

The Breakthrough from Thailand 4.0 to Thailand 5.0

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Nowadays, the proactive policy told by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister is about to solve problems of economic. For that reason, the Thailand 4.0 policy becomes a choice that many investors, experts, and politicians are focusing on, but there are some questions to answer about what Thailand 4.0 is, what strategies will be used, and two decades is the too long time.

The policy is not focused by locals due to this policy is the government's responsibility in their points of view. So that bases on government's decision about the ways to use the policy.

From the Ancient Society to the Struggle

From the past to the present, Thai people do padding farming. That means Thai way of life is dependent on natural water resources and becomes an agricultural watershed. This shows that Thai society is an agricultural society. When Thais learn new things and adopt the innovative ideas of Westerners, a plan should be concerned and improved for the technological society.

The concept mentioned above leads to the change of the original Thai society into the labor system in term of both farming and industry. That shows the development of an agricultural society to a light industrial age then changes to the real industrial age which the technology is used as a tool for value added.

The Four Ages of Thailand

Thailand 1.0: an agricultural society

Thailand 2.0: a light industrial age

Thailand 3.0: a heavy industrial age

Thailand 4.0: Value Based Economy

What will be changed in Thailand 4.0 ?

1. The change of the traditional farming into the smart farming
2. The change of the Traditional SMEs into the smart enterprises
3. The change of the traditional services into the high value services
4. The change of the unskilled labors into the expertise

The Industries of the Future in Thailand 4.0

The concept about the industry is the main factor that covers cost, profit, and economic wealthiest. That means all activities need to be under the conditions of the industry. Cultures will be less concerned, but in case of the value added they will be focused.

There are 5 kinds of the industry in Thailand 4.0:

1. Food, Agriculture and Bio-Tech
2. Digital, Artificial Intelligence and Embedded Technology
3. Smart Devices, Robotics and Mechatronics
4. Health, Wellness and Bio-Med
5. Creative, Culture and High Value

The three private organizations which are the capital group

1. Mitr Phol Group
2. Thai Union Frozen Product Public Company Limited
3. Charoen Pokphand Group

The state financial institutions

1. Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives
2. Government Savings Bank

The Ten Targeted Industries in Thailand 4.0

Building on from the five earlier industries Theories and economic concepts seem to be not the key for the economy in Thailand 4.0, but the sharing concept and the social participation are the way to solve economic problems.

The Five Earlier Industries

1. Next-Generation Automotive
2. Smart Electronics
3. Affluent, Medical and Wellness Tourism
4. Agriculture and Biotechnology
5. Food for the Future

The Built-On-Industries

1. Robotics
2. Aviation and Logistics
3. Biofuels and Biochemicals
4. Digital
5. Medical Hub

If we focus on the Thailand 4.0 model, we will see that now we are focusing on the “innovation” while we are only the consumers in this system. If we question about being under the conditions of the model, the answer might be that it is too late because we have been under the policy of government more than a half-century since we started following the First National Economic and Social Development Plan. In term of human resource, to say that we have developed the human resource by studying abroad seems to be not the answer because there is still a question to answer about how the innovation will be used.

We cannot refuse that developed countries are the leader of controlling interest, but today we are looking for the solution of the problems we have faced. That is hard to find out and we have to say that we are in the weakness.

What We Will See From the Thailand 4.0 Model ?

1. The Thinking Process

If you look back in history of the western society, we will see that stepping into the industrial revolution started from learning by trial and error. That lead the society to discover the innovative tools to reach the success as we can see today, but it is different from us that the western society had been in the starting point since past several hundred years after the industrial revolution.

2. The Fixed Systems

The system makes industry to be under the condition that is the strength because it is the system which can be controlled in every step. That helps the industry reaches the industrial purpose which is the maximum profit.

Will Thailand Be Stopped At Thailand 4.0 ?

To be under the Thailand 4.0 model, the industry seems to be the key to reach the purpose called “economy,” but there are some points of view that can be the worries of the new model.

1. Thinking Process In case of the Thailand 4.0 model, we have to understand that it is not the new thing, but it may be not close to people in the society. Being as a part of the model, the people must be informed by the easy messages and makes it be concrete because people are still do not understand what are called creative and digital economy.

For example, people in Thailand receive and admire the other culture through the mass media while some cultures shown on the television have no differences from Thai cultures, but this is the question to answer about forming the innovative thought.

2. The Ideas Which Are Not Followed by People's Understanding.

It seems to be normal if people in society do not understand the national plan, but the leader has to be the person with a wide-vision and further perspectives. For this reason, the main point is that we have to concern about the distance of thinking and understanding between the people and the leader.

3. How Much Do Private Organization Play a Role in the Thailand 4.0 Model? All organizations try to be a part of the model, but the main thing we have to concern is the potentiality of each organization. To take part without concerning about the organizational potential may be not appropriate.

