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A new secretary – general of the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) moves on to research and innovation for steering the country with national strategies.

The NRCT becomes delighted to introduce the new Secretary – General, Professor Sirirug Songsivilai, M.D., Ph.D., who was appointed (from the cabinet) Secretary – General of the NRCT on 1 November 2016. He has commenced working as the NRCT's Secretary – General since 13 January 2017.

"The NRCT acts the main national research policy and innovation organization dealing with and supporting research for developing economy, industry, society, the environment and for driving the country into prosperity, security and sustainability in a way that agrees with national strategies. Furthermore, research results can be further studied, reduce disparity in Thai society and move the country forward. The NRCT makes its attempt to push research in accord with the three-national strategies, as follow:

- 1) To prepare and direct national research strategy and innovation by integrating with governmental and private sectors.
- 2) To manage research resources and national innovation appropriately and worthily, and to support furthering research and maximizing research work.
- 3) To develop research personnel in support of the country in order to keep pace with the changing world situation by maximizing the spent budget. Additionally, the NRCT aims to exert all its authority to accomplish research operations emphasizing seven disciplines-targeted research and innovation within 18 months in harmony with the government's policy to reach Thailand 4.0: Prosperity, Security and Sustainability.", said Professor Songsivilai with definite intention.



Curriculum Vitae

Professor Sirirug Songsivilai, M.D., Ph.D.
Secretary-General of NRCT

Educational Background:

- ✦ M.D. (Clinical Medicine) (First-Class Honours, Gold Medal), Mahidol University
- ✦ Ph.D., University of Cambridge, U.K.
- ✦ Postdoctoral Certificate (Molecular Biology), University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, U.S.A.

Administrative History:

- ✦ Executive Director of National Nanotechnology Center (NANOTEC)
National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
Ministry of Science and Technology
(October 2008 – September 2016)
- ✦ Professor
Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University
(October 2003 – September 2008)

Royal Decorations:

- ✦ Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant, 2014
- ✦ Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand, 2009

Important Honors:

- ✦ Anandhamahidol Foundation Scholarship
- ✦ ASEAN Young Scientist and Technologist Award
- ✦ Young Scientist and Outstanding Technologist Awards



Decentralized Education Administration: Comparative Study of Local Administrative Organizations in Thailand and South Korea

The National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) has funded a social science research project (Thai-Korea Cooperative Project) on "Decentralized Education Administration: Comparative Study of Local Administrative Organizations in Thailand and South Korea" to Assoc. Prof. Surassawadee Hoonpayon, Thammasat University.

Research Results

The above second phase research project aims to comparatively study the management of the educational institutes belonging to local organizations in Thailand and South Korea in four aspects: general, academic, personnel and budget administration, and to study good practices in educational institute management under the local organizations in Thailand and South Korea so as to present appropriate guidelines applied to the context of local schools in Thailand. This research was conducted with documentary research, field research and interview by determining samples, and four educational institutes as case studies in Thailand and South Korea, including three educational institutes belonging to local administrative organizations in Thailand. Used tools were structural interview and field record form. The researcher analyzed content, checked tripartite data, and presented research results with descriptive analysis. Research results from the study are as follows:

1. Thai and South Korean local organizations were different in the management of educational institute, i.e. Thai schools were more independent and having the power to manage academic aspects other than personnel, budget, and general administration that have partly decentralized to the educational institutes, communities and parents got superficially involved in educational management while the decentralization of education from the affiliated agency to South Korea schools considerably existed, schools were able to manage academic, budget, personnel, use of modern technology in teaching and learning, stipulate regulations and management standards, etc.

2. Key characteristics of the educational institute to be used as a prototype for educational management indicated that the institute could meet demand of learners and communities, had a flexible framework, was the center of cooperation between local partner networks, focused on management integrated with multiple organizations, including higher education institution, expanded working networks. Administrators had leadership, ability to manage, to make autonomous decisions in managing education on their own.

3. The following is suggestions from the study: promoting educational institutes to manage education without being controlled or limited, adding practical learning activities responding to students' attitudes, interests, increasing the transfer of personnel management authority by allowing the educational institute to recruit personnel by themselves and to have freedom in developing teachers according to individual and institutional needs, independently increasing financial management by establishing a school account system so as to support educational activities, enabling the educational institute to freely expend their earned budgets, local administration should set up general administration database of the educational institute in order to reduce teachers' administrative work burden, accentuating research and development to enhance learning management, authority and role of the educational institute board in formulating policy and activities of the educational institute.



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