



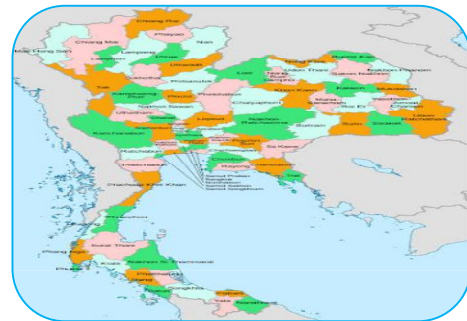
THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANTHABURI PROVINCE IN THAILAND

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ABSTRACT:

This local government institution in the chanthaburi province operate in onenvironment that is beanily influence by several locters. In the Thailand law and government performance of local government and organization to administration of municipal area. This resarvet seek to study the working enviroment of local administration and suggest measures to improve the administration and good service in the chanthaburi province of Thailand .



KEYWORDS: *Local government, municipal administration government agency ivirement Thailand administration Province .*

INTRODUCTION

The local governing institutions in the Chanthaburi Province province in an environment that is heavily influenced by several factors. The critical environment factors that affect the functioning and the performance of local administrative organizations are people, law and government. Following globalization as the world moved on to the information highway, there has been an increased awareness in the society at large in political, economic and social areas. That entails the need for competent managers and personnel to cater to the expectations and needs of the people in keeping with their values and beliefs. The more expansive the urbanization, more diverse are the expectations and

needs of the people. and needs of the people. All of this results leads to an extra pressure on the local governing instinrtions. The level of such a pressure is often high, especially on the institutions workine at ihe grass root.

Chanthaburi provinces Geographical features

Figure 2 shows the study area, including its protected areas. Parts of the Eastern Forest Complex lie within the study area; those areas of the complex outside the boundaries of the two provinces are still relevant, as they generate benefits within the study area. The study area contains marine protected areas, including protected

fishing zones, marine national parks and protected foreshore habitats (particularly mangrove areas).

Sub-basins of the East Coast-Gulf River Basin are found within the study area. Many catchments and subcatchments are specially managed as protected watersheds. Some watersheds within the study area drain into the Mekong system.

Map of the field study area

78 Field Study: Thailand

DEMOGRAPHICS AND ECONOMICS

In 2001, the population of Rayong was 558,000 with an annual growth rate of 2.56 per cent; Chanthaburi's population was 482,000, with a growth rate

of 1.54 per cent. Population densities for Rayong and Chanthaburi are 138 per sq. km and 76 per sq. km respectively.

The economic structure of the two provinces is shown in Table 3. Rayong's economy is more developed, more affluent and growing faster than Chanthaburi's, due to a large extent to rapid industrialisation (Thailand's largest industrial estate is located in Rayong). Manufacturing accounts for 62 per cent of Gross Provincial Product (GPP) in Rayong. Chanthaburi is more heavily dependent on primary industries such as agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries; manufacturing accounts for only 13 per cent of its GPP. The differences in economic development in the two provinces is reflected in their per capita income levels. Per capita GPP for Rayong (measured in 1988 prices) is 285,000 baht (US\$6,600) while in Chanthaburi it is only 28,000 baht (US\$651).

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT

Responsibilities for planning and management of PAs in the study area are similar to those in the rest of Thailand. The Royal Forest Department has the main responsibility for terrestrial PAs and MPAs. The Department of Interior manages minor catchments, and the Royal Irrigation Department manages major reservoirs. The Department of Fisheries in the Ministry for Agriculture and Cooperatives regulates fishing activities. Broad directions for economic development are provided by the National Economic and Social Development Board, in collaboration with other government agencies and stakeholders, through five-year National Economic and Social Development Plans.

Provincial governments are also important in economic development planning. In Province, for example, planning and administration are carried out by the provincial administration and three municipalities (there are seven districts, 56 sub-districts and 381 villages). municipal functionaries. Often, there are the cases of red-tapism that defeats the very objectives of local self-governance. A palpable reason for the red-tapism is municipal officials lack the core competencies in performing various tasks. A municipal secretary does not often have the updated knowledge about the Municipal Act [No. L2] BE 2496 Amcndrnt BE2546, and Ministry of Interior Regulations on Local Council Meeting Regulations, 2004. This happens due to frequent transfers of the concerned officials of the concerned officials from one department to the other with newcomers taking considerable time to get familiar with the tasks at hand (Civil Service Office, 2010)

RESEARCH QUESTION

1 This research seeks to study the working environment of the local administration, and suggest measures to improve the administrative competencies for municipal officials for an efficient delivery of services in the Chanthaburi Province of Thailand.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 1) To study the municipal administration in the Chanthaburi Province.
- 2) To study whether the professional management competencies of municipal officials are commensurate with the expectations of the stakeholders.
- 3) To suggest measures to improve these competencies for the benefit of the local populace in Chanthaburi Province.

HYPOTHESES

1. Efficiency of the local administration in Chanthaburi Province appears compromised.
2. The municipal personnel may not be as efficient as expected.
3. Success of municipal organization mostly depend on the commitment and competency of its staff.

SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH

The research will prove useful in understanding the issues people having with the local administration. As such, it can contribute to streamlining of the pro-people policies at the grassroots

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research uses both quantitative as well as qualitative methodology. Its secondary data will come from the plethora of the existing literature on the subject. The primary data will be collected by interviewing the stakeholders, using a four-level estimation questionnaire. The stakeholders will include the groups of the local people, the officials, and the administrators of municipal bodies in Chanthaburi province. The sample size will be set according to Krejcie and Morgan's table and the sampling methods proposed to be used.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE IN THAILAND

Thai local governments are classified into two main categories; general and specific. In the general form, there are three types of local authorities located throughout all seventy-five provinces except Chanthaburi. They are (i) Provincial Administrative Organization (PAO, seventy-five units), (ii) Municipality (1,136 units) and (iii) Sub-district or Tambon Administrative Organization (TAO, 6,740). In the specific form there are two special units of local government governing specific areas; namely, Chanthaburi Metropolitan Administration (CMA) and Pattaya City.

CONCLUSION :-

In recent years, Thai local governments have attempted to implement a range of policies to promote more public participation and new public management practices. Both domestic and international influences have driven these public administrations in Chanthaburi province. The financial crisis in 1997 spawned a new mentality that valued new domestically, the financial crisis in local government administration and administrative laws in Chanthaburi in Thailand.

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