

Country and Government Context

Thailand is located in Southeast Asia, bordering Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, and Myanmar, between the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea. In 2010, Thailand's population reached 67 million. Thailand has a land area of 514,000 square kilometers, and is located at the heart of Southeast Asia, linking Malaysia and Singapore with continental Asia. Thailand's capital is Bangkok, a city with a population of more than 10 million.

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy, whereby the Prime Minister is the head of government and a hereditary monarch is head of state. Under the present Constitution, the Prime Minister must be a Member of Parliament. Cabinet members do not have to be Members of Parliament. The legislature can hold a vote of no confidence against the Premier and members of the Cabinet if it has sufficient votes. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislative branches.

Thailand's first Constitution was promulgated in 1932 at the crux of a democracy movement, but this Constitution was not long lasting and has since been changed by interim charter or formal constitutional promulgation 18 times. For most of the 60 years following the 1932 democracy movement, Thailand was under military rule. From 1973, the country began the transition to civilian rule, although at times the military again took control of the country. The first democratically elected Prime Minister came to power in 1988; and up to 1997, when a new Constitution was adopted, there was a number of leaders and coalition governments.

The 1997 Constitution brought reforms in government institutions and the relationship between the state and the people. Political instability since that time brought a new Constitution in 2007 and a continued heightened political environment.

Civil Society: An Overview

Thailand has a long tradition of religious philanthropy; however, organized civil society organizations (CSOs) were almost unknown prior to the democratic transition. Rapid economic growth in the past two decades (1977–1997) contributed to the environment for a large number of diverse nongovernment organizations (NGOs) to emerge in Thailand. In the 1980s, and increasingly in the 1990s, there was an explosion in the number of NGOs operating in Thailand: by 1989, for example, there were 12,000 local NGOs, of which 44% worked in the field of development and welfare.¹

In 1984, the NGO Committee on Rural Development (NGO–CORD) was formed and took a strong role as a coordinator of development-oriented NGOs. Many of the members of NGO–CORD were not registered and had no formal relationship with the government; however, NGO–CORD represented more than 200 organizations, organized into sector-based and geographical subcommittees. NGO–CORD is still operating as an alliance of NGOs in Northeast Thailand, but has ceased to be a central coordination mechanism.

Throughout the 1990s the dynamics of civil society changed, parallel to economic growth. Pednekar² links the emergence of social protest movements in Thailand to economic development, which saw a shift from service delivery development NGOs to groups organizing environmental protests and campaigns as the dominant form of CSO. Social dynamics changed, paralleling an increasingly export-oriented economy, contributing to income inequality between urban and rural areas. Many organizations that emerged during this time were involved in rural development, working with poorer and disadvantaged parts of Thai society to 'alleviate poverty, re-value and conserve villagers' wisdom and folkways, and ensure basic rights of rural people were met'.³ Civil society also began to play a role in organizing grassroots awareness of, participation in, and resistance to centrally planned and executed development projects.

Thai civil society is now varied and diverse, and coexists with strong constitutional guarantees of direct political participation, freedom of assembly, requirements for government consultation, and local determination of community rights. 'Civil society,' in the Thai context, covers citizen organizations with both political, as well as social and economic motivations, and groups are often active around several sets of issues. It has always been difficult to identify the exact numbers of local and international NGOs working in Thailand as many legal forms are available; there is no mandatory centralized registration mechanism; and some organizations emerge and disappear quite quickly, for example, around a particular local issue. It also seems that CSOs in Thailand are becoming more dynamic and atomized with widespread popular internet use. Income inequality and livelihood issues have increasingly become a concern of the Thai civil society through various rallies and public hearings.

Rural development CSOs continue to exist in Thailand, although with the country's transition to middle-income status these organizations have decreased in number. Those that remain have diversified into advocacy or protest organizations, groups that have a social-enterprise or charitable orientation, or are engaged closely with government efforts to reduce the comparative poverty of rural areas.

