

Summary of the 2007 TDRI Year-end Conference on “Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State”

Kwanjai Lekagul*

For decades Thailand resorted mainly to a liberal economic policy in tackling poverty through economic growth. Conservative macroeconomic management, with the private sector playing a leading role, especially in international trade, was aimed at raising the country's income. Specific poverty- and income-redistribution policies were largely non-existent. Rural development was seen as a synonym for poverty reduction. In most of Thailand's modern economic history high economic growth actually led to poverty reduction. This growth-driven view of poverty reduction was not automatically accepted as it had been previously once the 1997 financial crisis occurred and poverty increased. The populist policies of the Thai Rak Thai (TRT) party quickly filled the gap, and became a huge political success that has lasted until now; no party can now afford not to have elements of populism in their policies. Thailand is thus at a juncture where public debate is needed concerning which path toward poverty reduction is best for the country to take: liberalism, populism, or the welfare State.

Therefore, the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) in cooperation with the Chai Pattana Foundation and the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board organized the 2007 Year-end Conference on “Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism or the Welfare State” on November 10-11, 2007 at the Ambassador City Hotel, Jomtien, Chon Buri, Thailand. The conference was aimed at presenting comparisons of these three paths to poverty reduction from the perspectives of a philosophical foundation, general history and applications to Thailand, and their effectiveness in solving poverty as well as income-distribution problems. The objectives of the Conference were as follows: (1) to present research findings related

to the theme of the Conference; (2) to be a forum for intensive discussions and brain-storming among the participants who came from diverse backgrounds, including the public sector, the private sector, academia, the media and local communities; and (3) to enable the participants to draw up recommendations on appropriate strategies and policies related to the issues under discussion. Nevertheless, it is very important to remark that this Conference was not aimed at evaluating the policies of any of the political parties which were then campaigning, but rather presenting research on the impact of populist policies in the past in order to determine whether they had accomplished their goals. This Conference was also to recommend a concrete and sustainable way to address the poverty problem using the so-called welfare State system.



* Ms. Kwanjai is the Assistant to the President, TDRI.

Format and Themes of the Conference

In the morning session of Saturday November 10, the Conference started with a keynote address by Mr. Kosit Panpiemras, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, and TDRI Vice Chairman of the Council of Trustees and the Board of Directors, on "Tasks for the New Government." This was followed by a research presentation on "Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State" by Dr. Ammar Siamwalla and Dr. Somchai Jitsuchon, the Acting President, and the Research Director for Macroeconomic Development and Income Distribution, TDRI, respectively.

In the afternoon session of Saturday November 10, the Conference was split into two group sessions: one on Tackling Poverty by Using the Means of Credit and the other on Tackling Poverty by Using Education. In the morning session of Sunday November 11, the Conference was again split into two group sessions: one on Tackling Poverty by Means of Welfare State and the other on the topic Does Globalization Eradicate Poverty?

Participants

The Conference attracted approximately 400 participants from the public sector, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations, representatives from local communities, and the media.

Report of the Group Discussions

The group sessions were divided up according to the four previously mentioned group session topics.

GROUP 1 TACKLING POVERTY BY USING THE MEANS OF CREDIT

Generally, populist policies are aimed at solving the economic problems of the poor. However, there are two contradictory populist arguments on how to tackle poverty. The first argument holds that people become poor because they are indebted. Thus, the way to solve the problem, which the TRT government used, is to launch a debt moratorium scheme to suspend farmers' debts to the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC). The second argument holds that people become poor because their income is less than their expenses. Thus, it was recommended that more access to credit should be provided to the poor, such as through the establishment of the Village Fund by the TRT government. However, there were still some issues that remained unclear and needed to be discussed: Do the poor incur too much debt? and Does the scheme on using credit to reduce poverty cause the problem of debt overhang for the poor? This group discussion focused on issues such as the credit and economic problems of the poor, opportunities for them to access microcredit and



reduce poverty, and the impacts of the Village Fund on poverty reduction.

