



Anti-Corruption Strategy : Integrity Village

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Introduction

“...there can be no real victory in our fight against corruption unless there are changes of attitude throughout the community.”

*Sir Jack Carter
Founding Commissioner of ICAC*

In the preamble of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, 2003, it is clearly stated that:

“The States Parties to this Convention, concerned about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undreaming the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law,”

“Bearing in mind that the prevention and eradication of corruption is a responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another, with the support and involvement of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, if their efforts in this area are to be effective,”

From the preamble which outlines the participation of civil society and local community organization in preventing and elimination corruption. It is clearly stated in Article 13 on participation of society:

Each States Party shall take appropriate measures, within its means and in accordance with fundamental principles of its domestic law, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the prevention of and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption. This participation should be strengthened by such measures as:

- (a) Enhancing the transparency of and promoting the contribution of the public to decision-making processes;
- (b) Ensuring that the public has effective access to information;
- (c) Undertaking public information activities that contribute to non-tolerance of corruption, as well as public education programmes, including school and university curricula;
- (d) Respecting, promoting and protecting the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption. That freedom may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided for by law and are necessary;
 - (i) For respect of the rights or reputations of others;
 - (ii) For the protection of national security or order public or of public health or morals.

For this reason, I, as a National Anti-Corruption Commissioner of Thailand, began to establish National Institute for Anti-Corruption: Sanya Tammasak in the NACC Office in 2010 to provide education training and development for NACC investigators, officials of NACC, another independent organizations, courts and other officials at all levels from public sectors, private sectors, civil society sectors and mass media in order to have knowledge of the roles and missions of NACC as well as knowledge on strong and effective anti-corruption. In the same year I organized the executive training program for high level corruption prevention and suppression strategy for the first time in order to develop executives of government agencies, private sectors, state enterprises and civil society sectors to have knowledge, understanding and awareness of the importance of prevention and anti-corruption as well as helping to carry out a concrete anti-corruption strategy in accordance with the guidelines of the UNCAC 2003.

In 2013, the colleagues of the training course in Class of 5 jointly carried out research and development study on the topic of “Chor Sa-ard Village: Analytical study of Tha Khoi Nang Village”, Sawai Sub-district, Prang Ku District, Srisaket Province to present the model village on anti-corruption to NACC.

The results of the operation over a period of 4 months led to discover that “Integrity Village” refers to a village that has a form of community synergy among home, temple and school (HTS). This causes honesty which means the cleanliness of body, behavior, mind and wisdom which can be used to create a model of strong communities that do not tolerate corruption in the whole country.

Subsequently, leaders from all organizations and networks that have been trained from the program agreed that it was appreciate to join forces in creating a strong network of organizations from all sectors to drive a concrete anti-corruption strategy way. The Anti-Corruption Foundation was registered to set up

on July 7th, 2015. This is the last year of 9 years that I held the position of NACC commissioner (2006-2015) and I was selected to become the Chairman of the foundation. Executive Committee and Advisory Baard of the foundation were

selected by the colleges of training courses in every class. The graduates were allowed to take turn to become the member of the board in order to create awareness to drive every two years continuously for preventing and suppression strategy of anti-corruption in 76 provinces: 77 villages except Bangkok Metropolitan that is in the other project.



In addition, I also set up **“Thailand Anti-Corruption Academy”** (TACA) in **Faculty of Law, Rangsit University** according to the academic handbook of **“International Anti-Corruption Academy”** (IACA) that is an international organization and postgraduate educational institution based in Laxenburg, Austria. It offers an academic degree programme and certificate for the leaders all the country and from the villages to combat the corruption.

The Five Precepts Village: The Origin of the Integrity Village or Chor Sa-ard Village.

The five precepts in Buddhism arose from the implementation of the policy of using religion to lead politics, which the National Buddhism Office proposed to **the Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand** to approve and issue regulations on the operation of **the five precepts village project 2014** with the office of National Buddhism acting as the secretary to drive the project together with the Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand, government agencies, educational institutions, local government organizations, private organization, village leaders and Buddhist network organization jointly operate in the form of committee from provincial level, district and sub-district to village level.

