

Thailand Report

1. General Information

(1) Name of Country: Thailand

(2) Area (sq. km): The total area is 513,115 square kilometers. It shares borders with Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and Myanmar to the North; Lao PDR, Cambodia and the Gulf of Thailand to the East; Myanmar and the Indian Ocean to the West; and Malaysia to the South.

(3) Life expectancy: that the average life expectancy for females will increase to 76.3 years and for males to 69.5 years

(4) Infant mortality rate: infant and child mortality rates (per 1,000 live births) declined to 12.3 and 14.3 percent respectively and the decline is projected to continue into the next four to five years

(5) Maternal mortality rate: the number of women who die during pregnancy and childbirth, per 100,000 live births is 28 in 2010, it tends to decrease to 26 in 2013 (the World Bank)

(6) Literacy rate: a total adult literacy rate between 2008 – 2012 is 93.5 percent.¹

(7) Population

As of 2010, Thailand had a total population of 63.87 million of almost equal proportion between women and men (men 31.45 million and women 32.42 million). The Thai population is scattered across the four regions and Bangkok Metropolis. The Northeastern region has the highest share of the population at 33.77 percent (21.57 million), followed by the Central region at 24.92 percent (15.92 million), the Northern region at 18.45 percent (11.78 million), the Southern region at 13.92 percent (8.89 million) and Bangkok Metropolis at 8.92 percent (5.70 million).

20.36 percent (13.01 million) are children under 15 years of age; 67.44 percent (43.09 million) are in the working-age, aged between 15-59 years; and 12.19 percent (7.79 million) are senior citizens aged over 60; 23.77 percent (15.19 million) are in the school-age (6-21 years old); and, 27.72 percent (17.71 million) are women in reproductive age (15-49 years).

In 2009, average household income per month was 20,903 Baht and average household expenditure per month was 16,205 Baht. Average family debt per

¹ Retrieved from UNICEF website

year was 134,699 Baht.²

(8) Education System (Number of schools & students in each district)

As in Thailand Report on CRPD, the education system in Thailand consists of nine years of compulsory education, including six years of primary education and three years of lower secondary education. The state now provides 15 years of free education, from Kindergarten Level 1 up to higher secondary schooling (Matthayom 6 or Year 3 of the vocational field equivalent). According to MOE statistic 2011 for formal school system, there are 1,524 educational institutions in Bangkok and Metropolis; and 36,859 educational institutions in other provinces in Thailand. Moreover, there are 2,045,685 students in Bangkok and Metropolis; and 11,909,050 students in other provinces. Despite the extensive educational opportunities offered by the state and private sectors, the above statistics show that a number of students who have reached working age tend to opt out of school to enter the workforce. This is, to a large extent, due to the high cost of living and other economic conditions. However, they can further their studies in the non-formal education sector.³

(9) Health System (Number of hospitals in each district)

According to Thailand Report on CRPD, “Every Thai citizen is entitled to receive health care services in Thailand, made possible by health care security. The National Health Security Act, underpinned by the Universal Health Coverage Scheme, aims to provide equal access to quality health care service for all Thais. Under this Act, the National Health Security Fund was established and implemented in coordination with Local Administrative Organizations with the aim of ensuring health security for all, including persons with status problems. These efforts have resulted in a huge increase in the financial burden for the government. With this issue in mind, a pro-active approach to public health has been adopted, focusing on preventive and self-care. The National Health Act B.E. 2550 (2007) provides for the establishment of a national health assembly to allow people’s participation in shaping health policies that are conducive to local needs and wisdom”⁴. In 2012, there are at about 68 general public hospitals under the Ministry of health and 321 private hospitals. Moreover, there are

² Retrieved from Thailand Common Core by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

³ Retrieved from Thailand Common Core of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

⁴ Retrieved from Thailand Report on CRPD

9,768 district hospitals in Thailand.⁵

(10) Major Industry (Number of people working for each industry)

There are 11.84 million persons who work in agriculture and 25.90 million persons who work in non-agriculture, such as manufacturing, construction wholesale and retail trade.⁶

(11) Employment rate

Thailand's labour force is employed in both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. Employment to population ratio, ages 15-24, total (%) is 46.6%.⁷ As of March 2014, there are approximately 37.90 million employed persons on the other hand there are 341,000 unemployed persons.⁸

2. Intellectual Disabilities

(1) Laws concerned with persons with Intellectual Disabilities

- In Thailand, Thai persons with disabilities are protected by Thai Constitution 2007, The Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act 2007 and its amendment (Vol. 2) (2013), The 4th National Disability Plan 2012-2016, the 1st Women with Disabilities Empowerment Plan 2013 -2016, and the Persons with Disabilities Education Act 2008. Internationally, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities delicately describe the rights of persons with disabilities.

(2) Financial Assistance for persons with Intellectual Disabilities

All persons with intellectual disabilities who register for disability Identification cards are eligible to receive disability allowance. They also have to the rights to borrow money from Empowerment of Persons with Disability Fund to start their career.

(3) Services including CBR available for persons with Intellectual Disabilities

(4) Number of services and those beneficiaries in each district (province)

- Thailand, CBR programs focus on 4 key areas: Village volunteer

⁵ Retrieved from http://203.157.10.8/hcode/query_02.php

⁶ Retrieved from NSO website

⁷ Retrieved from World Bank website

⁸ Retrieved from NSO website

network; Integrated capacity development of PWDs; Liaison/community participation; monitoring and evaluation. CBR programs cover 75 provinces and 50 districts in Bangkok, with close to 620,000 persons with disabilities receiving the services and 4,000 volunteers operating in their own communities across the nation. This community based approach has changed attitudes towards disabilities and people with disabilities, PWDs themselves are empowered and there is a snowball effect with communities assisting nearby communities.