On the impact of credit on the economic problems of the poor, the study found that the debt service ratio of poor households was still relatively high. This indicates that the households do not have adequate income. Moreover, as the poor generally possess non-financial assets (such as house and land) rather than financial assets (such as gold, jewelry, and cash), they are thus more vulnerable to economic risks and need to obtain loans to solve their economic problems. However, because the poor tend to be rejected by general financial institutions, they need to get loans from other financial sources, such as specialized financial institutions (i.e., BAAC and the Government Savings Bank), governmental loan schemes such as the Village Fund, and informal financial sources. The study also found that households which get loans from the Village Fund face the problem of debt overhang. In this regard, the government has to be cautious about the implementation of the microcredit scheme. First, the scheme should have strict rules and regulations in releasing loans. Second, the scheme should focus on disseminating knowledge to the poor concerning how to use the loan to conduct business. Third, the scheme should improve its implementation by learning from other successful microcredit schemes abroad.

As for the opportunities to access microcredit and reduce poverty, the research found that the problem of income distribution is worsening despite the launch of the Village Fund and Debt Moratorium Scheme for Indebted Farmers. This is because the scheme did not release loans to the poor, but to people who are actually not poor. The study recommended further that, although credit is one of the key factors for running a business, the knowledge on how to use the money to do business is also important. Therefore, along with the financial aid scheme, the government should also focus on enhancing the business capabilities of the poor. For the financial

assistance scheme itself, the government should pay more attention to redesigning the framework and procedures of the scheme so that the real poor can access loans. Apart from these aspects, the government should stop injecting a huge budget into this populist scheme in order to gain political support because the scheme does not bring benefits to the society as a whole and can even destroy the specialized financial institution system as well as create a fiscal burden on the government itself.

With regard to the impact of the Village Fund on poverty reduction, the study applied the propensity score matching (PSM) and double difference (DD) techniques, which provide more accurate assessments of 2002 and 2004 data from Socio-economic Survey (SES) conducted by Thailand's National Statistical Office. It was found that the Village Fund had quickly and to a high degree accomplished its goal of releasing loans as targeted. Unfortunately, however, the impact of the Village Fund on reducing poverty has been insignificant. Moreover, 15 percent of the borrowers from the Village Fund had to seek loans from other financial sources, which generally charge a high interest rate of about 3.7 percent per month, to repay loans to the Village Fund. This shows that a one-year loan cannot help the poor in generating enough income to repay the loan. In sum, the microcredit scheme alone cannot help the poor to escape poverty. In order to improve the Village Fund, it is suggested that (1) the local community should revise the rules and regulations for better fund management, for example, the repayment period should depend on business activity; (2) there should be an evaluation system to monitor the implementation and results of the fund; (3) panel data collection on households should be conducted every year; and (4) in the future, a baseline survey should be conducted before launching this kind of scheme.

Group Discussion

It was widely agreed that the microcredit scheme could help in creating more channels for the poor to access credit, but could not reduce poverty. Moreover, it worsened the poverty situation because of the debt overhang problem. In this regard, the following were discussed and recommended.

1. It was remarked that the government should not intervene in the management of the Village Fund. Rather, local communities should play a key role in managing the fund and also solving their problems by themselves because local communities know best about the need, background and repayment ability of community members.
2. It was noted that farmers tend to be rejected when applying for a loan from specialized financial institutions or the government's loan scheme owing to the lack of a guarantor and guaranty. Therefore, it was suggested that local

communities should be involved in drafting the rules and regulations of microcredit schemes that suit their needs, background and repayment ability.

3. The management of the Village Fund should be enhanced by adopting the principles of good governance in its practice, encouraging women to participate in its management, and promoting management cooperation among the public sector, the private sector and local communities.
4. In many cases it was found that the poor needed to apply for a loan from the microcredit scheme for emergencies. Hence, it was recommended that a fund for emergency purposes should be set up separately in order to help the poor.

GROUP 2 TACKLING POVERTY BY USING EDUCATION

Education is a key factor in elevating the income of people, thus a series of governments has attempted to provide the people with sufficient education. The 1997 Constitution expanded compulsory education from four to 12 years. This requirement, in fact, was in place before the TRT Party came into power. Although it seemed that the TRT government had strongly supported a populist policy on education, such as through interest-free student loans which would help to improve the quality of life of the people at the grass-roots level in the long run, this policy was not implemented seriously. The group discussion thus explored analysis of the political economy with regard to the role of the State in education services, the impact of education on poverty reduction, the impact of compulsory education on poverty reduction, and the case of educational opportunities for underprivileged children.

