

**BOARD
OF
DIRECTORS**

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

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**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND
FOR STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS
(FINANCED FROM THE ASIAN CURRENCY CRISIS SUPPORT FACILITY)**

The attached Report is circulated for the information of the Board. The President approved the technical assistance on 5 June 2001.

For Inquiries: Mr. C. Wescott, Programs Department (West)
(Ext. 6332)
Mr. H. Sharif, Office of the General Counsel
(Ext. 4891)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

TAR: THA 34243

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
(Financed from the Asian Currency Crisis Support Facility)**

TO THE

KINGDOM OF THAILAND

FOR

STRENGTHENING

ACCOUNTABILITY

MECHANISMS

June 2001

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 3 May 2001)

Currency Unit	–	Baht (B)
B 1.00	=	\$.0220
\$1.00	=	B 45.370

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
ALS	–	Asset and Liability Statement
NCCC	–	National Counter Corruption Commission
NGO	–	nongovernment organization
TA	–	technical assistance
USAID	–	United States Agency for International Development

NOTES

- (i) The fiscal year (FY) of the Government corresponds to the calendar year.
- (ii) In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 1997 Thai constitution includes a number of provisions to strengthen accountability institutions and more sharply define conflict of interest, including establishing an Administrative Court, Ombudsman, Human Rights Commission and Election Commission. In addition, the National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC) and National Audit Commission now report directly to Parliament. The new Government that came into office February 2001 has stated its commitment to eradicate corruption by strengthening the NCCC, and by amending laws and regulations to facilitate investigations, to prevent conflicts of interest, and to encourage citizens to expose corrupt officials.

2. Building on this strong commitment since 1997 to improved governance and on recommendations of recent governance studies,¹ the Country Programming Mission in March 2000 and the Government agreed to a medium-term program of technical assistance (TA) to strengthen governance. The Fact-Finding Mission fielded on 18-26 September defined and reached an understanding with the Government² and other stakeholders on the parameters of ADB support for improving accountability. The proposed TA is included in the 2001 TA program.

II. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

3. Thailand is undergoing its most fundamental political change since 1932 when the monarchy was replaced by a constitutional system. The hallmark of the change is the new constitution, which reflects broad Thai aspirations for greater democratization and more responsive and accountable government. Important reforms since the new constitution was promulgated include 11 new economic bills as part of the nation's response to the economic crisis. These bills lay the framework for improved functioning of the economy, modernized bankruptcy (reorganization and restructuring) procedures, and establishing strong regulatory frameworks for banks and other financial institutions. In addition, the constitutional provisions to prevent corruption, protect human rights, and transform the court system require the development of new institutions and the transformation of existing ones. It is crucial to Thailand's future development and its international credibility that the mechanisms that can identify, address, and prevent official misuse of office be used effectively.

4. Recent Thai and ADB governance studies confirm the importance given in the new constitution to combating corruption.³ The new Government that came into office February 2001 has stated its commitment to prevent and suppress corruption by strengthening the NCCC, and by amending laws and regulations to facilitate investigations, to prevent conflicts of interest, and to encourage citizens to expose corrupt officials. Specific policy proposals include:

- (i) Undertake all measures of punishment necessary - whether disciplinary, administrative, civil, criminal or tax-related - in a manner that is resolute, swift and fair to both corrupters and those involved in protecting them. Push for the amendment and revision of legislation, while developing the monitoring system to ensure that those found guilty of corruption are severely punished.

¹ ADB 1999 Governance In Thailand: Challenges, Issues And Prospects; and ADB 2000 The ADB's Strategy for Improving Governance in Thailand.

² Nb. letter from Director-General, Public Debt Management Office, Ministry of Finance to ADB dated 27 March 2001.

