
II. ECONOMIC INFORMATION

The National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) is the government agency responsible for state planning and development in an economic system that is basically capitalistic. The thrust of Thailand's development strategy, the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Five Year Plan (1986-1991), deals with domestic economic stabilization and readjustment in response to changing external conditions. In the context of implementability, the Sixth Plan establishes a target growth rate of 4.5 per cent to 5 per cent per annum and is composed of 10 programs:

- economic stabilization within strict monetary and fiscal policies;
- natural resource development (focussing on lignite, gas, and petroleum) and environmental management;
- rural development to raise income in poverty-stricken and border areas;
- urban and special area development emphasizing water supply and flood control systems, transportation, housing, and development of the Eastern Seaboard, and planning for Upper South and Songkhla Lake regions;
- development of agricultural and industrial production, marketing and technology systems;
- development of basic services including improvement of existing road/transit networks and communications systems;
- increasing the efficiency of state enterprise operations;
- social and human development, including employment generation through small enterprise support in rural and urban areas;
- improving the role of government in the development management process to make it generally more co-ordinated, integrated, and systematic; and
- development of science and technology in support of economic development.