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THESIS ABSTRACTS

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Improving Thai Municipal Administration by Using City Manager Plan

It goes without saying that the devolution of local self - government in the form of Sukabhibahn by the late King Rama V was, later on, the beginning of decentralization of the administrative power in Thailand under the Constitutional Regime. But, so far as the primary purpose of such decentralization in the form of Municipal Government of Thesabahn was partly intended to familiarize the people with the system of parliamentary government, complete success has not been achieved, as is evidenced by many challenging administrative problems which have occurred. While our municipality is comparatively young, these problems are growing rapidly. The poor acceptance by easy-going Thai people of this form of local government, caused by the dominance of age-old traditions and socio-political factors, has evidently been the major factor in bringing about this failure.

To cope with all problems mentioned in Chapter 2, in recent years the Thai Government has gradually come to assume a much wider control over municipal bodies by the authorities of the central government. But, in order to achieve the long-range goal of local self-government, the central government has decided to introduce the City Manager Plan for all over the country in the near future. This introduction will, of course, mark a significant change to the Thai municipal administration.

In this study, the writer has pointed out that although this form of municipal government greatly benefits those utilizing it in the United States, it will not be necessarily assured to be successful for our people. That is why a careful study for the improvement of some of its principles that are not practically compartible with the circumstances of our municipalities is certainly needed.

This study shows that, if the improved City Manager Plan is introduced the results are likely to be the following:

- 1) The stability of this new form of municipal administration to be introduced will be secured;
- 2) The political confusion in the municipal circle will mostly be reduced, and the stability of municipal executives will be increased;
- 3) The standardization of knowledge and experience of the municipal executives will be brought about;
- 4) The future of the municipality as an institution of Local Self-Government will be more hopeful;
 - 5) The administration of municipal activities will show increased efficiency and economy.

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