

6. Thailand

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Intellectual Disability

(JFY2002)

Country Report

I. General Information

Name of the country	Thailand		
Area ¹	514,000 square kilometres		
Population ²	Whole country	62,376,000	
	Urban area	19,399,000	
	Rural area	42,977,000	
Life Expectancy at birth (years) ²	Male	69.9	
	Female	74.9	
Infant Mortality Rate (per1000 live births) ²	20.6		
Maternal Mortality Rate at Birth (per1000 live births) ¹	10.6		
Literacy Rate ¹	93.8		
Education (compulsory 6 years) ¹	97 %		
Unemployment Rate ³	3.70		

II. Situation of People with Intellectual Disability

Epidemiological Studies⁴

Like many other countries where epidemiological data was limited, there were some studies done which could not present the situation of the whole. In 1987-1988 Rajanukul Hospital surveyed every region of the country and found that the prevalence of Mental Retardation throughout the country was 0.4 percent.

(Central=0.4,Eastern=0.26,North Eastern=0.53,Northern=0.34 and southern=0.31)

In 1997,Department of Mental Health studied in Bangkok area and found that the prevalence of Mental Retardation was 1.8 percent.

In 1999 the Planning Division, Department of Mental Health conducted a research country wide and found that the prevalence of Mental Retardation of Thailand was 1.3 percent From the available data, it can be seen that there were disparities which depended on the area surveys and the survey method used. However it is estimated that the prevalence of I.D. people in Thailand is approximately 1 % of population.⁵

III. Services Providing

1. Finding and diagnosis of I.D.

Finding I.D.

The Ministry of Public Health has provided the early detection and early intervention program in Well Baby Clinic in all levels of health services. These are composed of

1. *The children's health record book* is used for recording the growth and development of each child .By comparing with the normal value (which is also printed in the same book), staffs and parents could detect that which child is delayed.
2. *Thai Developmental Screening Test*
3. *The Early Intervention Handbook for staffs*
4. *The Early Intervention Handbook for parents*

In 1999 The Ministry of Public Health introduced the neonatal screening for hypothyroidism policy. This resulted in hypothyroidism cases receiving treatment immediately to prevent brain damage.

Diagnosis of I.D.⁶

The Ministry of Public Health formally uses the ICD 10 Classification of Mental Health and Behavioral Disorders as diagnosis guideline. I.D. diagnosis is

“ The individual has a reduced level of intellectual function resulting in diminished ability to adapt to the daily demands of the normal social environment. Associated with mental or physical disorders have a major influence on the clinical features and the use made of any skill. The diagnosis category chosen should there for be based on global assessments of ability and not on any single area of specific impairment of skill. The I.Q. level is provided as a guideline and should be determined from an appropriate standardized and individually administered intelligence test.

The diagnosis categories from ICD10 are as follow:

F70	mild mental retardation	(I.Q.50-69)
F71	moderate mental retardation	(I.Q.35-49)
F72	severe mental retardation	(I.Q.20-34)
F73	profound mental retardation	(I.Q. below 20)
F79	unspecific mental retardation	

2.Early Intervention (E.I.)

Early intervention program in Thailand was first started at Rajanukul Hospital in 1981. Developmental-delayed infants and children under 4 years of age would be evaluated developmental & intellectual function and adaptive skills. Then the parents would be provided counseling and education to help them identified strength and weakness of their children, after that EI program for each child would be set up. By demonstrating and training parents to teach their children, parents will gain experiences and understand to make their own training at homes. The program is provided once a week and each child will be evaluated every 3 months to follow up the progress.

Other organizations under Department of Mental Health that provides EI services are Yuvaprasart Waithayoprathum Hospital, Northern Child Development Center, Nakornrachasima Psychiatric Hospital.⁶

The Department of Mental Health has tried to implement EI program in all levels of health services, but it couldn't be run smoothly because health officers feel that it makes their work increased and it's difficult to understand and to be trained. So the Department of Mental Health and Rajanukul Hospital are trying "The Mental Health for Disabled and Underprivileged Child Project" in 13 provinces in Thailand. This project is a trial for persuading health officers and general practitioners to realize the importance of EI.

