

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



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
 - ➔ Mineral Act B.E.2510 (1967) and Mineral Royalty Rates Act B.E. 2511 (1968)
 - ➔ National Environmental Protection and Promotion Act B.E.2535 (1992)
 - ➔ Determining Plan and Process of Decentralization Act B.E. 2542 (1999)
 - ➔ Other policies/regulations

Corporate level

■ Compulsory

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

■ Voluntary

- ISO
- CSR
- GRI
- Improvement programs



Outcomes

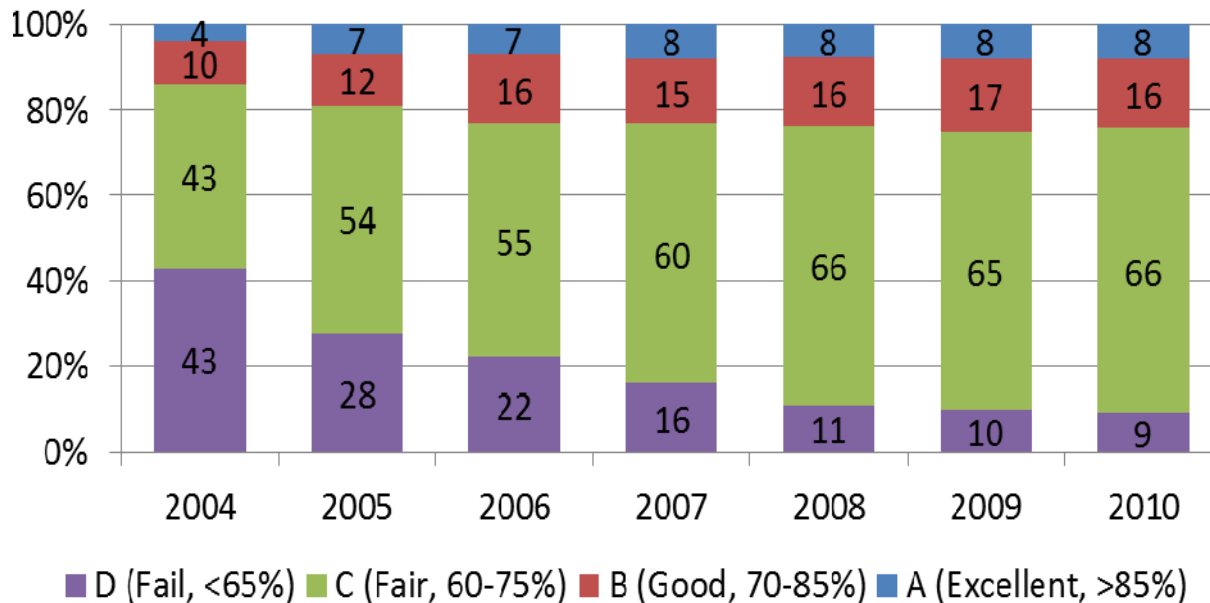
■ Corporate level

➔ Low performance

■ National level

➔ Low importance

➔ Significant impacts



- 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

- 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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