

Preface

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PREFACE

Thai economy has achieved rapid economic growth since the late 1980's. However, the economic activities, notably in manufacturing have been highly concentrated in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR), dominating a major share of GDP with its Gross Regional Product. The imbalance BMR and the other regions, that is, the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, has stood out remarkably. In Order to encourage for industries to locate in the regions, the Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan (1992–96) aims to strengthen regional urban centers to serve as base for production activities and necessary services. The concept of the development of local economic development core, which we deal with in this study, implies a better distribution of opportunity and income among the regions in Thailand.

Against the background stated above, we have endeavored to analyze and make post evaluations of the regional economic development effort. By analyzing the effect to establish the industries in the regions, to induce people to inhabit, or to concentrate some of the local and government agencies in the area, we have intended to draw a total picture of the regional development policy in the 1970s and 1980s in Thailand, including some case studies of the regions.

The second paper, by Dr.Naris, approaches the local economic development core through micropolitan development theory including the macroeconomic performance of Thai economy and an evaluation of the policy effect.

The third paper, by Mr.Makishima, deals with the industrialization policy which has been implemented since 1970's and approaches the potential industries in the regions.

The fourth paper, by Mr. Taniguchi, focuses on the role of regional-economic development policy as a mean for amelioration of regional pattern of income distribution.

From the fifth to eight papers each deal with case studies of the regions.

Dr. Luechai's paper presents development features in the local economic development core of the Nothern region industrial estate in the Lamphun area.

Dr. Tangon's paper presents development features in the local economic development core of Chacheongsao in the Eastern region.

Dr.Araya' paper presents development features in the local economic development core of Nakhon Ratchasima Province in the Northeastern region.

Dr. Suphat's paper presents development features in the local economic development core of Saraburi in the Central region.

Dr. Araya's paper presents development features in the local economic development core of Nakhon Ratchasima in the Northeastern region.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the Thammasat University, Thailand, and Institute of Developing Economies, Japan, who encouraged and supported our joint study. Thanks are also due to those persons who cooperated in conducting our study, besides the authors of the Chapters, with information and advice at the hearings. To name only a few, with special thanks, Dr. Utis Kaothian and Mr. Santi Bang-or (both of NESDB), Ms. Orapin Weerawut (Ministry of Industry), Prof. Kraiyudht Dhiratayakinant (Chulalongkorn University), and Dr. Chalongpop Sussangkarn (TDRI). Mr. Tomihisa Inagaki (JICA Expert at DTEC), also paid thoughtful attention to our study. We hope that this report will contribute to the further advancement of mutual understanding and cooperation between both countries.

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Editors