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## FIRST NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POLICY COUNCIL (NRIC) MEETING

The National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) and the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Office held the first meeting on NRIC at Santi Maitree Building on February 27 chaired by General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister, Head of the National Council for Peace and Order, and NRIC's President. ACM Prajin Juntong, Deputy Prime Minister, Dr.Somkid Jatusripitak, Deputy Prime Minister and Dr.Suvit Maesincee, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office, other committees and concerned academic experts participated in the meeting considering principles, goals and guidelines on driving the reformation of research and innovation system. The following is a summary from the meeting.

### 1. NRIC's Committee

- 1) Committee on Integrated Administration of Research and Innovation System Reformation chaired by ACM Prajin Juntong.
- 2) Four subcommittees:
  - (1) Subcommittee on Research and Innovation Policy and Strategy.
  - (2) Subcommittee on Research and Innovation Personnel Development.
  - (3) Subcommittee on Adjustment of Integrated Research and Innovation Budget System.
  - (4) Subcommittee on the Improvement in Laws and Regulations.

## 2. NRIC's Operation Framework

The NRIC divides the framework into three periods: short term (2017) medium term and long term by emphasizing four issues:

1) Determination of direction, policy and strategy of research and innovation in line with 20-year national research and innovation strategy, as well as providing guidelines for driving

strategies of various agencies involved in research and innovation system in order to make the operation unified and clear.

2) Determining the system of research and innovation budget allocation to be consistent with the national research and innovation system and research and innovation strategies. Including providing a continuous monitoring and evaluation system.

3) Creation and development of research, science, technology and innovation personnel to reach adequate quantity and top quality.

4) Adjusting missions and authority of agencies in research and innovation system, as well as improving relevant laws, regulations and rules, and creating tax incentives and privileges to facilitate research and innovation development.



## 3. 20-year National Research and Innovation Strategy

The Strategy consists of six strategies/ plans, as follows:

1) Master plan on research and innovation for developing economy and heightening competitiveness.

2) Master plan on research and innovation for solving problems and developing society, community, security and quality of life.

3) Master plan on research and development for creating body of knowledge.

4) Master plan on system adjustment and research and innovation budget integration.

5) Master plan on research and innovation personnel development.

6) Master plan on law improvement, reformation of research and innovation system and development of research and innovation infrastructure.



#### 4. Promotion of research and development on science, technology and Innovation in five Industries under the public – private collaboration project.

- 1) Agriculture and Biotechnology
- 2) Health and Medical Technology
- 3) Intelligent devices, robots and mechanical systems using electronic control systems
- 4) Digital internet technology that connects and controls various devices, artificial intelligence and embedded technology.
- 5) Creative industry, culture and high-valued service

The Council supported to the concept of an establishment of Industry Consortium and the principles regarding corporate income tax exemption for the expenses that each company spends on R&D in five industries, beginning from January 1, 2017 to 31 December 2019, and assigned the Ministry of Science and Technology to the main agency in setting up Public – Private Collaboration Committee for each target industry.

At the meeting, the Prime Minister also laid particular stress on the determination of NRIC's research and development target which must be clear and be in line with the national strategy. The mentioned target must be set in 2017, and brought about tangible results.



## The Use of Natural Enemies in Taking Control over *Opisina arenosella* Walker

Currently, coconuts grown in the southern, eastern and western regions are encountering an outbreak of *Opisina arenosella*. In the years 2010-2012, the National Biological Control Research Center, Central Regional Center, Kasetsart University, Kamphaeng Saen Campus, Kamphaeng Saen District, Nakhon Pathom Province studied *O. arenosella* and other natural enemies in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province and found that the number of *Bracon hebetor* is higher than other natural enemies; the Center then brought *O. arenosella* in for studying and developing its culture and liberated it to the nature.

*Bracon Hebetor* is a small parasite of 1.3 - 2.7 ml. Adult female *Bracon Hebetor* destroys insect pests during the worm; it will penetrate and lay eggs on the pest. The Eggs of *Bracon Hebetor* grow by eating liquid from the pest. And when it becomes adult, it will get out of the pest to breed and destroy the pest. 200 *Bracon hebetor* are used in one rai of coconuts. After the release of *Bracon hebetor* parasite for 11 months, the number of population of *O. arenosella* reduced. *Bracon hebetor* could effectively control *O. arenosella* at an average rate of 77.40 percent. Based on this preliminary data, the Center recommends farmers encountering an appearance of *O. arenosella* to release *Bracon hebetor* parasite in order to control *O. arenosella*

In 2015, the Center provided budget to the Department of Agriculture. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives so as to promote biological control of the pest in coconuts in four subdistricts of Samui District: Namuang, Maenam, Taling-ngam and Maret, Surat Thani Province by using *Bracon Hebetor* to control *O. arenosella*. This made the outbreak of *O. arenosella* decrease by 272 rai from 742 rai. The percentage of efficient control over *O. arenosella* in severe area after the project was undertaken for six months was 11.922 indicating that *Bracon Hebetor* could not control *O. arenosella* as for the not severe area, the control efficiency was 87.26 percent pointing out that *Bracon Hebetor* could control *O. arenosella*.



Coconuts are destroyed by *O. arenosella*.



*O. arenosella* is killed by *Bracon Hebetor*.



*Bracon Hebetor* is laying its eggs on *O. arenosella*.

## THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THAILAND (NRCT) GOT A CERTIFICATE SHOWING A HIGH LEVEL OF INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY ASSESSMENT (ITA)

The objectives of the ITA is to assess the level of integrity and transparency in work and to suggest improvement or development of guidelines on integrity and transparency for ameliorating work process, assessment form, etc. in order to ensure that the assessment will reflect the actual performance of the agencies. The ITA can be assessed via five indexes: transparency, accountability, anti-corruption, organizational culture and ethics.

Being done qualitatively and quantitatively and covered the operation in all dimensions of the agency, the ITA will be carried out in view of documents, evidences as well as stakeholders based on opinion survey conducted inside and outside the agencies, that is, officers and recipients of service or those affected from the agencies' operations.

As the ITA in the fiscal year 2016 showed a very high mark, the NRCT was offered the certificate of honor from General Prayuth Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister and President of Anti Corruption Center on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.

As for the fiscal year 2017, the ITA, defined as a key strategy of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, Phrase 3 (2017-2021) is considered as a proactive corruption prevention measure which the government agencies throughout the country must take action to eradicate corruption.

