



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
A South-South Initiative
Permanent Observer at the United Nations

COUNTRY REPORT

THAILAND

South-South Collaboration in Capacity Development

**Lesson Learnt from
Successful Interventions**

Tables of Contents

	<i>Page</i>
<i>I. Introduction.....</i>	3
<i>South-South Collaboration</i>	3
<i>Thailand and South-South Collaboration Linkages.....</i>	4
<i>II. Background: Thailand's Involvement in Capacity Development.....</i>	5
<i>III. Background of the Present Study</i>	8
<i>IV. Report of Case Study</i>	11
<i>Case Study Number 1 (Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC).....</i>	11
<i>Case Study Number 2 (Reproductive Health Division, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health.....</i>	17
<i>Case Study Number 3 (College of Population Studies), Chulalongkorn University.....</i>	23
<i>Case Study Number 4 (Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand)</i>	31
<i>V. Conclusion and Discussion.....</i>	34
<i>VI. Lessons Learned.....</i>	38
<i>VII. Recommendations.....</i>	40
<i>Appendix 1.....</i>	43
<i>Appendix 2.....</i>	46
<i>References.....</i>	49

Report on
Documentation of Capacity Development Initiatives
Through South-South Collaboration
(Thailand)

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I. Introduction:

South-South Collaboration:

The Partners in Population and Development (PPD or Partners), the intergovernmental alliance comprise members spanning a wide geographical area from Asia including the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. These countries demonstrated commitment to the goals of the ICPD programme of Action (PoA) and the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) and to the mission, vision and values of PPD. South–South collaboration is thus a cornerstone of the alliance mission. Members are dedicated to a vision of the world where countries work together to increase capacity and create an enabling environment for South-South collaboration in reproductive health, in line with the ICPD principles and guidelines (Reference # 1).

*The PPD has in 10 years of existence grown into a leading international organization advancing the issues of health, population and development in countries in the South. PPD began a radical idea proposed at a meeting hosted by the Rockefeller Foundation in October 1993; the suggestion was soon actuated in Egypt at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo when a new organization was founded (Reference # 1). **This new international alliance called***

“Partners in Population and Development: A South-South Initiative with the first 10 founding member countries. (Reference # 3) It was a groundbreaking achievement to create an alliance of developing countries whose goals were to expand and improve South-South collaboration as a strategy for building capacity to strengthen reproductive health status in developing countries as stated in the ICPD Program of Action. When the organization emerged, it heralded a new chapter in the South countries’ momentum to take responsibility for individual environments and populations and to reach beyond borders to neighbors and fellow developing countries in order to realize the agendas that they commonly shared (Reference # 1).

PPD is the first organization of its kind that brings together countries from all geographical regions of the South, in a unified commitment to promote dialogue and cooperation on such issues as adolescent sexual and reproductive health, gender and development, maternal mortality and morbidity, prevention and treatment of STDs and HIV/AIDS. In 1994, South-South Collaboration was set up and 10 countries signed up to PPD’s mission and goals: Bangladesh, Colombo, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. These first ten countries were selected based on their strong records of success of the national family planning programmes and well established population policies. It has been intended that all ten countries will eventually become the centers of excellence.

Thailand and the South-South Collaboration Linkages:

Thailand is one among 10 founding country members of the Partners in Population and Development (PPD), South-South Initiative. Thailand is also selected to be one, among a few Centres of Excellence in the area of population and development especially in the areas of Family Planning and Reproductive Health. In relation to this cause, Thailand signed up to PPD South-South Collaboration’s mission and goals to promote dialogue and collaboration on various issues including FP/RH.

In supporting its commitment, Thailand set up the Thai Centre for the South-South Initiative to initiate activities and programmes related to the South-South Collaboration’s missions. In addition, the national Executive Committee for South-South Cooperation and a set of sub-committees, were established to provide guidance and assistance for the implementation of the activities by the Centre. Institutes, agencies and experts involved in

the South-South activities were also identified to set up the network to strengthen capacity and sharing resources. In addition, the Thai Centre for South-South Initiative participated in the Inter-regional Project on South-South Cooperation. The Project provides support to Centres of Excellence in Population, Family Planning and Reproductive Health. They are in part a joint endeavour of UNFPA and Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC) of Thailand (presently is Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency or TICA) (Reference #5).

To reach the South-South Collaboration's mission and goals, during the past decade (1994-2004), Thailand has committed itself in implementing or carrying out South-South Cooperation programmes and activities through close collaboration among GOs, NGOs and some private agencies. These activities and programmes can be classified into 3 major sets as follows:

*The first set of South-South activities aims directly on **capacity building and human and institutional development**. To reach this aim, many 'learning and sharing' activities are implemented. They include short-term training courses, workshops and observation study tours (OSTs) on various issues in the field of family planning, reproductive health and related fields. Participants who attended any one of this set of activities are personnel who are responsible for different tasks at different levels. They include programme officials, programme managers, field workers, health workers, counselors, trainers who will potentially become a strength of the institution in the capacity of resource persons, course organizers, coordinators or programme managers.*

*The second set of South-South activities aims **to provide technical assistance or transfer knowledge** from Thailand to neighboring countries where the Thai expertise and experiences are needed. Directly or indirectly, these activities will help strengthen or improve the capacity of the recipient institutes (as well as their manpower). This set of activities or programmes include technical support, arrangement of meetings with experts in order to share knowledge, technical skills or experiences, technology transfer, development and production of IEC materials, development of training curriculum and facilities, or help in conducting operational research which will lead to the improvement of programme services.*

The third set of South-South activities aims to facilitate the South-South operational process and to promote the South-South Cooperation activities. Many activities aim to promote or strengthen the networking among countries members such as hosting Executive Meeting or Technical meetings on various occasions, co-organizing activities such as study visits requested by the international organizations, setting up the network among countries members to carry out various tasks with regard to human and institutional development.

II. Background: Thailand's Involvement in Capacity Development

Since the 1960's, Thailand has been both recipient and donor country with regard to assistance contributing to social and economic development. Like many other developing countries, during late 1950's and 1960's, Thailand received substantial external assistance from various donor agencies through technical cooperation programs contributing to national development process. At the same time, Thailand has also been providing technical assistance to its neighbors as well as other developing countries over 40 years. In delivering activities and programmes of development cooperation and coordination, the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC or TICA presently) is the sole authorized agency to be responsible for this task.

At present, Thailand is viewed as a successful middle-income country. With this perception, a substantial amount of development assistance has been moving away from Thailand. As a result, the donor-recipient relationship has gradually been transformed into development partnerships with other donor agencies and recipients, which allow Thailand to share its expertise and resources with other less developed countries (Reference # 9, p.61).

The wealth of practical experiences gained through Thailand's role as a recipient country in the past, is now being applied through the country's own technical and economic cooperation efforts through the new agency; Thai International Cooperation Program (TICP) as the national mission under the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action, and operates under the management of the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTECT or presently TICA). The TICP revolves around the 4 major cooperative principles of 'technical cooperation through human resources development' including the promotion and development of close relationship with other developing countries in the fields of technology, economy, culture and politics; support of

governments and private agencies in promoting trade, investment and tourism; promotion of technical cooperation between Thai agencies and institutions, and those of its cooperating partners to enhance their capacities; and enhancement of the internationalization of Thai institutes (Reference # 8, p.13).

For more than two decades since its establishment, the TICP has implemented a number of technical cooperation programmes between Thailand and its partners. At the same time, the Thai government has also sought to promote Thailand in the international arena as a center of excellence in many areas of expertise (Reference# 9, pp.61-62). For instance, to encourage internationalization and human resource development, TICP-DTEC in collaboration with JICA, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF has been supporting many Thai agencies and institutes of international standard and capacity to be recognized as centres of excellence, and provide various international training courses for participants from developing countries. On the other hand, various programs have been initiated by DTEC to expand Thailand's role in technical cooperation such as the Friends from Thailand Project (FfT), the bilateral cooperation programs in neighboring countries; the Economic Cooperation Strategy with Cambodia, the Lao PDR and Myanmar to bridge the development gaps and to deal with cross-border issues; Technical Cooperation with the Colombo Plan Secretariat to expand the technical cooperation programs including the post graduate studies and group training to the dispatch of experts (Reference#9 pp.61-63). Since 1992, the cooperation programmes through the TICP have been expanding to embrace many parts of the world (References #4 and 8, pp.12-15). The geographic reach of the TICP is impressive; participants from more than 50 developing countries have taken part in training and study activities organized as part of the program. Through its TICP programs, Thailand not only shares its own expertise but also provides a forum for participants from throughout the developing world to exchange information about their own respective realities and challenges. The countries participating under this cooperation program include Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and developing countries in other sub-regions of South-east Asia, South Asia, the Pacific, Middle East, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and CIS (Armenia, Latvia). Thailand has learned from experiences that this approach has the most substantial positive impact on social and economic development (References #6, 8 pp. 8-9).

The TICP's cooperative activities and programmes (References# 4, 8, pp.14-15) includes six main elements; namely

*1. **Bilateral programme:** Thailand provides direct assistance to its development partners through Bilateral Programme. The Projects are designed after close consultation between Thailand and its partners to ensure activities will benefit both parties. Activities organized under the program include development and training projects, secondment of Thai experts and provision of equipment. The Bilateral Programme composed of two sub-type programmes;*

1.1 Country programme and individual requests which is fully supported by the Royal Thai Government. It focuses on resources development (education, health and agriculture). The activities included mission expert, consultant, development project, volunteer and equipment. Many Technical projects were provided and implemented in neighbouring countries including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.

1.2 Sino-Thai Scientific and Technical Cooperation (1978) sharing of expenditures in exchanging participants and experts.

*2. **Annual International Training Courses Programmes (AITC).** This programme aims to transfer knowledge and skills to participants from developing countries through courses in a wide variety of development concerns. Fellowship support participation in these courses is provided to countries throughout the developing world. The Programme also aims to promote international goodwill by fostering mutual understanding among participants during their stay in Thailand.*

*3. **Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC).** This programme was an adoption of the UNDP/TCDC modality under the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. The Programme aims to promote mutual cooperation, and to promote a truly global partnership for development. **The theme of this Programme is South-South Cooperation among developing countries.** It operates on three main levels: Global, regional and bilateral. The Programme involves Thailand and its development partners sharing responsibility for providing opportunities to exchange knowledge and technology. Study tours , seminars and training are the primary activities of the program but other activities such as joint research projects can also be initiated.*

*4. **Third Country Training Programme (TCTP).** The Third Country Training*

Programme offers a chance for participants from other developing countries, particularly those in Asia-Pacific Region, to attend training courses in Thailand. Under this Programme, the Royal Thai Government organizes studies, training programmes and study tours in Thailand for participants from other developing countries who are sponsored by the international organizations or donor countries under the coordination of DTEC. The Programme is fully funded by international organizations such as WHO, ESCAP, UNDP and SIDA but administered by DTEC in cooperation with other Thai agencies. The Programme reflects the view that Thailand is an ideal place to serve as a 'training ground' for participants from other developing countries.