An example of a community-driven welfare activity is the Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI). CODI is active in the areas of collective housing, land planning, grants and loans, community councils and welfare, and works with strong links to government. CODI assists networks of community groups and CSOs in a particular city or province join together to form a network to work together and negotiate with city or provincial authorities, or to influence development planning, or simply to work together on shared problems of housing, livelihoods, or access to basic services. There are networks based around occupations (for instance, a taxi cooperative); pooled savings; and cooperative housing. There are also community networks based on shared land tenure problems (for instance, networks of communities living along railway tracks or under bridges who have shared tenure or landlord problems).⁴

Geographically, Thai civil society could also be seen as three separate zones, which have reflected characteristics of CSOs in each area. Civil society in central Thailand and Bangkok is diverse, representing everything from the active intellectual and political elite through to informal settlers and migrants. CSOs in Bangkok and central Thailand focus on a wide range of issues from the economy; social issues, including gender, children, health, and education; environment;

and politics. With strong knowledge and management systems, CSOs in the central area have a national, or even regional, remit (for example, the Kenan Institute Asia) through running activities in or transferring knowledge to other parts of the country; however, urban civil society in Thailand also is active in engaging on very local issues, such as planning.

Examples of Thai CSOs based in the central region include the Pavena Foundation for Children and Women, Friends of Women Foundation, Foundation For Slum Child Care, Chaipattana Foundation, The Mirror Foundation, World Vision Thailand, and the Raks Thai Foundation. Bangkok also hosts many international and regional CSOs.

Many Thai research and policy institutions are based in the central region. One example of note is the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), which was set up by the National Economic and Social Development Board and registered as an independent, nonprofit foundation in 1984. TDRI completed the Regional Technical Assistance for Reviewing the Poverty Impact of Regional Economic Integration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, under Asian Development Bank (ADB) funding.

In Thailand's North and Northeast, CSOs are predominantly grassroots groups focused on rural poverty, indigenous peoples, and subregional water and natural resource management issues. Proximity to border areas has also influenced the character of civil society in these areas.⁵ A Northeastern committee of NGO-CORD was set up in 1985, helping many organizations based there to access funding through the various grant mechanisms and NGO funding modalities available at that time.

In Northern Thailand, many organizations based in and around Chiang Mai, such as the MAP Foundation, work on migration and related issues. Chiang Mai University's Social Research Institute is an established center for CSOs working in Northern Thailand on indigenous peoples, land rights, migration, rural development, and environmental and natural resource issues. Many of the Chiang Mai-based CSOs have a strong advocacy focus and include some regional organizations that have chosen to be based there partially because of the supportive environment of Chiang Mai University.

In the South of Thailand, there are some independent CSOs active but in smaller numbers than in other parts of the country. One example of a southern-based CSO is the Andaman Organization for Participatory Restoration of Natural Resource. This organization aims to strengthen small-scale fishing communities and encourage villagers to participate in coastal resource management. CSOs from the southern part of Thailand,

in general, tend to be comprised of diverse groups of local communities based on their livelihoods or religious backgrounds. The presence of conflict in the south has also influenced civil society to some degree.

A small number of international NGOs have Thailand programs; the most recent figure was 27 in 1997.⁶ The number has been reduced over time as international NGOs handed over to Thai affiliates (e.g., CARE Thailand to Raks Thai Foundation), or withdrew as Thailand became wealthier. The Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Foundation Thailand received an ADB grant to launch AIDS prevention campaign in Northeast Thailand in 2005. The International Rice Research Institute began working in Thailand in 1960 and still retains a presence in Bangkok. Examples of other international NGOs that still have programs in Thailand are the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and Terre des Hommes. Others are the Asia Foundation, CARE International UK, Save the Children, Oxfam, Christian Children's Fund, Plan International, World Wide Fund for Nature, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Education Development Center, among others.

Another aspect of Thai civil society is the presence of international NGOs with regional representative offices in Bangkok or Chiang Mai. Several of these organizations are active in networks (see *Networks and Coordinating Bodies*) or through regional or cross-border programs on health, trafficking, or HIV, although few are active in development work in Thailand since its transition to middle-income status. The International Union for Conservation of Nature, Plan International, and Family Health International are examples.