³ ADB 1999 and 2000 (footnote 1); Uwanoo, Borwornsak 2000. Depoliticizing Key Institutions for Combating Corruption: Case Study of the New Thai Constitution paper presented at ADB Annual General Meeting, Chaing Mai; National Democratic Institute 2000 *Combating Corruption at the Grassroots: The Thailand Experience 1999-2000*. Bangkok; and Pasuk Pongpaichit et al 1994, *Corruption and Democracy in Thailand* Bangkok: Silkworm Books.

- Compensation should also be paid to the public sector and the people who have been affected by such corruption;
- (ii) Conduct a serious campaign against corruption and instill public awareness and social norms concerning this matter so that the people may join together in fighting corruption and malfeasance by government officials. At the same time, the morale of all honest officials should be promoted;
 - (iii) Encourage the people to join together in forming people's organizations and to play a participatory role in the prevention and suppression of corruption and malfeasance. Incentives should be provided to encourage the people's participation in various forms; and
 - (iv) Reform the process of budgetary allocation and spending as well as the public procurement system with a view to enhancing transparency and efficiency in approving the budget. Towards this end, the Government will encourage qualified persons and members of the public to play a greater role in monitoring and analyzing the budget proposals and budget spending.⁴

5. The NCCC is a new constitutional body with powers to address corruption and reverse its deleterious effects on growth and development. It has the power to request asset and liability statements (ALS) from politicians and senior bureaucrats, and to remove them from office if a statement is deemed false. The NCCC can also investigate and prosecute cases of corruption, abuse of power and malfeasance. The NCCC estimates that up to 30 percent of government procurement budgets may be lost due to corrupt practices. Such corruption is systemic and contributes to widespread public cynicism toward government.

6. In carrying out its new mandate, the NCCC faces the challenges of transforming itself from a branch of the Office of the Prime Minister into a public autonomous organization, developing new and more flexible practices in management, personnel administration, and budget and financial management.⁵ The NCCC has had some early successes, including the forced resignation of a senior minister for alleged corruption. However, new capabilities are needed in many areas for the NCCC to carry out its ambitious mission.

7. The 1997 constitution recognizes the critical role of civil society⁶ in ensuring government accountability. Citizens can, among other things, initiate through a petition an investigation by the NCCC with the intent of impeaching an official, and an investigation by the NCCC to inspect and ascertain anomalies of the ALS of the Council of Ministers.⁷ Among other areas for investigation are new ethical standards provided in the NCCC Act of 1999, which prohibit officials from engaging in any activity that results in a conflict of interest. No single organization or group of citizens can develop expertise to effectively oversee the vast array of government policies and programs.

8. Civil society can also play a critical role in communicating through the media to a broader public. Civil society provides an important counter to the perspective of government. Some associations and NGOs have independent capacity to undertake research on issues of concern to their membership. It is thus essential to develop a network of civil society organizations that specialize in various aspects of governance and, can provide effective, accountable oversight to supplement the efforts of the NCCC. The general public and officials

⁴ "Policy of the Government of H.E. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra", speech delivered to the National Assembly 26 February 2001, (Unofficial Translation)

⁵ For a brief agency review as of February 2000, see ADB, 2000, footnote 1. Annex B.

⁶ Including professional and nongovernment organizations.

⁷ *Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand 1997* Articles 60, 76, 293.
< <http://www.krisdika.go.th/law/text/lawpub/e11102540/text.htm#1> >

must perceive those organizations as non-partisan. The organizations should develop a non-adversarial, partnership relationship with government agencies for which they provide oversight, as well as with the NCCC.

9. ADB's role in this assistance must be planned taking into account projects currently ongoing or planned by other development partners. For example, the Asia Foundation and Kenan Institute of Asia (supported by the United States Agency for International Development) is helping NCCC to assess ethical standards through asset/liability reviews, to strengthen public participation in the oversight of local administration, and to strengthen public hearings as an effective method of promoting participation and reducing conflict. In addition, the World Bank is supporting the Office of the Civil Service Commission in examining public perceptions of corruption, business-to-business corruption, collusion in contracting (focused on highway projects), and corruption in the civil service. The World Bank is also supporting major civil service and public expenditure reforms through a \$400 million structural adjustment loan. The British Council provided technical assistance to establish the Ethics Promotion and Information Center within the Civil Service Training Institute.