3. Outline of your organization

(1) Background, vision, strategy

NEP was established on 28 September 2007, pursuant to Section 12 of Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act 2007 and its Amendments (No. 2) 2013 with authorities outlined in Section 13 of the Act. NEP is the national focal point on disability which interacts and cooperates with government and non-government agencies at both national and international levels. NEP also serves as the disability coordinating body and secretariat of the National Committee for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities chaired by the Prime Minister.

NEP's vision is "to be an excellent organization that integrates the national disability empowerment mechanism, promotes strengthening of Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs), and establishes Thailand as a leading disability learning center in the Southeast Asian region". Its mission and strategies include development and mobilization of policies and plans, empowerment of disabled persons' organizations, and promote positive attitudes towards disabilities and persons with disabilities, and create a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities⁹

(2) Major programs, covered areas, covered population, number of beneficiaries:

As of May 2014, there are 1,516,283 registered persons with disabilities.¹⁰

Programs and activities are:

1. Issuance of disability identification cards to promote and safeguard rights of persons with disabilities.
2. Provision of services to promote rights of persons with disabilities including sign language interpretation, home modification, personal assistants and caregivers, accessible accommodation, facilities and equipment for persons with disabilities and for all.

⁹ Retrieved from www.nep.go.th

¹⁰ Retrieved from www.nep.go.th

3. Community-based rehabilitation program.
4. Establishment of Community Learning Centers (CLC) for development of persons with disabilities.
5. Elimination of discrimination against persons with disabilities.
6. Legal assistance for persons with disabilities.
7. Occupation promotion for persons with disabilities.
8. Employment advocacy policy for persons with disabilities in government sector.
9. Implementation of the national and provincial plans on empowerment of persons with disabilities.
10. Collaboration with local administrative organizations and educational institutions.
11. National disability seminars.
12. Annual observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
13. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
14. Implementation of ASEAN Projects/Activities under ASEAN Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015).
15. Central disability data base system linkage with national agencies.¹¹

(3) Your position and duty: National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NEP), working as a social development official in international cooperation section of Bureau of Policy and Technical Support. I am focusing on disability issues in international level, such as UN scope and with other countries besides ASEAN member states.

4. Community Development program which include Intellectual Disability issues as one of the activities.(If you know any)

Training to empower persons with disabilities includes skills training leading to job opportunities, leadership training for persons with intellectual disabilities, family workshops and camps for persons with psychiatric disorders and their parents on CBR programs, and skills training for disability organization members such as the association of parents of children with autism¹²

¹¹ Retrieved from www.np.go.th

¹² Retrieved from Thailand Report on CRPD

5. Situation of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

(1) Diagnosis (professional responsible for diagnosis)

- Medical specialists in hospital and institutions where are approved to be eligible to be able to diagnosis disabilities are responsible for diagnosis persons with disabilities.

(2) Education (Special Education and/or Integrated Education)

- Thailand Report on CRPD mentions, “to ensure education is more accessible to children with disabilities, under compulsory primary education as prescribed by law, the Ministry of Education sets up a variety of educational programs for both public and private educational sectors, enabling students with disabilities to choose programs suited to their special needs. Programs supported by the government are inclusive education, special classrooms, special schools, home schools, vocational education and higher education cover pedagogic models, teachers, learners, materials or environments to facilitate inclusion of students with disabilities. In addition, college fees at higher education and vocational education are provided to persons with disabilities who seek BA degree. In the provinces there are school district offices and educational institutes under the Ministry of Education providing education for persons with disabilities, namely 43 special schools; 76 provincial special education centers; 13,786 inclusive education schools; 100 colleges and universities. In addition children with disabilities resident in homes provided by the Department of Social Development and Welfare under MSDHS have the opportunity to attend regular schools. Local administration organizations including Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) play a role in providing education for children with disabilities. There are approximately 100 inclusive education schools under the BMA”.¹³

(2) Vocational training and Job Opportunity

- Thailand’s 2010 resolution sets the new employment ratio of 1 person with disability to every 100 workers in both government and private business sectors. A number of incentives are provided to the business sector encouraging employment of persons with disabilities. To support persons with disabilities’ self-employment and entrepreneurship, under the national Empowerment Fund long term loans are made available free of interest persons with disabilities each year.

(4) Support Organizations

a) governmental agencies

National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under

¹³ Retrieved from Thailand Report on CRPD

the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and other related Ministries who are responsible for disability issues, including Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Information Communication Technology

b) number of NGOs concerned with Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

There are disabled people organizations and parents of persons with disabilities include such as the Association of Parents for Thai Persons with Autism, the Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability of Thailand, the Association for Persons with Psychological Disability, continually organize programs/activities that specifically focus on promoting positive attitude towards persons with disabilities and their families.

6. Based on the information above, what are the issues to solve to conduct effective supports for persons with Intellectual Disabilities?

- Thailand still lacks of inclusive database on disability in mainstream
- Thailand need more specialists including special education teachers for persons with intellectual disabilities
- Thailand needs to improve collaboration among government agencies to enhance quality of life of persons with intellectual disabilities.
- Thailand should engage more on a key role of family of persons with intellectual disabilities in community-based rehabilitation