

## 9. THAILAND

Ms. Peungpid SRISEUB

## Intellectual Disabilities

( JFY 2003 )

*Country Report*

## I. General Information

Name	Miss Peungpid Sriseub	
Name of Country	Thailand	
Area <sup>7</sup>	513,000 square kilometres	
Population <sup>1</sup>	Whole country	62,799,872
	Urban area	13,187,973
	Rural area	49,611,899
Life expectancy at birth (years) <sup>7</sup>	Male	71
	Female	76
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) <sup>1</sup>	29	
Maternal mortality rate (per 10,000 live births) <sup>1</sup>	23.79	
Literacy rate <sup>7</sup>	Male	97%
	Female	94%
Education (Compulsory 6 years) <sup>7</sup>	97%	
Unemployment rate <sup>1</sup>	2.40	

## II. Situation of People with Intellectual Disabilities

Situation of I.D. in general ,Service for I.D. Provided such as,

## 1) Finding &amp; Diagnosis of I.D.

Finding I.D.<sup>6</sup>

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 standard (which is also printed in the same book), staffs could advice nutrition and development and parents could check the development following each age.
2. Thai Development 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 and more delayed development.

#### Diagnosis of I.D.<sup>6</sup>

The Ministry of Public Health formally use ICD –10 Classification of Mental Health and Behavioral Disorders as diagnosis guideline. The diagnosis for I.D. 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 ICD-10 are as follow:

- F 70 mild mental retardation (I.Q. 50-69)
- F 71 moderate mental retardation (I.Q. 35-49)
- F 72 severe mental retardation (I.Q. 20-34)
- F 73 profound mental retardation (I.Q. below 20)
- F 79 unspecific mental retardation

## 2. Early Intervention

Early intervention program in Thailand was first started at Rajanukul Hospital in 1981. Then Northern Child Development Centre was first provided service for north I.D. children (17 provinces) in 1996. Delayed development infants and children under 6 years of age would be evaluated developmental & intellectual function and adapted skills. And the parents would be provided counseling and help them understand condition & development of their children, after that they cooperative with staff so the 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 or a month and follow up the children every 1 month / 3 months to assess their progress.

Other organizations under Department of Mental Health that provide EI services are Yuvaprasat Waithayoprathum Hospital, Nakornrachasima Psychiatric Hospital and Child Mental Health Centre. The Department of Mental Health and Northern Child Development Centre have tried to implement EI program in all levels of health services by set up “ Developmental Stimulation Corner” (emphasize in development and nutrition) in rural health offices and community hospitals. This project is a trial for persuading health officers and general practitioners to realize the importance of early intervention.

### 3) Education<sup>3</sup>

The Ministry of Education designated 1999 as the “ year of education for disabled persons” and laid down several plans to enlarge educational opportunities for person with disabilities through the promotion of integrated education in regular schools and the improvement of special education. An analysis of 2 surveys by the National Statistical Office and the Special Education Division of the Ministry of Education found that only 7.3% of children with disabilities of school age were receiving education in 1998. One of the reasons given for the low enrolment is the insufficient number of schools that can accept children with disabilities and the lack of facilities and skilled teachers. Under the policy “All people with I.D. must have access to education” the government provided activities as follow:

1. All primary schools must accept pupils with disabilities. If a school is not suitable for ,then that school must arrange enrollment in the suitable school.
2. Provide a special education training program for primary school teacher.
3. Provide equipment and teaching materials for special education to all schools.
4. Build architectual modification places that available for people with disabilities.
5. Prepare to extend the education for children with disabilities to secondary and high school.

#### 4) Vocational training<sup>6</sup>

There are vocational training programs that run by Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Ministry of Education and other organizations.

**Ministry of Public Health:** Rajanukul Institute 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 handicrafts, housework and office works (messenger). Bangpoon Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for young men aged 18 years onwards provides training as Rajanukul Institute with addition program on simple agricultural tasks and pottery.

In the year 2001, Department of Mental Health began to settle small shops in psychiatric hospital throughout the country to sell product from mentally disabled persons, which are call "Friend Shop". So mentally disabled patients could earn some money for their life while training in rehabilitation centers or hospital shelters. However this program is only a demonstrative project of vocational training and researching.

**Ministry of Social Development and Human Security:** Department of Public Welfare provides 13 vocational courses in 8 centers throughout the country for disabled persons include I.D persons.

**Ministry of Education:** The special education school " Kaweela Anukul school" in Chiang Mai province provides vocational training to prepare I.D. youths who have adequate adaptive skills to work in simple tasks such as handicrafts, housework and office work(their own parents).

**Other organization:** There also are training centers of NGOs. Such as Vocation training for Autistic Children, Panyakarn vocational center of Foundation for welfare of the Mentally Retarded, Vocation training centers of Social Council of Thailand and Saori Creative Center in Chiang Mai.