Southeast Asian civil society engagement with regional institutions is an emerging area, and many of the CSOs working at this level are based in Thailand. Some of the 'complex structure of diverse, often over-lapping governance arrangements'⁷ in the Asian region have links to Thailand: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation, and the Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program (GMS Program) are regional institutions with a presence in or strong participation of Thailand. Civil society has started to engage, transnationally and regionally, with these governance institutions. Networks, such as Focus on the Global South; the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development; Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy; and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, have all engaged, regionally and transnationally, with the various regional institutions. The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and

the ASEAN Peoples' Forum have been particular targets for Thai-based regional advocacy.

Corporate philanthropy, corporate social responsibility, and social enterprises are stronger in Thailand than in other Mekong countries. Major private and state-owned enterprises, such as Dtac, Singha, Charoen Pokphand Group, Thai Public Broadcasting Service, and PTT Public Company Limited, have been increasing their corporate social responsibility projects in order to reach out to the rural areas. Other international companies, such as Google, have begun to work with Thai CSOs on social enterprise, such as health information reporting and analytics through mobile phones. In response to this increasing area of civil society activity, in 2010, the Asian Institute of Technology created a CSR Asia Center at its campus in Pathum Thani, aiming to support firms in Thailand and other GMS countries on sustainable and socially responsible business through training, consultancy, and research.⁸

A number of NGOs in Thailand also see social enterprise and consultancy as a way to support their nonprofit work (see *Funding of CSOs*).

Government–Civil Society Relations

Social movements and the media have played an active role throughout Thailand's recent political history, and the relationship between civil society and politics remains fluid and uneasy. While Thailand's civil society as described above is diverse and working through many mechanisms and in many areas, parts of Thai civil society have a strong radical/activist stance.

A 1994 report on Thai civil society highlighted a dynamic of suspicion that 'some groups have disguised themselves as nonprofit organizations in order to carry out underground political work'.⁹ CSOs at that time, particularly grassroots and advocacy organizations, came to be seen as being associated with a particular political ideology unfriendly to government. At the same time, Thailand's rapid economic growth meant that development-oriented NGOs withdrew (for internationals) or reduced in number or shifted focus. The CSOs that remained were less linked to government and donors, and became less organized in formal national 'development' networks or umbrella groups.

The idea that it was permissible for members of the public to contest government actions found official expression in the 1997 Constitution. There was a growth in social movements, which are seen as giving people a legitimate avenue to express discontent over hardships; firstly relating to the effects of the 1997 Asian economic crisis, and later over inequitable development,

poverty, and other social and economic-related issues.¹⁰ Other Thai social protest movements have been driven by specific project-related concerns, such as the development of the Trans Thai–Malaysia Gas Pipeline¹¹ in southern Thailand; the Samut Prakarn Wastewater Treatment Project;¹² and the Mekong Basin hydropower generation projects, including a long-running protest over the Pak Mun Dam, coordinated by the Assembly of the Poor.¹³ Another notable grassroots group involved in protest and activism is the Small Scale Farmers’ Assembly of Isan.

In the area of policy research, government–civil society relationships have a constructive character. Organizations, such as HelpAge International, provide valuable data and regional and international perspectives on ageing, one of the most challenging social issues in Thailand. This research has brought attention to the impact of labor migration of younger people on elderly people who are left behind in villages; the impact of HIV/AIDS on older people; and old age poverty in Thailand, where the population of elderly people is expected to exceed that of children within 10 years. Specialized and research CSOs are playing a role in public awareness of and assisting government consideration of these issues.

The 2002 Thai portion of a regional study attempted to describe the government–civil society relationship in terms of Thailand’s evolving democracy. Despite a negative association between participation in civil society and trust in public institutions played out in the media, this study found that civil society participation in Thailand “appears to be reinforcing...allegiances to the most important political and social institutions of the nation.”¹⁴ The study noted that this effect is stronger in older, lower socioeconomic, and rural populations. This suggests that although civil society–government relations are contested in Thailand, involvement in CSOs, at all levels of society, is contributing to deepening opportunities for people to participate in public life. The study, however, did not find a causal relationship between this dynamic and democratization in Thailand. Thai civil society is still developing a clear role in the political system.