Background

On the role of the State in the provision of education, four issues were addressed as follows: Is there any market failure in the provision of education? Does education services that are run by the market mechanism satisfy the society? What is the role of the State in subsidizing the provision of education? and What is the role of the State in education services? The study found that education should be considered as "private goods," as it brings benefits to the persons who invest in it. However, since education also creates positive externalities for the society as a whole and owing to the problem of incomplete information, especially in the credit market for study purposes, the State should thus subsidize and intervene in the provision of education. On the role of the State in subsidizing the provision of education, it was found that the policy of 12 years of free education and the student loan scheme were not sufficient for narrowing the gap in

opportunities between the rich and the poor. Therefore, the State should set up a policy for allowing different prices to be charged for the education of the rich and the poor or it should promote a scholarship or grant policy along with the student loan policy. On whether the State should play a role as operator in the provision of education services, three main questions were raised for further study. The first concerned whether the State should provide education services for all areas of the country or only the remote and poor areas, in which private operators are not interested. The second related to whether public educational institutions should cover all fields of education or only fields in which private operators are not interested. The third consideration was whether public universities should be privatized to become autonomous institutions.

With regard to the impact of compulsory education on reducing poverty, the study presented two main issues, that is, what we know and do not know about human skills development, poverty, and the Thai education system. On the first issue, the issue may be summarized as follows. First, people still believe that educational institutions should play a key role in the learning process, but they pay much less attention to roles of the family and the working place in that regard. Second, genetic factors and the surrounding environment both play important roles in skills development but in some cases poverty can overcome the effects of genes. Third, skills which contribute to people's success are cognitive and non-cognitive abilities, and the return to these abilities inversely relates to age. Last, the critical periods for developing cognitive and non-cognitive abilities are eight to 10 years and 18-20 years respectively. In sum, the return to investing in skills development is an inversion of age, that is, the earlier the age at which we invest in education for our children, the greater is the benefit that they will get in return. Thus, it is recommended that the investment in skills development for children should start at a young age. On the second issue concerning poverty and the Thai education system, the study found the following. The rate of Thai students entering institutions of higher education is gradually declining due to the problem of chronic poverty they face. For the parents, the study found that they are relatively poor; thus, they could not raise their children sufficiently well. In terms of teachers and school administrators, it was found that their qualities were not up to acceptable standards and they did not produce graduates that served the needs of the labor market. On educational resources in school, there has not been any research result particularly identifying what kind of resources should be improved and how to utilize all these resources efficiently. On teaching materials, there should be further studies on which teaching materials that were found useful abroad could help in the development of students. Therefore, as an education policy which is aimed at developing human skills would be a key instrument for reducing poverty, three pillars of policy are proposed as follows: the first is

market competition; it is recommended that market competition should be encouraged so that both schools and students would be able to utilize educational resources efficiently under clear and fair regulations. The second is improving access to education. The government should emphasize subsidizing education for underprivileged children in particular. The third is the family. Parents should be supported in raising their children better.

With regard to the impact of compulsory education on poverty reduction, that is, the case of educational opportunities for underprivileged children, it was found that workers with a compulsory level of education could not generate enough income to elevate their quality of life or to escape poverty. The poverty faced by orphans and the handicapped represents a hurdle for such children to enter school. It was also found that the enrollment rate of children and the financial aid extended for education in the northeastern region of the country was lowest. In this regard, it is recommended that the government should expand the provision of compulsory education for all children by increasing both the supply side (by subsidizing more the compulsory level of education for children in the northeastern region), and the demand side (by providing poor and underprivileged children with more scholarships).

Group Discussion

It was concluded that education is a key factor which promotes equality of opportunity in the society, and poverty is also the main obstacle to the accomplishment of one's education. Therefore, investment in education is a key strategy for reducing poverty. In this regard, the following points were discussed and recommended.