3.Education⁴

To improve the quality of life for I.D., education is the most important issue. 1999 was "The year of education for children and youth with disabilities". The vision of this policy was "All people with intellectual disabilities must have access to education." Under this policy, the government provided activities as follow:

- 1.All primary schools must accept pupils with disabilities. If a school is not suitable for this, then that school must arrange enrollment in the suitable school.
2. Provide a special education training program for primary school teachers.
- 3.Provide instruments, equipment and teaching materials for special education to all schools.
- 4.Make architectural modifications for buildings to accommodate people with disabilities
- 5.Prepare to extend the education for children with disabilities to secondary and high school.

Nowadays, this policy still has problems to be practical due to teachers' skill in special education and their attitude toward disabled children.

4.Vocational Training⁶

There are vocational training programs that run by Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and other organizations.

Ministry of Public Health: Rajanukul Hospital provides vocational training to prepare I.D. youths (16 years of age and up) who have adequate adaptive skills to work in simple tasks such as housework, office works and handicrafts.

Bangpoo Vocational Rehabilitation center for young men aged 18 years onwards provides training as Rajanukul Hospital with addition program on simple agricultural tasks.

In the year 2001, Department of Mental Health began to settle small shops in psychiatric hospitals through out the country to sell products from mentally disabled persons, which are called " Friend Shop." Therefore mentally disabled patients will earn some money for their living while training in rehabilitation centers or hospital shelters. However this program is only a demonstrative project of vocational training and researching.

Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare: Department of Public Welfare provides 13 vocational training courses in 8 centers through out the country for disable persons include I.D. persons.

Other organizations: There also are training centers of NGOs. Such as Panyakarn vocational center of Foundation for welfare of the Mentally Retarded and Vocation training centers of Social Council of Thailand.

5.Employment⁴

Job placement for people with intellectual disabilities in Thailand is extremely difficult due to the negative attitude of the Thais toward the intellectual disabilities. More over, they were looked down upon as hopeless and worthless people. So their employment opportunities were very low. Currently the process of vocational training provides basic skills training. Most of people with intellectual disabilities depend on their family's business. Therefor in 1995 Rajanukul Hospital initiated a pilot project to provide employment. The objectives were:

1. To create social awareness and the social acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities.
2. To train these people in skills necessary for employment.
3. To create and provide job opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities.
4. To do research on job training and job placement for people with intellectual disabilities.

Activities:

- Hospital will employ trained intellectual disabled people to work in different workstations of the hospital such as at the out patient department, store, canteen, and the photocopy shop.
- The employment period will not exceed than 3 years. They will be evaluated frequently and their remuneration will be increase according to their abilities.
- People with intellectual disabilities will be encouraged to rotate to other workstations so that they can gain experience in other field of works.
- The hospital will seek a suitable job for each People with intellectual disabilities who have completed these activities successfully.

6.Financial Assistance⁶

Financial assistance for I.D. people comes from sources such as

6.1 Non - governmental organizations

6.2 Governmental organizations: Ministry of Public Health provides financial assistance through assisting cards such as Medical Welfare Card and Disabled Person Card, so they can get help whenever they come to contact with medical services.

Another resource comes from Department of Public Welfare (DPW) which provides assistance through

- (a) Registration of people with disabilities
- (b) Subsistent allowance for people with disabilities

I.D. persons who are unemployed or impoverished can receive subsistent allowance 500 Bahts per month after registering with DPW.

7.Parent Empowerment

In Thailand there is a trend to deinstitutionalize because it has been noticed that institutionalized people with disabilities have decreased social adaptive skill. So the current model of parental model is proposed and called "The co-therapist program" .