The Legal Framework for Civil Society

The 2007 Constitution establishes a series of rights of the Thai people, with corresponding duties on the government. This sets a high official standard of consultation with local populations for government projects. Chapter 3 of the Constitution is entitled, ‘Rights and Liberties of the Thai People’ and Part 10 establishes a class of information and complaint rights against government. In effect, this mandates thorough public consultation at the highest level, going so far as,

where a project is ‘likely to have impacts on essential interests of the public, the State shall cause to be held comprehensive public hearings prior thereto’. (Section 57) Part 11 of the same Chapter is concerned with rights of association and assembly. Part 12 establishes wide-ranging community rights.

Registration of international and Thai NGOs is not centralized and is dealt with through a variety of government agencies, with a large number of local CSOs choosing not to have a formal registration (registration is not compulsory under the Constitution). However, there are a few categories of Thai CSO that have a specific legal character. An Association must register at the provincial or central level, depending on its activities, and operates for the benefit of its membership. A Foundation must have a minimum endowment of baht (B)200,000, be nonpolitical, and is registered by the Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labour, with police and security checks carried out. This process can take up to 6 months to complete, but there are very few cases of registration being denied. Foreign organizations report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but there is no need to register in Thailand if they are validly constituted elsewhere (but usually working with a local partner); projects, however, require approval especially if working in sensitive areas.

Umbrella and Coordinating Bodies

Unlike many countries in the region, at present, Thailand does not have strong centralized NGO networks. Given the diversity of civil society in Thailand and its regional focus, there are many networks working on various issues, but they are relatively decentralized and become more or less active over time, depending on events and issues. Informal and person-to-person links are important in civil society networks. In the social innovation sector of Thai civil society, Facebook, Twitter, and other online platforms have become important mediums to network, distribute information, and gain support and knowledge from the wider public.

A non-comprehensive list of some CSO networks based in Thailand, arranged by sector, is shown in the annex table.

Civil Society Directories

Because of the decentralized nature of civil society in Thailand, there are no central databases or registries of CSOs. Specialized directories include Chiang Mai University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Center for Ethnic Studies and Development’s database of NGOs linked

to ethnic and upland issues (www.cesd-thai.info/?m=ngo&lang=en).

A mapping study on Thai civil society resource organizations (organizations that mobilize and distribute funding and other resources to NGOs and CSOs), excluding international CSOs with Thai offices, was created in 2002 by the organization Synergos.

Civil Society Funding

As Thailand transitioned to middle-income status, international donor funding became less available for local organizations. The Ford Foundation and the World Bank are among the remaining foreign funders of Thai CSOs, particularly at the community level.

Although international funding has dropped off, Thai grant-making facilities have not made the transition to a more sustainable funding source, such as an endowment. According to Synergos, most Thai foundations/grant-making organizations will not be in a position to build one for many years. Many CSOs in Thailand are reliant on volunteers for their day-to-day operations, and on non-grant sources of funding from within the country for project funding; for example, some have service delivery arrangements with government. World Vision Thailand is one example of an NGO that has a service delivery arrangement with government to deliver basic services to migrant populations in border areas.

Besides the international foundations, there are also a small number of Thai grant-making bodies. An early Thai NGO peak body, the NGO–Coordinating Committee on Development, was established through the support of a Canadian-funded project. This eventually became the Local Development Assistance Program and then the Local Development Institute (LDI) in 2001, a grant-making and policy organization that tries to bridge government, civil society, and grassroots organizations, under the patronage of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. LDI aims to work at the community and policy levels, and emphasizes community empowerment and self-reliance through supporting local initiatives and influencing macroeconomic-policy formulation. In 2005, LDI and its partners helped establish two community foundations in Lampang and Udonthani provinces.