1. The basic problem which needed to be discussed further was how to manage the education system in order to reduce poverty, because not much research had been conducted in this field. It was also remarked that the way to manage the education system required an economic philosophy and a goal to which the society aspired.
2. Currently, the education system tried only to serve the needs of the labor market and thus ignored the importance of informal education. It was recommended that informal education should be emphasized along with formal education because informal education helped not only in developing skills for children, the family, and the community, but also in strengthening relationships among them and empowering the community. Moreover, the goal of education should not be to attract people into the formal education system, but rather to encourage people to live their lives

with the local knowledge that they had. It was also suggested that the key success of informal education was to open some spaces in the community where people could express and exchange their ideas and knowledge.

3. No conclusion was reached however on which approach—liberalism, populism, or the welfare State or a mixed system—was the best for managing the education system. It was thus recommended that further research should be conducted.

GROUP 3 TACKLING POVERTY BY MEANS OF WELFARE STATE

The welfare State system is a governmental mechanism which provides people with public services from the “womb to the tomb.” Under this system, the State collects taxes from the working-age population to spend on welfare services for children and the pension-age population; this is called “intergenerational transfer.” This system also provides assistance for the underprivileged such as handicapped people, orphans, and unemployed workers. Such welfare services cover education, health care, housing, unemployment aid, old-age pensions, and so on. Nevertheless, to become a welfare State, Thailand would have to pay a huge cost. This would mean that the working-age population would have to pay more taxes. Moreover, as Thailand has a narrow base of income tax payers owing to the large number of informal workers, the country would thus face problems with regard to increasing the collection of taxes. The group discussed whether Thailand was ready to change from a system of private intergenerational transfer to a public one. The issues would involve changes in the allocation method needed to close the deficit in Thais and the welfare State, informal workers and the welfare State, and the readiness of Thais to pay the cost of creating a welfare State.



Background

With regard to the changes in the allocation method for closing the deficit, the study explored the nature of labor income, consumption and the allocation method needed to close the deficit in children-youth and the elderly, and examined the changes needed in such an allocation method over time. The study found that for an average person the surplus period, during which the income from labor exceeded consumption, became shorter. A positive deficit, which occurs when consumption exceeds labor income, increases among children-youth and the elderly because children spend a long time studying, the elderly can retire early, and the consumption expenditure of both children and the elderly, such as on tuition fees and health-care services, increases. However, the surplus from the working-age population cannot increase at the same rate as the positive deficit. Therefore, the surplus in labor income needed to close the deficit decreases with regard to children and the elderly. Nevertheless, due to Thailand’s favorable age distribution, with a high proportion of the population in the working-age group, the aggregate surplus can cover a higher percentage of aggregate deficits. Unfortunately, this favorable situation cannot last long, as Thailand will become an aging society in the not too distant future. Moreover, for the elderly, the role of asset-based reallocation in closing the deficit has been declining and thus more reliance needs to be placed on private transfer. Although Thailand now has more public programs for the elderly than in the past, when compared with other countries, it has relatively fewer programs. Nevertheless, in the future Thailand cannot rely only on public transfers as this would cause huge burdens for the government. Other measures should also be implemented; for example, Thais might need to work longer and retire at older ages or build up more savings.

With regard to informal workers and the welfare State, it was found that in the past informal workers were considered as temporary workers or workers at the periphery of the economy. It was believed that, when the industrial sector had achieved its fullest capacity, all informal workers would be employed in the formal sector. However, the reverse is true. Despite the expansion of the industrial sector, workers in the informal economy still exist up to this date and have even gained a more prominent role in the economy in the current era of globalization. They can thrive well in a globalized world because they are very flexible in responding to various uncertainties arising from globalization. According to the study, although expansion of the informal economy increases employment and income, it also contributes to risks and vulnerabilities for informal workers. The study also found that the age of most informal workers is not exceeding 44 years old and their educational background is at the high school level.

