

Environmental Dispute Prevention and Resolution Policy Developed in Thailand

With support from US-AEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Thailand's Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE) has developed a new environmental dispute prevention and resolution policy that outlines the institutional framework, strategies and capacity building requirements necessary to address the country's growing number of environmental disputes and conflicts.

Environmental conflicts are front-page news in Thailand. Infrastructure projects are frequently delayed due to disputes and conflicts among project developers, communities and citizen groups that are not consulted in the siting process. Defining the role of civil society in environmental decision-making is a controversial issue at the heart of environmental reforms in Thailand.

Alternative dispute resolution techniques such as facilitation, mediation or consensus building are effective strategies for preventing or settling disputes. For environmental conflicts, agencies may set their own policies and practices to prevent and resolve issues before positions have hardened and parties are before the courts.

Under MoSTE, a broad stakeholder working group was established, including government agencies, civil society groups, academia and the media. US-AEP and EPA supported development of the new policy over the last year by facilitating linkages with the USEPA Conflict Resolution and Prevention Center and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. To enable integration of best practices into the



policy development process, US-AEP and EPA provided targeted technical assistance and strategic exchanges, including two video-conferences, a study tour to the U.S. and an international conference and workshop in Bangkok to gain stakeholder inputs on the policy.

In August, Senator Panat Tasaneyanon, Chairman of the Senate Environment Committee, praised the Thai government for developing a dispute resolution policy and

Continued on next page

Resource Guide Published to Support State International Engagement

USAID recently asked US-AEP to develop a new resource guide to help states engage in the international development arena. The *Federal Resource Guide for Supporting State International Engagement: Coping, Competing, and Cooperating in a Global Economy* details many federal programs that help state and local institutions advance their international interests. The guide is based on the U.S. Government Service Administration's Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance.



US-AEP will continue to support the states' involvement in international development to strengthen partnerships and networks and increase understanding of Asian environmental problems through project grants and advisory services. The Guide was printed in August and is also available online at www.usaep.org.

US-AEP's Capacity Building Initiative Featured in Three Publications

Medical waste management is a serious problem in developing countries in Asia. Lack of technology, awareness and facilities have led to the spread of disease and contamination of underground water tables by untreated medical waste in landfills. US-AEP's efforts to promote best practices, experience and technology in medical waste management were recently featured in three publications.

The article entitled, "Building Capacity for Comprehensive Medical Waste Management in Asia," appeared in *Environmental Protection, Environmental Management and Pollution Engineering* this past October.

Please double click on the following link to view the article: <http://www.usaep.org/articles/downloads/pdfs/medwaste.pdf>

In the Spotlight

Environmental Dispute and Prevention Policy from previous page

called on the government and project developers *“to engage citizens and communities at the earliest stage of project development to prevent disputes. Dispute prevention, not resolution, should be our goal.”*

US-AEP’s work on agency-level dispute resolution complements work with the Thai Senate. Next year, US-AEP, EPA and the Senate will co-organize a national forum to integrate policies for Alternative Dispute Resolution, public participation, enforcement and environmental impact assessment.

Energy-Use Program in Malaysia Becomes Model for Sustainable Development

In 2000, the Government of Malaysia created the non-profit Malaysian Energy Centre to coordinate the implementation of the \$20 million United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the *Malaysian Industrial Energy Efficiency Improvement Project (MIEEIP)*. At the request of UNDP and the Centre, US-AEP and the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) collaborated with the Centre’s new staff to promote industrial energy efficiency and strengthen the energy service company (ESCO) industry in Malaysia.

Throughout the year, the Alliance’s technical efforts, which included comments and recommendations on energy audits, the promotion of energy efficiency in Malaysian government buildings, and the drafting of correspondence and brochures to publicize the Project, set the framework for fruitful collaborations in the following year.

In addition, ASE and US-AEP helped the MIEEIP develop training for energy managers; accreditation and certification programs for facility energy managers, energy management professionals and ESCOs; and a benchmarking system to allow industrial energy consumers to compare their energy use to similar facilities.

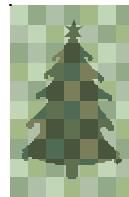
A study tour to the United States in 2001 was coordinated for the Centre and another Malaysian energy organization, the Center for Education and Training in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, to build their knowledge on energy benchmarking, ESCO accreditation, professional certification of energy managers, and energy management training for university engineering students. ASE and US-AEP also organized an energy benchmarking symposium, attended by industry and U.S. government representatives. The symposium discussed the methodologies and barriers to energy benchmarking and management, as well as techniques for NGO and governmental promotion.

These activities helped provide the Centre’s staff with the tools to design and implement an energy manager’s ac-

creditation program, design activities to support energy benchmarking programs for Malaysia, and help promote an ESCO industry in Malaysia. In addition, an energy business fund has been established at the Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Bank to support four projects identified in the MIEEIP’s energy audits. These projects are the first to be handled under the ESCO concept. The Bank has selected four ESCOs to implement the projects at sites selected by the MIEEIP team.

While US-AEP no longer works in Malaysia, the efforts of ASE and US-AEP played an important role in the evolution of the Energy Centre into a viable organization that will support Malaysia’s long-term goal to increase industrial efficiency. The MIEEIP was considered as one of the model projects for sustainable development at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development, further illustrating the positive impact that ASE and US-AEP had in promoting energy efficiency in Malaysia.

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday



and a Happy New Year!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 15-18 **Clean Air Training Network Asia (CATNet Asia) Workshop**, Hong Kong, PRC
- 16-18 **Better Air Quality: Tales of Pacific Rim Mega Cities Workshop 2002**, Hong Kong, PRC
- 17 **Livable Cities Workshop @ Nonthaburi**, Nonthaburi, Thailand
- 18 **New Initiatives to Sweeten the Sugar Industry-Workshop for South Indian Sugar Mills Association**, Chennai, India

For a complete listing of upcoming events, please visit:
<http://www.usaep.org/calendar/index.htm>