4. The Thailand 4.0 Should Be Understood As the National Strategy The Thailand 4.0 model is national policy that everyone in the society has to follow, so the main important thing is that the policy should be flexible and adapted by concerning about the circumstances.

The Future of the Thailand 4.0 Model

Under the development in the 21st century, the point that all over the world is focusing on is using the modern innovation. That is why Thailand is following it. However, we should know that we are now in the process of user-innovation, but the others are the other way around.

Will we create the new innovations to compete in the industry?

It is the nature that everything has both weakness and strength including good and bad. That is the same thing that the world is now facing. So, to go in the direction of the

industry means everything will be the maximum utility, the maximum profit, and the high competition. That means we have to be controlled by those who are the creators of new innovations. Moreover, when innovations and international politics come together, these are things that we have concern including the creation of alternatives.

For those mentioned above, the Prime Minister of Thailand is aware about the model as we can notice from his speech in the opening ceremony of “Start Up Thailand” project on 28th April, 2016. The important things that we should concern are how we can use the technology effectively and how the cultural preservation and the Thailand 4.0 model can come together, said the Prime Minister.

According to his speech, three important things that support the cultural preservation and the model are divided into three main parts as following.

1. The Thailand 4.0 Economic System The government is responsible for driving the model or plan to reach the purpose of the ten industries, but the main important things are to use the technology effectively and the cultural preservation which come s together with the Thailand 4.0 model. Those are the questions that need to be answered.

2. The Thai Social Existence

To answer the question what the existence means is still not clear, but the main thing may be about the existence of Thai cultures or Thainess. That leads to the question that what the Thainess is. If the answer is uncomplicated, the Thainess will be hided in historical tradition. To create the innovation though is necessary because we have forgotten about Thainess in learning process instead of open-mindedness to learn new things. That is why learning to change the concepts is the important starting point that we have to concern and make it as a base in creation of innovative thought.

3. The Integration of Thinking Process and the Process Leading to Thai Existence.

Today people in Thai society are focusing on something which is less important instead of focusing on Thainess. This leads to an issue about the cause of that problem. Some say that because of the Thai educational system, but the others say because Thai society is in the weakness.

We can start discussion in many points of view and include the circumstances as factors. But in the writer’s point of view, the education, religions, and cultures will be focused as the main part.

The Search for Identity

Under the changes in thinking process and historical views, the result found that Thai people paid more attention to unimportant things instead of paying attention in themselves.

The cause of the problem is from not being open-minded to accept the different views. So the Thai history is now in the weak point and the separation of opinion. From those mentioned above, if we look back to the command of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the Thai History subject is now paid less attention.

For awareness of history, it is important to start from these four main things as following.

1. To Establish the Cultural University of Thailand

In Thailand, we only have the field or the faculty that is responsible for cultural preservation and knowledge while the others have the national cultural university.

The concept of establishing the cultural university of Thailand was proposed for several times, but it was not approved. To have the cultural university will be benefit for Thais in term of being the cultural center and building on knowledge about cultures. The university will follow the cultural concept of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej because that is the important key which will be the base of thinking of Thai people in term of cultural preservation. Many Colleges of Dramatic Arts will be included as a part of the cultural university. Those colleges will play the roles of preservation and production of the national cultures. This combination will be the school of thought of the nation.

2. The Reformation of Ministry of Culture The Ministry of Culture is an organization that plays the greatest role of being the symbol of the national cultures. Today being responsible for the national cultural university is also important because it will be the stronger base the thinking process in the Thai cultures. There is a question to answer that while the model of economy is Thailand 4.0, what the Thailand 4.0 of culture is.

3. The New Historical Learning Process: Learning History through the Local History According to the command of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, Thai people should aware of historical learning. The Ministry of Education try to develop the local curriculum, but it is still not a part of the educational system. The main things that we have to think about are how much we understand the history, what the national history is, and what the local history is. And there is a question to answer that those should be understood as the local curriculum or the local historical curriculum.

The reason to learn the history is about to be proud and to have self-esteem. Those will be the power for driving the community including the country to be a strong society. So that is why we should learn and understand about the national history.

There are many different several views about understanding society, but the only one main thing that everyone in society should have is certainty and understanding of the history. So, the learning of national history through the local history might be the innovative though that can lead the society to be under the model of Thailand 5.0.

4. The Understanding about Ethnics.

No one is a pure-blood in this world, but there are the multi ethnics. So, it is a diversity of ethnic. Each ethnic gives us the historical sources to learn from them. We all learn that there is no any ethnic that is better than others. That means everyone is equal and it is a unity in diversity.

To focus on the ethnic is what we have to concern. We, in the past, only focused on Thai people, but we didn't pay enough attention to learn about people around us. For this reason, ethnic learning center is what we should have because it shows the civilization.

From those mentioned, they are only viewpoints that need to be given more details. To develop human resource and strategies is what we all need to be open-minded to learn and walk forward together.

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