

## **Expanding Thailand “Sufficiency Economy” For International Cooperation: The case study of Hera, Dili, Democratic of Timor-Leste (2011-Present)**

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### **Abstract**

This research aims to show how to spread the knowledge and awareness of the establishment of a prototype village development center based on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) in Hera, Dili, Timor-Leste. Including learning in the success of SEP is an approach for sustainable development which espouses moderation, reasonableness, and prudence as the development framework based on knowledge and virtue. The Philosophy attaches great importance for human development at all levels and emphasizes the need to strengthen the community's capacity to ensure a balanced way of life and resilience, with full respect for the environment. SEP shares ultimate common principles and objectives with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), seeking to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality as a means to achieve sustainable development, and strike the right mindset towards the balance among three dimensions of sustainable development. under the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) in the model village project. Primary data is collecting information from documents, books, internet memos and publications. To use as a reference source to write a report and to summarize the research report and to analyze the information collected from the document. Related to the project and the SEP. The secondary data is data from interviews of the project development model based on the sufficiency economy village in Hera, Dili, Timor-Leste. The project officer is responsible for gathering information, coordinating and volunteering to live in the project. This research will spread the knowledge and awareness of the establishment of a prototype village development center based on SEP in Hera. And will be beneficial by making SEP successful and also possible that this project will be used as a guide for the implementation of the program in other to develop agriculture, knowledge about village housing development to be a learning center to help solve problems. The village development project under the SEP sets goals and activities of the project to educate farmers on integrated farming. On the basis of operation, farmers can rely on themselves, have new learning technologies, use as many farm resources as possible, awareness of the environment and sharing in the community. These will bring farmers out of poverty and develop sustainable quality of life for the sake of the future. Thailand will use the prototype model of this SEP to adapt to other countries as well in the future.

**Keywords:** *sufficiency economy philosophy (sep), Thailand international cooperation agency (tica), sustainable development goals (sdgs), united nations (un), Thailand, timor-leste*

### **1. Introduction**

Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) has been introduced in the year 1974 by his Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, "the concepts really caught his attention public birthday speech when the following 1997 country was reeling under the Asian Financial Crisis" (Gayle, 2016). SEP is the basic principle in conjunction with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is the goal of sustainable development by the United Nations (UN). The goal of sustainable has launched in total new goals that universally apply to all countries. Thailand has adopted the SEP as a guideline for sustainable development. The bilateral and tripartite cooperation program SEP for SDGs is based on the diplomatic development policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In response to the international policy. The TICA has followed the policy which makes a lot of projects. TICA, which is the Thai Government Agency for the management of development of cooperation between Thailand and international governments is the main agency responsible for cooperation and assistance to foreign countries. Therefore, the TICA has consulted with the Timor-Leste for a three-year cooperation plan. After intervention by the UN into the government and economy Timor-Leste to ensure the transition from peacekeeping to state - building was stable and peaceful. The emerging

country that faced violence and political struggle has resulted in an East Timor with fundamental problems similar to other undeveloped countries (Arunee, 2016). With this situation, Thailand realizes that the relations with East Timor are very good and getting stronger. Thailand has also assisted Timor-Leste in economic, energy and agriculture needs, including community cultural issues of the village of Hera, 20km outside Dili. The village of Hera is a community where people emigrated from several areas with the variety of languages, different culture, and beliefs which cause a lot of conflicts in the Hera community. Language differences greatly increase communication problems. Also, the population of immigrants and migrant workers are mostly peasants. The majority of the population in Hera community cannot read and don't have an expertise in agricultural trade, low income and poor community. The general area of the village of Hera is hardly suitable for agriculture. All soil is sandy soil, often dry, nutrient deficient and fast-draining. People use rainwater as a main source of water for agriculture and there is no rainwater storage in Hera so the farmers are planted only once a year. In the agricultural sector, people follow a tradition that is practiced in the past, such as choosing non-crop weeds, using chemical pesticides to control bug, et. (Arunee, 2016) and TICA started a development the prototype village project according to the sufficiency economy by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Timor-Leste and the TICA. This project is the first project and they selected the Herra village in Dali. The philosophy of sufficiency economy is used as a guideline for the implementation of international development cooperation. This research will spread the knowledge and awareness of the establishment of a prototype village development center based on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in Hera, Dili, Timor-Leste. This study will be beneficial by making Sufficiency Economy Philosophy successful and also possible that this project will be used as a guide for the implementation of the Sufficiency Economy Program in other developing countries to develop agriculture, knowledge about village housing development to be a learning center and share technologies, provide knowledge about agricultural extension to help solve problems such as social problems, poverty, environment. The Village Development Project under the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy set the goals.

