

The OEC Organized the Public Hearing Meeting, Improvement of Qualifications Framework and National Manpower Development Plan for Northern Region, Chiangmai.



Recently, the OEC has organized the Public hearing meeting on Development of the National Qualifications Framework and Plan to Produce and Improve Manpower. Dr. Suthasri Wongsamarn, Deputy Secretary-General, presided over the opening ceremony which was held at the Imperial Mae Ping hotel, Chiangmai.

Mrs. Suthasri said that manpower quality is the important factor which mobilizes the economic and social development of the country amidst the high competition in both local and World markets. In the shortage of manpower in terms of both quality and quantity in some sectors resulted the educational system irrelevant to production of sufficient skilled manpower demanded by the market as well as the new graduates' lack of competence. The Ministry of Education has consequently set the national qualifications framework to create linkage in all levels and types of education as well as working competence for all careers and also to ensure that is useful to new graduates will cope with the required qualifications. Furthermore, credits transfer will be possible for learners in alternative education to raise qualifications and improve knowledge skills as a measure to develop sustainable education.

Mr. Chirapun Gullaprawit, Director of the Macroeconomic Strategy and Planning Office, NESDB pointed out that the chronic problem derived from manpower production and development which do not meet the labour market demand causing shortage of skilled manpower. On the other hand, manpower in production sector does not have the habit of lifelong learning. Educational agencies concerned should therefore solve the problems enabling the graduates from education system to apply their knowledge into practice. In addition, credit and experience transfer for learners in non-formal education should be considered. Besides, The main factors causing the shortage of medium quality manpower are the social attitude towards degree and lack of credit transfer from non-formal education. The development of manpower is needed in order to promote their interests in long life learning and distance learning and to prepare their readiness towards ASEAN Community.

Mr. Sommart Khunset, Secretary-General of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) stated that, unlike other countries, Thailand trends to give more value and importance to educational degrees than working capabilities as the contrary in many other countries. Some members of FTI who had minimum education at the level of P. 4 are even the owners of multi-million Baht businesses. Therefore, the priorities for all sectors concerned are mobilisation of the Educational Reform in the Second Decade, combination of educational and vocational qualifications. The entrepreneurs in private sector usually require qualified personnel and take consequently an important role to specify each career skills. Meanwhile, the public sector should have data base on manpower demand and manpower development which are related to the productivity of manpower suitable for labour market demand accordingly.