

THIRD QUARTER UPDATE

Name of the Program: Thailand – EC Cooperation Facility

Contract Reference No. Project 169-143

Project Title : **Safety and Environmental Best Practices Exchange for Transportation of Hazardous Substances in the Industry (SAFE THAI)**

Project Beneficiary Hazardous Substances Logistics Association (HASLA)

Period covered by the Quarterly Update : July 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009

Due Date for this Quarterly Update : October 1, 2009 plus two weeks

<i>Project Budget</i>	<i>EUR 191,583</i>
<i>Funds Disbursed by Commission (to date)</i>	<i>EUR 143,687 (80% = EUR 114,950)</i>
<i>Expenditure Incurred by Project to date (rough estimate)</i>	<i>EUR 85,000</i>

I. Introduction

The project **Safety and Environmental Best Practices Exchange for Transportation of Hazardous Substances in the Industry (SAFE THAI)** funded by the European Union, under the Thailand – EC Cooperation facility, commenced its operations in January 2009. The project aims to build the capacity of chemical & hazardous waste logistics companies in Thailand, by raising awareness on both Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) as well as EU Directives & Regulations relating to sound chemicals and hazardous waste management. The SAFE THAI Project attempts to bridge the gaps in compliance of the local industry to International regulations and thereby strengthen the trade and investment flow between the EU & Thailand.

Activities completed in the First Quarter revolved around the Analyze Phase. The Project Planning Meeting, Project Launch Ceremony and the Gap Assessment, which utilized the Industry Survey and Focused Group Discussion were all geared towards determining the level of awareness and confirming the training needs of the Project Target Groups in order to affirm the importance and relevance of the Project's concepts.

The Second Quarter built on the results of the First Quarter and moved from the Analyze Phase to the Create Phase, with activities planned for content development, structuring, organization for the website, EU Conference as well as for the training manuals. Due to unforeseen delays related to socio-political and economic factors locally and globally, some activities for the Create Phase were postponed to the Third Quarter's Mentor Phase. Project timelines, budgets, implementation and monitoring were adjusted accordingly resulting in completion of a number of delayed and planned activities. Interest in SAFE THAI remains strong, hence a cost-neutral Project Extension for three months was requested.

II. Description of Implemented Activities

A-1 Website Design & Development

Website changes completed in this quarter addressed problems encountered during the previous two quarters regarding technical content, Thai version and user friendliness. In addition, hosting and URL details of the Project Website changed from www.safe-thai.com to www.safe-thai.net to reflect the specific wish of members of HASLA, the Grant Contract holder, to uphold the non-commercial focus of the Association and the international networking objectives of the Project.

The complete structure of the Project Website is now operational. Maintenance and updates have started to make it function as an information resource for the Project's Target Groups.

Results - English and Thai content; Project Updates, EU Conference Material, Photographs uploaded

Status – Completed

A-2 EU Conference

The EU Conference, originally planned for the Second Quarter, finally came together this quarter after hectic months of preparation. Entitled **ASPIRE** (Awareness Summit for Promoting International REgulations), the EU conference successfully brought together over 100 speakers and delegates from Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Singapore, Germany, the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands on September 7 and 8 at the Centara Grand Bangkok Convention Center.

The Press Release and News Release for ASPIRE were picked up by local newspapers in Thailand and an international electronic newspaper with subscribers in the EU, North America and Asia-Pacific. Mahabir Koder, President of HASLA delivered the Welcome Remarks for ASPIRE emphasizing the need for constant awareness of the “potentially immense” environmental, health and safety impacts to the general public of chemicals, waste and hazardous material handling and transport. The Keynote Speech from Director-General Srichant Uthayopas, Hazardous Substances Control Bureau, Department of Industrial Works, Ministry of Industry re-affirmed the Thai government's support of SAFE THAI which “has all the qualities of timeliness and relevance (that fits in so well) towards raising awareness of where the gaps are and what the potential solutions are”. A Special Address from Delphine Brissonneau, Attache, Delegation of the European Commission to Thailand emphasized the importance and awareness of implementation of MEAs and EU regulations in relation to trade and investment flow between Thailand and the EU.

