

CODI's projects and activities can be adjusted overtime to suit communities' needs and align with government policy. The essence of each project and activity is to enable community organizations to achieve sustainable and people-driven development.

Core Principles in Supporting Community Organizations

In assisting community organizations through various projects and activities, CODI observes the following core principles:

- Support communities and local authorities to be the core actors in different stages of development; forming directions, planning, and implementing those plans with collaboration and support from local administrators and other government agencies.
- Community organizations and affected people are encouraged to take the leading roles in solving their own problems.
- Support developmental plans which aim to work simultaneously on a country-wide scale so that communities and local authorities can visualize the overall scope and impact of such plans.
- Support budget decentralization which allows local community organizations to manage budget on their own.
- CODI performs the role of linking together relevant parties and coordinating between government, local agencies and communities to ensure community-based development.

Management and Mechanism in Linking with Community Process

CODI is governed by a Board of Directors of 11 members, including representatives from the government sector, community leaders, and experts in the field of social development. The Board assumes responsibility for formulating policy directives and overall monitoring of CODI's activities. The Board's term of office is three years. It also works through several sub-committees.

The **Managing Director** is selected through screening and selection process, and serves for four years. At present, there are approximately 300 working staff across Thailand. CODI also has five regional offices which enable staff to work closely with community organization networks and local agencies nationwide.

Community working groups on different levels (i.e. national, regional, and provincial as well as sub-district level) are normally set up for each developmental aspect to serve as operating mechanism in community-based development process.

Meanwhile, provincial coordinating sub-committees and regional coordinating sub-committees collaborate with CODI staff in overseeing and monitoring projects and activities.

Apart from the initial capital fund CODI inherited from the merger of the two former organizations, CODI also receives an annual budget from the government to implement projects in compliance with government policies.



Revitalizing local communities through the community organization driven development process

The community organization driven development process began in Thailand more than three decades ago. The formation of people-led community organizations has been supported by several agencies, and has been successful in reviving local communities by improving economic and financial conditions, natural resource and environmental management, sustainable agriculture, in addition to rehabilitating local traditions and cultures in diverse areas. In 2004, the strategy “**Revitalizing local communities**” was widely adopted with an aim to achieve “**Community self sufficiency**”

Community organizations, and the people driving them, are the key actors in setting and achieving development goals. The strategy is not to rely on external assistance or to pin hope on agencies, but to formulate community plans and work continuously until such goals are achieved. Throughout this people-led developmental process, community members work in close coordination with local authorities and supporting units to achieve holistic rather than piecemeal development.

The ultimate goals of the local community revitalizing strategy are to alter people's perceptions of what is possible by adopting a self-sufficient way of life, earning their own livelihoods, and developing capabilities to manage capital and natural resources efficiently. By way of holistic development, the following results are expected:

- Create a balanced relationship between communities, local authorities and other agencies.
- Create a positive family environment through a healthy lifestyle and financial independence.
- Encourage people to stay in their own community, while attracting those who have moved away to return home.
- Revive local culture, wisdom and social capital, while making people proud of their own community.
- Exchange knowledge and experiences of sustainable development and stimulate the process in outlying areas.



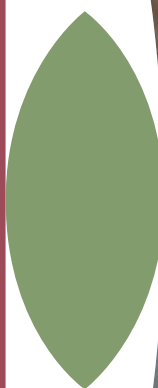
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Background

The Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI) was established as a public organization, a new form of government agency. Through an enactment of the Royal Decree, which merged the Urban Community Development Office and the Rural Development Fund, CODI was created, and has been operating since October 26, 2000 under the supervision of the Minister of Social Development and Human Security.

Public organization is a special type of government agency created to increase efficiency within the administration of public services. The Public Organization Act of 1999 allows the government to set up public organizations through the issuance of a royal decree. Each public organization is under the direct supervision of a relevant Minister. At present, there are approximately 30 public organizations, working in fields such as social development, education, and technology.

Strategic Plan for 2009-2012

Vision

Build society's fundamental strength through the power of community organizations and civil society.

Mission

1. Support and assist community organizations and networks in improving the careers, income, housing, and standard of life of their members.
2. Provide financial support to community organizations and networks.
3. Assist in the development of community organizations and networks, and coordinate with governmental and private agencies for that purpose.
4. Strengthen cooperation between community organizations and networks at the sub-district, provincial and national levels.

Key Direction

CODI employs an *area-based development* approach by focusing on *local community revitalization* and supporting community councils as a mechanism to integrate the community-based development process.

Strategic Issues

1. Urban housing development and rural land tenure solutions.
2. Community savings groups, capital management and community welfare.
3. 'Area-based' approach.
4. Dissemination of local community knowledge and policy advocacy.
5. Capacity building of community organizations and networks, and linkages between local administration and NGOs.
6. CODI internal capacity building.

Strategic Objectives

1. Low income communities in urban and rural areas should have security in housing and land.
2. Strong local communities with capability to manage themselves through their own financial and social capital.
3. Community councils and community networks are able to work coherently.
4. Experiences and knowledge are shared and developed for the benefit of other communities, within Thailand and abroad.
5. Community organizations and networks develop capability in managing their own organization.
6. CODI's management systems are able to efficiently support the dynamic process of community development.