Moreover, 80 percent of workers have dependants and more than 60 percent are indebted. Most of the workers experience problems with regard to working conditions, capital, and income. They thus need support from the government in terms of knowledge, capital, and marketing. It was also remarked that there are various types of informal workers and each type has its own characteristics and problems. Therefore, in order to set up a social safety net for these workers, a pluralistic model for welfare provision should be employed. Moreover, under this condition the welfare State may have some limitations. Thus, local communities should instead play a crucial role in the provision of welfare while the government plays a supporting role.

Regarding whether Thais are ready to pay the cost of a welfare State, it should be pointed out that it is quite difficult to clearly define what constitutes a welfare State, because it can be considered in various dimensions. However, to the general public, the welfare State implies the provision of welfare services, including social protection and social assistance, by the State. The degree to which the welfare State exists would depend on how much the State provides for social protection and social assistance. This would be reflected in the percentage of public expenditure on the welfare State compared with other public expenditures or Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The role of welfare State was twofold. First would be *ex ante* risk management or social protection which is aimed at protecting people from risks. Second would be *ex post* risk management or social assistance, which is aimed at helping people who experience hardship. Like countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Thailand has various welfare programs. However, unlike OECD countries, most of these programs are not universal. Examples of welfare programs in Thailand are the provision of old-age pensions, a housing scheme for low-income people, and welfare services for labor, the handicapped, and households that have lost their breadwinner. For Thailand, the cost of welfare services in 2006 was about 2.3 percent of GDP, relatively much lower than that of Mexico. However, the question about whether Thais are ready to shoulder the cost of a welfare State depends on how many welfare services Thais would like to have. It is very important to note that people need to acknowledge that any welfare service comes at a high cost, for which the people themselves must be responsible.

Group Discussion

The following were discussed and recommended.

1. To tackle poverty, it would be necessary to combine the liberalism and welfare State approaches. However, the competition should be moderate and both the public and private sectors should together play important roles in the provision of welfare State services.

2. To identify welfare services, knowledge must be disseminated to the people, encouraging them to become self-reliant and promoting public participation in the management of welfare provision. As for the State, it should play a supporting role, such as assessing an overview of the welfare services situation, supporting personnel on welfare services, and providing welfare services which people on their own could not produce such as education and health-care services.
3. The welfare State system should be set up at both the local and the national levels as each level has different strong and weak points. For example, although the national welfare system could not serve the needs of local communities, its fund was large and had better risk distribution. At the local level, even though the fund was small, which naturally bore more risk, it could serve the needs of local communities. Currently, there are some welfare programs run by local communities. Hence, the government should play a role in supporting these programs by drafting a law to support programs legally, encouraging public participation in welfare services, and providing financial aid to these programs. As for the national welfare system, some loopholes in the system should be filled, such as preventing employers from avoiding their responsibility to provide welfare services to their employees, and revising the tax system in order to increase income equality in the society.

GROUP 4 DOES GLOBALIZATION ERADICATE POVERTY?

Since 1982 Thailand has continually opened its economy to the world by signing many free trade agreements (FTAs) at the bilateral, regional, subregional, and multilateral levels. A big jump into the whirlpool of globalization contributed to the havoc of the 1997 financial crisis. Despite this miserable lesson, the TRT administration still kept heading on this track and in some cases made even greater haste toward signing more FTAs. Today, as globalization has become fiercer and stronger, Thailand needs to consider how to join this speeding train while at the same time reducing the country's poverty. This group discussion covered globalization, income distribution and poverty reduction, globalization growth and regional disparity in Thailand from 1981 to 2003: a case study of the inland and coastal region, impact of foreign direct investment on employment, globalization and labor-market implications for Thailand, and the impact of the growth of tourism on the poor in Thailand.

Background

The school of economic liberalism believes that free trade enables a country to utilize its limited natural resources efficiently, thus contributing to economic growth and a reduction in poverty. However, economic growth is not the only key factor in reducing poverty; the market mechanism has failed to solve the problem of income inequality. In the past half decade, both developed and developing countries have increasingly joined the stream of free trade by lifting their barriers to international trade. Under FTAs in goods and services, inputs and consumers were relocated. This thus created many international business opportunities and enhanced the competitiveness of various sectors through innovations in products and production. This phenomenon is called globalization. Currently, globalization is increasingly being countered by many anti-globalization activist groups, who claim that there is a need to protect the underprivileged, prevent unfair trade, and preserve nationalism. As mentioned previously Thailand has continuously opened its economy to the world by entering into various FTAs. Under globalization, Thailand has experienced both positive impacts (high economic growth) and negative impacts (the havoc created by the 1997 financial crisis). However, it is time for Thailand to consider how to participate in the globalized world while at the same time reducing poverty at home.