III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Objective

10. The TA will strengthen the capacity of constitutional and civil society bodies to identify, address, and prevent official misuse of office. The TA framework is in Appendix 1.

B. Scope

11. The technical assistance has been designed keeping in view the background and situation outlined in Part II above, and the assistance planned or underway by other development partners (paragraph 9). The TA will include three components: (i) review the NCCC, and use the findings as the basis for developing a strategic plan to better carry out the expanded mandate of the Commission under the new constitution; (ii) strengthen NCCC and Senate procedures for impeachment, the only important area of constitutional responsibility not presently under detailed review; and (iii) strengthen civil society's capacity for advocacy and monitoring accountability mechanisms.

12. **Component 1: Strategic Review of the NCCC.** A strategic review and planning exercise will assist the NCCC to develop a five-year strategic plan. Specific tasks will include:

- (i) survey the responsibilities of the NCCC concerning investigations, asset liability statements, impeachment, and public education;
- (ii) study the NCCC's vision, organization structure, staffing requirements and policies, internal and external communication flows, need for external expertise (both domestic and foreign), public information and education functions, and available resources of the NCCC;
- (iii) study the organization and management of counter-corruption agencies in other countries concerning investigations, asset liability statements, impeachment, and public education;
- (iv) organize a workshop on the NCCC's structure, potential and options for restructuring, to allow broad consultation with relevant stakeholders;
- (v) propose measures for the NCCC's organizational and manpower restructuring;

- (vi) prepare modules on the role of the NCCC in fighting corruption for primary- and secondary-school curriculum on governance; and
- (vii) arrange extensive dissemination and awareness raising through public seminars and workshops to help staff of the NCCC, the Senate, government officials and the general public to understand and appreciate the NCCC's constitutional powers.

13. **Component 2: Strengthening NCCC and Senate Procedures for Impeachment.** The TA will map the legal and resource requirements for the NCCC to fully and fairly conduct impeachment investigations. As requested by the Government, a white paper and action plan will be prepared in cooperation with the Senate, the Attorney General, the Constitutional Court, and the Supreme Court. Specific tasks will include assisting the NCCC to:

- (i) study the impeachment process in other selected countries, taking into account differing historical and socioeconomic environments, highlight the problems and obstacles in conducting the impeachment process, and on this basis, propose some approaches and measures for addressing unresolved impeachment issues in Thailand;
- (ii) highlight organizational and administrative problems (especially in NCCC) that may affect the conduct of the impeachment process, and propose new laws and regulations for solving those organizational and administrative problems;
- (iii) prepare an impeachment process white paper, impeachment process action plan, and public awareness materials that can be used for awareness raising through public seminars and workshops.

14. **Component 3: Civil Society Advocacy and monitoring Accountability Mechanisms.** The TA will work through an Accountability Committee, appointed by the Executing Agency, to support civil society involvement in issues emerging from Thailand's ongoing political reform. A number of prominent Thais have indicated interest in serving on the committee, including a former Prime Minister, Director General of the National Institute of Public Administration, Secretary General of King Prajadhipok's Institute, Director General of the Government Savings Bank, Director of Vajiravudh College, Director of CivicNet (an umbrella NGO group), Secretary General of the Thailand Research Fund, and Director of the "Rak Thai" Foundation.

15. Once the committee has been established, it will seek other funding, both domestic and international – in addition to ADB funds - to support grants to NGOs. Activities to be supported include the following:

- (i) develop criteria for making grants to civil society institutions;
- (ii) co-operation with government agencies to develop new legislation based on the Constitution;
- (iii) build a constituency for reform nationwide with academics, NGOs, community-based organizations, and interested individuals;
- (iv) carry out independent research on specific reform issues; and
- (v) prepare press kits and other public information media.