The Population and Community Development Association (PCDA) is an example of a long-established NGO that has used social enterprise creatively to diversify its funding sources. PCDA runs the well-known Cabbages & Condoms Restaurant in Bangkok, among other social enterprises. A new generation of organizations, such as Change Fusion Institute, itself a

nonprofit, encourage social enterprise through alliances with government agencies, such as the Thai Social Enterprise Office. A program called UnLtd Thailand was established in 2010 to fund and support social entrepreneurs, in the crossover area between nonprofit activity, business, and the desire to drive social or environmental change.

ADB–Civil Society Cooperation in Thailand

ADB opened its Thailand Resident Mission (TRM) in Bangkok in 2005. TRM, with other ADB resident missions, is the first contact point with civil society in its country of responsibility. TRM also coordinates high-level policy dialogue and aid; and leads country programming, technical assistance administration, new project development and processing, portfolio management, and project administration.

ADB’s strategy for assistance to Thailand is outlined in the Country Operations Business Plan for 2011–2013. Sectors of ADB assistance include mainstreaming public–private partnership to assist the government to maximize opportunities for private sector participation in infrastructure, capital market development, and environmental management. In addition, ADB will also support institutional reforms for inclusive growth, a newly introduced area of support to mitigate social and economic inequality in Thailand.

ADB recognizes CSOs, including NGOs, as significant players in the development process and cooperates with them to improve the impact, sustainability, and quality of its services. NGOs provide value addition in promoting sustainable development through innovation—identifying new approaches and models for specific development activities and drawing upon their close knowledge of local communities; accountability—helping ensure that project components are implemented as envisaged and planned; responsiveness—encouraging the implementation of projects to respond to local needs; participation—serving as bridges between project authorities and affected communities, and providing structures for citizen participation; and sustainability—nurturing continuity in project work, especially when implementing agencies lack capacity or when staffing changes.

ADB cooperation with CSOs in Thailand during 2000–2010 was primarily focused on knowledge sharing for the country strategy, ADB’s Strategy 2020, economic review and analysis, and various technical assistance projects. That has contributed to a better understanding of each other’s work and how to combine efforts and resources to address development challenges in