5. Trilateral or Multilateral Cooperation Programme. *The Programme is funded by Thailand in cooperation with other countries or international organizations such as Japan, Canada, UNDP or UNFPA. The Programme provides opportunities for participants from other developing countries to participate in group-training courses, study programs and sub-regional cooperation programmes with an emphasis on human development, partnership programme, and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC). This programme takes place in two alternatives; the first is under the TCTP, and the second is based on cost sharing between Thailand and other country or international organization to provide assistance to other developing countries.*

6. Thai International Post-Graduate Program (TIPP): *The Thai International Postgraduate Program was formulated in 1999 and began in 2000. The program is funded entirely by the Thai government and aims to enhance educational standards while providing opportunities for cross-cultural exchanges and improving international relationship. The Program offers a range of long-term postgraduate degree courses and is offered to applicants from a range of developing countries (Reference #9, p.16).*

Thailand, as a recipient-turned-donor, through the Thai International Cooperation Program (TICP) has continued to expand its support to developing countries with steadily increasing budget until 1998 when the country experienced the economic crisis. For instance, the budget allocated for the TICP in 1998 was a total of 288.3 million Baht, but drastically declined to 123.06 million Baht in 1999, and further declined to 113.04 million Baht in 2001 and slightly increased to 117.54 million Baht in 2002 when the economic recovery started to appear (Reference #9, p.54). This smaller allocated budget makes it

more difficult for the TICP to manage due to the increasing demand but decreasing resources. However, under the budget constraint, DTEC has concentrated its effort in expanding programmes on human resource development of developing countries such as training programmes. Much of the effort will go into developing a model for development assistance based on Thailand's development experiences, which will substantially benefit developing countries. DTEC's effort will also strive for more efficient and coherent operation of the agency and improvement of its programs (Reference #8, pp.72-74).

III. Background of the Present Study:

Objectives of the Project:

The report on "Documentation of Capacity Development Initiatives through South-South Collaboration: Thailand" will research and document experiences gained and lessons learned in Thailand in capacity development through South-South collaboration by identifying and examining the contribution of various activities in the South-South cooperation, including those related to technology transfer and know-how, toward strengthening and building national capacity and capability for family planning and reproductive health in Thailand and its partners.

Definition:

South-South Cooperation is defined as the exchange of expertise, knowledge, information, and products between individuals and organizations from developing countries, disregarding the origin of funds for financing these activities.

The project uses the broad definition of "capacity development" as stated in the UNFPA Evaluation Report entitled *Support to Capacity Development: Achievement and Challenges* as "capacity is the ability of individuals and organizations and systems, including networks of organizations, to perform in support of their development objectives."

Sample, Source of Data and Methodology:

Sample: In writing up this report, the author has gathered information and data from various sources. The selection of the samples is based on following criteria;

Organizations: The organizations included in this report are the organizations that have been closely involved with Partners South-South Cooperation, since its inception in different capacity. The organization could be either the provider institutions or recipient institutions or play both roles at the same time.

Individuals: Similar to the selection of organizations, the individuals included in the report are either providers or recipients who have, in some way, been associated with South-South Cooperation Programmes, and are willing to be interviewed or share their opinions or comments with regard to the Partners South-South Cooperation activities carried out in Thailand.

***Source of Data and Methodology:** The information used for preparing the report is derived from both primary and secondary sources.*

The primary sources: are from the interview, through the use of questionnaire (see Questions in the Annex 1). The questionnaires were issued to 10 key informants who are involved, in different capacity, with the South-South Cooperation's activities in Thailand. Responses were returned from 4 individual key informants, and 1 set of responses was gathered from the group of Government officials who are in charge of the South-South Cooperation Programme in Thailand. The following individuals are

- 1. Dr. Pornchai Suchitta, the UNFPA Assistance Representative, Thailand*
- 2. Dr. Bhakta Gubhaju, Population Affairs Officer, Population and Social Integration Section, Emerging Social Issues Division, ESCAP, the United Nations, Bangkok, Thailand*
- 3. Mr. Montri Pekan, Deputy Director, the Planned Parenthood Association in Thailand (PPAT) under the Patronage of HRH the Princess Mother*
- 4. Professor Bhassorn Limanonda, Director, College of Population Studies (CPS), Chulalongkorn University*
- 5. Staff (Officials) from the Reproductive Health Division (RHD), Department of Health, Ministry of Health, Thailand*

In addition to the individuals who were interviewed in the capacity of 'programme provider', the author also sent out the different sets of questionnaires to programme recipients (see Appendix 2) in order to gain some 'fresh' responses from participants who ever attended any activities conducted under the South-South Initiative programmes. These participants included 10 Thai and foreign participants of the Workshop on

Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS during years 2002, and 2003. This group of respondents, however, did not react or respond to the request in answering the questionnaire.

The secondary source: The data from this source was gathered from various kinds of documents or published and unpublished reports issued by organizations which are responsible for, or involved in, carrying out the South-South Cooperation's activities during the past 10 years. These selected organizations and be included in the analysis are as follows;

- 1) The Department of Technical Economic Cooperation, Thailand (DTEC, presently TICA)*
- 2) The Reproductive Health Division (RHD), Department of Health (DoH), Ministry of Public Health*
- 3) College of Population Studies (CPS), Chulalongkorn University*
- 4) The Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT)*

To supplement the absence of 'fresh' responses (primary source) from the group of participants who are programme recipients, the author has therefore, counted mainly on the secondary source, that is the documents on evaluation and feedback from participants who attended or participated any kind of activities carried out under the South-to-South Cooperation held during 1994-2004 by different organizations.

The structure of presentation of each case study:

The presentation of each 'case study' is laid out in the following manner;

- 1. Name of 'case study' organization*
- 2. The organization background*
- 3. Extent of involvement of the organization with South-South Cooperation (in a capacity of provider and/or recipient)*
- 4. Selected South-South Cooperation activities or programmes carried out by the organization during the reference period (1994-2004)*
- 5. The evaluation of the South-South programmes, feedback, suggestions with regard to the implementation and the impacts of South-South Cooperation*
- 6. Additional opinions from the involved individual key informants toward the South-South Cooperation Programme*

IV. Report of Case Study:

Case Study Number 1:

***Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC) * presently Thailand
International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA)***

Organization Background:

Established in 1963, DTEC is responsible for all aspects of the technical assistance Thailand receives from foreign donors. The Department is also responsible for the cooperation that Thailand provides to other developing countries as well as the mutual cooperation programs organized among developing countries. For more than 40 years, DTEC staff has worked closely with Thailand's foreign partners to plan and evaluate the impact of development assistance. In an average year, DTEC advises the representatives of more than 60 foreign governments and international agencies. In fact, DTEC is present through all phases of development activities, from project planning and implementation to final evaluation (Reference #8). For more than two decades, the technical and economic cooperation and coordination efforts have been delivered through the operation of the Thai International Cooperation Program (TICP) to a number of developing countries around the world.. The TICP include six main elements, namely; Bilateral programme,

** In this report, this organization will be mostly referred as DTEC as it appears in the past documents and as referred by other involved organizations.*

Annual International Training Courses (AITC), Technical Cooperation among Developing countries (TCDC), Third Country Training Programme (TCPC), Trilateral or Multilateral Cooperation Programme, and Thai International Post Graduate Programme (TIPP) (see detailed information about each programme in the above section) (References #4, 8 and 9).

The following section presents some of the projects carried out by the South-South Cooperation under the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries Programme (TCDC) during 2004 and 2005. The details of activities as well as the projects evaluation in various aspects are provided (Reference # 10).

DTEC (presently TICA) and South-to-South Cooperation Projects on Reproductive Health and Population Issues: Thailand 2004 (THA/03/P04):

Background of the Project: Thailand's performance as a Center of Excellence in promoting population and development as well as reproductive health under South-South Cooperation has demonstrated the ability of Thai institutions and experts in providing useful training courses/workshops to other countries. This will be continued throughout the period of Eight Country Programme to Thailand, which is 2002-2006. Under this country programme, assistance will be given to the sharing of Thailand's positive experiences in population and development as well as in RH with countries in the region as a means to promote greater South-to South Cooperation.

One of the outputs of the Population and Development strategies Sub-programme that was approved in April 2002 is the South-to-South Cooperation and Networking strengthened for the innovative population and development reproductive health and gender knowledge management between Thailand and other countries. The central focus will be to build the capacity of Thailand to share its experiences in addressing important population and development issues, reproductive health including HIV/AIDS prevention, and gender issues, as well as creating a mechanism by which Thailand can more intensively pursue inter-country initiatives to address concerns that transcend Thailand's borders yet have an impact upon the Thai people.

In 2004, three training workshops were held on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS among young people (19 participants from 8 countries), gender issues in reproductive health and adolescents (21 participants from 10 countries), reproductive

health counseling skill building (22 participants from 9 countries). One training of trainers course for Thai personnel (19 participants) was organized to upgrade their technical skills on how to conduct training courses in English. One inter-Country Workshop was held for middle-level officials working in the cross-border issues of HIV/AIDS, STIs and RH/FP (17 participants from 5 countries sharing common borders with Thailand) to discuss and identify priority cross border issues on RH for future networking activities.

DTEC (or TICA) and South-to-South Cooperation Tentative Activities during 2005:

- 1. Training course on Gender Issues in Reproductive Health*
- 2. Training course on Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Adolescents and Young People*
- 3. Training Course on Adolescents Reproductive Health Counseling Skills-Building*
- 4. Training Workshop on Cross Border Issues on Reproductive Health*
- 5. Training of the trainers*
- 6. Technical Meeting*
- 7. Study Visit*

The Evaluation of the 2004 DTEC and South-South Cooperation Programmes

and Lessons Learned: (Reference #10)

1. Inter-Country Training Workshops (3 training courses; on Gender Issues in Reproductive Health; Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Adolescents and Young People, and Cross Border Issues on Reproductive Health)

A total of three inter-country training workshops were conducted during 2004. These three two-week training/workshops were composed of lectures, discussion, presentation, field visits and writing of future projects in participants' countries. Participants attending these workshops were from ten selected countries in Asia, namely; Bhutan, Cambodia, P.R. China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

In selecting national institutions to organize the training courses, Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA, formerly DTEC) and UNFPA assessed the capacity of the institutions from their area(s) of specialization, expertise and

technical experience in relation to the respective subjects of the courses, which included the direct consultation with, and the visit to, the potential national institutions. By conducting the training workshops, the course organizers noted that they had strengthened their institutional and technical capacities in training as well as had gained knowledge from sharing of information and experience with participants.

Most participants, as revealed in the training evaluation report of these workshops, were satisfied with the course in terms of training contents and materials, resource persons, course presentation, field trips and the overall management. The courses provided an opportunity for participants to share their best practices on policies and activities adopted and implemented in the respective countries. In addition, most participants stated that they had gained better understanding of the topics, while field trips and exchange of experiences had widened their perspective of the issues. Many participants said that they would apply the knowledge gained to their work, and some expressed the eagerness to start their project proposals developed in the courses in their own countries. However, some participants noted the limited time in preparing themselves as well as their country information and reports for experience sharing since they had been informed of the awarded fellowship at the time close to the course commencement.

