

**Problems of Electricity Administration on the first phase
of National Economic Development Programme 1961-1968**

By Pratuwan Meesung

More than eighty years ago, in Thailand nobody accepted the importance of electric power. They believed that electric power was confined to the Western life only. Not long after electricity was first introduced to the people in Bangkok it became an essential element in the conduct of daily life. When the National Economic Development Programme was planned in 1960; electric power development played a major role. Target, policy and plan of operation were set down by the government. After the first three planned years there has been an increase of over 200,000 KW. in the productive capacity of electric generators.

Electricity is not only necessary to economic development, but also to other public utilities. This is why the government has decided to reorganize the Electricity Authority in order to improve its administration.

a) Lack of Master Plan

Coordination between the electricity producers and distributors is the main problem to be solved from the beginning. This lack of coordination has led to many difficulties to solve controversies.

b) Decision Making

Decision making in problems of electricity were scattered among many agencies, e.g., in Yanhee Electricity Authority problems were decided by the Prime Minister but in Provincial Electricity Authority problems were decided by the Minister of the Interior, etc. It is similar to the saying: "one man, many bosses". As a matter of fact, we need a more centralized and a more unified command than before. The

more cooperation in centralization and unification of command, the more effective will be the work. But this has to be accomplished in a proper time and in a proper manner.

c) Lack of Electricity power marketing policy

We have excellent prospects in production capacity of electric power but it is regrettable that there is no long range programme in electric power marketing. Especially such programming should be concentrated on small scales industries and rural electrification for the benefit of industrial and agricultural sectors, so as to meet needs for electric power in the years to come.

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