#### 5. Employment<sup>4</sup>

Job placement for people with intellectual disabilities in Thailand is extremely difficult due to the negative attitude of the Thai toward the I.D. people. Moreover they 're look down upon as worthless and hopeless. Thus their employment opportunities were less. Nowadays the process of vocational training provides basic skills training. Most of people with intellectual disabilities

depend on their family's business. In 1955 Rajanukul Institute 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 necessary skills for employment.
3. To create and provide job opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities.
4. To run 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 the out patient department, store, cafeteria 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(institute) will find out a suitable job for each people with intellectual disabilities who have completed these activities successfully.

6) Financial Assistance for I.D. people comes from sources such as

1. Ministry of Public Health provides financial assistance through Disabled Person Card and new policy "30 baths project for any curative"(Golden card), so they can get help whenever they come to contact with medical services.
2. Ministry of Social Development and Human Security provides assistance through
  - a) Registration of people with disabilities
  - b) Subsistent allowance for people with disabilitiesRegistered I.D. persons who are unemployed or impoverished can receive subsistent allowance 500 Baths a month (12 US\$) throughout the life span.

7) Others

- i) Population of person with intellectual disabilities

Source : National Statistic Office, Office of the Prime Ministry. Report of Health and Welfare Survey.2001

a) Total number of I.D person

130,964 persons (male 79,668 and female 51,296)

b) Number and percentage of each type of disabilities

Type of disabilities	Percent total	Male	Female
1.Visual impairment	11.2	10.7	11.9
2.Hearing impairment	21.9	19.3	25.8
3.Physical impairment	46.6	48.7	43.4
4.Mental disability	7.4	7.7	6.9
5.Intellectual disability	20.2	20.4	17.5

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 % from the available data. The prevalence figures vary considerably because of the varying criteria and methods used in the surveys.However it is estimated that the prevalence of I.D people in Thailand is approximately 1% of population.<sup>5</sup>

#### ii) 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”.

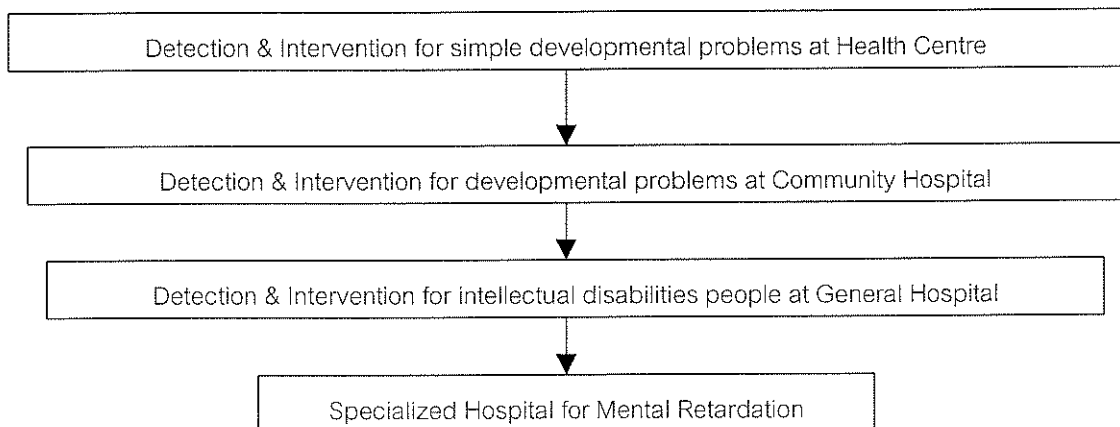
The objective of this program is to empower parents in dealing with their disabled child. Its activities are as follow:

1.Training parents: The rule of our service is the parents or caregivers stay with their children so that they will be taught how to help the children by themselves. When the parents have already understood the techniques and their children are in the better condition, patients should be understood the techniques and their children are in the better condition, patients should be discharge from the hospital and would be appointment to follow up their progression.

2. Vocational training for parents: Northern Child Development Centre (NCDC) also provides vocational training for parents who are unemployed and during they look after and practice their children with staff. Occupational Therapists observe that some parents have local skills and some lack of money so OT set up the vocational training project for maintain their skill, get new knowledge and usage time to earn some money by the NCDC Foundation, then they get back home they could both help the children at home and earn some money for family.

## 2) Flow chart of Service Delivery System<sup>4</sup>

Referral system for early detection and intervention program



## 3) Law concerned with I.D.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

The first law in Thailand assuring public welfare for person with disabilities are referring to rights of person with disabilities. The contents are summarised as follows

- Establishment of the Committee for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons
- Establishment of the Person with Disabilities registration system
- Establishment of a revolving fund called the Rehabilitation Fund for Persons with Disabilities
- Establishment of an employment system to allow person with disabilities to private companies
- Supply of medical rehabilitation services for free
- Improvement of accessibility to public building, transportation or other public services



### Labor Law

The 1991 Rehabilitation Act set a quota which was implemented by Ministerial Regulation No 1.

