

The Royal Forest Department, Thailand, was established in 1906 by King Rama 6 as an agency of the Ministry of the Interior, who was assisted by the British Forester, Mr. H. H. Stiles, an Englishman, who was appointed as the first Director of the Department on 1st September, 1906 and became the first Director of the Department until 1913. Mr. H. H. Stiles and Mr. J. Lloyd, both Englishmen, were the second and third Directors respectively until 1913. During these periods, the Royal Forest Department was known as the Forest Department. On April 11, 1913, a Thai Forester, Mr. Phraya Phraya, became the first Thai Director of the Department.

THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL AID IN THAI FORESTRY

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1. Manpower, adviser, consultant.
2. Material, vehicle, equipment, tools.
3. Financial, fellowship, budget.

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The Royal Forest Department, Thailand, was established in 1896 by King Rama V on the recommendation of Mr H Slade, an Englishman, who was hired by the King himself. Mr H Slade helped to establish the Royal Forest Department on 18 September, 1896 and became the first Director General of the department until 1901. The Mr W Tottenham and Mr W Lloyd, both Englishman, were the second and third ones respectively until 1923. During those periods, some Thai officials were sent abroad in order to get education in forestry. On April 1, 1925, a Thai graduate from abroad became the first Thai Director General of the department.

It is obvious that Thai government was aware of the gain from foreign aid at least in the form of consultation and scholarship. At present, we have aid from many countries and organizations, bilateral, regional and international.

AID

Aid is normally offered depending upon the need and necessity of the country. It is based on the friendship and economic values. Its most important element is its research component, including that on economic returns to the community at large.

Silviculture, forest management and forest utilization are most frequently chosen for aid by developed countries and organizations especially F.A.O., U.N.D.P., U.N.E.P., etc.

There are three main categories of aid as follows:-

1. Man: expert, adviser, consultant.
2. Material: vehicle, equipment, tools.
3. Finance: fellowship, budget.

These categories may be weighed according to the project aim and necessity in order to accomplish the economic objective.

MAN

Man plays the most important role in foreign aid as expert, adviser and consultant. Because of national sensitivities, such forms of aid must be arranged in such a way that no ill feeling occurs.

There are quite a number of recipient government officials educated

in developed countries such as U.S.A., U.K., and European countries earning Master's and Doctor's degrees. If these qualified persons are asked to be counterparts to foreign experts, advisers or consultants, it becomes harder for the donor countries to provide experts of similar quality. Before a certain project is set up, a preliminary survey ought to be performed.

It is not enough for an expert to deal with technology alone. He must also have the cultural approach needed in order to get along with the counterpart and natives, in order to make the project successful.

The educated counterparts who live in their own countries seem to know better about their own problems. In order to carry through successfully the project, the only way to succeed is to compromise. The least one can expect is that aid given by donors generates international good-will.

MATERIAL

Most developing countries are poor and cannot afford to buy heavy equipment and the modern highly efficient apparatus used for research work. Aid in supplying these is particularly welcome and effective.

The other method of giving material aid is to invent and build machinery adapted to local technology which can be constructed from local materials and which the local labour force can utilize efficiently and economically.

FINANCE

There are three types of finance: expert, equipment and fellowship. We cannot say which type is more important than the other unless the donor weighs them reasonably well.

Counterpart budget should be applied to the country where the activity is relatively low.

LESSONS

Case 1. An expert in silviculture was sent by an organization to Thailand in 1955 while I was the counterpart to the project. He was an old man and was accompanied by his wife and a Thai maid. They had trouble with food because they were vegetarians. I had an awkward time taking them around the country.

Even though he had written more than two hundred papers, these were based on experience derived only from his own country. He was more likely to learn from us through the trip. We were questioned in very minute detail then he made his report out of our answers. So, we condemned the organization that sent that expert to us.

Case II. An organization sent a group of experts to us for a project in 1964. I was a counterpart in silviculture dealing with planting trials. One silviculturist who was on planting trials lacked training in statistical methods. The other one, also a silviculturist, was the project manager and very nervous in everything. Both were in Africa for a long time and thought that Thailand was the same as Africa. They acted and spoke rudely, using low class vulgar expressions. We could not bear this any longer, so we notified the organization which later called the project manager back home. The other one realized how to get along better and worked with us until the project ended.

Anyhow, when the latter one went to another Asian country, there were complaints that he was unfitted and he was transferred to another country in Central America.

Case III. A developed country through an organization, sent an expert to Thailand in 1969 to establish a new forestry training school. I was a counterpart in the project and the first director of the school. The expert was young and not qualified. We requested them to send us a higher qualified one but they refused. When the project ended he wished to extend his stay for the second time. We disagreed for it was useless to us.

Case IV. There was supplementary aid to another project on Bamboo research sponsored by an organization. A group of experts was sent to Thailand in 1964. I was the counterpart in the project. They came from an Eastern country and got along very well with us in research work. The problem was that they came into conflict with other European experts. This of course put me into an awkward situation.

Case V. In 1977, I was a lecturer, coordinator, collaborator in an environmental course sponsored by an international organization. I found the participants' point of view was widely different to the coordinator and the like. This was due to cultural barriers.

Case VI. In 1976, I was transferred to the silvicultural research sub-division and was a counterpart to a bilateral aid project - teak- pine.

The donor is to give aid in three stages: active, advising and consulting. The active stage runs for ten years with experts working in collaboration with counterparts. The advising stage runs for five years with advisers staying on annual permits. The consulting stage runs for another five years at the country's request. The consultant will make a two month's inspection tour annually.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Any project run by any country or organization, if it is to be successful needs to evaluate man, material and finance.

The qualification of man as expert, adviser or consultant should be equivalent to the qualifications of the country counterpart both in education and experience.

Because of cultural barriers, the expert, adviser or consultant should preferably be patient and adaptable to the country he is stationed in and able to establish good human relations.

Fellowships abroad are a very important part in the aid to the country where technical education is needed. On his return the trainee could bring back new and modern technology to be applied progressively. The country where education is needed should also improve local means of teaching and training fit to a developing country.

Equipment may be provided by aid but even better is to teach how to make it locally. If, however, the country is poor or equipment is hard to get, then direct purchase should be made.

Financial support is more effective when it is set up in conjunction with a counterpart budget. This compels the country taking part to carry through its part in the business.

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