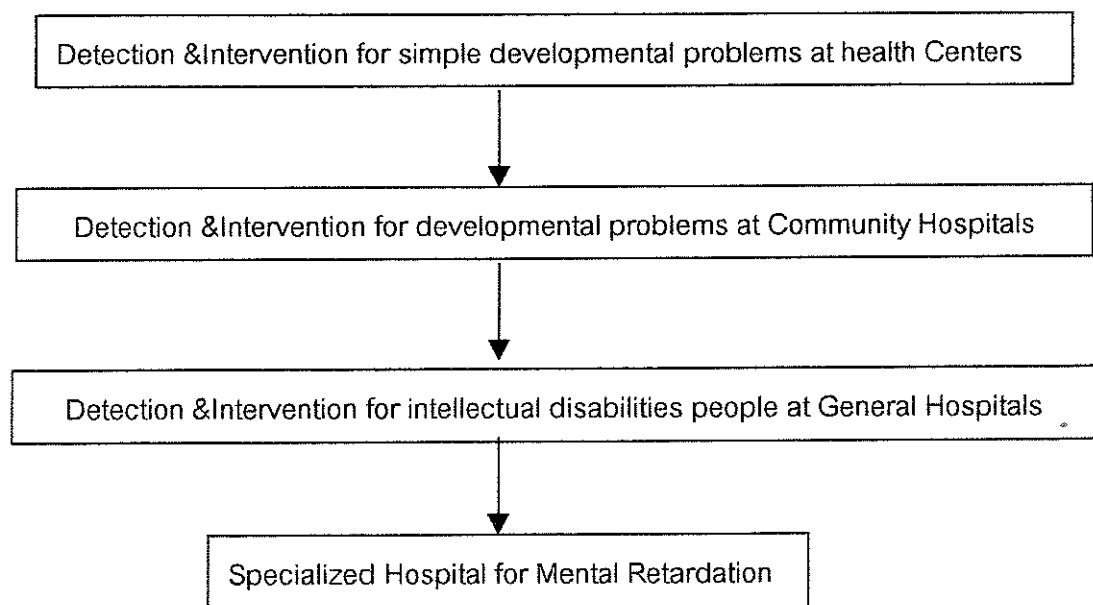
The objective of this program is to empower parents in dealing with their disabled child. Its activities are as follows:

1. Training for parents: All institutionalized patients of Rajanukul Hospital have to have their parents or care givers with them so that they will be taught how to train their children. When the parents have already understood the training techniques and their children are in the better condition, patients should be discharged from the hospital and would be recalled to follow up their progression.

2. Class for parents: Rajanukul Hospital also provides at least 6 classes per year for parents. The classes teach stimulation techniques, rehabilitations and self help skills etc.⁴ For the dental issue, we have the " Beautiful smile of your child by your hands project", which includes lecturing about human's dentitions, oral diseases, benefit and usage of fluorides and practicing tooth brushing techniques for I.D. child. However this is institution based program, now we are trying to find an appropriate model about oral health promotion in community.

IV. Flow chart of Delivery System⁴

Referral system for early detection and intervention program



V. Law concerned with I.D.^{4,5,6}

Rehabilitation of Disabled Person Act 1991

In 1991 Thailand had Disabled Rehabilitation Law which declared: every kind of disabled shall receive the medical rehabilitation services from all the governmental hospitals or health centers without charge.

Labor Law

“ a company which has 200 employees must employ at least 1 disabled person or the company has to pay the money back to the Disabled fund for employment.” Most of the companies are likely to employ only physical disabled and pay the money back to the Disabled Fund for Employment instead of employing the people with intellectual disabilities.

Education Law

Since 1997 Thailand has drafted the new Education Law and already declared this law in August 1999. This law determines “ A person with any kinds of disabilities or with physically handicaps or with special needs or the underprivileged must have the right and opportunity to receive special education.” and “educational setting must realized that the learners are the most important.” All the learners must be able to learn and development themselves. There for the processes of educational setting must promote the learners to develop themselves naturally and effectively.

VI. Community Based Rehabilitation Program

When The Ministry of Public Health declared “The Health for All by the year 2000” policy and implemented the primary health care strategy in 1980, the services for intellectual disabled patients were then reformed. There were training programs for general practitioners, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and community health officers.

There was also training at general hospitals, community hospitals and health centers to educate and train staff in the skills of diagnosis of mental retardation, delay development and in the provision of early intervention services from the only available specialized hospital. In addition, there was a training program for village health volunteers in every village in the country so that the intellectual disabled patients with obvious symptoms to access the services from their nearest public health center. Village health volunteers

would serve as case managers, visit the parents and make arrangements so that the intellectual disabled patients could have the necessary treatment.

Nevertheless, it's found that only 0.3 percent of I.D. children receive the services from this project because the staffs pay an attention on physical disabilities more than mental disabilities. To solve this problem, the Department of Mental Health has tried "Mental Health for Disabled and Underprivileged Child Project" in 13 provinces in Thailand and Rajanukul Hospital has set a new pilot CBR project at Meanburee district in Bangkok.