As most participants were appreciated very much in the training workshops and had good relationship among themselves, contact and networking among participants as well as course organizers, which the project aims to promote, appear minimal, and mostly done on an individual basis. It is expected that contact and networking among participants and course organizers will be developed and strengthened in the near future.

Although the selection of the non-Thai candidates was done carefully by the nominating agencies from the participating countries and UNFPA in the respective countries, it has been noted that language issue (English) is still a major obstacle for certain participants, who had limited proficiency in English, as they could not participate actively in the course dialogue and sometimes course presentation. For Thai participants, TICA has set up comprehensive examination for all candidates as one of the criteria for participation in the training courses.

As the major activities of the project were training courses, it is difficult to assess clear and concrete impact of these activities at the country level, once the participants returned to their respective countries. However, for each training course, there was a questionnaire prepared for all participants to complete, which was about the training course itself, the organizer(s), their expected benefits from their participation in the

course, and recommendation for this respective courses. Furthermore, around 6 months after the completion of each course, there was also a follow-up questionnaire, which was jointly developed by UNFPA and TICA, sent to all respective participants to monitor the progress and impact of the courses.

Even though response from the participants was below expectation, in general the respondents gave favorable feedback on the courses. All of the respondents stated that they had learned many important things from the training workshops and had made use of the knowledge and experiences gained in various aspects. A number of the respondents had developed projects or programmes related to the training. They also gave recommendations on what topics of the training they would like to attend and general recommendations for improving the learning of future participants. The feed back received would be taken into consideration while preparing and implementing the next South-South cooperation project in Thailand.

2. Training of Trainers: For 2004, two courses of "Training of Trainers" were designed in the work plan. However, the budget allocated for other Inter-Country Training/Workshops was over the expectation, only one training courses on "Training of Trainers" was conducted by AIT Extension of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in collaboration with TICA under financial support from UNFPA.

The aim of the "Training of Trainers" course is to upgrade the capacities and facilitation skills of professionals working for various Thai public health institutions. The benefit the participants gained from the course, i.e. knowledge and experiences could apply to their jobs, as trainers, resource persons, course organizers/coordinators as well as course managers. It is expected that these professionals who are specialists in reproductive health will support the South-South cooperation programme by organizing and delivering international training courses for participants from countries in the Asia and Pacific region.

The result of the course evaluation indicated that the course was successful in terms of achieving the objectives and expectations of the participants. The participants were satisfied with the learning environment created by the resource persons, facilitators and the course organizers. Furthermore, they were able to gain knowledge and experience from the resource persons and facilitators as well as through interaction with each other and with the course organizers. During the courses, networking among participants was

established that reflected the participants' interaction and eagerness to learn from their colleagues in their fields of interest.

3. Inter-country Workshop on Cross-Border Issues: The two-week workshop on "Prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs and Promotion of Reproductive Health among Cross-Border Population" was held during 15-26 March 2004 by the Bureau of AIDS, TB and STIs of the Department of Disease Control and Reproductive Health Division of the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health.

In organizing this workshop, the above two agencies received technical assistance from the College of Population studies, Chulalongkorn University and the UNFPA Country Technical Services Team (CST) in Bangkok. There were 17 representatives from 6 countries who participated in this workshop; namely Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand.

One major result gained from the workshop is a "Twin-City" projects on cross-border HIV/AIDS/STIs prevention and care as well as Family Planning and safe motherhood services from which the border populations on both sides with Thailand would benefit. In October 2004, UNFPA approved under UNFPA execution budget three six-month networking activities (October 2004 - March 2005) in Narathivat, Sakaeo and Ubon Ratchathani provinces. These networking activities have been implemented by the Provincial Public Health Offices at each province under the coordination of the International Cooperation Development Section of the AIDS Cluster, Bureau of AIDS, TB and Malaria, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health.

During the implementation of the third year of this project, some problems were encountered as follows:

1. Language proficiency (English) is a major factor for clear understanding and comprehension of the participants in each training course. Although UNFPA Country Offices in the respective participating countries had helped screen by interviewing the candidates from their countries, it was found that in many training courses organized under the programme, some selected participants from some countries had limited proficiency skills in English.

2. Late submission of the candidates' application forms to TICA, through the Thai Embassies, and the result of the interview from UNFPA in the respective countries caused delay in approval, travel arrangements and other related procedures. In many cases, even though the applicants had been informed by TICA to submit the interview form together

with their application forms for consideration, some nominees neglected to do so. In some cases, those applications were not accepted.

3. Important information, i.e. candidates' description of work and personal responsibility which were the main data for consideration in the selection process and telephone and fax numbers that TICA could use to contact them in case of emergency, was not given by some candidates in the application forms.

In the assessment of the project's performance and overall achievements, the results can be considered satisfactory, to a certain extent. The management and implementation of the project had been done through close partnership between TICA and UNFPA, i.e. meetings and site visits to the potential national institutions, meetings to identify appropriate courses and organizing partners as well as the revision of the budget. Although, some activities were implemented as planned, with problems and obstacles encountered along the way, there are many activities that could have been done to promote the South-South cooperation in the field of reproductive health and population in the region.

Additional opinions toward DTEC and South-to-South Cooperation's Activities from the UNFPA Assistant Representative as the officer who worked closely with the South-South Cooperation and Partners Programme in Thailand:

*With regard to the **implications and effects** of South-South Cooperation **on policy making, program design, program implementation, and human resource development** in the area of family planning and reproductive health, the Government through DTEC (presently TICA under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) has promoted South-South Cooperation with UNFPA on sharing the Thai experience on population and reproductive health issues including HIV/AIDS prevention with countries in the region and also to learn the experiences from other countries through technical meetings and training workshops. TICA has now extended its support in collaboration with UNDP on sharing the Thai experience with the African countries on HIV/AIDS. Invited African countries have come to learn the Thai experience in Thailand (GOs and NGOs) which will be sharing its experience with ten African countries on HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment at the national and community level in June 2005.*

The Ministry of Public Health has also been promoting South-South Cooperation with neighbouring countries (e.g. Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar) on health issues

through its North East Colleges Network (NECNET). Capacity building of the participants has also been strengthened through the various training courses, e.g. community health, nursing, etc.

Through the international training workshops and national Training of Trainers programme, capacity building of national programme managers, academic institutions and health service providers have been strengthened in conducting international workshops and programmes related to reproductive health and population issues.

*On the issue of **lessons learned** from the South-South Collaboration **to improve** the program, the following suggestions could be considered;*

- *Most of the selected Thai participants were rather passive and need to participate more actively in the training workshops. They also need to improve their communication skill in English.*

- *In the Cross Border HIV/AIDS Prevention and Promotion of RH activity with Sra Kaew, Ubon Ratchathani and Narathiwat and their counterparts in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Malaysia, the Thai participants could not fully implement their proposed project activities on time. This was due to their existing heavy work-load. Also, English was a problem as they could not submit their progress report in English as required.*

- *Some of the foreign participants could not communicate in English well. Many were not interviewed by the UNFPA Country Offices in the invited countries despite of the agreed procedures with the Royal Thai Embassies, the concerned government agencies in the invited countries and TICA.*

- *It is very difficult to evaluate the impact of the training workshops on the participants as less than half of the questionnaires sent to the participants were responded to.*

- *Further mechanisms are required for the concerned agencies to monitor and evaluate the impact of the South-South cooperation activities, e.g. training workshops, networking, etc.*

*The following are additional **suggestions** for further action by the **national government, agencies, foundations and NGOs** with respect to South-South Collaboration. It has been noted that announcement on South-South training workshops by the Royal Thai Embassies to their respective government counterpart agencies in the invited countries took time and there was much delay in receiving the applications on time. There were also communication problems along the process involving TICA, organizing institutions, Royal Thai Embassies and their counterpart government agencies, and the concerned UNFPA Offices. In the past there was hardly any problem because it was UNFPA Thailand and the UNFPA offices in the invited countries who contacted the government counterpart agencies to nominate the participants for DTEC and UNFPA Thailand to review. It was productive and successful for UNFPA Thailand to communicate with the UNFPA offices in the invited countries that knew very well the population and reproductive health situation and the concerned agencies more than the Royal Thai Embassies or their counterpart agencies. TICA insisted that the announcement has to be made through the Royal Thai Embassies and their counterpart agencies. So many problems continued as expected.*

Case Study Number 2:

Reproductive Health Division (formerly the Family Planning and Population Division (FP/PD), Department of Health (DoH), Ministry of Public Health

Organization Background:

Since the beginning of the establishment of the Partners in Population and Development (PPD): South-South Initiatives, Thailand, one of the founding country members and one of the Centers of Excellence has initiated a national network for South-South cooperation activities. The Department of Health (DoH) of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) acts as the focal institution for the Partners. Since 1995 the DoH has implemented activities as a member of Partners as well as devised plans to strengthen its capabilities to fulfill the Partners' objectives. (Reference # 3)

On the initiative of PCC, Thailand formed a high level National Executive Committee for South—South Cooperation and a set of sub-committee to provide guidance and assistance for the implementation of the activities. Institutes, agencies and experts involved in the South-South activities were identified to set up a network to strengthen capacity and sharing resources. The Committee's commitment is also to ensure a strong

relationship between **Partners'** activities (Reference # 5 and Reference # 3, 1999 Annual Report).

In addition, Thailand has given added momentum to the idea of international partnerships by converting a modest unit of dedicated individuals into a **Thai Center for South-South Initiative**. The Center is part of the formerly Family Planning and Population Division in the Ministry of Public Health and hence directly related to Thailand's work in the FP/RH/population development field. It cooperates with the university institutions, teaching hospitals, several ministries and other governmental entities, and numerous NGOs engaged in RH/FP (Reference # 2).

The Thai Center for South-South Initiative participated in the Inter-Regional Project on "South-South Cooperation: Support to Centers of Excellence in Population, Family Planning/ Reproductive Health". The Project is a joint venture of UNFPA and the Royal Thai Government. The Project was designed to help accelerate the global South-South Cooperation in the earlier mentioned fields by strengthening the capacity of the four Centers of Excellence countries (Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico and Tunisia), and facilitating more efficient mechanisms and arrangements for such cooperation. In addition, the Project had its main objectives to standardize the training curricular, methods and materials for international courses, as well as the quality of resource persons and trainers. It also aimed to set up and strengthen a network of training institutes offering international courses under the South-South Cooperation (such as management, recruitment and exchanging of trainees internationally and inter-regionally). To meet these objectives, a number of strategies were set up and evaluated. The Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTECT, presently TICA) is the project implementing agency and focal point while UNFPA provided financial and technical support. Under this Inter-regional Project, the DoH and other related institutions took part by contributing their respective fields of expertise (Reference # 3).

