

# **Applying SEA to the Development of HIA for Healthy Public Policy in the Energy Sector in Thailand: The Conceptual Framework and Initial Proposal**

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# **The key backgrounds of the Thai energy sector**

- **Conventional fuels - Oil, Coal, Natural Gas, and Hydro**
- **Fossil fuel import: 300 Billion Baht (10 Billion CAD) per year**
- **Centralized system - Large gas pipeline projects, Large power plants, The Transmission Power Line**

# **The key backgrounds of the Thai energy sector**

- **The long history of the governmentally-owned enterprises**
- **The establishment of the Ministry of Energy in October 2002**
- **Petroleum: Privatized in 2003**
- **Electricity: Highly controversial at present**

# **The HIA experiences**

- **HIA The Hydroelectrical Dam (Pak Mun, Northeastern) 2001**
- **HIA The Lignite Mine Project (Wieng Hang, Northern) 2002**
- **HIA The Biomass Power Plant Projects (Central) 2003**
- **HIA The Pumping Storage Power Plant (Lam Ta Khong, Northeastern) 2003**
- **HIA Paper Thai-Malaysian Gas**

# **The impacts of the Thai energy sector**

- Severe impacts or high risks in various aspects and levels
- Environment - Pollution (Lignite, Gas Pipeline), Destroying environmental sensitive areas (Large Dams, Gas Pipeline), Climate Change (All fossil fuels), etc.
- Economics - Burdens of over

# **The impacts of the Thai energy sector**

- Social - Loss of livelihoods (Pak Mun Dam, Lam Ta Khong Pumping Storage)  
Local protests and Conflicts (All cases), Violence (Pak Mun, Thai-Malaysian Gas Pipeline)
- Health - Physical, Mental, Social Health (All cases)
  - Spiritual Health (Pak

# **The Planning Process at the Strategic Levels**

- Centralized process
- Only for the energy sector, do not consider other sectors
- Define 'National Interests' for; Serving energy demand, and 'Fair' costs
- 'Well-planned solutions'
- No room/very hard for changes or improvements

# Differences in Development Paradigms and Concepts

- The Government still confirms and continues the existing development direction, more projects to come
- The Government: Economic Growth and National Competitiveness(Wealth-based)
- Civil Society: Environmentally and socially sound development (Rights-based)



# The needs for applying SEA

- Conflict Mode of Decision-Making
- Power inequalities: All cases
  - Evidences&Knowledge, Negotiation, Institutional, Political, and Financial
  - For example: The Pak Mun Dam Case
  - Excellent Evidence-based

# **The opportunities for applying SEA:**

## **The Development Philosophy**

- The King's development philosophy of 'Sufficient Economy' (1998)
- 'Moderation and Due Consideration'
- Balancing the development
- Sufficient protection from internal and external risks
- 'Self-support and Self-reliance' development

With health and wealth

# The Ninth National Development Plan (2003- 2008)

'Sufficient  
Economy'

The 9th National  
Development Plan

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# **The Ninth National Development Plan (2003- 2008)**

<b>Objectives &amp; Targets</b>	<b>Energy Policy and Planning</b>
<b>1.Promtion of Economic Stability and Sustainability</b>	<b>1.Balanced Economic Development</b>
1) 1-2% surplus of annual current account and stable foreign exchange reserve	1) contribution to Balance of Payment
2) new employment at least 230,000 jobs/year	2) employment contribution
3) Increase international competitiveness	3) development of Sustainable Energy Technology clustering
	4) self-reliance development index

# **The Ninth National Development Plan (2003- 2008)**

Objectives & Targets	Energy Policy and Planning
<b>2.Establishment of a strong national development foundation</b>	<b>2.Quality of life target</b>
1) access to resource for achieving good health	1) assessment of environmental and health impacts
2) civic empowerment in the development of livable cities and communities	2) the roles Sustainable Energy Development in promoting people-centred livable communities development
3) civic empowerment in sustainable management of natural resources and the environment	3) the roles of Sustainable Energy Development in empowering civil sectors for sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

# **The Ninth National Development Plan (2003- 2008)**

Objectives & Targets	Energy Policy and Planning
<b>3. Establishment of good governance at all levels of Thai society</b>	<b>Good Governance</b>
1) more efficient, accountable and democratic government system	1) accountable and democratic governance structure in the energy sector
2) transparency, participatory and accountable decentralization	2) decentralized energy system and the effects on people participation
3) improve financial performance for local government	3) public revenue contribution, focusing on local government
<b>4.Reduction of poverty</b>	<b>4.Poverty Alleviation Target</b>
1) absolute poverty less than 12%	1) poverty alleviation effect
	2) redistribution effect of Sustainable Energy Development

# **the opportunities for applying SEA: The New National Energy Strategies 2003**

- Changing the focus from  
'Supply Side Expansion' to  
'Future Goals and Strategies'
- Reduce Economic Growth :  
Energy Growth  
from 1:1.4 to 1:1
- Target for renewable energy  
development from 0.5 to 8%

# The opportunities for applying SEA: The Alternatives

- High potentials
  - Biomass: Agricultural residuals and Agro-industries
  - Solar, Wind, Micro Hydro Power, Ethanol and Biodiesel
- Obstacles
  - Fuel Management, Market Access, Financial risks
  - Energy Planning and Regulations
  - Powerful Energy Utilities



# Conflicts at Strategic Levels

<i>Government Target and Policy</i>	<i>EGAT Power Development Plan 2003 and Policy Suggestions</i>
1. Slogan or Cognitive Framework “ <i>One Sub-District One Megawatt</i> ” for Distributed power generation	1. Slogan or Cognitive Framework “ <i>EGAT = National Champion</i> ” for future ASEAN Power Grid Market
2. Renewable Energy Target of 2,410 MW in 2011	2. No Target for renewable energy
3. New renewable energy Capacity of 1,840 MW in 2011	3. Only 562 MW until 2016 and suggest to postpone buying 300-400 MW from renewable energy till 2010
4. Required 4% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RES) for new power plants, equal to 400 MW	4. Not included in Power Development Plan 2003

# **The Key Points of SEA for the Thai Energy Sector**

- Applying to Strategic level: All potential options or alternatives can be considered
- Not 'Mitigating the impacts' but instead 'Search for more opportunities for sustainable development'
- Look beyond the existing facts and identify possible pathways
- Facilitate, Influence, and Improve

# **Developing SEA for Healthy Public Policy**

- Creating Opportunities and Facilitating the Process
- All parts of Thai Society
- to constructively share and discuss issues at strategic levels
- Pushing for actions on promoting sustainable solutions in practice
- Building social capacity through the collective learning process
- Positive consequences on power

# Principles and applications (1)

- Starting from the 'Sufficient Economy' and the Ninth National Development Plan
- The opportunities in the energy sector
- Sustainability Framework for the Thai energy sector
- From 'Sectoral' to 'Inter-Sectoral' Policy

# Principles and applications (2)

- Alternative Energy Advocacy:  
Best practices, Local knowledge, Strategic communications
- Developing Sustainable Energy Planning
- Comprehensive Strategic Assessment

# Principles and applications (3)

- Policy entrepreneurs in the energy sector
- Networking and Empowerment Civil Society
- Informing and Convincing the other stakeholders
- Constructive dialogue with decision-makers

Public Engagement and Public