

Events or cases of troubles related to water allocation in Thailand

Session III:

Current Situation and Issues During Drought

Framework for drought management

- Thailand has many laws governing the use of water resources.
- A majority of these **laws were passed before 1970** (when water was still relatively abundant), and
- they “tend to leave too much room for interpretation and **do not explicitly specify who exactly has the rights to use water**”

PEOPLE IRRIGATION ACT 1939

- **Sec 5. For the purpose of diversion of water in time of drought or for the purpose of public safety or welfare, the Provincial Commission shall have power to order a temporary closing or suspension of the use of any part of irrigation of all categories or to order any alteration to the diversion of water for such purpose.**

PEOPLE IRRIGATION ACT 1939

- **In case the diversion of water is made in time of drought the person who receives the benefit there from shall bear the expense himself.**
- **Sec 6. No person shall use water from any private or people irrigation more than that is necessary or shall allow such water to flow to waste when the Official has ordered him not to do so.**

The priorities of water usage which was depended on available storage water and the significance of activities as follows.

- **Priority 1 for water supply in the city and community including domestic consumption of people living in the river basin as well as for the industry**
- **Priority 2 for agriculture using little water**
- **Priority 3 for salinity control**
- **Priority 4 for the second rice cultivation**
- **Priority 5 for water transportation and sailing boats**

The priority of water allocation for agriculture is considered in terms of priorities of activities as follows.

- **Priority 1** for having Aqua Culture, like shrimp farms, fish ponds
- **Priority 2** for using water in vegetable and orchards
- **Priority 3** for field crops cultivation
- **Priority 4** for paddy cultivation

Main Organizations during Drought Period

- **Ministry of Interior**
 - Water Supply
 - Dept. of Disaster Prevention
- **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental**
 - DWR, DGW,
- **Ministry of Agricultural**
 - RID, and other concerning dept...
- **Before, During, and After...**
- **a National Disaster Warning Center**

a National Disaster Warning Center

- Thailand has now established a **National Disaster Warning Center**
- to perform an operation at the national and local level to cover all kind of warnings in order to mitigate the disaster
- The center declare they will do their best efforts in preventing the disaster in the future, not only drought, but also any other disasters.

General Method of Drought Management

- **Dept. of Meteorology**
- **Royal Irrigation Dept.**
 - **Warning:**
 - **Available of Storage water**
 - **Suggestion**
 - **Where, How much, ...for agri. Area**
 - **Regulation of Available and Use of Water**
- **Farmers have to fight by themselves**

Participatory Process for Drought Management

- **People mainly participate after period of drought**
- **No clear plan?**
- **In action, ...voluntary help**

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