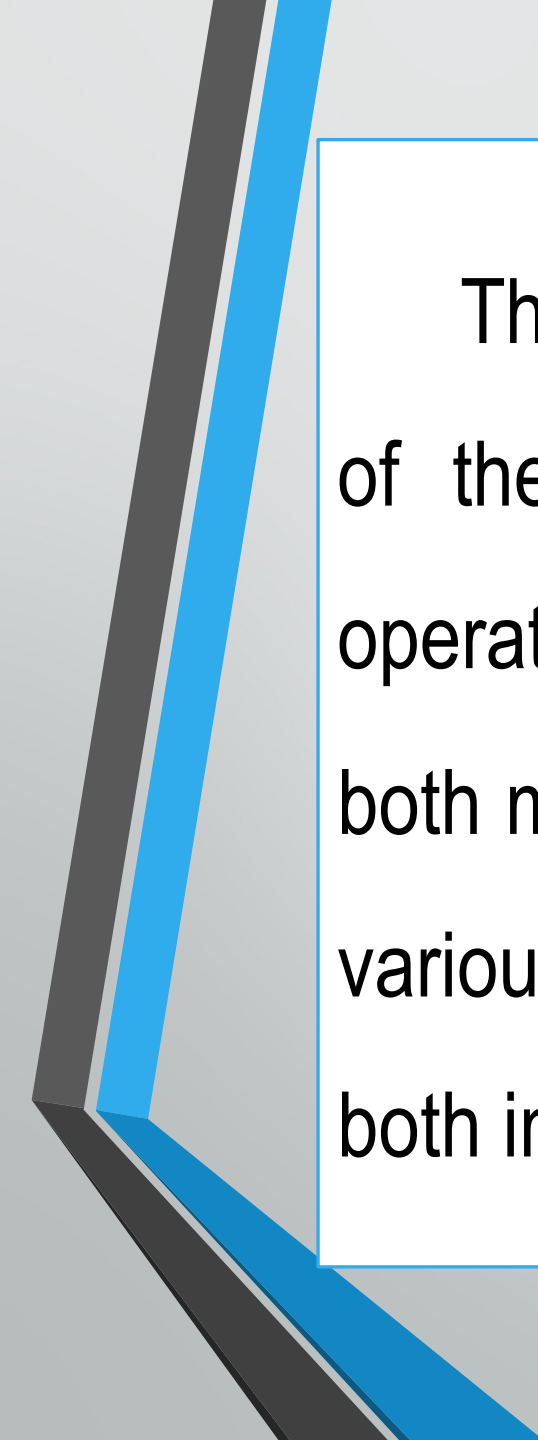
Moreover, in order to make the process of considering the five precepts village in accordance with the principles of conduct, division of Buddhism studies, National Office of Buddhism, therefore prepared a book called “**the five precepts manual**” to explain the meaning of **five precepts**. From the basic knowledge to the issue of human development with moral principles according to the framework of the precepts to point out that five precepts are one aspect of the precepts in the threefold training namely morality, concentration and wisdom. It is a method of emotional training according to Buddhism. It is the first step in learning to control human behavior in order to coexist orderly in society, not oppressive and corrupt. It is also a tool for purifying the passions of the human heart. The precept, therefore, are the ones that control the behavior and self purification of human mind making it possible to develop to be perfect human being.

From the “**five precepts village**” Project that has a good basis in the selection of the Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand with principles of human development according to the framework of the precepts to coexist peacefully, not encroach and corrupt, then, can adjust the basic idea of the community to have a conscious mind, not to tolerate corruption easily. As for the villages that have the majority of the inhabitants of Islam or Christianity, it is possible to apply the principles for controlling the behavior of the community according to the good guidelines of that religion.