With regard to the impact of globalization on poverty reduction, the labor market, and employment, the studies found that globalization produces positive impacts for an economy: it helps in reducing poverty, generating income, and increasing employment opportunities. However, at the same time, it contributes to a worsening of income inequality problems in the country.

Group Discussion

The following were discussed and recommended.

1. The State should understand the impact of globalization on the poor in order to know how to reap benefits from globalization for the poor and also to provide social safety nets and remedies for the poor who are adversely affected by globalization.
2. To reap benefits from globalization, Thailand should improve five areas: (a) improve the education and health-care systems, (b) enhance domestic competition and improve the environment for investment, (c) open up markets in developed countries, (d) provide social safety nets, and (e) establish macroeconomic stability.
3. To reduce poverty and increase income equality, the State should put this problem on a special agenda and come up with measures that incorporate social, economic and technological knowledge as well as the philosophy of a sufficiency economy.
4. Further research should be conducted on how to immunize the country from vulnerabilities due to globalization and on determining the specific measures needed to reap benefits from globalization in terms of generating income, creating jobs, and reducing poverty.
5. Because some types of poverty problems are very complex, specific measures and more involvement of non-governmental organizations, universities, and the media are needed.
6. Apart from research on the impact of globalization on poverty reduction, two other research projects were recommended: first, on the impact of information dissemination on poverty reduction. The research should focus on how information dissemination has had impacts on the poor in terms of lifestyle, income and expenditure. Second was the impact of globalization on natural resources and the environment. This research should explore whether globalization has contributed to the deterioration of natural resources, thus adversely affecting the lifestyle of the community.

REFERENCES

- Adis Israngkura. 2007. Globalization, income distribution and poverty reduction. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Ammar Siamwalla, and Somchai Jitsuchon. 2007. Tackling poverty: liberalism, populism, or the welfare state. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Anan Wattanakuljarus. 2007. Is tourism growth pro-poor growth?: a case of Thailand. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Ashvin Ahuja. 2007. The impact of education on poverty reduction. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Bawornpan Ashakul, and Worawan Chandoevmit. 2007. Impact of the village fund on poverty reduction. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)

- Chaiyasit Anuchitworawong. 2007. The opportunity to access micro credit and poverty reduction. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Kobsak Pootrakul. 2007. Credit and economic problems of the poor. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Mathana Phananimai. 2007. Changes in allocation method to close the deficit in Thais and the welfare state. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Narumol Niratorn. 2007. Informal workers and the welfare state. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Piriya Pholphirul. 2007. Globalization and labor market implications in Thailand. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Santi Chaisrisawatsuk, and Wisit Chaisrisawatsuk. 2007. Impact of foreign direct investment on employment. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI). 2007a. Tackling poverty by using means of credit. Summary of results from group discussions of Group 1 at the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- _____. 2007b. Tackling poverty by using education. Summary of results from group discussions of Group 2 at the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- _____. 2007c. Tackling poverty by means of welfare state. Summary of results from group discussions of Group 3 at the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- _____. 2007d. Does globalization eradicate poverty? Summary of results from group discussions of Group 4 at the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Threetep Nopkhun. 2007. Globalization growth and regional disparity in Thailand from 1981 to 2003: a case study of the inland and coastal region. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Viroj NaRanong. 2007. Political economy analysis on the role of state in education service. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Waranya Teukul et al. 2007. The impact of compulsory education on poverty reduction: the case of education opportunity of underprivileged children. Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)
- Worawan Chandoevvit. 2007. Are Thais ready to pay for the cost of welfare state? Paper prepared for the 2007 Year-end Conference on Tackling Poverty: Liberalism, Populism, or the Welfare State, November 10-11. (in Thai)

