

# Development of Co-operative Movement in Udon-thani

## Province Project

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### Abstract

This research aims at an alliance network establishment among people groups and organizations in Udon-thani Province in order to increase people empowerment for poverty reduction. Participatory Action Research (PAR) was employed for the study. The registered and non – registered cooperatives in Udon-thani Province were the populations and 22 organizations were selected. The study was conducted during the middle of August B.E. 2548 to August B.E. 2549. The research was divided into 5 stages: 1) a study of situations and performances of cooperatives, people groups and people organizations in the area, 2) a data investigation of registered poor people who were the cooperative members, 3) forum setting of understanding among the organization leaders about the organization directions and networks, 4) direction framework and 5) supporting the establishment of alliance networks.

### Results:

1. Situations: it was found that most registered groups, organizations and cooperatives had work plans. The 24 cooperatives had strategic plans but lacked of proper administration skills: no plan review and evaluation. The rules of work management were clearly established. However, most of the cooperatives had more dept than the capital, the members lacked of understanding on cooperative systems, and most auditors had no experiences. Most of work management were releasing loan to the members. For the agricultural groups and the saving groups for production, it was found that no formal work planning. The leader capacities conditioned the administrative quality. No formal accountings were provided. More than a half of the agricultural members could not complete the accounts. For the network issue, the new networks were established after the policy of the Cooperative Department. They were the money-loan and the money deposit both inside and outside of the province. They were also fertilizer trade and gasoline trade including transportation. Most of the network models were bi-lateral trading more than the network management because of no proper system used: poor cooperation and communication, little meeting, lack of confident on network system and lack of continuity.

2. Alliance establishment by sharing of knowledge supported the sharing knowledge network and became the social capital for social business networks. They were cattle feed, paddy, sugar cane, paddy and grain, capital networks and planning to join chemical fertilizer networks. These included products of other organizations. The business networks could reduce the expense, increase the income and assessment to other social and organization services.

3. The important factors of network maintaining were the leaders' knowledge. The network value was network participation, organization and group administration, communication, activities and capacity.

This research, however, was conducted in limited time. The network, there for, needs more time to be strengthened and release effective results to the members.