16. This work will complement the work of NCCC, National Economic and Social Council, Development Support Consortium, Thailand Development Foundation, and other bodies working to improve government accountability.

C. Cost Estimates and Financing Plan

17. The TA is estimated to cost \$730,000 equivalent of which \$29,000 is in foreign exchange and \$701,000 equivalent in local currency. ADB will finance \$565,000 equivalent comprising the entire foreign exchange cost of \$29,000 and \$536,000 of the local currency cost. The TA will be financed by ADB on a grant basis from the Asian Currency Crisis Support Facility funded by the Government of Japan. The Government and beneficiary NGOs will finance the remaining local currency cost of \$165,000 equivalent in kind, by providing office accommodation, support facilities, communications, and counterpart staff. The Asia Foundation will provide \$56,000 equivalent in parallel financing to support the impeachment process component. USAID will provide \$179,000 equivalent in parallel financing to strengthen NCCC ALS review, and public participation in overseeing local administration. A detailed cost estimate is attached as Appendix 2.

D. Implementation Arrangements

18. The Office of the NCCC will be the Executing Agency for the TA. The Executing Agency has agreed to assign counterpart teams to implement the planned components, and will facilitate the essential coordination of this TA with related assistance from the Asia Foundation, the Kenan Foundation, the World Bank and other funding agencies. The office of the NCCC will appoint an Accountability Committee to coordinate the proposed civil society involvement. A Deputy Secretary General of the Office of the NCCC will be the national project coordinator. Workshops will be held to review progress (paragraphs 12-13). Senior officials from the Office of the NCCC and from other accountability institutions will attend and offer guidance. ADB staff from Programs Department West, Office of the Director will be intensively involved in supervising and monitoring the TA to ensure appropriate progress.

19. The TA will be implemented over 14 months and will require an estimated 165 person-months of domestic consulting services, including 8 months for a project coordinator. The outline terms of reference is attached as Appendix 3. ADB will recruit individual consultants for this work. The TA will finance the services of consultants, engaged in accordance with the ADB's *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants*, and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB. The consultants will prepare reports for each component in hard copy and electronic formats. Equipment, as needed, will be procured following the ADB's *Guidelines for Procurement*.

IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

20. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance, on a grant basis, to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, in an amount not exceeding the equivalent of \$565,000 for the purpose of Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms, and hereby reports such action to the Board.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK

Design Summary	Performance Targets	Monitoring Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p>A. Goal</p> <p>More transparent and accountable governance</p>	<p>Higher ethical standard across government</p>	<p>Corruption perception survey results improved</p>	<p>Any new government coming to power will respect the 1997 Constitution and subsequent laws.</p>
<p>B. Objective/Purpose</p> <p>Strengthen capacity of constitutional and civil society bodies</p>	<p>National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) demonstrate abilities to enforce higher standards of government accountability</p>	<p>Fewer delays in processing at NCCC cases</p>	<p>NCCC and NGOs are willing and able to participate in change processes.</p>
<p>C. Outputs</p> <p>Functional review and operational recommendations for Office of the NCCC</p> <p>Support to NCCC and Senate</p>	<p>NCCC better able to carry out its constitutionally - mandated roles</p> <p>Concise definition of prima facie and judicial evidence required</p> <p>Recommendations for overcoming social, cultural, or political factors that might dissuade NCCC or Senate from</p>	<p>Comprehensive review and strategic plan</p> <p>Impeachment process white paper</p> <p>Impeachment process action plan</p> <p>The number of cases reported in the NCCC's Annual Inspection and</p>	<p>NCCC has adequate financial resources to conduct impeachment investigations requested by the Senate</p> <p>NCCC has appropriate human resources</p>

(Reference in text: page 3, para. 10)