## **2. Objectives**

This research aims to show how Thailand has a role in negotiating culture with new countries. Including learning in the success of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) under the effective coordination of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) in the prototype village project philosophy, sufficient economy and the Center for Technology Transfer in Hera village, Dili, Timor-Leste. The purpose of the study :

1. To study the implementation of the prototype village project in accordance with Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in Hera, Timor-Leste
2. To learn that the philosophy of sufficiency economy can be applied to foreign countries or another country
3. To analyze the role of development assistance and diffusion of the Sufficiency Economy, Philosophy

## **3. Materials and Methods**

The research aims to demonstrate that the description of the prototype village project under the Sufficiency Economy is new to Timor and Thailand. To show how Thailand can apply a sufficiency economy approach to foreign countries. In the research, they must understand the context of society, economy, politics, culture, history and environment in Timor-Leste which is the basic idea of research. They are must analyze project data and philosophy of sufficiency economy and the Hera community must understand all social and cultural issues. In addition, collect data from references sources to write a report and to summarize the research report and to analyze the information collected from the document. Related to the project and the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, include relevant literature to describe the nature of the issues to study and most of the information is from Thailand and do not focus on surveys from a lot of people. The secondary data is data from interviews of the project development model based on the sufficiency economy of the village in Hera, Dili, Timor - Leste.

Procedure primarily targets Ms. Arunee Hiam who is the owner of the prototype development project based on sufficiency economy in Timor. His current position is secretary to the Thailand

International Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. To learn about the history of the project and its role in helping to develop Timor, and Ms. Nunnalin Buathong, the project officer is responsible for gathering information coordinating, especially Mr. Satdam Satae, a Thai volunteer who lives in the project and working in Timor for one year and six months, which is very important and participatory in this project. For research techniques, the process of data collection and data analysis was not separated. Data collection has come from observations and interviews. This will help to get more information and the duration of the study is limited, so it seems less work. While collecting the data, it must be analyzed to verify that the data is accurate. The research applies both to primary and second data. Documentary study: collecting information from documents, books, internet memos and publications.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

##### “SEP for SDGs” Partnership

After the adoption of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in 2015, Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) strives to contribute to Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (SDG) 17 goal to ensure basic needs, especially food security & well-being. Since 2016, TICA has reached out to a number of interested partners to implement Sustainable Community Development Model based on the application of SEP in order to materialize SEP for SDGs partnership with 16 developing countries. Thailand's multifaceted efforts in building partnership for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the application of its Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. TICA, the Royal Thai Government's focal agency for international development cooperation under the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is the prime mover of SEP for SDGs Partnerships through various forms of cooperation, such as development Village Development Project under the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy project in Hera, Timor, international postgraduate programmes, volunteer and expert programmes, fellowships, scholarships and training programmes in neighbouring countries and other regions of the world (SEP4SDGs, 2016).

##### Thai Strategies on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

Strategic sufficiency economy philosophy abroad, as the Thai government has developed a strategy for the SEP from 2014 to 2560. They are integrating knowledge of the SEP for the benefit of people under this strategy is divided into 7 issues. The fourth issue is that the development of the SEP in the foreign country by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs goal is to publish the Sustainable development for different countries. The government has given every agency a four-year strategic plan and, as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has assigned the TICA to set each country to learn about the philosophy of sufficiency economy such as giving a scholarship to learn the SEP and invite to attend training in Thailand or organize projects. The TICA has a 4 years strategy which is a mission for Thailand's international development cooperation to make Thailand as a source of learning and a model of development, the philosophy of sufficiency economy and solving problems that will lead to sustainable development. First, the training is in Sufficiency Economy, starting with 10 partners and 13 countries with future partners which is TICA plans to suffer success, also includes the conceptual development of the philosophy of sufficiency economy village in Hera, Timor-Leste (Suchada, 2015) TICA launched the first SEP project abroad in 2006 with six countries: Laos, Lesotho, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Tonga, and Chile to cooperate and implement the prototype development project abroad, applying the SEP principle to apply for sustainable development.

**Table 1** The prototype village according to sufficiency economy philosophy project in Hera,Dili,Timor  
(Source: Compiled from interview, 2017)

Plan	Performance
1. Information survey consists of expert dispatches to Timor-Leste.	1. Two experts were dispatched to visit Timor Leste.
2. Personnel development consists of the training staff, study trips to senior representatives, officials and farmers.	2. Two experts have transferred technology and set up a technology transfer center in Timor Leste.
3. Village development and technology transfer consist of the establishment of technology transfer centers, Management of household demonstrations in Sufficiency Economy as an example in the prototype villages.	3. Two experts were dispatched to develop village and transfer Sufficiency Economy technology in Timor-Leste. The operation activities planned is completed.