" Private companies which more than 200 employees are required to employ one disabled person per 200 employees or the companies have to pay money back to the Disabled Fund for employment. Most of the companies are likely to employ only physical disabled and pay 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 physical handicaps or with special needs or underprivileged must have the right and opportunity to receive special education. And "education setting must realized that the learners are the most importance". All the learners must be able to learn and development themselves. Therefore the processes of educational setting must promote the learners to develop themselves naturally and effectively.

### 4) Community-Based Rehabilitation Program

In 1980 The Ministry of Public Health declared "The Health for All by the year 2000" and implemented the primary health care strategy, so the services for intellectual disabled persons were then reformed. There were training programs for general practitioners, nurses, psychologist, social workers and community health officers. There was also training general hospitals, community hospitals and health centers to educate and train staff in the skills of diagnosis of mental retardation, delayed 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 all village of Thailand so that I.D. patients with obvious symptoms to access the services from their nearest public health center. The village volunteers would serve as case managers, visit the parents and make arrangement in order to the I.D. patients could have the necessary treatment. The result found that only 0.3 percent of I.D. children receive the services from this project because the volunteers pay an attention on physical disabilities more than mental disabilities. To solve this problem, the Department of Mental Health by Rajanukul Hospital has tried "Rehabilitation for Disabled and underprivileged Child Project in Bangkok"

(run by health volunteers, parents, people in that area) and “Training Course for CBR workers on Intellectual Disabilities” support by Handicapped International and Japan League on Intellectual Disabilities. Rajanukul Hospital has conducted “Workshop on Development of Curriculum for Community Based Rehabilitation of People with Intellectual Disabilities” support by World Health Organization (Bangkok).

#### 5) Government Agencies concerned with I.D.<sup>5</sup>

##### 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.

- Rajanukul Institute
- Northern Child Development Centre
- Yuvaprasat Waithayoprathum Child Psychiatric Hospital
- Child Mental Health Centre

- b) Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child and Family
- c) Child Institute
- d) 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 Social Development and Human Security:

- 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 Special Education: Special Education Center and Special Education School in many provinces (some just initiated)
- b) Office of the National Primary Education Commission
- c) Special Education Center in Rajabhat Institute

#### 6) Non Governmental Organizations<sup>2</sup>

- (a) Number of Organization
- (b) Name, Address and Function: See in the appendix

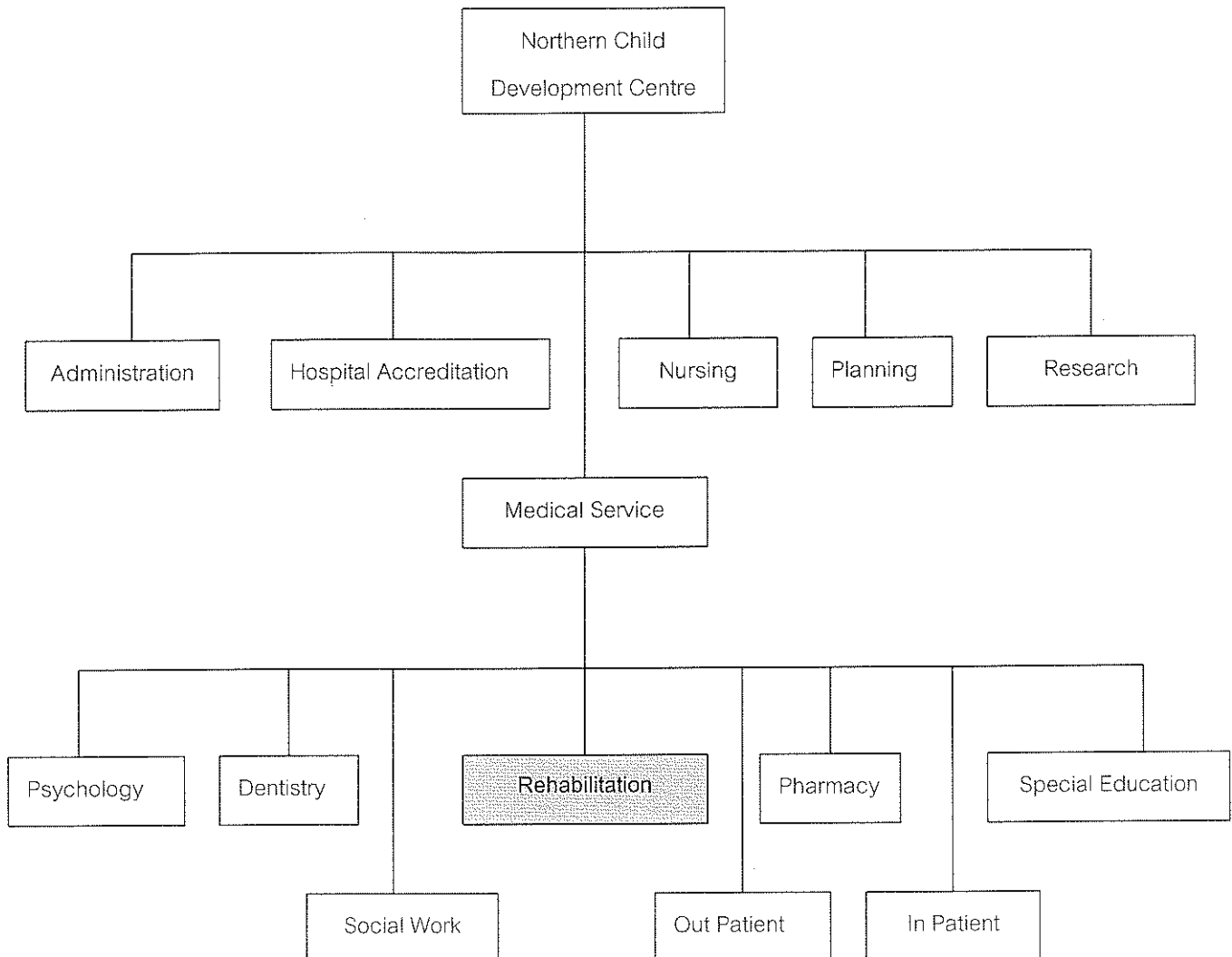
#### 7) Activities of International Organizations