Design Summary	Performance Targets	Monitoring Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p>roles in impeachment process</p> <p>Strengthened civil society advocacy and monitoring of accountability mechanisms</p>	<p>carrying out impeachment</p> <p>NCCC pursues investigations submitted by Senate fully and fairly</p> <p>NCCC has effective impeachment public relations and education</p> <p>Nonadversarial, partnership relations between NGOs, and NCCC and other government agencies</p> <p>co-operation with government agencies help to develop new legislation based on the Constitution</p> <p>independent research on specific reform issues</p> <p>constituency strengthened for reform nationwide with academics, NGOs, community-based organizations, and interested individuals</p> <p>Improved networking</p>	<p>Performance Report</p> <p>Public awareness materials</p> <p>Primary and secondary curriculum modules</p> <p>Research reports, draft legislation, seminars, student essays and theses, advertising and propotional material, press kits</p>	<p>Social, cultural, or political factors that might dissuade NCCC or Senate from carrying out impeachment are overcome.</p> <p>High-quality proposals received, grants awarded fairly and competitively</p> <p>Accountability Committee works effectively</p>
<p>D. Inputs</p> <p>Consulting services</p> <p>Grants to NGOs</p>	<p>Ability to meet technical assistance requirements, including outputs and schedule</p>	<p>Timely and high-quality reporting</p>	<p>Implementation capacity of NCCC and NGOs</p>

COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Foreign Exchange	Local Currency	Total Cost
A. Asian Development Bank Financing^a			
1. Consultants			
a. Remuneration and Per Diem			
i. International Consultants	0.00	0.00	0.00
ii. Domestic Consultants	0.00	190.00	190.00
b. International and Local Travel	0.00	20.00	20.00
c. Reports and Communications	0.00	185.00	185.00
2. Equipment ^b	0.00	20.00	20.00
3. Workshops	0.00	50.00	50.00
4. Observation Visits	25.00	0.00	25.00
5. Essay and Thesis Awards	0.00	15.00	15.00
6. Contingencies	4.00	56.00	60.00
Subtotal (A)	29.00	536.00	565.00
B. Government/NGO Financing			
1. Office Accommodation and Transport	0.00	45.00	45.00
2. Local Communications	0.00	25.00	25.00
3. Remuneration of Counterpart Staff	0.00	95.00	95.00
Subtotal (B)	0.00	165.00	165.00
Total (A + B)	29.00	701.00	730.00

^a Asian Currency Crisis Support Facility.

^b Computers, printers, software, and photocopiers.

Source: Staff estimates

(Reference in text: page 5, para. 17)

OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

1. The project coordinator (8 person-months) will coordinate the work of all consultants, including management of data and information collection and analysis, contact with counterparts, preparation and timely completion of reports, workshops, seminars, and consultative meetings. The Executing Agency (EA) will guide, facilitate, monitor and assess the services of the project coordinator and other consultants. The specialist will have these specific duties:

- (i) Prepare detailed work plans and facilitate overall coordination and implementation of the (TA).
- (ii) Assist in recruiting other consultants as may be necessary.
- (iii) Collaborate closely with the EA and the other consulting team members producing the outputs required under the project.
- (iv) Ensure aid agency consultation, coordination, and participation in workshops and seminars.
- (v) Assist the EA to ensure that concerned government agencies, aid agencies, non-government organizations and the business community are informed of the progress.
- (vi) Assist the EA in ensuring the timely preparation of all the formal written reports.

A. Component 1: Impeachment Process Review

2. A multidisciplinary team will carry out research under the direction of the National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC). The research process will include focus groups to examine specific issues, as well as publications, public seminars, and workshops to disseminate information. The team will produce the following products:

3. **Impeachment Process White Paper** Developed in cooperation with the NCCC, the Senate, the Attorney General, the Constitutional Court, and the Supreme Court, the white paper is intended for general distribution. It will be a subjective assessment of the constitutional, legal, and logistical implications of a full and fair impeachment investigation, including procedures and legal standards. The white paper will provide guidance to the NCCC, the Senate, and the courts on a number of legal issues. For example, the critical issue in impeachment is understanding the difference between prima facie evidence required to indict and dismiss an official as opposed to the criminal procedure code evidence required to convict an official in a court of law. The white paper will help politicians, officials, and concerned citizens to better understand the impeachment process.