The Thai Center for South-South Initiative's Activities:

During the past decade (1994-2004), the Center for South-South Initiative has been strengthened to implement and support various activities in order to materialize the Center's objectives. Some of the examples of the activities are shown below:

Development of Training Curriculum and Facilities:

- *Prepared and published a directory of training courses, institutions and experts on population, training catalogues, pamphlets and materials, strengthening of training facilities, organizing the inter-country meetings to develop plan of action (Reference # 1).*
- *Prepared printed materials/documents for distribution to the trainees, visitors and other interested individuals (Reference # 5)*
- *Equipped the training facilities with audio and video systems (Reference # 5)*
- *Designed training courses for participants from China, Laos, and Myanmar including courses on IEC quality of care, STDs and HIV/AIDS prevention, and birth spacing (Reference # 2).*

Training Courses and Workshops:

- *Participated in the training courses and meetings to build up the required capacity of personnel involved in the South-South Cooperation and identify needs for technical assistance (Reference # 5)*
- *Organized the Training Workshop for Programme Managers on quality of Care in Reproductive Health for Participants from 10 countries in Asia (Reference # 5)*
- *Organized a Training programme on Birth Spacing Technology and Community Health*
- *Organized an International Training Workshop on Migration: Measurement and Impacts*
- *THA/00/P01 Training Course on South-South Cooperation in Reproductive Health and Population Issues: Thailand*
- *THA/02/P02 Preparatory Activities for the South-South Cooperation in Reproductive Health and Population Issues; Thailand*
- *THA/03/P04 Training Course on South-South Cooperation in Reproductive Health and Population Issues (Reference # 4)*
- *Collaborated with the College of Population Studies at Chulalongkorn University and has offered fellowships and conducted courses under the Global Leadership Programme (GLP) regional training programmes during 2002, 2003 on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS (Reference # 1).*

Observation Study Tours (OSTs):

- *Arrangement of inter-country observation and study tours (OSTs) and the briefings for visitors from neighboring countries.*
- *In 1989-90 alone, the Center conducted observation study tours for at least 400 visitors from various countries, mostly from Asia, as well as training courses for five groups of participants (reference # 2).*
- *During 1996-1997, arranged Observation and Study Tours (OTSs) on request lasting from 3-10 days and provided briefing to 344 participants and visitors from more than 10 countries from overseas (Reference # 5).*
- *In 1997, co-organized study visits for parliamentarians from developing countries (Reference # 1)*
- *In 1999, Thailand hosted numerous study tours of its RH program and organized an internal evaluation to improve the effectiveness of future study visits (Reference # 2).*

Meetings and Other Activities:

- *Inter-regional Project on South-South Cooperation: Support to the Center of Excellence on Population, Family Planning and Reproductive Health*
- *Organized the meeting (nine countries from East Asia participated), which proposed a work plan for South-South cooperation and assessed the needs for and availability of technical support in population and reproductive health activities as well as development strategies (Reference # 2).*
- *In 1997, the Ministry of Public Health conducted a project in collaboration with the private sector to address Thailand's Muslim adolescents' misconceptions about RH, pregnancy, contraception and HIV/AIDS (Reference # 1).*
- *In recent years, Thailand has greatly advanced in reproductive health concerns and shares its knowledge, experiences and technical skills with other developing countries within and outside Southeast Asia (Reference # 1).*
- *Established a twinning arrangement with Vietnam and offered technical expertise to improve quality of FP/RH care. It also entered into a partnership with Bangladesh to share its successful clinical delivery programme. Thailand and Indonesia conducted regional training in RH care and organized study visits to promote action (Reference #1).*
- *Shared Thailand's experience on HIV/AIDS and related issues with several member countries, in particular the 100% condom programme, the experience of Population*

Development Association (PDA) led by Senator Mechai Viravaidaya and the HIV/AIDS Business Coalition (Reference # 1).

Other activities under the Inter-regional Project on South-South Cooperation:

- *Hosted the Partner Executive Committee Meeting in Bangkok during March 2-6 1997*
- *Inter-Country Meeting on TCDC/South-South Cooperation*
- *Follow-up Technical Meeting*
- *POPLINE and Library Networking*
- *Training workshop for Programme Managers on Integration of Population into Development Planning*
- *Training Workshop for RH Programme Managers on Training Needs and Curriculum Development*
- *Training Workshop for RH Programme Managers on IEC Strategies and approaches with special reference to target groups such as male, adolescents etc.*
- *Training of Trainers,*
- *Training Workshop on Cross-Border Issues on Prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs and Promotion of Reproductive Health among Cross-Border Populations, and*
- *Sending Thai experts to other countries*
- *Co-organized a study visit for Australia and New Zealand Parliamentarians to Thailand and Vietnam during 17-25 July with the Asian Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. (Reference # 5)*

It was reported, however that during the period of 1996-1997 the Center for South-South Initiative was unable to embark progressively in achieving few essential milestones deemed necessary for enhancing its own role. These developmental activities include redesigning of the information unit and networking, linking data base with policy analysis and development planning, and establishing appropriate presentation facilities suitable for training and research (Reference # 5)

The Evaluation of Some of the DoH and South-South Cooperation Activities (1997, 2001) and Lessons Learned:

1. *A Training Workshop for Programme Managers on Quality of Care in Reproductive Health 20 October-November 1997*

Most of participants (21 from 10 countries) mentioned their future responsibilities and concerns on the following areas: MCH, HIV/AIDS integrated services, quality of care application; planning for health education programme and IEC programme, coordinating body consisting of district health officers and director of hospital, planning for counseling and antenatal care (ANC) clinic, and application of management concept of reproductive health.

It is strongly recommended that participants representing Go and NGO attending such an international training course must possess high standard of the English language proficiency in both written and verbal communication skill. This is so that the participants could actively participate in and take full advantage of discussions, queries, sharing of experience, understand lectures (Reference # 12, p.7)

2. *A South-South Training Workshop for Programme Managers on Prevention of STDs/HIV/AIDS (THA/00/P01) 20-31 August 2001*

The Workshop was organized by the Thai Medical Society for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Venereal Disease Division and Department of Health, MoPH. The overall training workshop was conducted with certain degree of success. At the end of the workshop, all participants (18 RH programme managers from 8 countries) had expressed their better understanding on STDs/HIV/AIDS and felt capable to develop or integrate an effective programme of STDs/HIV prevention and control into RH programme in accordance with their country situation and needs.

A few participants had problem in English proficiency especially verbal skill. This made them rarely participated in the classroom and had some problem in presenting their country paper (Reference # 12).

Additional Opinions toward the South-South Cooperation's Activities from officials of the Reproductive Health Division's Center of South-South Initiative:

It is quite obvious that there are a number of **implications and effects** of South-South Cooperation on **policy making, program design, program implementation, and human resource development** in the area of family planning and reproductive health.

- *Policy making: Through the South-South Cooperation programme, the*

Department of Health has the firm policy to support the international cooperation by setting up Thailand's Center for the South-South Initiatives under the responsibility of the Reproductive Health Division (RHD). This Center major's task is to coordinate the academic international cooperation on family planning and reproductive health issues.

- *Programme implementation: The RHD has carried out the South-South's activities according to the request, in addition to its own annual plans. Some of the activities were PPD Executive Committee Meeting, Partners Board Members Meeting, organizing of study tours, on the average of 35 groups (or about 500 participants) a year, organizing of international training workshops on the issues of safe motherhood, prevention of HIV/AIDS, quality of care etc.*

- *Programme design: The RHD has the policy on technology and knowledge transfer especially to the other developing countries. Based on this policy and international cooperation under the South-South Cooperation, and Thailand's success in reducing the transmission of HIV from mother to child, this knowledge and technology has been transferred to Cambodia for the first time.*

- *Human resource development: The RHD has sent personnel both from the government organizations and non-government organizations to attend or be trained abroad in the field of family planning and reproductive health to develop human resources. During 1998-2003, 41 persons were funded under this human resource development programme, and have returned to work more effectively in their respective organizations. On the other hand, the South-South Cooperation has provided a chance for Thailand, as one among the few Centers of Excellence in Family Planning and Population, to share their experiences and expertise through various activities, with a large number of personnel in these fields from many other developing countries in the region and other parts of the world. These trained personnel, can later on also share their experiences with others as well as improve their work to be more efficient.*

*With regard to **lessons learned** from the South-South Collaboration to share in order **to improve** the program, they are as follows;*

- *In organizing the study tours for foreign participants according to requests, It is noted that quite often the requests have been given on short notice. This makes it very difficult for the RHD's officials to arrange the programmes, making contact with experienced resource persons who are always occupied with many other commitments. As a result, the RHD coordinating officials sometimes cannot perform their best to serve the objectives of the request. The requests for organizing the study tours mostly concentrate during the month of October to January. To get the best result of this activity and provide sufficient time for the responsible official, the request should be spread more evenly throughout the year.*

- *English proficiency is the most important channel for the communication between the providers and recipients, and to produce the best results. However, the fact is that among a few members of staff who work in the RHD's Center for South-South Initiative, English fluency (in both writing and speaking) is still a major obstacle for them to offer the assistance at full scale. Additional staff cannot be hired to support the program due to the limitation of the budget. To overcome this obstacle, it is important that the Center's officials be trained intensively in English communication to improve the quality of the Programme.*

In addition, the officials who work at the provincial or district levels are usually well experienced in their jobs who otherwise, if their English was good, could well share the knowledge and experiences they have. Because of the language deficiency, more often these experienced officials refuse to receive foreign visitors who want to learn as well. On the contrary, the personnel who are more fluent in the language are usually not free to participate in the study program. To alleviate the burden of local officials and to solve the lose-lose situation (between the provider and the recipient), the RHD's staff have to act as interpreters or translators which adds more burden to them.

