

ดุษฎีนิพนธ์

THESIS ABSTRACTS

The Role of the Planning Officer in the Planning of Changwat Administrative Organization

The main purposes of this thesis are: 1) to study the duties and responsibilities of the Planning Officers in the planning of Changwat Administrative Organization (CAO); 2) to study the obstacles to Changwat planning and 3) to present some recommendations to solve those obstacles.

The findings show that according to their expected roles, the Planning Officers are to serve the functions in planning of both accelerated Rural Development (ARD) and Changwat development. ARD program is the counter - insurgency program, therefore in formulating ARD plan they collect and analyze the socioeconomic data, identify felt needs of local people and assess the seriousness of a political situation in that locality, determine the priority of projects and select those worth carry ing out. However, in contrast, the Planning Officers' role are limited in terms of both ARD and Changwat development planning. Their role behavior is actually confined to being liaison officers, collecting and categorizing ARD programs prepared by Amphoes and sending them to ARD headquarter in Bangkok. In regard to Changwat development planning; they also serve in the Secretariat of the Changwat Planning Committee arranging and recording the minutes of the meeting and preparing the Changwat Development Plan.

Further study indicates that the main causes limiting the Planning Officers' roles are: 1) overcentralization of authority in ARD headquarter; 2) organizational problem for Changwat development planning and 3) the lack of qualifications and low rank of the Planning Officers. These problems resulted in creating serious problems for ARD and Changwat development planning that are 1) red-tape of ARD work, 2) poor coordination at field operation level and 3) incompleteness of Changwat development plan.

To solve these problems, the writer recommends that: 1) The ARD headquarter should delegate the authority in planning to CAO. This means that CAO can initiate and formulate their own projects and give approval themselves. To do this, the ARD headquarter, and CAO have to cooperate and prepare an "ARD master plan" for each respective Changwat, so that each CAO can prepare its own plan within the framework of the ARD master plan. 2) ARD headquarter should develop the Planning Officers by means of training especially in the field of planning and other related subjects. 3) ARD and Department of Local Administration (DOLA) should reorganize the Changwat Planning Office by transferring the planning responsibilities from CAO to Changwat

as a part of the provincial Administration. The latter is proposed to have the Changwat perform its development plan more effectively than CAO. 4) ARD and DOLA should reduce the Planning Officers' functions in the area of Changwat development planning in order that they can concentrate their efforts for ARD planning. However, they are still required to cooperate with Changwat development planning staffs since ARD plans form an essential part of the overall changwat development programs.

It is also suggested that consideration be given to assigning the planning role in certain Changwat to the assistant-to-Palad Changwat, who is a second grade officer attached to the Office of the Governor.

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