VII. Government Agencies concerned with I.D.⁵

1. Office of the Prime Minister

- (a) The Office of National Education Commission: Proposing policy and education planning
- (b) The National Youth Bureau: Proposing Youth policy, planning and research

2. Ministry of Public Health: is responsible for medical services

- (a) Department of Mental Health (DMH): organizations under DMH, which provides services for I.D. and developmental problems.
 - Northern Child Development Center (Chiangmai)
 - Yuwaprasart Waithayoprathum Child Psychiatric Hospital (samut Prakarn)
 - Nakorn Ratchasima Psychiatric Hospital (korat)
 - Somdet Chao-praya Hospital (Bangkok)
 - Child Mental Health Center (Bangkok)
 - Rajanukul Hospital (Bangkok)
- (b) Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health.
- (c) Sirinthorn National Rehabilitation Center.

3. Bangkok Metropolitan Administration: provides services such as education, health services and social welfare services in the area of Bangkok Metropolitan.

4. Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare:

- (a) Department of Public Welfare: Office of the committee on Rehabilitation of Disabled Person provides welfare and services for the people with disabilities and coordinates with other organizations.
- (b) Home for mentally Handicapped Children

5. Ministry of education:

- (a) Department of General Education: Special education schools and inclusive schools are under Division of Education for Disabled and Division of Welfare Education
- (b) Office of the National Primary Education Commission
- (c) Special Education Center : Rajabhat Suan Dusit Institute

VIII. Non Governmental Organizations⁷

- (a) Number of organizations : 15
- (b) Name, Address and Function: See the appendix.

IX. Activities of International Organizations

- Japan International cooperation Agency grants scholarship for I.D. training program to both NGOs and Gos.
- Japan League on Intellectual Disabilities: Group training course for CBR Co-ordinator (2000-2001)
- Institute Cardiff, University of Wales: Cooperation program for Rajanukul Hospital in developing technical, experience and training for staffs to become trainers in the area of taking care of I.D. children.
- University of Macquarie, Australia: Cooperation program in early intervention training course for Department of Mental Health.

X. Outline of Rajanukule Hospital

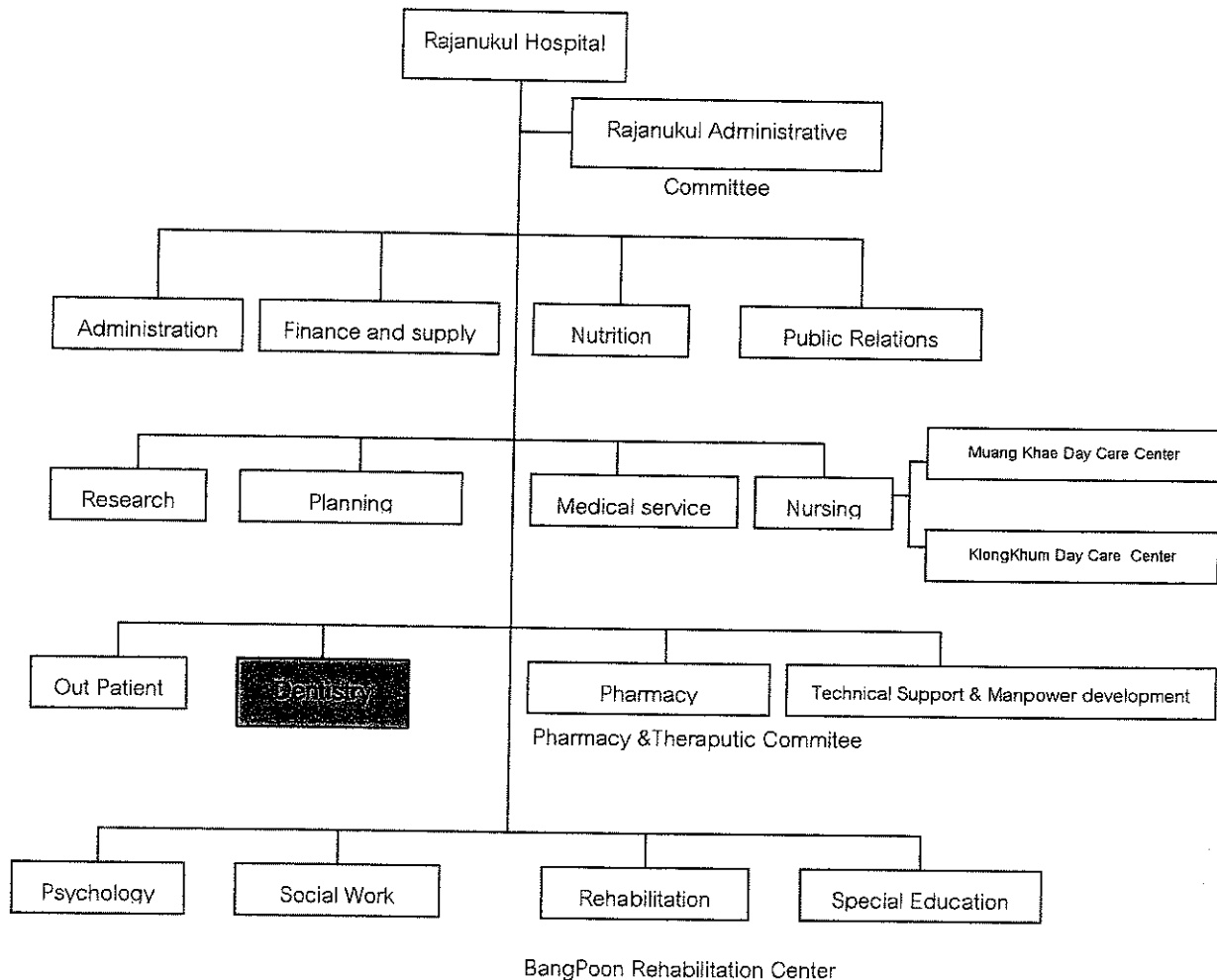
1. Function: Rajanukule Hospital is a government hospital that provides comprehensive services to upgrade the quality of life of intellectually disabled people in Thailand.