- *Due to the fact that the officials at the district or provincial levels are often changed, the continuity in arrangement of the study tour programme is often interrupted. To solve this problem and to improve the local officials' ability, the RHD organized various kinds of training program on 'Efficient Presentation' or ' Best practice for receiving foreign visitors'. However, the training program of this kind cannot be conducted too often due to limitations of budget.*

- *It is felt that, some of high level administrators do not give much attention to the Center's programmes, do not sufficiently participate in the Center's activity, and place this task at a lower priority. This has resulted in smaller budget allocated to the Center's activity.*

*The additional **suggestions** are also made for further actions by the **national government, agencies, foundations and NGOs** with respect to South-South Collaboration.*

- *Budget and supplementary funding is the most essential and necessary factor for operating the international cooperation programmes, especially for the developing countries. With this condition, it is necessary that the funding agency take the matter into consideration in supporting developing countries to help share their best experiences and practices among each other.*

- *There should be a regular or annual meeting among the international cooperation networking organizations; both government and non-government to share or exchange update information among each other. The regular meeting would help in creating closer interaction and strengthening cooperation among the networking members.*

- *There should be a joint research study on Reproductive Health, and coordination among the developing countries in sharing or transferring knowledge and technology in the area of Family Planning and Reproductive Health*

- *It is important that the high level administrators give more attention and allocate more funding to support the operation of the Programme.*

- *It is essential that human resource development (ie. officials who work in the international cooperation program) is given high priority in order that these personnel can work more efficiently in assisting or providing advice for those who need it.*

Case Study Number 3:

College of Population Studies (CPS), Chulalongkorn University

Organization Background:

Originally, the CPS was established as the Population Research and Training Center (PRTC) in early 1966 to serve as an autonomous research and training unit of Chulalongkorn University. The PRTC gained higher status and was renamed as the Institute of Population Studies (IPS) in 1977. In order to serve the rapid changes in socio-economic and demographic trends in both research and training aspects. The Institute of Population has offered an MA program in Demography since 1967, and later on it also offered a Ph.D. Program in Demography (both for Thai and International programs). In 1998, the IPS was once gain upgraded in status to acquire its present name of the College of Population Studies (CPS). Three major functions of the CPS are as follows:

- 1. To promote public and official awareness, interest, and knowledge concerning population matters in Thailand;*
- 2. To train persons in Thailand and other countries to conduct demographic research and to utilize demographic materials in both applied and scientific spheres; and*
- 3. To provide consultative and information services to the public, the scientific community and government officials and agencies.*

CPS and South-to-South Initiative's Activities during 2002, and 2003:

Partners Global Leadership Development Program with Special Focus on Prevention and Control of STDs and HIV/AIDS: A Course for Senior and Mid-Level Program Managers 2002, 2003 (implemented by College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University in collaboration with the Family Planning and Population Division [later change to Reproductive Health Division], Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health).

Background of the Programme:

It is well recognized that Thailand has been successful in controlling the STDs incidence and HIV prevalence. The strong commitment and close collaboration of all parties involved are a vital contribution to this success. In addition, the initiation of various campaigning programmes such as promotion of 100% condom use, safer sex behavior, improvement of quality of care, and better access to services have proved to be

highly effective for curbing the STDs incidence and HIV epidemic. The experiences from Thailand could be important lessons to be learned and shared with other countries where STDs and HIV/AIDS have recently become a health threat and socio-economic problems.

The Training Workshop on Prevention and Control of STDs and HIV/AIDS organized for the middle level program managers is aimed to improved knowledge and create better understanding of complexity of the issues and their impacts on economic-social, cultural and psychological dimensions. In addition, the Workshop should be the floor for sharing information and country's experiences on how the STDs and HIV/AIDS could be well managed within the limited resources both financial and manpower.

After the Training Workshop, the trained health personnel are expected to be able to apply lessons learned and to appropriately implement intervention measures to fight effectively against STDs and HIV/AIDS in their own countries. The Training Workshop is also expected to strengthen the South-to-South Cooperation, and create the close network among the participating countries, in addition to the leadership strengthening under the Partners Global Leadership development Programme.

In the 2002 Training Workshop, 23 participants attended, and in the 2003 Training Workshop, 24 participants attended.

CPS and South-to-South Collaboration's Activities in 2004:

South-South Cooperation Training Workshop on Prevention of Reproductive Health among Cross-Border population (THA/03/P04) (Implemented by CPS in collaboration with the UNFPA, DTEC and Department of Disease Control). There were 17 participants from 6 countries, neighbors to Thailand who took part in this Workshop.

(The details of this Training Workshop Program has already been discussed in the section above. Please see the discussion provided above under DTEC mission with South-South Cooperation, page 10 of this report)

The Evaluation and Feedback on the CPS and South-South Cooperation Training Programmes and Lessons Learned:

After the Training Workshops ended, the evaluations were made on the impacts of the training programs on both the organizing institutes and on participants in terms of the increasing of capacity in manpower development (on the side of providers and recipients).

For the part of Workshop participants, based on their detailed feedback on three major issues posed to them, there are a lot of implications that could be very useful for the improvement of the future programmes carried out by the South-South Cooperation.

On the side of organizing institute as a provider:

1. General Observation on the Impacts of the program:

With regard to the conducting of GLP Training programme under South-South Initiative, it is felt that the GLP Program, generally has given a chance for developing countries in collaboration with the more developed countries, through the training program, to develop a new or younger generation of leaders in the field of Family Planning and Reproductive Health and other related fields to be working in their own countries more efficiently. Indirectly, the improvement in knowledge and learning of new technology through the training programme helps in strengthening the organizations where the participants belong as well. The contribution from invited experienced resource persons were great and beneficial for many participants who lack work and research experiences in handling problems related to prevention and control of STDs and HIV/AIDS. At the same time, the provider institutes have benefited professionally and technically through the inter-institutional and intra-country collaboration in the process of implementing the GLP courses in the institute.

The training gives a chance for all parties involved to work together, sharing information, exchanging experts and developing closer communication among each other. In addition, organizing the training Workshop, if done regularly, will help to strengthen the capacity of the provider institutes in many ways such as updating knowledge and technology necessary for the training, improving the training capacity of its manpower (as resource persons or training organizers, programme co-ordinators), improving itself in the aspects of technical and management (how to set up the training curriculum and programme more effectively, what kind of procedure should be taken to screen the applicants, how to ensure full participation of the participants in both attendance and discussion, and how to solve all logistic problems which could interrupt the training program.

However, in running the GLP Training programme, although Thailand has full expertise in the respective areas (population, FP/RH and related fields) the organizers have always encountered with the difficulty that the identified or invited resource persons

are always occupied with many other commitments. This makes it more difficult in arranging the 'real' experts to meet and share their knowledge with the participants.

On the side of participants, there is one serious problem that every inter-country training programmes has faced and is mentioned in every report. This is the English proficiency of participants. To ensure the participants' full participation in the training course, there should be some other effective way to 'test for the English proficiency (speaking, writing and comprehension). The selection of participants to attend such training course should be based on 'merit system', not on the idea of 'rewarding' for some officials to travel abroad. This way, the participants and the training programme could be both beneficial and the real objectives of the training programme be fulfilled.

2. Recommendations for Future Action and sustainability of the collaboration:

With regard to the issue of how to ensure the sustainability of the Program, it is realized that many of the providing institutes are expected to plan for achieving sustainability over the period of time so that they can run short-term courses but without the partial support from the funding agency such as PPD to cover costs of the training, it is rather uncertain that this objective will be fulfilled. For instance, the CPS runs its regular academic and training programs with support from the Thai Government and University budget as well as from tuition fees. Apart from these sources, the CPS has no other resources to support the additional programs.

Based on the experience in organizing the three training Workshops, it is recommended that for the best benefit of participants who attended the training, they should be required to consolidate and develop the action plan with regard to the issues they are trained. This action plan should be, or expected to be translated into practice when participants return home as a result of their training attendance. More importantly, there should be some ways for the funding agency or the training institute to follow up the participants after returning home, to ascertain whether they are able to make use or utilize the knowledge they learned from the training in any way. On the other hands, to gain best benefits for participating training institutes and participants, Partners should continuously review and evaluate the training programs for the improvement of the training course. In relation to a continuous evaluation of the training programme, Partners should encourage and support the exchange of visits among training institutes so that a close network could be formed and more updated information shared.

The close communication could help cut down the overlapping training context or programme which would help save a large amount of financial resources of all parties involved.

Lastly, it is recommended that Partners should support or strengthen the network of participants attending the GLP or other South-to-South training programmes to be able to share information or knowledge among these participants. In some cases, Partners should also provide technical support or assistance when requested. However, it might be difficult to realize this recommendation since the major obstacle in maintaining the strong network between participants and the funding organizations is the language and ability to communicate as already mentioned above.

Additional Opinions toward South-South Cooperation's Activities:

From the Training Workshop Resource Person:

*With regard to the **implications and effects** of South-South Cooperation programmes that have been carried out in Thailand for about 10 years **on policy making, program design, program implementation, and human resource development** in the area of family planning and reproductive health, it is clear that the South-South Cooperation programme on the subject of family planning and reproductive health is highly effective in enhancing knowledge and building capacity of the participants in the region. In view of the diversity of the region in the area of health and development, fertility and reproductive health, including family planning, to name a few, the South-South Cooperation programme gives the participants a unique experience to learn from each other and use this experience in policy making and programme implementation.*

*On the issue of **lessons learned** from the South-South Collaboration to share in order to **improve** the program, as the participants were drawn from various countries representing Government and non-governmental organization, they can learn a great deal from the resource persons as well as from each other by sharing and exchanging knowledge in the field of family planning and reproductive health.*

The suggestions are also made for further actions by the national government, agencies, foundations and NGOs with respect to South-South Collaboration. Since the South-South Cooperation programme is highly cost-effective and it should be supported

by the national government, agencies, foundations and NGO's. This programme should also focus on other areas, such as capacity-building in demographic analysis, integrating population and development and creating awareness on the emerging issue of population ageing and international migration.

From the Training Workshop Participants:

After the GLP Training Workshop 2004, all participants were requested to provide their opinion on a few issues as follows: What are lessons learned from the Training Workshop? What is their perspective plan of action with regard to HIV/AIDS control under their responsibility? What are their suggestions for course improvement? The following are (edited) responses from some selected participants (as examples of the feedback from programme participants)

Case number 1 (a participant from Bangladesh):

On the issue of lessons learned:

I have learned about the current situation of HIV/AIDS in South and South East Asia, and how to deal with PLWHAs. Every country should have developed the hospice for PLWHAs like in Thailand. I have also learned that PLWHAs have equal rights to live and die like the other people in the society, and how we can help them to live without social discrimination and stigmatization.

On the issue of prospective plan of action:

After receiving the training, I will give information to my clients on risk behavior and will also try to ensure of her/his condom use for prevention of HIV/AIDS. I will also share my knowledge to all my colleague so that they can contribute to fight against HIV/AIDS.

On the issue of suggestion for training improvement:

The resource persons of the course were excellent. We have learned a lot of things from their interesting and useful presentation. The organizer and staff are hard working and polite. So that we have no problem at all.

Case number 2 (a participant from Lao PDR):

On the issue of lessons learned:

After following many presentations from resource persons, and sharing experiences with participants, I have learned many new things such as research

methodology, data collection and analysis, policy and strategy development, advocacy development and activity creation. All presentations from resource persons were very valuable and useful for me. It enhanced my knowledge and answered the questions which I had before. The field visits are also very useful and create new feelings, new knowledge for me. After some field visits, I have got new ideas and understand that HIV/AIDS Control program is a social burden. The multi-sectoral policy and strategy are the best ways to fight with AIDS, and with international cooperation and collaboration, we can stop HIV/AIDS in the future.

On the issue of prospective plan of action:

After I return to my homeland, I will adapt the new knowledge and new experiences into my current work on HIV/AIDS control Program in my province. I plan to develop new activities, and new study on HIV/AIDS situation and behavior of the people in my province. I understand that it is not easy for me to do that, but I believe that with the experience of Thailand, and other countries in the region, I can reach my goal.

On the issue of suggestion for training improvement:

The course runs very good and successfully. All the organizing and resource persons are very good and friendly. Course arrangement, guest reception, field visits are perfect. In the future, one or two years, a Workshop for training alumni should be considered. This is because the alumni will have the opportunity to report or review their own activities after the training to the GLP, and share their experiences with the resource persons, and among participants themselves.

