

Science, Technology & Innovation Policy Review

Thailand ____









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PREFACE

The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Reviews prepared by UNCTAD aim to contribute to the development of national capacities in this field in order that national STI plans and programmes better contribute to development strategies and to improve the competitiveness of the productive sectors. These reviews are intended to serve as an analytical instrument which examines a set of proposals from an external and neutral perspective, and to make some suggestions for action. They are not a rating mechanism.

The STIP Review of Thailand has three fundamental goals: to offer an up-to-date assessment of the framework conditions and interactions that characterize Thailand's national innovation system; to provide a number of recommendations for strengthening policies and measures in order to improve national technological capabilities and encourage innovation; and to offer more detailed assessments in two areas critical for Thailand's development, namely supporting innovation in small-scale agriculture and promoting the development of human resources in STI.

The STIP Review of Thailand was conducted in response to a request by the Government of Thailand, and received the support of the Ministry of Science and Technology and of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Office. It was undertaken by a team of experts which carried out two missions in Thailand, in October 2013 and June 2014. It involved more than 70 interviews with representatives of government bodies, research institutions, universities, professional associations and chambers of commerce, business incubators and technology licensing offices, companies and non-governmental organizations. An initial draft of this document was discussed with more than 80 experts and national stakeholders at a workshop held in Bangkok on 12 December 2014. The comments and suggestions made there have been taken into account in the preparation of the final draft.

This Review would not have been possible without the cooperation of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Office and, in particular, H.E. Pichet Durongkaveroj (Secretary-General and, since August 2014, Minister of Science and Technology) and Kanchana Wanichkorn (Director of the Department of International Affairs and national focal person for this Review). A special thanks is owed to Puangrat Asavapisit, Sakarindr Bhumiratana, Naksitte Coovattanachai, Krisda Monthienvichienchai, Thanin Pa-Em, Damri Sukhotanang, Chachanat Thebtaranont, Orapong Thien-Ngern and Kan Trakulhoon, members of the National STIP Review Steering Committee that provided guidance to this project. A special thanks is also owed to Pongthep Akratanakul, Panee Boonyagukul, Nakorn Chantasorn, Akarawit Kanchana-opas, Thaweesak Koanantakool, Chen Namchaisiri, Kitipong Promwong, Piniti Ratananukul, Saowaruj Rattanakhamfu, Morakot Tanticharoen, Carmela Torres and Chaicharn Wongsamun, who also provided substantive inputs and comments to the review. Gratitude is also extended to all participants in the national workshop and to the persons and entities, too numerous to be listed, that generously contributed their comments and ideas.

The assessments, opinions and conclusions expressed in this document are entirely those of the UNCTAD secretariat.

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