

OEC Brainstorms and Believes Taxes Collection on Private Schools will be a Burden to Parents.



On 7th February 2554, the OEC held the meeting to brainstorm the educational resources to consider tax measure on private tutorial schools with the participation of relevant administrations. The Cabinet meeting has earlier assigned the Ministry of Education to reconsider this issue since the private tutorial schools including teachers have continuously paid the school signage tax and personal income tax. The meeting will reconsider whether to additionally collect relative business tax or not. More times are needed for the conclusion study on this issue.

Acting Sub. Lt. Sombat Poolsanguan, representative from the Office of the National Counter Corruption's Committee (NCC), said that the NCC is in favour of tax collection from private tutorial schools since there are a lot of changes in its learning/teaching system towards a more profitable business. The data from the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board in 2550 released that each year, more than 300,000 students enrolled in the tutorial schools and the parents paid around 1,000-3,000 Baht monthly. The accumulated income of these tutorial schools totaled more than 6,000 m. Baht per year. The relative law should be changed to conform with the actual social situation since this law was enforced more than 30-40 years ago.

As for Mr. Anusorn Sivakul, the licensee of Wannasorn tutorial school, spoke as Chairman of Tutorial School Association, that the business taxation should not be targeted only to private tutorial schools but the same standard system must apply to all other educational institutions such as universities providing classes outside campus, language and computer tuition schools. This problem should be

upgraded to national level. At present, the Office of the Private Education Commission (OPEC) limits the schools' net profit margin to 20%. He had the opinion that this issue was raised because the misunderstanding is tied between illegal tutorial schools with the legal ones. If the tutorial schools pay an additional taxes up to 13%, they might raise the tuition fees, passing the burden on to parents.

Professor Dr. Boonserm Weesakul, President emeritus of Dhurakij Pundit University said that there are in fact, some tutors who hindered classroom lessons and many teachers went on the run to teach at the tutorial schools. Some groups of teachers gave lessons for individual or groups of students. However, no watch on these groups of teachers and he suggested further that tax collection from them should be also considered.

Dr. Tongthong Chandransu, Secretary-General of OEC, addressed that the tutorial schools are popular because teaching in mainstream schools does not match the students' needs. To scrutinize the tutorial schools doesn't solve overall problems. In fact, the tutorial schools have already paid for signage and building taxes as well as personal income tax. If more taxes are to be paid, the burden will pass on to parents and will inevitably widen a gap in education. At present, no conclusion has yet been reached on the business tax collection. OEC will reconsider the appropriate ceiling fees to prevent profiteering and to monitor the learning/teaching quality of all kind of private schools, then submit the proposal to the Cabinet accordingly, he concluded.

After the meeting, the Secretary-General of OEC has also leaded a group of more than 20 participants to inspect the learning/teaching of tutorial schools in Phya Thai district.