

Abstract of Presentation

Presentation Title:

Thailand toward Achieving Sustainable Development

Sakarindr Bhumiratana, NSTDA, Thailand

Abstract:

In Thai context, the term 'sustainable development' means that which brings happiness in life. This call for multi- and balanced dimensions of growth not only to create wealth but also to secure the peaceful and harmonious society. Within the philosophical framework, choice of balanced development strategies for the nation in line with the forces of globalization is allowed, with the need for adequate protection from internal and external shocks. Thus sufficiency economy becomes the overriding principle of the 10th National Plan. To address the national issues for the long-term growth, science, technology and innovation become the key driving forces. In 2004 the government issued the first National Science and Technology Strategic Plan for 2004 - 2013. The planned Innovation System utilizes clustering approach to increase the capabilities and promote the collaboration among the key actors of the targeted industries. There is also an effort to set up a consortium-type research university namely "Thailand Advanced Institute of Science and Technology". The National Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Law, being draft will be the basic law to provide the framework for in strengthening the STI capabilities. A new supra-ministerial structure of 'National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Committee' chaired by Prime Minister is proposed. The government also approved Intellectual Infrastructure Master Plan (2008-2012). The Plan sets out three main targets encompassing the increasing proportion of innovating firms to 35 percent, the collaboration among private sector, academia and research units and the improved competitiveness index of R&D personnel and number of patents above the mid point of the IMD's competitiveness league tables.