Comprehensive services include promotion, prevention, treatment, medical rehabilitation, educational rehabilitation and vocational training for people with intellectual disabilities.

Not only as the place that serves intellectually disabled people in the hospitalization aspect but Rajanukul also plays roles as an academic institute which provides training programs to all levels of health personnel. Rajanukul is also a place that runs a great

deal of projects both in health care services and in education for mental retardation and child development. Moreover, Rajanukul also research and develop new technology concerning mental retardation and child development.

2. Organization Chart



3. My Responsibilities

- 3.1 As a dentist who provides dental treatment, dental health promotion in patients with intellectual disabilities.
- 3.2 As a coordinator who provides training programs for post-graduated dental students from Mahidol University and Khonkhan University in the field of patients with intellectual disabilities.

- 3.3 As a guest teacher of under- graduated dental students of Chulalongkom University in the subject of special child dental treatment.
- 3.4 As a lecturer in the class of parents (Beautiful smile of your child by your hands)
- 3.5 As the secretary assistant of non-drug medical supplies subcommittee

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1. Bureau of Health Policy and Plan, and International Health Division, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health. Thailand Health Profile 1997-1998. Nonthaburi : Printing Press , Express Transportation Organization.
2. Institution of Populational and Social Research, Mahidol University. Mahidol Gazette Jan.2002; 11; 1:1
3. National Statistical Office; Office of the Prime Minister; Thailand Statistic Report; 1999
4. Pejarasangham U., Churesigaew C. Health Services for Mental Retardation in Thailand Unpublished paper; 2001
5. Pejarasangham U., Churesigaew C. Situation of people with intellectual disabilities in Thailand , 14th Asian Conference on Mental Retardation.(28 November-4 December 1999) , Kathmandu , 1999
6. Sripuenpol S.Thailand Country Report for Intellectual Disabilities.
Course no.: J-01-00640
7. Division of Youth Policy and Planning, National Youth Bureau. List of Organizations Relating in Children and Youth Development , 2000 : January 2001