The establishment of a prototype village development project in accordance with Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and the agricultural learning center, to develop farmers in the area and to be a place for educating the farmers in the integration of sufficiency economy. For example, crop production that takes into account the market demand and consumption of the family. The farmers chose to grow cantonese, kale, and rice in the agricultural area by using the method of planting to align to increase production. Promoting fish pond for tilapia fish and fish breeding to be a food source and to keep water for the dry season, teaching how to process food. Locally available materials and the food from the yield. Transfer of innovation to agriculture by the selection of innovations that can be applied in the occupation, such as vegetable testing, mulching, composting, bio-composting and pesticide extraction. Teaching mushroom cultivation and corn planting because there is no selection of maize and plant breeding in the Timor-Leste. Also, there were no other farmers attending the training. Only the relatives of the main farmers. The development of human resources by training and practicing agriculture to prepare the agricultural officer and the responsible person. There are a total of 8 training courses conducted in the field of agricultural extension and social environment, with 75 participants.

## 5. Conclusion

Of all the information that will show how to spread the knowledge and awareness of the establishment of a prototype village development center based on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) in Hera, Dili, Timor-Leste. Including learning in the success of SEP is an approach for sustainable development which espouses moderation, reasonableness, and prudence as a development framework based on knowledge and virtue. The Philosophy attaches great importance to human development at all levels and emphasizes the need to strengthen community's capacity to ensure a balanced way of life and resilience, with full respect for the environment. SEP shares ultimate common principles and objectives with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), seeking to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality as a means to achieve sustainable development, and strike the right mindset towards the balance among three dimensions of sustainable development. Under the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) in the model village project, and start the prototype project is the first project. In cooperation with Timor-Leste the objective is to develop and learn a prototype village. In line with Sufficiency Economy and self-reliance, the capacity of the agricultural extension staff of Timor the technology can be transferred to the plant. In analysis, the contextual environment of the project area prior to project implementation. The basis for design and planning, the project activities are carefully planned according to local conditions and in accordance with the needs of Timor-Leste. The Thai side supports the budget for all project activities. The plan of the activities and the selection of experts are from the Department of Agriculture. And cooperatives of Thailand work with farmers and agricultural officials of Timor to ensure the success of the project.

The process by Thai side has used the experience in implementing the project to develop a project management process in line with international standards: 1) The project has been defined by gathering preliminary feasibility study data by sending Thai experts to gather data. 2.) Prepare an analysis of the project by preparing a proposal for the project. Project design based on the data received. Presentation of the report 3) Project approval: The project proposal has been prepared in response to the two Governments

for consideration and approval as a reference document for the implementation. 4) The project has been implemented. 5) The project is monitored and managed. The annual conference, which is a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the project. When combined with practice The Sufficiency Economy is that the implementation of the project has many challenges. 1) Farmers pay attention to changes in the family economy, but do not take into account the environmental protection. 2) There is no grouping of farmers to exchange knowledge, thus no strength, no power of negotiation in management and marketing. 3) Not aware of the strong community. The problem can be solved, such as social problems, poverty and environmental problems. 4) No land of their own. Farmers do not have the confidence to invest and do not pay attention to environmental protection. 5) The culture is based on the culture of loving kinsmen, so generosity is restricted to only six relatives and support equipment budget for farmers. It can not be proven that when the project is over, farmers will be able to rely on themselves. This is in contrast to the sufficiency theory that focuses on building the basis of sufficient household wealth to provide food security first, using methods and equipment to save money under existing resources.

For Thailand to integrate and drive, the goal is to disseminate sustainable development to countries, by defining countries. Learn about the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and can be deployed, and there is a tripartite. This is a major national plan for the TICA which was established as a mission for international development cooperation. In Thailand, we will provide Thailand as a source of learning and as a model of development, and the other is to solve problems that will lead to sustainable development. Including the village prototype development project, the main philosophy. Sufficiency Economy in Heilongjiang today has been discussed with South Korea successfully. And in Scholarships we have consulted with many educational institutions and encourage students to study at the master's level. Especially with Sustainability is possible and this project will be used as a guideline for the implementation of the Sufficiency Economy Program in other developing countries to develop agriculture, to educate villagers on the development of the village as a learning center, and to transfer technology. This technology is sufficient, as it provides knowledge about agricultural extensions. To help solve problems such as social problems, poverty, and the environment. Thailand will use the prototype model of this sufficiency economy to adapt to other countries as well. It can be told that this project can be applied to each country depending on whether it is the government, or responsible agency that will cooperate. And how important is the project? It seems to Timor, it may have problems and obstacles. But at least the project is beneficial to people in the community. And in the future, with help and cooperation from Thailand it will result in the relationship between Thailand and Timothy. Even better in the future.

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