- ♥ 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)
- ♥ INTERAID, INC. Hong Kong: Special Educational Programs For Normal People who happen to be "SLOW"
- ♥ Institute Cardiff, University of Wales: Cooperation program in developing technical, training staffs to know playing, communication in the area of taking care of I.D. children.

### III Outline of Northern Child Development Centre

1. **Function:** The Northern Child Development Center (NCDC) is a government hospital that provides medical evaluations and diagnoses for delayed development children such as mentally retarded, physically disabled and autistic children. NCDC provides early intervention and rehabilitation services. Furthermore, NCDC offers special education, psychotherapy, social welfare and dental care to patients. Special services are also provided which further support these functions, such as telephone counseling (a hotline service), a relaxation clinic, a genetic counseling clinic and vocational training (especially for unemployed mothers of disabled children). NCDC also works as academic institute which provides training program to all level of health personnel, student 's university and observing study for other organization. Moreover NCDC also research and develop technology for mental retardation and child development.

## 2. Organization Chart



## 3. My responsibilities

- As an Occupational Therapist who provides treatment for physical, perceptual and intellectual function, and plan program for parents who could help the children at home.
- As a supervisor who provides training programs for OT student from Chiang Mai University in the field of patients with intellectual disabilities.

c) As a lecturer in the class of parents, health officers, teacher and caretakers work with special need children.

d) As a coordinator and committee who provides adapted equipment for disabled children & persons that NCDC has project co-operative with Wheels of Hope,USA.

References:

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2. Division of Youth Policy and Planning, National Youth Bureau. List of Organizations Relating in Children and Youth Development, 2000 : January 2001
3. Japan International Cooperation Agency Planning and Evaluation Department. Country Profile on Disabilities Kingdom of Thailand.
4. Pejarasangharn U., Churesigaew C. Health Services for Mental Retardation in Thailand, Unpublished paper; 2001
5. Fejarasangharn U., Churesigaew C. Situation of People with Intellectual Disabilities in Thailand 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference on Mental Retardation.( 28 Nov – 4 Dec 1999 ), Kathmandu,1999.
6. Toemthong T. Thailand Country Report for Intellectual Disabilities. Course No: J-02-00640
7. World Health Organization, Atlas: Country Profiles on Mental Health Resources 2001. Avenue Appia 20, CH – 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

Non Government Organizations<sup>7</sup>

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 : <a href="mailto:ecdbkk@sc.th.com">ecdbkk@sc.th.com</a>

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: <a href="mailto:projlife@loxinfo.co.th">projlife@loxinfo.co.th</a>
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 : <a href="mailto:shdckk@loxinfo.co.th">shdckk@loxinfo.co.th</a>
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 : <a href="mailto:rvsd@rvsd.ac.th">rvsd@rvsd.ac.th</a>
12. Community Based Rehabilitation Program for disable	Provide CBR program and coordinating with other related organizations in the area.	ChumSai 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 : <a href="mailto:NCYD@samart.co.th">NCYD@samart.co.th</a>
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 : <a href="mailto:dpf@internet.ksc.net.th">dpf@internet.ksc.net.th</a>
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.