Non Government Organizations⁷

Name	Function	Address	Contact
1.Foundation for Children	Provides services ,education and vocational training	95/24Moo6 Soi Kiat Ruam Mit,Budha Monthol Sai4 SamPran Nakorn Prathom 73220	Tel(662)814-1481-7 Fax(662)814-0369 E-mail:children@ffc.or.th
2. .Foundation for Handicapped Children	Provides help in Rehabilitation, treatment both physically and mentally, counseling	546 Lad Praw 47 Banggapi Bangkok 10310	Tel. (662) 539-9958
3.The Foundation of the Welfare of the Mentally Retarded of Thailand	Promotion training services, educational services and social welfare services for I.D. persons	4739 Dingdang road Bangkok 10400	Tel.(662)245-3954 Fax.(662)246-8329
4.Friends for All Children Foundation	Promotion welfare services for disadvantage children including those who have problems physically and mentally	25 Soi Ruam Ru-dee 1,Ploen Jit Pathumwan Bangkok 10330	Tel.(662) 252-6560 Fax.(662) 6507811 E-mail:ffac@loxinfo.co.th
5.Satabun Sangsawang Foundation	Special education services and treatment services for children and training for parents and school personnel.	850/34 Sukhumwit71 wattana, Bangkok 10110	Tel.(662) 381-5362-3 Fax.(662)771-2399
6.Christian Core Foundation for Children with Disabilities	Provides social welfare services, education and social services for handicapped children and their families.	123/86 River Home Village Soi8,Pak- Kred,Nonthaburi 11120	Tel. (662) 584-6966 Fax. (662) 584-6966 E-mail : ecdbkk@sc.th.com

Name	Function	Address	Contact
7. Project L.I.F.E. Foundation	Promotion social welfare services welfare services for disadvantaged children Include physically and mental retarded children.	2027/73-74 Soi Cha-Roen Krung 77, Wat Phra-Ya Krai, Bangkok 10120	Tel. (662) 212-6060 Fax. (662) 2126062 E-mail: projlife@loxinfo.co.th
8. St. Gerard Rehabilitation Center Khonkhaen	Provides help to develop quality of life for disabled children, rehabilitation for the disabled in Institutes and in communities.	164/23 Moo 16 Maliwan Road, Muang, Khonkhaen 40000	Tel. (664) 323-7981 Fax. (664) 323-6597 E-mail : shdckk@loxinfo.co.th
9. Association for the retarded of Thailand	Promoting vocational rehabilitation, education and social rehabilitation for the I.D.	18 Soi Savat Amnuay Wej, Pradipat Road Bangkok 10400	Tel. (662) 271-4724 Fax. (662) 628-2714
10. Center for Rehabilitation of the Disabled Surat Thani Catholic Foundation	Provides rehabilitation physically and mentally, promoting families of the disabled children to live together by setting activities that help families earn for living.	48/2 Moo1 Dhewa Buri Road, Muang, Nakorn Sri Thammarat 80130	Tel. (667) 534-3089
11. Redemptorist Vocational School for the Disabled	Provides vocational training for disadvantaged youth including the disabled.	PO.Box 1 Muang Pattaya , Chon Buri 20260	Tel. (663) 871-6247-9 Fax. (663) 871-6543 E-mail : rvsd@rvsd.ac.th
12. Community Based Rehabilitation Program for disable	Provide CBR program and coordinating with other related organizations in the area.	Chum Sai Road , Gud Pong , Muang , Loei 42000	Tel. (664) 281-4645

Name	Function	Address	Contact
13. National Council for Child and Youth Development	Center for coordinating with NGOs in policy and planning, and programs for children's rights.	618/1 Nikom Makkasan road, Rajathevi, Bangkok 10400	Tel (662) 245-7219 Fax. (662) 245-7219 E mail : NCYD@samart.co.th
14. Duang Prateep Foundation	Provides education services for impoverish children who live in overcrowded areas include children who are developmental delay.	34 Lock 6 Ard - Narong Road, Klong Toey Bangkok 10110	Tel. (662) 671-4045 Fax. (662) 349-5254 Email : dpf@internet.ksc.net.th
15. Organization Network for Disabled	Promoting and facilitating network organizations in working for the disabled, proposing data and problems among the disabled to the public and proposing strategies to solve the problems to national level organizations.	Foundation for the Disabled. 78/11 Tiwanon Road, Pak-kred, Nonthaburi 11120	Tel. (662) 583-8434 Fax. 9662) 583-8434

Note * NGOs with specific purpose in helping I.D. persons or with special education program for development delayed / mental retarded children.

Others with general purpose of providing help and support to disabled persons with include I.D. persons.