Case Number 3 (a group of participants from China):

On the issue of lessons learned:

On behalf of Chinese participants, many thanks to CPS< Chulalongkorn University, Ministry of Public Health, and Partners in Population and Development Global Leadership Program (GLP) for the very successful Workshop on Prevention and Control on STDs and HIV/AIDS. From the Workshop, we have further understood the situation of STDs and HIV/AIDS in the world including prevalence, trends and potential factors and co-factors of STDs, HIV/AIDS, strategies for prevention, program management, monitoring and evaluation. By the presentations of participants from each country, we could learn from each other and possibly form a new network of HIV/AIDS prevention on South-to-South Cooperation basis.

The most important thing, we have learned here is the STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention experiences in Thailand by integrating Gos, NGOs, research institutes and communities. The professors, lecturers, project managers from organizations mentioned above here fully gave us a lot of examples/ paradigms on STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention from the point of physiology, biology, epidemiology, psychology, statistics and social science. Their dedication to STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention here also deeply impressed us. Some field visits such as the Thai Red Cross Society AIDS Anonymous Clinics, Temple in Wat Phra Bat Nam phu, Lopburi province, and Population and Community Development Association and Mercy Center have enhanced what we have learned from the lectures.

China is seriously facing the fighting STDs/HIV/AIDS now. There are 1 million PLWHAs estimated by the Government. We need to/ have to/ must fight against HIV/AIDS. We have a different situation from Thailand, but we could still learn a lot from you, from your workshop. We would like to come to Thailand again to learn from you, to get your help and to exchange the experiences of the anti-AIDS with you.

On the issue of prospective plan of action:

We would like to have some Workshops on STDs/HIV/AIDS Prevention in China once we return China. We will contribute all we have learned here to our country to strengthen the capacity to prevent STDs/HIV/AIDS to set up collaboration anti/AIDS network among Gos, NGOs, institutes and communities as well as general population

On the issue of suggestion for training improvement:

After many discussions, we think there are “3 more and 3 less points” in the Workshop: 1) Firstly, there are more general introduction of projects programs on STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention but less introduction of monitoring and evaluation. We do think you must have some good paradigms on monitoring and evaluation. It will be better if you could tell us how to monitor, how to evaluate and how to apply the results of the program to the policy-making using a simple sample. 2) Secondly, there are more introduction of various kinds of projects on programmes, but less introduction of the priority, weakness or barriers and strategies to overcome these barriers in each projects. If we apply some of your experiences to China or other countries, we need to know or understand them in advance. 3) Thirdly, there are more lectures in classroom but less field visits of STDs/HIV/AIDS related facilities. Most participants considered the lectures from field visits as the successful lectures. We do think that it will be better if we could have a true field visit there. We have come to Thailand 2-4 times for collaborating work and workshops. Each time we got deeper impression on RH and HIV/AIDS in Thailand,

especially the temple in Lop Buri Province which has successfully integrated religion with AIDS care and support. In the temple, we have had not only a good lecture but also a true/real field visit.

Case Number 4 (a participant from Thailand):

On the issue of lessons learned:

My knowledge of HIV/AIDS was in a limited extent. However, after the training Workshop, I understand HIV/AIDS more in depth. I learned how the virus develops in human being and reduces CD4 in the body. The epidemic occurs within sectors and cross-sectors and so cross the nations. This is why the number of infected people has been increasing and becomes the world's problem. The most important point I learned was about the risk behaviors. The resource persons also provided a lot of data on HIV/AIDS situation in Thailand. The stages of development on HIV/AIDS prevention were pointed out. The main focus is on sexual transmission because people have developed a civilization and globalization, which includes sex trade. Today, people understand the importance of HIV/AIDS prevention. Movements and actions occur among Gos, NGOs, business sectors, and religion sector. They even show coordination of different organizations and sectors. They provided support and program to dissemination of information, as well as the medical, social, and counseling services.

On the issue of prospective plan of action:

I will apply what I have learned from the Workshop to my areas of work. I work as a project coordinator. Therefore, planning, monitoring, evaluations and strategies are essential for me. Research before the intervention must be implemented. The monitoring and evaluation should be integrated throughout the project so that we would know if it is worth or not. Network is also important to have good coordination and it should be created among peer educators, Go and NGOs in the community. This would help in programme management through community-based organizations, so that every province can develop their provincial plan and strategies.

On the issue of suggestion for training improvement:

The Workshop is well planned and well prepared. I really appreciate all the staff for providing or arranging schedules which would benefit participants to the great extent. The Workshop could be more concise if the overlapping contents (from many presentations) can be eliminated. Participants would generate their thinking and innovation more if there were more group discussions.

Case Study Number 4:

***The Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT) under the Patronage of
H.R.H the Princess Mother***

Organization Background:

The Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT) is a private non-profit and non-political association. Established on 14 April 1970, about a month after the declaration of the national population policy in Thailand (17 March 1970) by a working group of volunteers (composed of government officials, businessmen, social workers and physicians) registered as The Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT). These volunteers helped draft an operational structure that would be able to provide family planning information education and services to the interest public even in the absence of Government policy approximately two years prior to the Government's acceptance of voluntary family planning as a principal population policy instrument.

After the official recognition of family planning, PPAT has been one of the leading NGOs in providing supportive and complementary role in Government's family planning efforts. Most notable of all, PPAT is the only family planning related NGO in Thailand which has been granted permission to operate under the patronage of Her Royal Highness the Princess Mother. In addition, PPAT is today the only family planning association in Thailand to be a full member of the London-based International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Since its establishment in 1970, the PPAT has performed its tasks and provided services in the areas of family planning information, education and services in collaboration with the Government agencies. All these services are meant for the benefit of Thai society as a whole. Since 1984, the PPAT has increased its contacts, and is well connected with the international organizations in various capacities in the areas of family planning and reproductive health. One of the many services that PPAT continuously carried out with other developing countries in the region is the training and technical support (Reference# 11).

The following are few among many training programmes that were carried out by the PPAT during the past decade, which well reflected their expertise in the areas of family planning and reproductive health in collaboration with international organizations.

- *Training on program management on Population, Reproductive Health and family planning in Vietnam (July 1996-2000)*
- *Workshop for Reproductive Health Programme managers on IEC Strategies and Approaches with Special Reference to Target Groups (February 1998) Under the Inter-Regional project on South-South Cooperation (INT/96/P03)*
- *Inter-regional Project on South-South Cooperation Support to Centres of Excellence in Population, Family Planning/Reproductive Health (INT/96/P03)*
- *Assessment of Capacity of the Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT) for South-South Partnership (1998)*
- *South-South Cooperation Support Training Workshop on IEC in Action for Reproductive Health Programme (August 1999)*
- *Education on HIV/AIDS Prevention for Women in Lao PDR and Cambodia (Mekong Sub-region HIV/AIDS Small grants Facility: SGF) (July-December 1999), and (July 1999-June 2000)*
- *Seminar/Field Study on Strengthening Advocacy for Increasing ODA Funds to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand (November-December 1999)*
- *Training on Advocacy for Family Planning Australia (FPA)'s HIV/AIDS Program Initiatives (October 2000-March 2001), (July 2001-December 2001),(August 2002), and (December 2003)*
- *Increasing Rural Women Project (RWP)'s IEC Needs in Reproductive and Family Health (January 2001)*
- *Advocacy for integration of reproductive Health and Family Planning to the Environmental Program among the GO/NGOs in Southeast Asian Countries (June-November 2001)*
- *Empowerment of Women through Strengthening Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Programmes of NGOs in Asia (April 2001-March 2004)*
- *Project on "Bridge of Hope" (HIV/AIDS prevention through BCC) for construction workers of the Second Mekong Bridge and people in surrounding communities*

The Evaluation of Some of the PPAT and South-South Cooperation Programmes and Lessons Learned:

1. Inter-Regional Projects on South-South Cooperation Support to Centres of Excellence in Population, Family Planning/Reproductive Health (INT/96/03):

Under this activity, there were two training workshops; Training Workshop for RH Programme Managers on IEC Strategies and Approaches with Special Reference to Target Groups (1998) with 21 participants attended, and Training Workshop for IEC in Action for RH Programme (1999) with 17 participants attended.

For both Training Workshops, almost all participants rated 'high to very high scores on many aspects. The participants learned IEC experiences on Fh/RH from other countries. They learned that a good relationship between GOs and NGOs is an important strategy. When asked what immediate action would be taken when they returned home, many participants indicated that they would plan and implement one project using IEC strategies and approaches with special reference to target groups. The 'benefits of this training' will be discussed with their superior, and staff. Some had planned to develop the IEC materials, programme performance, counseling activities, RH service and STD/HIV prevention programme.

However, they think the training period was too short and it would be more meaningful if there were more field observations. For many, too high technology used in producing the IEC materials is not realistic for many countries. It was suggested that PPAT should either play a guiding role for some countries activities or develop some kind of joint project implementation. The common problem faced by many training programmes is English proficiency of participants that has obstructed their learning process from comprehending the lectures as well as to learn about other countries' experiences.

2. Assessment of Capacity of the Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand for South-South Partnership (1998):

The objective of the assessment aims for providing opportunity to both PPAT and the International Council on Management of Population Programmes (ICOMP) for improvement of the capacity of the member agencies in the South-South Partnership. The assessment was divided into 2 components: Programme and Organization Characteristics, and Capacity for South-South Partnership.

During the time of the assessment (1998), PPAT carried out 10 projects covering almost all of the national reproductive health and family planning programmes except the prevention and treatment of infertility. The services covered many target groups especially the rural population and minority groups. In performing these tasks, PPAT is well recognized by many donor agencies which provided support for PPAT projects.

With regard to PPAT capacity for South-South Partnership, the assessment indicated that PPAT is capable in providing support to neighboring countries under South-South Partnership in many areas including training in the fields of family planning, reproductive health HIV/AIDS, providing support in IEC material production, carrying out the operational research. In addition, networking is the key to success of PPAT's operation by inviting other agencies concerned with the project to participate in project management as project coordination committee.

Additional Opinions on the South-South Cooperation Programme from the view point of PPAT high level administrator:

*On the issue of the **implications and effects** of South-South Cooperation, in general, on **human resource development, and capacity building** for personnel working in the area of family planning and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS, the South-South Collaboration programme provided opportunity for personnel in agencies working for RH and HIV to share experiences which are more practical than receiving from the northern or western countries. Populations in the same region have similar cultural backgrounds. The developing countries have similar problems related with RH/HIV such as high rates of illiteracy, poverty, corrupted government agencies which result in resources provided for RH/HIV not reaching people. Under such circumstances the agencies in the south know how to survive and serve needs of people better than the northern countries. Thus, experience sharing among the southern countries is more practical.*

Two staff of PPAT participated in the Training Workshop on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS organized by the CPS during 2002 and 2003. After the training, their knowledge in HIV/AIDS has improved and they were able to become resource persons and provide SRH/HIV training to many population groups.