4. **Impeachment Process Action Plan** This publication is for internal use in the NCCC. It will be a subjective assessment of the legal and constitutional implications of impeachment, the practical implications for human resource skills, expertise and other resources required for implementation; and recommendations for achieving full and fair investigations. The action plan will include (i) a prioritized list of multiyear institution building and human resource development activities required to achieve targeted efficiency in investigations; (ii) short- and long-term budgetary estimates for implementing the plan, including projections of the required government and private funds; and (iii) draft regulations and rules that may be needed to implement the action plan recommendations.

5. **Public Awareness Materials** The NCCC must ensure that all officials fully comprehend the process, ethical standards, and penalties related to the impeachment process. Brochures, booklets, and media products, that explain the conclusions of the white paper in layman's terms, will be produced and distributed to members of the Senate, the general public, politicians, and civil servants.

6. **Primary- and Secondary- Level Curriculum Modules** Based on the white paper, these materials to be developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Education will teach students about the impeachment process.

The team members and their responsibilities include the following:

a. Comparative Politics Specialist (domestic) and Team leader – 10 person months

- (i) Study the socioeconomic and political factors in Canada, France, Japan the US, and Thailand, that may affect the impeachment process in those countries. Some factors are the structure of power and the political environment.
- (ii) Highlight the problems and obstacles in conducting the impeachment process in those specified countries.
- (iii) Taking comparative findings into account, propose some approaches and measures for addressing unresolved impeachment issues in Thailand.
- (iv) Lead the effort to produce the impeachment process white paper, impeachment process action plan, public awareness materials, and primary- and secondary- level curriculum modules.
- (v) Arrange public seminars and workshops.

b. Senior Political Analyst (domestic, 10 person- months)

- (i) Study the impeachment process in Canada, France, Japan, US, and Thailand , focusing on organizational and administrative issues.
- (ii) Highlight organizational and administrative problems (especially in NCCC) that may affect the conduct of the impeachment process.
- (iii) Propose organizational and administrative measures to solve the problems.

c. Senior Constitutional Law Analyst (domestic, 10 person-months)

- (i) Study and review all provisions in the new Thai constitution and other legal documents that concern the impeachment process, so as to identify loopholes or problems in conducting the process.
- (ii) Study and review the impeachment process in Canada France, Japan and US and point out some major strengths and weaknesses.
- (iii) Suggest some possible laws that can strengthen the conduct of the impeachment process in Thailand.

d. Political Analyst (domestic, 10 person-months)

- (i) Study the socioeconomic and political factors in Thailand, Canada, the US, Japan and France that might effect the impeachment process in

those countries. Factors will include stage of economic development, social stratification, etc.

- (ii) Highlight the problems and obstacles in enforcing the impeachment process in those specified countries.
- (iii) Taking comparative findings into account, propose some approaches and measures for addressing unresolved impeachment issues in Thailand.

e. Legal Expert (domestic, 10 person-months)

- (i) Study and review all provisions in the new Thai constitution and other legal documents that concern the impeachment process, to look for loopholes or problems in conducting the process.
- (ii) Study and review the impeachment process in France, US, Canada, Japan; and point out some major strengths and weaknesses.
- (iii) Suggest possible laws that can strengthen the conduct of the impeachment process in Thailand.

f. Legal Expert (domestic, 10 person-months)

- (i) Study the impeachment process in Thailand, Canada, US, Japan and France focusing on legal aspects of organizations and administration involved in the impeachment process in those countries.
- (ii) Highlight organizational and administrative problems (especially in NCCC) that may affect the conduct of the impeachment process.
- (iii) Propose new laws and regulations for solving those organizational and administrative problems.

B. Component 2: Strategic Plan for the NCCC

7. A strategic review and planning exercise will assist the NCCC to develop a five –year, strategic plan. The agency review will examine of the agency vision, organization structure, staffing requirements and policies, internal and external communication flows, need for external expertise (both domestic and foreign), public information and education functions, and available resources. The results of component 1, and of other projects on ethical standards and oversight of local administration will be inputs in this review.