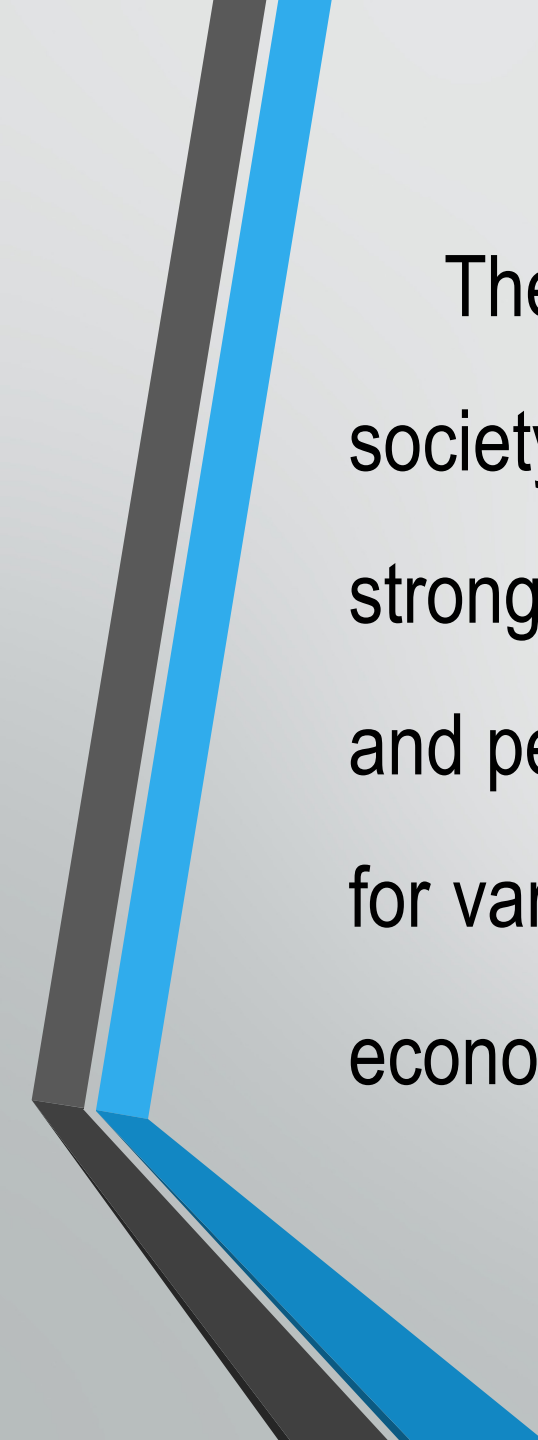
Strategy of the Anti-Corruption Foundation

“Promoting Collective Action is a crucial element in a wider strategy of combating corruption. It is about moving from talk to action.”

***Mark Pieth
Collecting Action Innovative
Strategy to Preventing Corruption***



The Anti-Corruption Foundation tried to draw up a strategic of the Foundation to determine the direction of the joint operation of all members which contributes to the efficiency of both management and implementation of the project as well as various activities of the Foundation with continuous advisement both in short term and in long term.



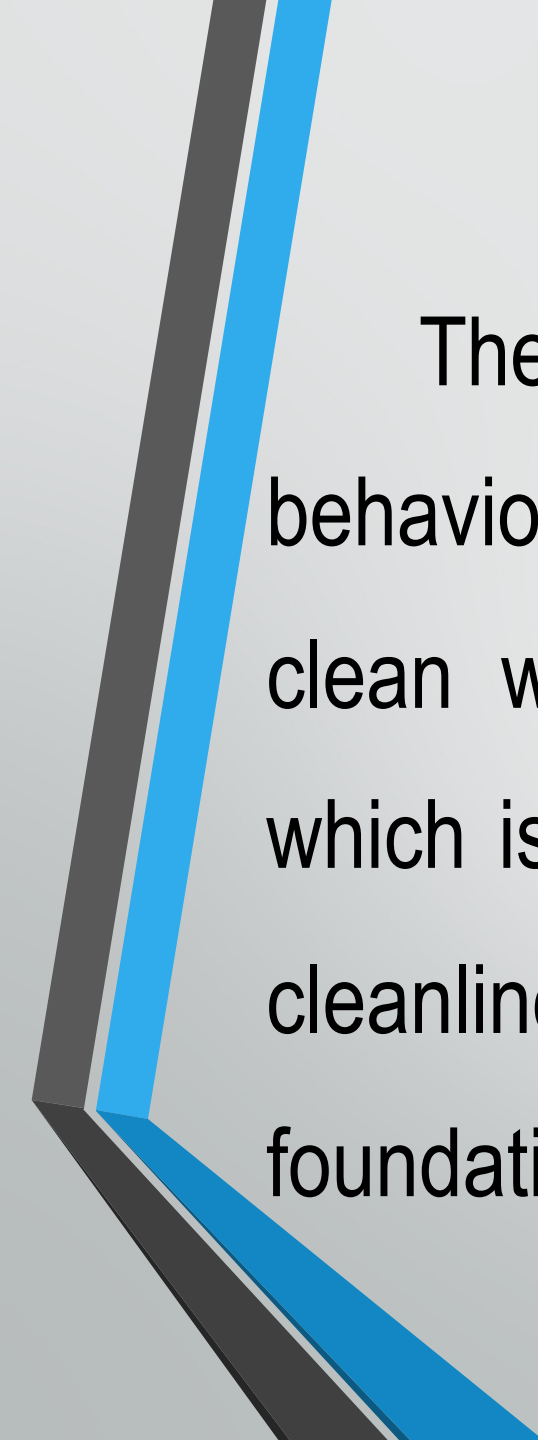
The strategy of the Foundation predicts that in the future Thai society will be aware of the dangers of corruption and will provide stronger support for anti-corruption operations of the community and people in all sectors. And then rise together as a driving force for various projects. This is by applying the philosophy sufficiency economy causing finally clean societies with clean lives

