How Thailand Should Utilize Information Technology
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Thailand is classified as a developing country. Majority of Thai people work in agriculture sector. They hesitate to use the new technology, because they are not familiar with it. In developed country, technologies are the indicator of economic and people’s wealth. If Thailand wants to be able to compete in the international market, the development and implementation of technology are required. In Thailand, information technology could be utilized in order to develop high-quality human resource, develop own technology, and increase the channels to access information among the country.

The problem of developing country is deficiency of people who have knowledge in information technology. Thai government is rushing to develop their people. There are many activities to develop high-quality people, for examples, giving the scholarship, arranging the information technology related test. Having sufficiency qualified human resource will increase the speed of development of technology.

Thailand needs own technology. Being the end user only is the cause of lacking qualified people. Developing our own technology on the open source basis is considered a good method to develop both human and technology. According to result of survey in 2003, Thailand has the piracy rate of 77% or the ninth in the world rank (http://golbal.bsa.org/globalstudy/2003_GSPS.pdf). Although in Thailand, using open source software is not recognized, after National Electronics and Computer Technology (NECTEC) continually launch Linux Thai Language Extension (LinuxTLE) and Office Thai Language Extension (OfficeTLE) which is developed on basis open source software concept, there are response from users. Thai government encourages the use of open source software. LinuxTLE and OfficeTLE are distributed with the computer under government’s projects; there is a long-term policy to increase the usage of open source software up to 50%.

An increase in the channels to access to information is very important because most people are not familiar with technology. They have little chance in receiving information. The government has launched Lower cost PC + Open source software (http://www.sinsamut.cat.or.th) that increases opportunity to gain access to information. For the rural, there is a plan to establish center of technology in community (Telecenter).

Developing human resource, developing own technology, and increasing in channels to access information are the examples of utilization of information technology in Thailand. In my opinion, having good knowledge of information technology leads to the success on competition in the global market.