Current Activities and Development Projects

1. Baan Mankong Housing Program: Launched in 2003, the program aims at solving housing and land insecurity of slum dwellers on a city-wide scale. The process involves slum surveys, community plans and designs, infrastructure improvement subsidy, and housing and land loans. The cabinet has approved the target of 200,000 housing units to be upgraded by 2011. Throughout the process, community organizations and local authorities are encouraged to be the key driving forces in solving city-wide slums. At present, the program has been implemented in 278 cities benefiting about 91,986 families from 1,557 communities. (More detail at www.codi.or.th/housing/)

2. Community Welfare: CODI began supporting provincial elderly funds in 2002 and sub-district welfare funds in 2005. Presently, CODI encourages each sub-district to set up a community welfare fund in order to provide fundamental care for its members. Contributions to the funds come from community members, local administrative offices, and the government. At present, more than 3,400 sub-district welfare funds have been established. It is anticipated that by 2012 every sub-district/municipality in the country will have its own welfare fund.

3. Land and Housing Issues in Rural Areas: Since 2004, CODI has supported communities that are finding solutions for land and housing insecurity in rural areas. Data collection, surveys, and map-drawings are carried out by rural communities themselves, with assistance from CODI and relevant authorities. Some communities have been successful in redesigning and rebuilding their own communities, through the Rural Baan Mankong Program. Presently, the solving of over 600 cases is underway.

4. Community Master Plan: Since 2003, community networks across the country have begun data collection on household economic and social conditions. Based on such statistics, community organizations are encouraged to create community master plans that address issues on a sub-district level. The plan is an important tool for developing sustainable solutions, and outlining a long term strategy for community networks in the area.

5. Developmental Credit Facility: CODI offers credit facility to community organizations and networks for further development and problem solving in accordance with community master plan. For example, housing loans are available to solve housing insecurity problem in urban areas through the Baan Mankong Program. Meanwhile, loans for holistic development and for community enterprises are meant to serve the need for economic and financial improvement. As of September 2010, CODI has extended loans to 716 community organizations comprising 383,309 families in 4,603 communities.

6. Community Organizations Certification: CODI has begun registering and certifying community organizations across the country. Classification based on quality and level of development would enable CODI and relevant authorities to monitor and continue supporting the capacity development of these organizations. Between 2005 and 2010, 82,119 community organizations were certified.

7. Community Organizations Councils: In accordance with the Community Organization Council Act 2008, CODI is mandated to assist in the formation of community organizations councils comprising representatives from community organizations at the sub-district level. The councils are the primary forum for discussions and policy development for strengthening local communities. About 2,343 councils were established between 2008 and 2010 which composed of approximately 40,000 community organizations.



8. Rehabilitation of Disaster

Affected Communities: Assistance is provided to communities affected by floods, storms, fires, mudslide, tsunami, eviction, etc. Communities are encouraged to be the primary actor in solving problems and making decisions on key issues such as temporary shelters, rehabilitation plan and disaster prevention measures.



9. Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Agriculture:

Community organizations/networks are encouraged to actively manage the surrounding environment, such as land, watershed, sea, lake and forests. CODI also promotes sustainable agriculture methods in order to conserve valuable natural resources.

10. Community Information System and Media: CODI supports community organizations to set up information centers containing useful economic and social information at sub-district and provincial levels. This information would be helpful for both local communities and relevant authorities in planning for social development assistance in the region. CODI also encourages community organizations to develop their communication tools through various channels such as community radio, websites, newsletters, etc.

11. Community Learning Centers: CODI supports the establishment of community learning centers as the primary source of knowledge sharing for development activities carried out by local communities. Learning centers are an important tool to expand the local community rehabilitation process as modern community development techniques are not available in conventional education. New community organizations benefit from learning about successful experiences.

12. Community Organization's Good Management: CODI encourages community organizations to apply good management systems including self-audit, key performance indicator measurement, monitoring and assessment mechanisms. Transparency and efficiency should also be observed to ensure a quality organization.

13. Solving Land and Housing Issues in Southern Provinces: Since 2009, CODI has begun a project in five Southern border provinces to solve land and housing issues through local community participation. Some areas in these provinces (Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat, Songkhla and Satun) are known to be sensitive with constant eruptions of conflicts and violence relating to religious and political beliefs. A large proportion of population in these provinces is Muslims. In 2011, CODI has set a target of housing upgrade for 37,630 poor families in 1,187 villages and solving of about 20 cases of land disputes.

14. Community Economic and Capital Development: CODI supports the strengthening of local capital system by means of linking existing community funds together so that overall picture of household debts are clearly seen and dealt with more efficiently. In addition, CODI also supports community-based financial organizations to improve their management skills in solving debt burden and stimulating development of local economy. Between 2009 to March 2010, about 256 sub-districts were supported by CODI in solving their debt problems through community-based financial organizations.

15. Civil Society Support: CODI also supports the work of NGOs, charities, and volunteers that strengthen communities and improving living conditions for local societies.