“Chor Sa-ard” forwards the Power of Cleanliness

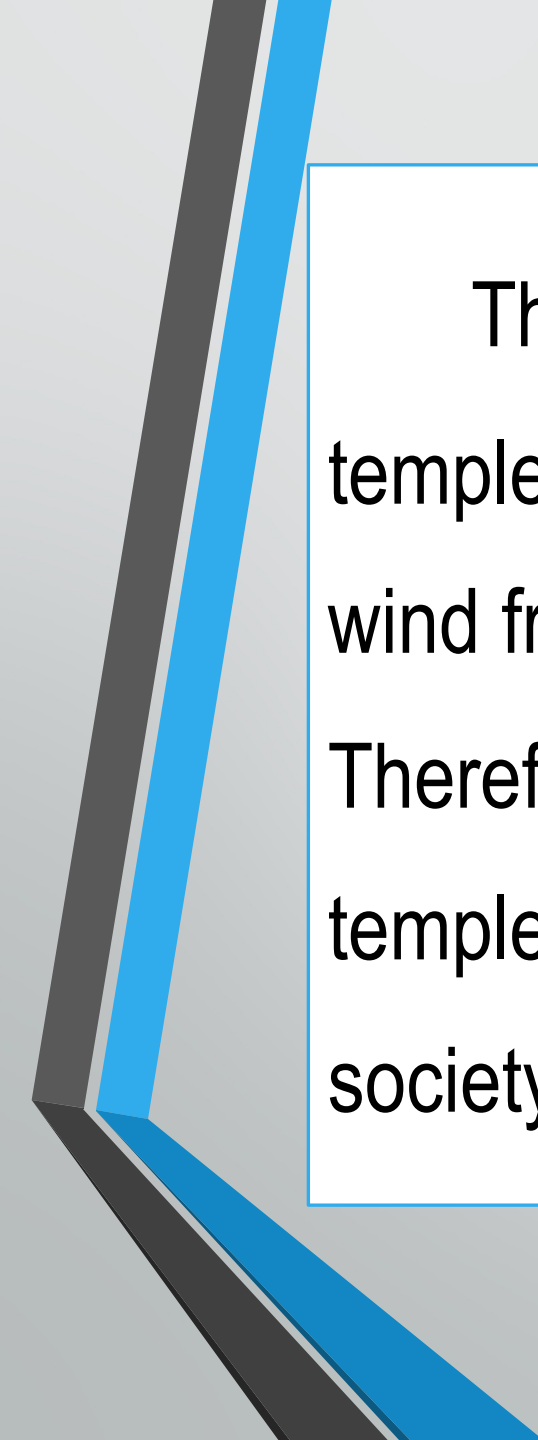


The “**Chor Sa-ard**” symbol is based on the concept of a bouquet of flowers, which is a popular gift to be given on important occasion, which means self-sustaining in honesty by doing good deeds, not cheating, not corrupting both oneself and others including community, society, religion the monarchy and the nation, through the symbol promote virtue which has gathered the white and clean hands of the people on the land of Thailand both inside and outside the Kingdom. Regardless of sender, age, race and religion.

