

Action Plan Phase 2 under the National Chemical Management Plan in Thailand

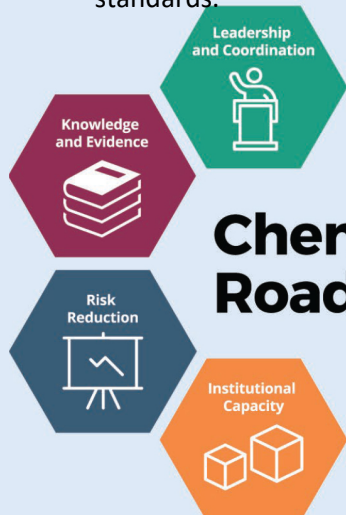
Development of Action Plan Phase 2, 2023–2027 under the National Chemical Management Plan with the objective to promote safe population, clean environment and quality product with standards.

Goals and Objectives

Thailand has sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle to enable good quality of life and the environment in compliance with the National Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Objectives:

1. Safe population: Population in the country receive protection against chemical impacts that cause illnesses or deaths from accidents, occupations, usage or consumption in relation to chemicals.
2. Clean environment: Environmental elements (e.g. soil, water and air) are prevented from chemical contamination that exceeds the environmental quality standards.
3. Quality products with international standards: Vegetables, fruit, food, commodities or products produced in or imported into the country are safe and of quality in accordance with international standards.



Chemicals Road Map

Project Overview

Context

Thailand currently imports and produces a large number of chemicals each year with high economic values. Thus, the National Committee on Strategy Development for Chemical Management has cooperated with relevant agencies to prepare the National Chemical Management Plan for 2019–2037.

The National Chemical Management Plan has been categorized into four Phases of Action: Phase 1 (2019–2022), Phase 2 (2023–2027), Phase 3 (2028–2032) and Phase 4 (2033–2037). The National Committee has appointed a Sub-committee on Coordination of Policy and Plan on Chemical Management Implementation to supervise and evaluate plan implementation.

Since the Phase 1 Action Plan is about to complete its operational time frame in 2022, the Sub-committee agreed to develop the Phase 2 Action Plan on 31 March 2021.

Approach

Development of the Phase 2 Action Plan consists of the following steps:

- (1) Create a time frame for preparation.
- (2) Review and analyse the following: 2.1. implementation of the Phase 1 Action Plan; 2.2. indicators and achieving the indicators; 2.3. chemicals management policies, including national policies such as the National Strategy. The 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan reviews international guidelines such as the SDGs and chemical health impact data from the World Health Organization, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and emerging policy issues.
- (3) Organize a brainstorming session to obtain opinions from relevant agencies to prepare a framework for the development of Phase 2.
- (4) Sub-committee approves the framework for development of Phase 2, allocating framework guidelines to relevant agencies for consideration. Then, compile feedback and draft the Phase 2 Action Plan.
- (5) Relevant agencies prepare action plan according to the framework guidelines.
- (6) Organize a meeting session to develop indicators and create project plan to achieve Phase 2 indicators.
- (7) Phase 2 Action Plan approved by the Sub-committee.



Results

- (1) Completed Phase 2 Action Plan for 2023–2027 with project plans from government agencies, enterprises, academic sector, private sector and public sector, with 49 agencies in total. In addition, 341 project plans have been approved with an estimated budget of more than 1900 million baht.
- (2) Of the mentioned projects, there are three flagship projects:
 - (2.1) To develop a network system of the Toxicology Centers to support prevention of chemical accidents.
 - (2.2) To study the problem of waste management, hazardous waste management and chemical packaging waste with concrete solutions.
 - (2.3) To integrate laws and policies related to chemicals, and a monitoring and reporting system for chemicals management.
- (3) In addition to the project plans under the Phase 2 Action Plan, there are targeted indicators for three groups – safe population group, clean environment group, and quality products with the international standards group – consisting of seven leading indicators and 13 minor indicators.

Lessons Learned

Success Factors:

- Having a systematic and robust driving mechanism that makes the plan management proactive, with the National Committee as the core at the policy level and the Sub-committee as a core receiving the policy from the National Committee to coordinate the relevant departments. Then, developing and formulating the Action Plan to succeed.
- Opportunity for all relevant parties to participate in the project implementation by inviting representatives from all sectors to attend a brainstorming session and asking for and listening to their opinions and needs. By doing so, the project has attracted the attention and cooperation of all sectors to successfully develop and prepare the Phase 2 Action Plan.

Limitations:

- The challenge of developing effective monitoring and evaluation of project plans.
- The challenge in implementing plans to achieve goals.
- Imbalance in terms of the proportion of project plans from relevant sectors (i.e. the government sector that is the implementing agency has offered fewer projects than the academic sector). In addition, the public and private sectors have offered fewer projects as well.
- The challenge of working and coordinating with relevant agencies during the pandemic.

The case study was authored by Chemical Safety Group, Strategy and Planning Division, **Thai Food and Drug Administration**, Ministry of Public Health. The named authors alone are responsible for the views expressed in this publication.

Recommendations

- *Continuous monitoring and evaluation of project plan under the Action Plan every 1–2 years.*
- *Establish systems for monitoring project implementation for analysis and compare progress with goals according to the Action Plan.*
- *Research on successful projects and apply success factors as guidelines to improve the project management ability of the relevant departments.*
- *Determine the proportion of project plans under the Action Plan by increasing proportion from the public and private sectors while considering the budget allocation to projects from the public sector.*
- *Provide online communication channels between relevant departments to communicate effectively during the session, especially during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, such as through teleconferencing or social networks, LINE group and Facebook.*

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