

**"Thailand and the World  
at the Dawn of 2007"  
Report of a Listening Post  
held on 18th January**



**Encouraging The Reflective Citizen**

**Part 1. SHARING PREOCCUPATIONS AND EXPERIENCES**

In this part of the Listening Post participants were invited to identify, contribute, and explore their experience in their various social roles. This part was concerned with what might be called 'the stuff of people's everyday lives' that related to the 'socio' or 'external' world of participants.

**Part 2. IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR THEMES**

In Part 2 the aim was to collectively identify the major themes emerging from Part 1. Three groups of Participants identified their main themes and used markers and flip chart papers to draw pictures or flowcharts that represent the themes instead of writing statements as usual. (see pictures) Each group then took turn to share their findings. On this occasion, the use of metaphorical drawings help participants to define the relatedness of different subjects and therefore themes were not so difficult to name.

**Theme 1 - Non-compliance**

There are of many issues of non-compliance in organizations and these cause them not only to waste time, money and valuable resources but also to lose the reputation and opportunities. However this is not the end of everything. This makes problems bigger and much more difficult to solve later on.

**Theme 2 - Education and others**

Quality of Education at large is lower than requirement. Alternative education available for adults is insufficient with limited access and therefore creates problems further. This results in majority of population who finished high school or higher education couldn't get employment. Basic reading and writing only doesn't secure their future anymore. To survive, many left the countryside and moved to big cities to search for jobs. Many also have chosen easy way out to commit petty theft and crimes in small peaceful neighborhood. Some citizen don't feel safe especially women who have to work or commute during the night. The higher crime rate in cities and violence in the south can have impact on the safety and tourism business, which is one of the most important economic activities.

**Theme 3 - The Tree**

Individuals in society are like the trunk of the society tree. We feed and create the tree, which bare fruits of society. These fruits often are positive results such as better standard of living, moral leadership, quality of life, and spiritual growth. But often, some bad fruits such as materialisms, crimes & sickness also exist. The employment and

moral education creepers wrapping around the trunk are protecting and destroying the tree at the same time.

#### **Theme 4 - the Spiral**

Leadership and integrity in parents, local, national and political life is lacking. Unequal opportunity for development for rural people creates gap for foreign interference. Shattered Ethics and moral can be witnessed through how people misuse technology. Quality of life in the society is at threat from technology and pollution.

### **Part 3. ANALYSIS AND HYPOTHESIS FORMATION**

In this part of the Listening Post the members were working with the information resulting from Parts 1 & 2, with a view to collectively identifying the underlying dynamics both conscious and unconscious that may be predominant at the time; and, developing hypotheses as to why they might be occurring at that moment. Here the members were working more with what might be called their 'psycho' or 'internal' world. Their collective ideas and ways of thinking that both determine how they perceive the external realities and shape their actions towards them. Even though, it was relatively easy to identify issues but there was, nonetheless, a struggle to adopt the language of psychodynamic to express and make sense of the Listening Post experience. The time and language (English) used in LP may have partially contributed to these struggles. The analysis and hypothesis of each picture are in the following:

#### **Analysis and Hypothesis**

Theme 1 - Non-compliance

No hypothesis

Theme 2 - Education and others

No hypothesis

#### **Theme 3 - The Tree**

Because the lack of education in moral, members of the society are committing the crime, leading to the deterioration of the Thai culture. Being grateful to the economic activities, we can develop ourselves within the society, resulting in more competition, more materialistic wants and more self-fulfillment needs.

#### **Theme 4 - the Spiral**

Because of lack in leadership and parents responsibility, so many people in society experience unequal opportunity for development and education therefore resulting in inconsistently spread incompetence local workforce, which creates gap for foreign interference. Shattered Ethics and moral can be witnessed through how people misuse technology. This result in quality of life in the society is at threat from misuse of technology and pollution.

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