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## Sufficiency Economy in Microfinance for SMEs Development

22 June - 3 July 2020

Closing date for application: 1 April 2020

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### **TICA: Thailand International Cooperation Agency**

is a national focal point for Thailand's international development cooperation. TICA was established in 2004 to realize Thailand's aspiration to be a contributor of development cooperation. Believing that global challenges are best addressed by international cooperation and global partnership, today we continue to strengthen our contribution to achieve global development agenda through various capacity-building and human resources development programs. In response to the recent changes in the global landscape of development cooperation, especially through the concept of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, TICA continues to realign our focuses in order to deliver Thailand's commitment to be a relevant partner in global agendas including the 2030. Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **AITC : Annual International Training Course**

was initiated in 1991 as a framework in providing short-term training for developing partners. Today, the AITC remains one of TICA's flagship programs. It offers not only a training experience, but also a platform in exchanging ideas and establishing professional network among participants from across the developing world. Aiming at sharing Thailand's best practices and experience to the world, the AITC training courses focus on development topics of our expertise currently categorized under five themes namely; "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" or SEP, Food security, Public Health, Climate Change, and other topics related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **MI: Mekong Institute**

Is a GMS intergovernmental organization (IGO) working closely with the governments of six countries to promote regional development and cooperation through programs and projects in three thematic areas of agricultural development and commercialization, trade and investment facilitation, and innovation and technology connectivity.

### **AITC Theme : SEP**

"Sufficiency Economy" or "The Middle Path" is a philosophy introduced and developed by His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej in 1974. Over the course of his reign, His Majesty offered his insight into a sustainable way of life to his people within the nation. The promotion of the practical sufficiency principles began as the approach for all to adopt after royal permission was granted on November 29, 1999. This sufficiency economy philosophy (SEP) provides a set of living and practical guidelines for people at all social levels starting from family to community and eventually the nation. And this was well before the major economic crisis in Thailand. Subsequently, more emphasis was given to survival solutions that were both stable and sustainable under the currents of globalization and changes.

## Course Objectives

The training aims to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills on sufficiency economy and microfinance by enhancing their capacity development, fostering and sharing of relevant experience and information. Specific objectives of the training are;

- To understand the concept of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) and its application in Microcredit programme for community and economic development.
- To enhance understanding on microfinance with particular focus in the operational aspects;
- To build and strengthen the connections among the participants through mutual-learning and collaborative actions on policy and technical aspects between SEP and microfinance development;
- To expose participants to the successful SEP through microfinance practices in Thailand to learn the best practices;
- To promote SME development and boost the inclusive growth in the member countries; and
- To introduce the SEP concept in their respective countries.

## Course Methodology

Training methodologies to be used during this training course include;

- Lecture
- Group discussion
- Individual and group assignment
- Structured learning visit

## Assignment and Evaluation

- In-class participation.
- Submission and presentation of “Country Report” which include current situation, relevant policies regulations and practices, and challenges of promoting decent work for migrant workers in participant’s country/territory.
- Action Plan – Participants are required to prepare action plans to disseminate the knowledge and skills they learned/gained during the training.
- Training Assignment

- Attendance – Participants are required to attend all activities organized during the course. TICA reserves the rights to revoke its fellowship offered or take appropriate action in case a participant is in attendance of less than 90 percent of the training hours.

## Course Outline

Topics of the training are;

- Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP).
- Definition of SME and Microfinance for SMEs development.
- Regulatory and Government Support for Microfinance Development.
- Establishment of Community-based Microfinance.
- Local Government Support to Microfinance.
- Sociological Framework of Rural Community-based microfinance
- Operational Management of Non-interest base Microfinance.

## Participant Criteria

Candidates must possess qualifications as specified in “Guideline for Thailand’s Annual International Training Course Programme” No.2 “Qualifications” as well as following qualifications.; - Working as mid-level officials from relevant agencies i.e. Ministries/departments/agencies of Finance, Economic Affairs, Industry & commerce, Community Development, Bank and SME Cooperation and Banking Associations.

- Have at least 3-5 years of experience in facilitating labour mobility and skill development from Government, private and academe.
- Have a university degree in discipline directly related to population, demography, migration and skill development;
- Be able to communicate (speak, understand, read and write) at professional level in written and spoken English;
- Have sufficient professional capacity to actively participate cross-culturally at international level;
- Be in good health both physically and mentally;
- Be able to attend the entire course, including its field trips and outdoor activities.

## Application

- Candidate must be nominated/ endorsed by their respective governments of the eligible countries/ territories by the closing date of application.
- Complete nomination documents must be submitted to TICA through the Royal Thai Embassy/ Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations/ Royal Thai Consulate-General accredited to eligible countries/ territories.

(See “list of Eligible Countries” for more information)

## Number of Participants

20 persons

## Terms of Awards

**For AITC Eligible Countries** – AITC Training Fellowship\* include training fee, return economy-class, airfare, accommodation, allowance, insurance, airport transfer and social programme.

**For Non – AITC – Eligible (FEALAC and CPS Member Countries)** – AITC Training Fellowship\* include training fee, accommodation, allowance, insurance, airport transfer and social programme.

\*Subject to rates and conditions established by TICA.

## Training Institute and Venue

Mekong Institute,  
Khon Kaen.

## Selection and Confirmation

- Selection of participants will be given priority to applicants from Ayeyawady – Chao Phraya – Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Member Countries, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Member States and members of financial business associations from South Asia, South East Asia, African States and countries of the Pacific Islands who are involved in microcredit/microfinance and banking sectors.
- Particular attention shall be paid to the candidates’ background, their current position, and practical use they expect to make of the knowledge and experience gained from training on the return to their position.
- Selection of participants is also based on geographical distribution and gender balance.
- Successful applicants will be informed approximately 4 weeks before the beginning of training course.
- Successful participants must return duly completed and signed acceptance form by the deadline to confirm their participation in the program.

## Contact

Bureau of International Cooperation on Human Resource Development

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For more information on qualifications, application forms, and application procedures, please visit our website at <http://www.tica.thaigov.net/main/en/information/73803-Annual-International-Training-Course.html>

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