*With regard to **lessons learned** from the South-South Collaboration to **improve***

the program, it is perceived that South-South Cooperation is difficult for agencies in the South because of many factors involved. For instance, language barrier in presenting and receiving information, lack of resources in travelling to meet partners, short course training helps to improve understanding of ways to solve problems but sometime not enough to create skill. Internship can help to solve this problem.

*Suggestions are also offered **for further actions** by the national government, agencies, foundations and NGOs with respect to South-South Collaboration. Agencies in the Southern countries are usually lack resources to implement programs and lack support from the government to go out to learn from other neighboring countries. Travelling abroad is sometimes viewed as rewarding. Thus the government nominates staff who are not relevant to the training program and the training becomes wasted. This situation should be improved.*

The further evaluation of the South-South Cooperation programme is needed, with support from the PPD or the South-South, as one of the programs in ICPD on its relation to PPAT, one of the oldest non-government organizations in Thailand. Generally, it is found that the output from PPD has been quite disappointing as they rely mostly on the donor's support and the government partners. The PPD is set up to enhance the cooperation of NGO to NGO, and having GOs as partners. The PPD is meant to be apart from regular UNFPA system although it was initiated by the UNFPA during the time of Dr. Nafis Sadik. It was a great mistake that almost all the board members of PPD are representatives from Government organizations. Therefore, all resource allocation is Gos priority, and most of the programmes supported by the PPD, are GOs implemented. NGO agencies, which are involved in population and development or ICPD, and Reproductive Health programme hardly know about the PPD.

The big question is what progress has PPD made to enhance South-South Cooperation among our neighboring countries? As the result of PPD, has the status of the NGOs been improved in the UN Meeting. PPD has contributed to some extent to Thailand in the area of population development, family planning and reproductive health but rather minimal compared to other international agencies .

V. Conclusion and Discussion:

The report on “Documentation of Capacity Development Initiative through South-South Collaboration” using Thailand as a case study, researches and documents experiences gained and lessons learned in capacity development through South-South collaboration carried out in Thailand during the past 10 years (1994-2004). The report identifies and examines the contribution of various activities carried out under the South-South Cooperation Programme including those related to technology transfer and know-how, toward strengthening and building national capacity and capability for family planning and reproductive health.

Thailand is one among 10 founding county members of the Partners in Population and Development (PPD), South-South Initiative. Thailand is also selected to be one, among a few, of Centres of Excellence in the area of population and development especially in the areas of Family Planning and Reproductive Health. In relation to this cause, Thailand signed up to PPD South-South Collaboration’s mission and goals to promote dialogue and collaboration on various issues including FP/RH.

In supporting its commitment, Thailand set up the Thai Centre for the South-South Initiative to initiate activities and programmes related to the South-South Collaboration’s missions. In addition, the national Executive Committee for South-South Cooperation and a set of sub-committees, were established to provide guidance and assistance for the implementation of the activities by the Centre. Institutes, agencies and experts involved in the South-South activities were also identified to set up the network to strengthen capacity and sharing resources. In addition, the Thai Centre for South-South Initiative participated in the Inter-regional Project on South-South Cooperation. The Project provides support to Centres of Excellence in Population, Family Planning and Reproductive Health. They are in part a joint endeavour of UNFPA and Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC, presently TICA), the sole authorized organization in Thailand responsible for coordination and cooperation for development.

This report gathers information, both primary and secondary sources, from four major organizations (GOs and NGOs) namely the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC), Office of the Prime Minister, Reproductive Health Division, Department of Health of Ministry of Public Health, College of Population Studies,

Chulalongkorn University, and the Planned Parenthood Association in Thailand. These organizations are closely involved with South-South Cooperation's various activities and programmes in the areas of population and development such as family planning and reproductive health have been carried out since 1994 to the present time. In addition, about 10 individual key informants who are programme providers and resource persons associated with South-South cooperation in different capacities are requested to share their views or comments toward implications and impacts of South-South Cooperation on policy making, program design, program implementation and human resource development in the areas of family planning and reproductive health in Thailand. In addition, in their opinions, what are the lessons learned from South-South Cooperation to improve the programmes? What are their suggestions for further action by the national government, agencies, foundation and NGOs with respect to South-South Cooperation?

The requests for opinions were also sent out to about 10 participants in various countries who are program recipients ever attended the Training Workshop at the CPS, Chulalongkorn University during 2002 and 2003. They are also asked to provide their opinions on the issues similar to what are asked of the individual program providers and resource persons. In addition, they are also asked about their contribution of knowledge or sharing of experiences with the colleagues after receiving the training under the South-South Cooperation and whether the training helped improve their working performance or to facilitate the work carried out by their institutions.

For this group, however, none of them returned their responses. Half of the non-returned responses were due to the changes of E-mail address. The remaining non-responses are suspected to be a result of the difficulty in communicating in English as appeared during the Training sessions. In order to supplement the absence of responses of this group, the author, therefore counted mostly on the secondary sources of information which include reports from various training workshops, the programme evaluations, and feedback from participants while they were attending the training sessions.

Major South-South Cooperation Activities and Programmes in Thailand:

To reach the South-South Collaboration's mission and goals, during the past decade (1994-2004), Thailand has committed itself in implementing or carrying out South-South Cooperation programmes and activities through close collaboration among GOs, NGOs and some private agencies. These activities and programmes can be classified into 3 major sets as follow; The first set of South-South activities aims directly on capacity

building and human and institutional development. The second set aims to provide technical assistance or transfer knowledge from Thailand to neighboring countries, and the third set of activities aims to facilitate the South-South operational process and to promote the South-South Cooperation activities.

Implications and Impact of South-South Cooperation Programme on Capacity

Development, Thailand and Its Partners:

Based on the opinions of the interviewed individuals who are closely associated with the South-South Cooperation Programme in Thailand, and reports/documents from case study organizations especially the programme evaluation received from programme recipients, the findings point out to the same 'positive direction'. That is, the South-South Cooperation programmes, in close collaboration with the Thai Government, have contributed a great deal on capacity building, human and institutional development at both national, and institutional and individual levels during the past 10 years (1994-2004).

At the national level:

The South-South Cooperation Programme provides a chance for developing countries in collaboration with the more developed countries through various programmes and activities.

It can be said that the Thai Government, through DTEC (presently TICA), many Divisions under the Ministry of Public Health and NGOs, has worked closely through various mechanisms with many donor agencies on sharing its positive experiences, lessons learned in population and development with countries in the region as a means to promote South-South Collaboration. Through these activities, capacity building of the national programmes, managers, academic institutions and health service providers have been strengthened. In many ways, the Programme's assistance has large impacts on policy making, programme design, programme implementation, and human resource development especially in the areas of family planning and reproductive health.

At the institutional and individual levels:

It is quite obvious that both institutions and individuals either as a programme provider or recipient, are mutually beneficial from the South-South Programme.

At the institutional level: The Programme helps strengthening the capacity of the provider institutions. By organizing the training courses, workshops or observation study tours on a more regular basis, the institutes will keep updating themselves on new knowledge and technology necessary for the training. The activities help as well to improve the training capacity of its manpower (as resource persons or training organizers) in various aspects such as technical issues and management. For instance, they will learn how to set up the training curriculum and programme more effectively: What kind of procedures should be taken to screen the applicants? How to ensure the full participation of the participants in both attendance and discussion? How to solve all logistic problems that might interrupt the training program?

In addition, the course organizers from some training workshops noted that the Programmes have strengthened their institutions and technical capacity in training as well as gaining of knowledge from sharing of information and experiences with participants who come from different social and cultural backgrounds. In some cases, the networking among institutions in various member countries has been initiated through exchange of experts and resource persons in teaching or research.

At the individual level: South-South Cooperation Programme has given the individual participants who attended any of the South-South activities, a unique experience to learn from each other, and to use this experience in policy-making and program implementation.

As participants are drawn from various countries representing GOs and NGOs, it is believed that they can learn a great deal from resource persons as well as sharing and exchanging knowledge through interaction with each other, and with the course organizers, in the fields of family planning and reproductive health as well as other related fields. During the courses, networking among participants was to some extent established which reflected the participants' interaction and eagerness to learn from their colleagues in their field of interest. In the 6-month follow-up questionnaire (carried out by UNFPA/TICA) to monitor the progress and impact of the courses, even though response from the participants was below expectation, the respondents, in general gave favorable feedback on the courses. All of the respondents stated that they had learned many important things from the training workshops and had made use of the knowledge and experiences gained in various aspects. A number of the respondents had developed projects or programmes related to the training. They also gave recommendations on what

topics of the training they would like to attend and general recommendations for improving the learning of future participants.

In Thailand, it has been quite obvious that personnel in the GOs and NGOs who are funded to be trained either in Thailand or abroad under the human resource development or capacity building programmes of South-South Cooperation, have returned to work more effectively in their respective organizations.

VI. Lessons Learned:

It is generally agreed that the South-South Cooperation Programmes implemented in Thailand for about a decade (1994-2004) in close collaboration with the Thai Government through various agencies; GOs and NGOs, has contributed a great deal on human and institutional development and capacity building, especially in the areas of family planning and reproductive health and other related fields. At the same time, the mission and goals set together under the South-South Cooperation are fulfilled. However, there are many lessons to be learned from the Programme implementation for future improvement. The followings are some lessons learned identified by the interviewed individuals, and as they appeared in the documents.

1. Relationship between South-South Cooperation and NGO:

The evaluation of the South-South Cooperation Programme with the support from the PPD or the South-South as one of the programs in ICPD on what is related to the NGOs (for instance, a case of PPAT). Generally, it is found that the output from PPD has been quite disappointing as they rely mostly on the donor's support and the government partners.

The PPD is set up to enhance the cooperation of NGO to NGO, and having GOs as partners. As initiated by UNFPA, the PPD is meant to be apart from regular UNFPA system. It was a great mistake that almost all the board members of PPD are representatives from Government organizations. Therefore, all resource allocation is GOs priority, and most of the programmes supported by the PPD are GOs implemented. NGO agencies, which are involved in population and development or ICPD and Reproductive Health programme, hardly know about the PPD.

The big question is what progress has PPD made to enhance South-South Cooperation among Thailand's neighboring countries? As the result of PPD, has the

status of the NGOs been improved in the UN Meeting? PPD has contributed to some extent to Thailand in the area of population development, family planning and reproductive health but rather minimal compared to other international agencies.

2. Impacts of the South-South Cooperation Programmes:

It has been clear from almost every training programme that it is difficult to evaluate the impacts of South-South Cooperation activities. As the major activities of the project were training courses, it is difficult to assess clear and concrete impacts of these activities at the country level, once the participants returned to their respective countries. In one of the follow-up surveys, less than half or none of the questionnaire sent to them were returned. The only feedback received usually are those requested during or right after the training has finished.

To solve the problem of post-training evaluation, for each training course, there was a questionnaire prepared for all participants to complete, which was about the training course itself, the organizer(s), their expected benefits from their participation in the course, and recommendation for this respective courses. It is necessary that the course organizers take all the feedback and evaluations into consideration for the improvement of the courses to be conducted in the future.

