Challenges for Adapting the Sustainable Development Concept in Thailand’s Minerals Industry

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- Thailand’s Minerals Industry
- Sustainable Development in Current Agenda
- Concerns on Sustainable Development Implementation
- Challenges for Thailand’s Minerals Industry
- Conclusions
Overview (2011)

- **Resource**
  - stone and industrial minerals, esp. potash, rock salt, limestone

- **Production (1,962 million USD)**
  - by quantity: aggregate, limestone for cement, lignite, and gypsum
  - by value: lignite, aggregate, limestone for cement, gypsum, and gold

- **Trade**
  - Import (1,940 million USD): mainly coal and coke
  - Export (960 million USD): tin, gold and silver, gypsum and anhydrite
Changes in Contributions and Impacts

- Export- to domestic-oriented
  - Export share 9% (1966) → < 0.5% (2011)
  - Domestic consumption > 85%

- Raw materials
  - Stones and lignite

- Employment
  - 14,000 workers

- Benefit sharing
  - Royalty 24 million USD
  - Donations and projects
Thailand’s Minerals Industry

Changes in Contributions and Impacts
Needs for improvement

- Seek for a balance
  - Maintain contribution to national and local development
  - Minimize negative impacts
- SD is seen as a solution, but current implementation is not successful.
National level

- National Economic and Social Development Plan 7 (1992-1996)
- Changes in mineral regime
  - National Environmental Protection and Promotion Act B.E.2535 (1992)
  - Other policies/regulations
Corporate level

- Compulsory
  - Participation
  - Land use and safety
  - Environmental measures
  - Benefit sharing

- Voluntary
  - ISO
  - CSR
  - GRI
  - Improvement programs
Outcomes

- **Corporate level**
  - Low performance

- **National level**
  - Low importance
  - Significant impacts
Concerns on SD Implementation

- SD concept should be adapted to specific values and contexts.
- Nature of the minerals industry
  - Non-renewable and site-specific
  - Strong or weak sustainability
- Differences in values and concepts
  - Western vs. Thailand → cultural context
- Social and institutional structure
  - How to match contribution ability with the country’s needs
Objective

- Maintain function
- Minimize negative impacts and enhance positive contribution

Paradigm

- Take into account socio-cultural differences
- Be moderate
Conclusions

- Thailand’s minerals industry needs to maintain contribution to national development while balancing positive and negative impacts.
- Though SD is a potential solution, current implementation requires re-consideration of development objective and approach that takes into account specific contexts and cultural values.
- Moderation and emphasis on positive contribution provide good framework for improvement.

Future works:
- Define mutual goal
- Identify indicators for tracking changes, both at corporate and sector levels
- Develop tools for improvement
Thank you for your Attention!

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