8. Component 2 will have the services of a specialist in public administration and political science (10 person- months each). Their responsibilities and the scope of research follow.

- (i) Survey the responsibilities of the NCCC concerning investigations, asset liability statements, impeachment, and public education.
- (ii) Study the structure, processes and manpower of the NCCC.
- (iii) Analyze the organizational potential and problems of the NCCC by comparing them with its responsibilities.
- (iv) Study the organization and management of countercorruption agencies in other countries concerning investigations, asset liability statements, impeachment, and public education.
- (v) Organize a workshop on the NCCC's structure, potential and restructuring.
- (vi) Suggest the visions on organization and management for the NCCC.

- (vii) Propose measures for the NCCC's organizational and manpower restructuring.

C. Component 3: Civil Society Advocacy and Monitoring of Accountability Mechanisms

9. The TA will work through an Accountability Committee, appointed by the Executing Agency, to support civil society involvement in issues emerging from Thailand's ongoing political reform. A number of prominent Thais have indicated interest in serving on the committee, including a former Prime Minister, Director General of the National Institute of Public Administration, Secretary General of King Prajadhipok's Institute, Director General of the Government Savings Bank, Director of Vajiravudh College, Director of CivicNet (an umbrella NGO group), Secretary General of the Thailand Research Fund, and Director of the "Rak Thai" Foundation. The Accountability Committee will develop criteria for making grants to civil society institutions.

10. An example of the type of civil society proposal that might be funded under this component is the public relations campaign proposed by the Transparent and Clean Thailand Project. This project proposal calls for undertaking four provincial brainstorming seminars on countercorruption in Northern, Northeastern, Central, and Southern regions. Participants will be drawn from both government and civil society. Conclusions of the deliberations will be summarized in four seminar reports. Also proposed is an essay contest for students at primary, secondary, and university levels, anticorruption thesis assistantships for selected students, and an advertising campaign intended to create awareness, understanding, and acceptance of correct behavior to avoid corrupt transactions. The details of the proposed activities are as follows:

1. Four Provincial Brainstorming Seminars on CounterCorruption

- (i) For each seminar, determine issues and seminar content and get the approval of the Transparent and Clean Thailand Project.
- (ii) Plan for detailed arrangements, with assistance as required from external conference organizer.
- (iii) Invite guest speakers from public and private sectors, NGOs, and the general public.
- (iv) Invite the media to participate and broadcast deliberations and outcomes.
- (v) Prepare and distribute widely a report on the seminar findings.

2. Essay Contest

- (i) Set up a selection committee.
- (ii) Determine essay topics and decision criteria.
- (iii) Contract an external organizer to print posters inviting students to participate.
- (iv) Coordinate with academic institutions to encourage students to participate.
- (v) Issue press releases, and invite the media to attend declaration of winners and presentation of awards.

3. Thesis Assistantship

- (i) Set up a selection committee.

- (ii) Select the proposed thesis outlines that seem appropriate and have reliable research methodology.
- (iii) Track progress on completing theses.
- (iv) Release the completed theses through various types of media.

4. Advertising

- (i) Contract an advertising agency to create and produce three television advertisements and three radio advertisements.
- (ii) Coordinate with television stations for broadcasting time reservation.
- (iii) Coordinate with radio stations for broadcasting time reservation.
- (iv) Contract with an advertising agency to create and produce print advertisements.
- (v) Coordinate with newspapers for reserving advertising space.

5. Posters, Stickers and Newsletters

- (i) Contract an advertising agency to design and print posters encouraging anticorruption practices.
- (ii) Contract an entity to write, design, and print newsletters.
- (iii) Contract an external entity to design and print stickers.

6. Quasi-Permanent Exhibitions

- (i) Contract an advertising agency to design and create exhibition materials comprising movable and re-installable boards.