Civil Society Networks in Thailand

Issue/Theme	Group	Membership	Further Information
Disaster management and emergency response	ASEAN Partnership Group	Oxfam GB, Save the Children, Plan International, HelpAge International, MERCY Malaysia	Supports implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response through civil society support to and engagement with the ASEAN Secretariat's 'People-centered' mandate. Oxfam GB was the 2010 Secretariat.
	IASC Humanitarian Network for Asia-Pacific	Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) members, including nongovernment organizations (NGOs), Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, and UN agencies	Humanitarian Network for Asia-Pacific is a regional-level coordinating forum for humanitarian partners dedicated to disaster preparedness and response in Asia and the Pacific. It serves to improve interagency coordination and information exchange, in line with the Humanitarian Reform launched by the international humanitarian community in 2005.
Energy	Mekong Energy and Ecology Network (MEE Net)	Loose network of CSOs in Mekong countries; focus on capacity development on energy issues	MEE Net was established in 2008 as a sister organization of Towards Ecological Recovery and Regional Alliance (TERRA), under the legally registered Foundation for Ecological Recovery (FER). MEE Net has been working on energy-related ecology issues in the Mekong Region, especially electricity structure, governance and policy reform toward energy, and local community livelihood sustainability.
Health	Interfaith Network on HIV/AIDS in Thailand (INAT)	Subnetworks of various religious groups across Thailand, including church-based international NGOs, community groups, and religious leaders	www.inhatfoundation.org/
	Thai Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (TNP+)	Network of HIV+ people and international and local civil society organizations (CSOs) working on HIV/AIDS issues in Thailand. Coordinating organization for NGOs in the sector.	The Thai Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS provides treatment and care to people living with HIV. In April 2001, the organization, together with people living with HIV and a number of NGOs, ran a successful campaign to have antiretrovirals (ARVs) included in the public health system. www.thaiplus.net/
	Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM)	Private sector, NGOs, government, affected people, research institutions	CCMs are central to the Global Fund's commitment to local ownership and participatory decision making. These country-level, multi-stakeholder partnerships develop and submit grant proposals to the Global Fund based on priority needs at the national level. After grant approval, they oversee progress during implementation.
Indigenous Peoples	Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact (AIPP)		AIPP has the following objectives: to serve as forum for the sharing of ideas and experiences, consolidating unity and solidarity, and for coordinating and organizing campaigns on issues affecting the indigenous people of Asia; to encourage reflection and action on the future of the indigenous peoples of Asia; to develop systematic documentation on movements, issues, histories, and struggles; and to circulate, publish, and disseminate the information and advocate the cause of Asian indigenous peoples; to coordinate other organizations and movements for the realization of Asian indigenous peoples' aspirations; and to undertake all such activities that will strengthen the position of indigenous peoples' organizations and movements of Asia. www.aippnet.org
Thai Civil Society	People's Empowerment Foundation (PEF)	Local NGOs	PEF is a network devoted to strengthening civil society in Thailand. www.peoplesempowerment.org/
Trafficking	United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP) coordination project	UN Agencies, NGOs	UNIAP runs a quarterly interagency coordination meeting, including NGOs working in Thailand, and regionally on trafficking issues.
	Thailand Youth Forum on Human Trafficking	Save the Children, International Labour Organization, World Vision Foundation of Thailand, UNIAP, and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security	The Thailand Youth Forum on Human Trafficking is a joint advocacy initiative to promote the participation of children and providing solutions for human trafficking and migration problems in Thailand. www.mekongyouthforum.com/
	Trafficking reintegration working group	Save the Children, World Vision, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Children's Fund, and UNIAP	Regional reintegration working group support research study on the integration/reintegration experience of victims of human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), to support the governments in further strengthening and targeting their support to victims of human trafficking.
Water resources in the Mekong Basin	M-POWER (Mekong Program on Water Environment and Resilience)	30+ members in the GMS and internationally	M-POWER is a network that brings together people committed to improving local, national, and regional governance in Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Thailand: Cumulative ADB Lending as of 31 December 2010

Sector	Loans (no.)	Amount (\$ million)	% ^a
Agriculture and Natural Resources	9	409.21	6.86
Education	5	160.72	2.69
Energy	30	1,876.61	31.44
Finance	12	1,044.50	17.50
Health and Social Protection	1	500.00	8.38
Industry and Trade	3	90.46	1.52
Public Sector Management	–	–	–
Transport and ICT	18	1,291.60	21.64
Water Supply and Other Municipal Infrastructure and Services	9	595.00	9.97
Multisector	1	1.38	0.02
Total	88	5,969.48	100.00

– = nil, ICT = information and communication technology.

^a Total may not add up because of rounding.

Source: ADB. 2011. *Asian Development Bank and Thailand: Fact Sheet*. Manila.

Thailand. Recently, ADB has resumed loan operations in a number of areas with both the Government of Thailand and the private sectors, which would provide more opportunities for enhanced civil society engagement.

The Environment Operations Center (EOC) was established in early 2006 to serve as the information and knowledge clearinghouse for environmental management in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and is responsible for facilitating the timely and effective implementation of the GMS Core Environment Program (CEP). EOC will also act as a secretariat to the Working Group on Environment (WGE), taking over the support functions, such as organizing and holding WGE meetings, coordinating WGE activities, reporting to the WGE, and other tasks, which were previously carried out by ADB. While not part of TRM, EOC has led long-standing engagement with NGOs and civil society, particularly through its Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative.

Endnotes

- 1 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. 2002. *Towards Asia's Sustainable Development: The Role of Social Protection*. Emerging and Transition Economies Series. Paris. p.139. (This study draws on various Thai language studies. This is the most recent figure available: no additional surveys seem to have been undertaken since then.)
- 2 S. Pednekar. 1995. *NGOs and Natural Resource Management in Mainland Southeast Asia*. Bangkok. (Available online at www.gdrc.org/ngo/thai-ngo.html)
- 3 The Asia Foundation. 2005. *Legal Literacy*. Bangkok. p. 157.
- 4 D. Satterthwaite. 2004. *Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI) in Thailand*. Bangkok.
- 5 ADB. 1997. *NGOs in the GMS: Involvement Related to Poverty Alleviation and Watershed Management (Thailand)*. Manila. (RETA 5771).