3. Initiation of Networking and Maintenance:

As most participants were appreciated very much in the training workshops and had good relationship among themselves, contact and networking among participants as well as course organizers, which the project aims to promote, appear minimal, and mostly done on an individual basis. This expected to be a result of problem in communication, especially in English.

4. Communication and Language Proficiency:

Language proficiency (English) is a major factor for clear understanding and comprehension of the participants in each training course. Although UNFPA Country Offices in the respective participating countries had helped screen by interviewing the candidates from their countries, it is found that in many training courses organized under the programme, some selected participants from some countries had limited proficiency skills in English. This problem appeared to be a major issue reported in every training workshop and it has become a major obstacle for many participants as they could not

participate actively in the course dialogue and sometimes course presentation. For Thai participants, TICA has set up comprehensive examination for all candidates as one of the criteria for participation in the training courses.

The problem with English proficiency not only poses a problem for participants as a programme recipient, but also poses a problem for the ‘provider’ as well. It is often found that the well experienced officials who work at the provincial or district level, if their English is good enough, can share their lessons learned for visitors during the study tours. Because of the language deficiency, they are likely to refuse to present their work to foreign visitors who otherwise could learn a lot more. The presentation at the field sites often becomes a burden for an OST coordinator who may not be able to fully convey important messages to foreign visitors. The language deficiency, therefore creates the lose-lose situation for both sides.

4. Management Issues:

There are many issues raised with regard to programme management that can be improved for the more effective operation.

- *Some participants noted the limited time in preparing themselves as well as their country information and reports for experience sharing since they had been informed of the awarded fellowship at the time close to the course commencement.*

- *Late submission of the candidates’ application forms to TICA, through the Thai Embassies, and the result of the interview from UNFPA in the respective countries caused delay in approval, travel arrangements other and related procedures. In many cases, even though the applicants had been informed by TICA to submit the interview form together with their application forms for consideration, some nominees neglect to do so. In some cases, those applications were not accepted to attend the courses.*

- *Important information, i.e. candidates' description of work and personal responsibility which were the main data for consideration in the selection process and telephone and fax numbers that the organizing’ coordinating agency could use to contact them in case of emergency, was not given by some candidates in the application forms.*

- *In organizing the study tours for foreign participants when requested, quite often it was noted that the requests have been given on short notice. This makes it very difficult for the RHD’s officials in arranging the programmes, making contact with experienced resource persons who are always occupied with many other commitments. As*

a result, the RHD coordinating officials sometimes cannot perform their best to serve the objectives of the request. The requests for organizing the study tours mostly concentrated during the month of October to January. To get the best result of this activity and provide sufficient time for the responsible official, the request should be spread more evenly throughout the year.

VII. Recommendations:

Through many lessons have been learned (provided above) many recommendations are proposed for the improvement of the South-South Cooperation Programme to be undertaken in the future.

1. Mechanism on Following-Up and Evaluation:

- It is recommended that for the best benefit of participants who ever attended any of trainings and workshops, they should be required to consolidate and develop the action plan with regard to the issues they are trained. This action plan should be, or expected to be translated into practice when participants return home as a result of their training attendance. More importantly, there should be some ways for the funding agency or the training institute to follow up the participants once returning home, whether they are able to make use or utilize the knowledge they learned from the training in any way.*

Further mechanisms are required for concerned agencies to monitor and evaluate the impacts of the South-South Cooperation activities e.g. training workshop, networking.

- To gain best benefits for participating training institutes and participants, Partners should continuously review and evaluate the training programs for the improvement of the training course.*

2. Maintenance of the Networking:

- Network of both programme providers and recipients should be promoted, although it is difficult. In the case where the network has already existed, it should be well maintained through closer communication and exchange of information among involved organizations.*

On this issue, it is recommended that Partners should support or strengthen the network of participants attending the GLP or other South-to-South training programmes

to be able to share information or knowledge among these participants. In some cases, Partners should also provide technical support or assistance when requested. However, it might be difficult to realize this recommendation since the major obstacle in maintaining the strong network between participants and the funding organizations is the language and ability to communicate as already mentioned above.

In relation to a continuous evaluation of the training programme, Partners should also encourage and support the exchange of visits among training institutes so that close networks could be formed and more updated information shared.

3. Suggested Further Action Taken by the Involved Agencies:

It is recommended as follows

- *Budget and supplementary funding is the most essential and necessary factor in operating the international cooperation programmes, especially for the developing countries. With this condition, it is necessary that the funding agency take the matter into consideration in supporting developing countries to help share their best experiences and practices among each other.*

- *There should be a regular, or annual meeting among the international cooperation networking organizations; both government and non-government to share or exchange update information among each other. The regular meeting would help creating closer interaction and strengthening cooperation among the networking members.*

- *There should be a joint research study on Reproductive Health, and the coordination among the developing countries in sharing or transferring knowledge and technology in the area of Family Planning and Reproductive Health*

- *The high level administrators should give more attention to the South-South Cooperation programme carried out by their own agency either through more participation, more budget allocation, or priority to some of the activities under this Programme.*

- *It is important that the high level administrators give more attention and allocate more funding to support the operation of the Programme.*

- *It is essential that human resource development (ie. officials who work in the international cooperation program) is given high priority in order that these personnel could work more efficiently in assisting or providing advice for those who need it.*

- *Agencies in the Southern countries lack resources to implement programs and lack support from the government to go out to learn from other neighboring countries. Travelling abroad is sometimes viewed as rewarding. Thus the government nominates staff who are not relevant to the training program and the training became wasted. This situation should be improved.*

4. Communication among Involved Organizations:

- *In a way, the close communication could help cut down the overlapping training context or programme which would help save a large amount of financial resources of all parties involved.*

5. Extended Coverage of the South-South Cooperation:

- *Since the South-South Cooperation Programme is highly cost-effective and hence this should be supported by the national Government, agencies, foundations and NGOs. This programme should also focus on other areas such as capacity-building in demographic analysis, integrating population and development and creating awareness on the emerging issue of population ageing and international migration*

6. Strengthening the Collaboration with NGOs:

- *The importance of NGOs should be enhanced in strengthening the capacity development within each country and across countries. In addition, NGOs should well be integrated into the capacity building system of the South-South Cooperation Programme which mostly is dominated by the GOs.*

7. Language Deficiency:

- *To overcome the problem of English proficiency, especially among officials who are responsible for organizing the activities, or those who are expected to become trainers, it is important that they are to be trained more intensively in English communication as to improve the quality of the programme.*

Appendix 1: Questionnaire to Key Informants

College of Population Studies

Chulalongkorn University

Bangkok 10330

May 2, 2005

Subject: Request for your cooperation and opinions as a project's key informant

Dear Colleague:

*I have been nominated by the Reproductive Health Division, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, and been selected by **Partners in Population and Development, South-South Cooperation**, as a part-time consultant to search and document experiences gained and lessons learned in Thailand in capacity development through South-South collaboration during the past 10 years (1994-2004). My task is to identify and examine the contribution of various activities in South-South collaboration toward strengthening and building national capacity and capability in the areas of family planning and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS.*

*In order to fulfil the goals of this important task, I would like to request for your cooperation **to be a project key informant**, based on your experiences with South-South collaboration in capacity of a UNFPA officer who has been working closely with the **South-South Cooperation and Partners programs in Thailand. (I refer to specifically on the Workshop on Prevention of HIV/AIDS/STIs and Promotion of RH among Cross-Border Populations held in 2004)**, sharing information and your opinion toward the issues specified in a separate sheet (attached). The information obtained from you will be used as the 'primary source' data to be analyzed together with the 'secondary source' data which I have searched from existing records and documents.*

*It would be very much appreciated if you could **send me back your opinions by May 20, 2005**. I understand that you have been busy with your own work and many other commitments. However, your cooperation means so much for the completion of this task*

that would lead to the formulation of future policy of South-South Collaboration on international cooperation in the area of human resources development and capacity building for younger generations who will succeed the work which we have already started in the past and carried on until present.

Thank you once again for your kind cooperation. Best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Bhassorn Limanonda, Ph.D.

Director

Issues:

According to your experiences with South-South Cooperation, in the capacity of the officer working closely with the South-South Cooperation and Partners programs in Thailand, I would like to learn about your opinions, comments, suggestions on the following issues

1) What are the implications and effects of South-South Cooperation (that have been carried on in Thailand for about 10 years) on policy making, program design, program implementation, and human resource development in the area of family planning and reproductive health?

2) What are lessons learned from the South-South Collaboration you have experienced which you would like to share in order to improve the program?

3) What are your suggestions for further actions by the national government, agencies, foundations and NGOs with respect to South-South Collaboration?

Appendix 2: Questionnaire to Training Workshop Participants

College of Population Studies

Chulalongkorn University

Bangkok 10330

May 2, 2005

Subject: Request for your cooperation and opinions as a project's informant

Dear Friend:

*I have been nominated by the Reproductive Health Division, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, and been selected by **Partners in Population and Development, South-South Cooperation**, as a part-time consultant to search and document experiences gained and lessons learned in Thailand in capacity development through South-South collaboration during the past 10 years (1994-2004). My task is to identify and examine the contribution of various activities in South-South collaboration toward strengthening and building national capacity and capability in the areas of family planning and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS.*

*In order to fulfil the goals of this important task, I would like to request for your cooperation **to be a project key informant**, based on your experiences with South-South collaboration **as a person who has been involved with South-South Cooperation Programs in many aspects**, to share information and your opinions toward the issues specified in a separate sheet (attached). The information obtained from you will be used as the 'primary source' data to be analyzed together with the 'secondary source' data which I have searched from existing records and documents.*

*It would be very much appreciated if you could **send me back your opinions by May 20, 2005**. I understand that you have been busy with your own work and many other commitments. However, your cooperation means so much for the completion of this task that would lead to the formulation of future policy of South-South Collaboration on international cooperation in the area of human resources development and capacity*

building for younger generations who will succeed the work which we have already started in the past and carry on until present.

Thank you once again for your kind cooperation. Best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Bhassorn Limanonda, Ph.D.

Director

Issues:

According to your experiences with South-South Cooperation in attending the Training Workshop, I would like to learn about your opinions, comments, suggestions on the following issues (please describe as much as you feel like):

- 1) What are the implications and effects of South-South Cooperation, in general, on human resource development, and capacity building for personnel working in the area of family planning and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS?*

- 2) Based on the two week training workshop on Prevention and Control of STDs, HIV/AIDS you attended two years ago, have you been able to*
 - A) contribute your knowledge, share experiences with other colleagues, or*
 - B) to help improve the work performance of your own, or*
 - C) to facilitate the work carried out by your institute*

- 3) What are lessons learned from the South-South Collaboration which you have experienced, and you would like to share in order to improve the program?*

- 4) What are your suggestions for further actions by the national government, agencies, foundations and NGOs with respect to South-South Collaboration?*

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