The concept of “**Chor Sa-ard**” is developed into a symbol of being a “**Integrity Village**” or “**Chor Sa-ard Village**” which means **village of honesty and cleanliness**, a village where individual people survive on the basis of honesty, joining forces to do good and not tolerate corruption, with 4 important elements :



The four pillars are clean body (physical integrity) clean behavior (behavior integrity) clean mind (mind integrity) and clean wisdom (wisdom integrity) that rise from the stake which is honesty. That makes it flourish and strong. So the cleanliness of the four pillars cannot happen if the foundation of honesty is not strong enough.



The roof is a symbol of “HTS” which means home, temple, and school that is like a shield to prevent rain, and wind from harming the residents until they can't live any longer. Therefore, the duty that must strengthen together houses, temples and schools must be harmonized a one, so that society and community can coexist normally.

The development of Integrity Village or Chor Sa-ard Village.

The community must be developed to be self-reliant by developing career, saving, developing village fund and developing families to be the model in applying the curriculum of **Sufficiency Economy Philosophy** or the King's knowledge to apply to every village, while being able to save money and develop their own funds and village funds. So the community can grow sustainably according to the guidelines of the community enterprises.

The process of preparing the Integrity Village or “Chor Sa-ard” Village Project

“Honesty is the basis of every goodness. Therefore, children must be trained to arise in themselves in order to grow up to be good and useful person with good health and a clean life thriving.”

Royal speech given to be published in the children's Day book 1988.

Each year, before starting to organize Integrity Village or Chor Sa-ard village, the Foundation must set up the orientation project and the seminar on the creation of the project. There was a discussion between the leaders of the villages and the experts, in Thailand Anti-Corruption Academy (TACA) for monitoring and evaluating the village's work in project. There was also the visit to the villages that succeeded in building learning centers, focusing on the principles of “HTS” and the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy which later became Chor Sa-ard sub - district, including four regions.

Moreover, the Foundation and TACA organized a project to create youth leader and leader of the Chor Sa-ard community. According to the principles of Buddhism by selecting from Chor Sa-ard Villages, that work efficiently as a model for other villages. The youth leaders are ordained (as Buddhist novices) and thirty of them made a pilgrimage to the Buddhist land of the Republic of India.

Conclusion and Recommendation.

The state must promote, support and educate the public on the dangers of corruption and misconduct in both the public and private sectors and establish effective measures and mechanisms to strictly prevent and eliminate such corruption and misconduct, including the mechanism to encourage people to unite and participate in the campaign to educate, resist, or point out clues with the protection of the state as provided by law.

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand (2017), Section 63.

Conclusion

Conclusion from **Integrity Village or Chor Sa-ard Village** project, in addition to obtain a community with honesty as the basis and have the idea of joining forces to help eliminate corruption problems by strongly joining forces between home, temple, and school or “HTS” with 4 main pillars that are :- clean body, clean behavior, clean mind, and clean wisdom by applying the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. Make the community be aware of the way of life in moderation, rely on themselves and their communities and not tolerate corruption, create a family system, community and social system, that transparent and open verifiable and fair in accordance with principles of good governance.

Recommendation

Lessons from the long-standing failures in anti-corruption, made the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand (2017) stipulate for the first time that the state has the duty to promote, support, and educate the people on the dangers of the corruption and misconduct in both the public and private sections. It is stated concretely in Article 63. It also expresses clarity on establishing mechanisms to prevent and eliminate strictly corruption and misconduct, including the mechanism encouraging people to unite and participate in knowledge campaigns, resist, or point out clues. The state has the duty to protect them as provided by law. This is in line with anti-corruption strategy of the Anti-Corruption Foundation, in establishing Integrity Village or Chor Sa-ard Village and Chor Sa-ard Sub-district to become as a model in Thailand for a period of 3 years, from 2017 - 2019.

Enduring that the public has effective access to information operation for disseminating information to the public and respecting, promoting and protecting the freedom of seeking, obtaining and disseminating information on corruption.

The Foundation and TACA has selected a program that facilitates the community to send information against corruption by making an application to use with all mobile phone systems. Therefore, it is hoped that there will be legal provisions that support the prevention and suppression of corruption effectively and clearly at present and in the future.