The two-day information exchange consisted of lectures, panel discussions and case studies. The First Day focused on foundation knowledge on the requirements and implementation of the Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention and Stockholm Convention. The Second Day introduced topics related to international transport agreements and regulations such as IMDG, IMO; as well as pertinent EU Directives on REACH, RoHS, Packaging and WEEE. The EU Experts were later joined by the local experts during the panel discussions and debates on case studies. Simultaneous translation from English to Thai and Thai to English were available throughout the event for all delegates and speakers. Sally Ananya Surangpimol, SAFE THAI Senior Project Manager – Partner moderated the panel discussions as well as acted as Master of Ceremonies for ASPIRE. The complete list of the speakers, local experts, their CVs and presentations have been posted on the Project Website. Participant feedback showed an overall rating for ASPIRE of “good” to “excellent”

Results – EU Conference Press Release and News Release; EU Conference Agenda, Materials, Presentations and Case Studies; EU Experts, Local Experts / Trainers List and CVs

Status – completed

A-3 Learning Portal Development

The completion of the Project Website and the EU Conference made possible the development of the Learning Portal. ASPIRE Conference Materials on the MEAs, EU Directives and Case Studies have been posted for reference and use of the Project Target Group. These will be followed by material and feedback from the behavioral and technical training sessions that were started during this quarter. The information exchange on the Learning Portal will be linked to the Fourth and last Phase, the Sustain Phase of the Project. The Knowledge-Sustainability Kit, planned in the form of CDs or videos, will build on the use of and feedback by users on the learning portal sections of the Project Website in order to facilitate a sustainable multiplier effect for the Project concepts and objectives.

Results - .Project Website Learning Portal sections on MEAs, EU Directives, Case Studies, Training feedback

Status – completed

A-4 Training Content Development & Training Delivery

A one-day training on Emergency Response & Occupational Health & Safety was held on July 23, 2009 for 335 people from industry and local provincial authorities. Feedback from the participants gave an average rating of “good” to this session. A schedule is in the process of being finalized for the remaining programs that have been delayed, as follows: Behavioural Training, 2 days; Technical Training, 8 days and TOT, 4 days, a total balance of 14 days.

The specific topics for Behavioural Training are broken down into 1-day Behaviour-based Safety and 1-day Defensive Driving Basics & Importance. The Technical Training Programs are split up into three main categories of Handling (3 days) with 1 day for Hazardous Waste and Chemical Handling, 1-day for Hazards Communication and Critical Injuries and 1 day for Emergency Preparedness & Response; Storage (2 days) with 1 day for Marking & Classification, 1 day for Labelling & Packaging; Transportation (3 days) with 1 day for HazMat Transport, 1 day for IMDG, 1 day for Load Securing and Distribution. For the Training of Trainers program, 2 days are allotted for Training Skills and another 2 days for training of selected local trainers on the implementation of MEAs / other pertinent directives and regulations for handling, storage and transportation of hazardous material.

Adjustments have been made in order to meet new deadlines of content completion as well as delivery during October, November and December. In some cases, simultaneous delivery in the target areas of Bangkok Metropolis and the Eastern Seaboard are being planned. Each session is expected to draw about a 100 people, hence a total reach of nearly 1,000 stakeholders from industry, academia and local authorities is forecasted.

Results – Revised Training Schedules; Emergency Response and Occupational Health & Safety Training Manual and Delivery; IMDG Training Manual

Status – Training manuals development ongoing; training delivery schedule being finalized

A-5 Budget Review & Revisions

As part of standard procedures for project management and in order to re-allocate or allocate internal resources more effectively and efficiently, the Project Team reviewed the Budget for the Action again during this quarter. As a result, some minor changes were made, regarding which the Delegation of the European Commission to Thailand was consulted and notified beforehand in writing.

Results – Project Budget Revision³ and Notify Letter both dated 20 September 2009

Status – completed

A-6 Request for Project Extension

Because of continuing strong interest from both government and private sectors, in addition to the continuing relevance of the SAFE THAI Project concepts and objectives, the Project Grant Holder, the EU Partner and the Project Team decided to seek a cost-neutral project extension to February 28 , 2010 from the Delegation of the European Commission to Thailand. Reasons cited for the delays were unforeseen political and economic events in the geographical areas of implementation as well as continuing impact from the global economic recession, factors which all parties of the Project tried to mitigate, with some success but not enough, to meet the original timelines for Project completion.

Results – Request for Cost-Neutral Extension dated September 28, 2009; Project Budget Final Revision 29-09-09

Status – application completed

III. Partnership

Activities for the Third Quarter confirmed the results of cooperation between the Project Partners in working closely to identify levels of expertise in the EU and in Thailand that are important to the target groups and stakeholders of SAFE THAI. The obstacles and delays in the previous quarter served to strengthen the Project Partners' determination to implement the Project cost-effectively using their pooled resources. The partnership continues to have a good balance of international as well as local expertise. As the Project moved to the Mentor Phase, the value of developing and enhancing local capabilities through knowledge and assistance from the EU was even better appreciated. The strength of the Project continues to be in the commitment of the Project Team to successfully implement SAFE THAI concepts for the benefit of local industry, government and the general public.

IV. Methodology

The methodology planned and described in the Project Proposal is being followed.

V. Other Issues

Practical issues regarding the Budget for the Action and detailed interpretation of the requirements of the Grant Contract continue to be addressed through consultation with the Delegation of the EC to Thailand as well as internal discussions within the Project Team. This is in order to ensure that the EU Grant Contract requirements are well-understood and complied with.

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