- 6 ADB. 1997.
- 7 H. Nesadurai. 2010. Labor and Grassroots Civic Interests in Regional Institutions. *Working Paper Series on Regional Economic Integration*. No. 63. Manila: Asian Development Bank. p. 14.
- 8 P. Prachiyakorn. 2010. CSR Wins Converts in Thailand. *Bangkok Post*. 26 March.
- 9 A. Pongsapich and N. Kataleradabhan. 1994. *Philanthropy, NGO Activities and Corporate Funding in Thailand*. Bangkok. pp. 55–56. See also R. Quinn. 1997. *NGOs, Peasants and the State: Transformation and Intervention in Rural Thailand 1970–1990*. PhD thesis, Australian National University.
- 10 See A. Simpson. 2009. Rainbow Politics of a Dark Hue: Thailand's Version of the Colour Revolutions. Draft research paper for the 2009 APSA Conference, Macquarie University, Australia.
- 11 See A. Simpson. 2010. Democracy and Environmental Governance in Thailand. Draft research paper for the 2010 APSA Conference, Macquarie University, Australia. Also see Friends of the Earth. 2005. *Briefing: Barclays, Human Rights and the Trans Thai-Malaysia Gas Pipeline*. Published online at www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/barclays_thai_malaysia.pdf
- 12 See Environmental Defence. 2001. *International Case Study: Samut Prakarn Wastewater Treatment Project*. Published online at www.edf.org/documents/2443_casestudy_samutprakarnwastewater.pdf?bcsi_scan_55D74968579FC0A1=0&bcsi_scan_filename=2443_casestudy_samutprakarnwastewater.pdf
- 13 See T. Foran and K. Manorum. 2009. 'Pak Mun Dam: Perpetually Contested?' in Earthscan. 2009. *Contested Waterscapes in the Mekong Region*. London. See also P. Wongruang. 2010. It's All about Dams, Hydropower and Money. *Bangkok Post*. 24 August.
- 14 R. Albritton and T. Bureekul. 2002. *Civil Society and the Consolidation of Democracy in Thailand*. Asian Barometer Survey. Taipei. p. 18. (Available online at www.asianbarometer.org/newenglish/publications/workingpapers/no.4.pdf)

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For more information on ADB's work in Thailand, visit www.adb.org/publications/thailand-fact-sheet

Definition and Objectives of Civil Society Collaboration

Civil society is a very important stakeholder in the operations of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its borrowers and clients. It is distinct from the government and the private sector and consists of a diverse range of individuals, groups, and nonprofit organizations. They operate around shared interests, purposes, and values with a varying degree of formality and encompass a diverse range—from informal unorganized community groups to large international labor union organizations. Of particular relevance to ADB are nongovernment organizations, community-based organizations and people's organizations, foundations, professional associations, research institutes and universities, labor unions, mass organizations, social movements, and coalitions and networks of civil society organizations (CSOs) and umbrella organizations.^a

ADB recognizes CSOs as development actors in their own right whose efforts complement those of governments and the private sector, and who play a significant role in development in Asia and the Pacific. ADB has a long tradition of interacting with CSOs in different contexts, through policy- and country strategy-level consultation, and in designing, implementing, and monitoring projects.

In 2008, ADB launched Strategy 2020, which articulates the organization's future direction and vision until 2020.^b Above all, Strategy 2020 presents three complementary strategic agendas to guide ADB operations: inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. These agendas reflect the recognition that it is not only the *pace* of growth, but also the *pattern* of growth, that matters in reducing poverty in the region. In this new strategic context, partnerships with a range of organizations, including CSOs, will become central to planning, financing, implementing, and evaluating ADB projects.

^a ADB. Forthcoming. *Strengthening Participation for Development Results*. Manila.

^b ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila.

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