

Good Local Governance and Anti-corruption Through People's Participation: A Case of Thailand

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Topics

- **Decentralization and local governance**
- **Development and administrative problems**
- **Mobilizing people's participation**
- **Lessons learned and experiences**
- **Next steps**

About Thailand and its Government

Location:	Southeast Asia
Size:	About 517,000 square km.
Capital:	Bangkok
Admin. Areas:	75 Provinces and BMA 876 Districts and Sub-districts 7,255 Tambons 69,367 Villages
Population:	61,466,178 (30,874,576 females and 30,591,602 males)

About Thailand and its Government

**Local Gov.: 75 Provincial Administrative
Organizations, PAO**

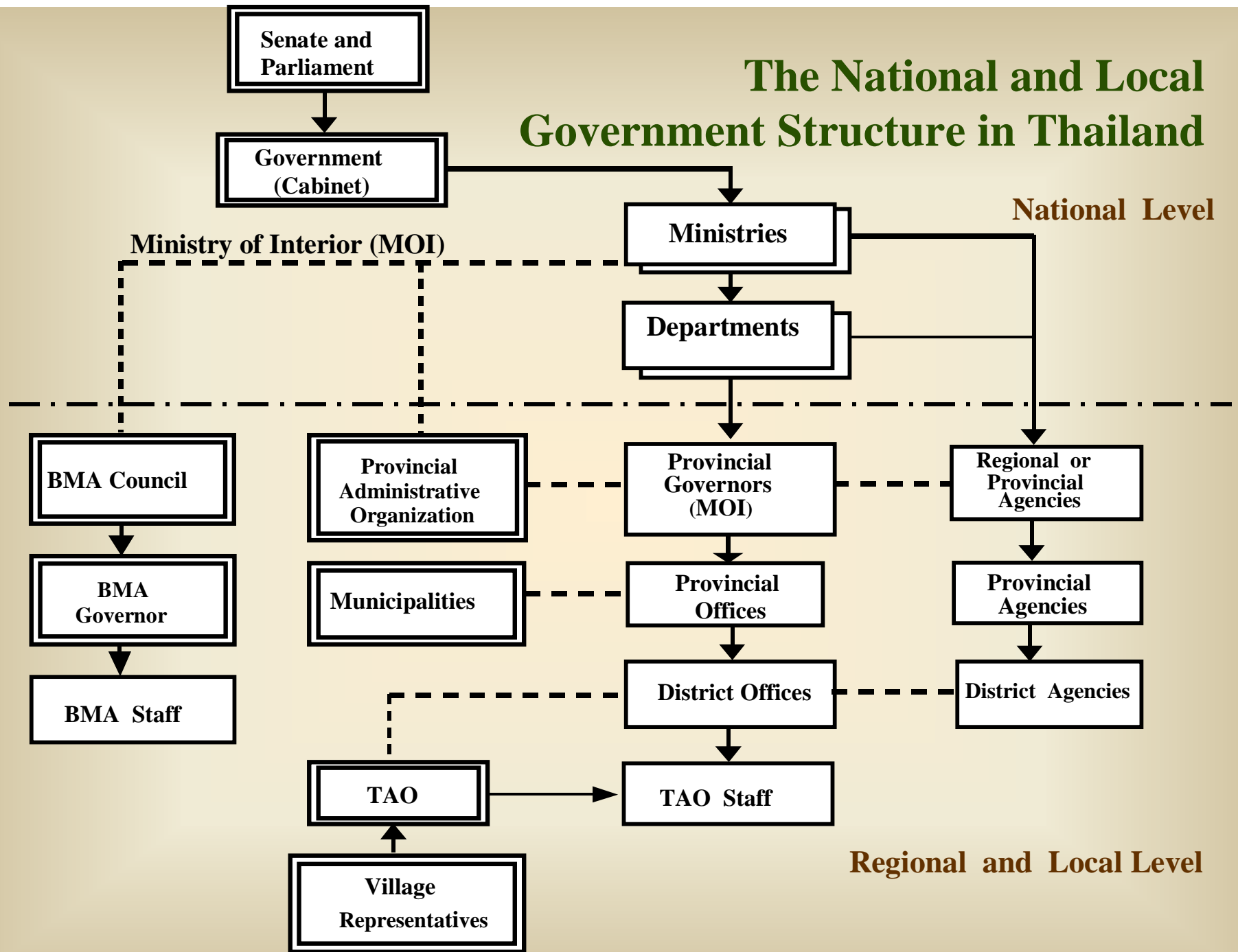
1,129 municipalities (as of June 1, 1999)

**2 special forms of Local Government
(Bangkok Metropolitan
Administration and Pattaya)**

**6,747 Tambon Administrative
Organizations (as of March 2000)**

- **The Administrative Law of 1933**
 - **Central administration**
 - **Provincial administration**
 - **Local administration**
- **Establishment of Provincial and Tambon Councils (1953 and 1956)**
- **The 5th Plan (1982) and new rural development**
- **The Tambon Act 1994**

The National and Local Government Structure in Thailand






New concept of local governance

- **The 8th Plan (1997-2001)**
 - **people centered process/ participation/ enabling and empower local people**
- **The New Constitution 1997**
 - **Good Governance (political and public sector reforms)**
 - **Decentralization**

New framework for decentralization

- **Self-regulated body**
- **Freedom to manage and develop own communities**
- **Elected representatives**
- **Transfer appropriate functions to local authority**
- **People's participation**

Local Governance at the Tambon Level

TAO Council		policy and development direction
TAO Executive Committee		development plan annual budget manage all affairs
TAO permanent Staff		day to day management and implement development projects

Problems

- **Unequal partnership**
- **Dominant roles of former community leaders**
- **Limited and unstable resources**
- **Financial and administrative crisis**
- **Lack of people's participation**
- **Rigid and complex rules and regulations**
- **Lack of transparency and corruption**

Benefits

- **Promote democracy at the grassroots level in Thai society**
- **Stimulate political and public sector reforms**
- **Better development projects (to serve local needs)**

Mobilizing People's Participation

- **Pilot studies at Tambon and villages levels (1990-2000)**
- **Used A-I-C Approach at village level (a focus group technique)**
 - **Share and exchange information and concerns**
 - **Develop vision and plan future**
 - **Transform to actions**
 - **Share responsibility**
- **Involved TAO members**

Lessons and Experiences

- **Villagers understand and commit to develop own community**
- **TAO members gain confident and development responsibility**
- **Better TAO plan (more social related projects)**

Lessons and Experiences

- **Transparency**
- **Community's watch (monitor progress and performance)**
- **Better election and representatives**

Transparent Local Governance

- **NCCC and EC implement a two-year community-based project to stimulate people's participation in anti-corruption**
- **National agenda and P.M. regulations on good governance (1999)**
- **Ministry of Interior's policy guidelines on good governance**
- **Whistle-blower and witness protection program**

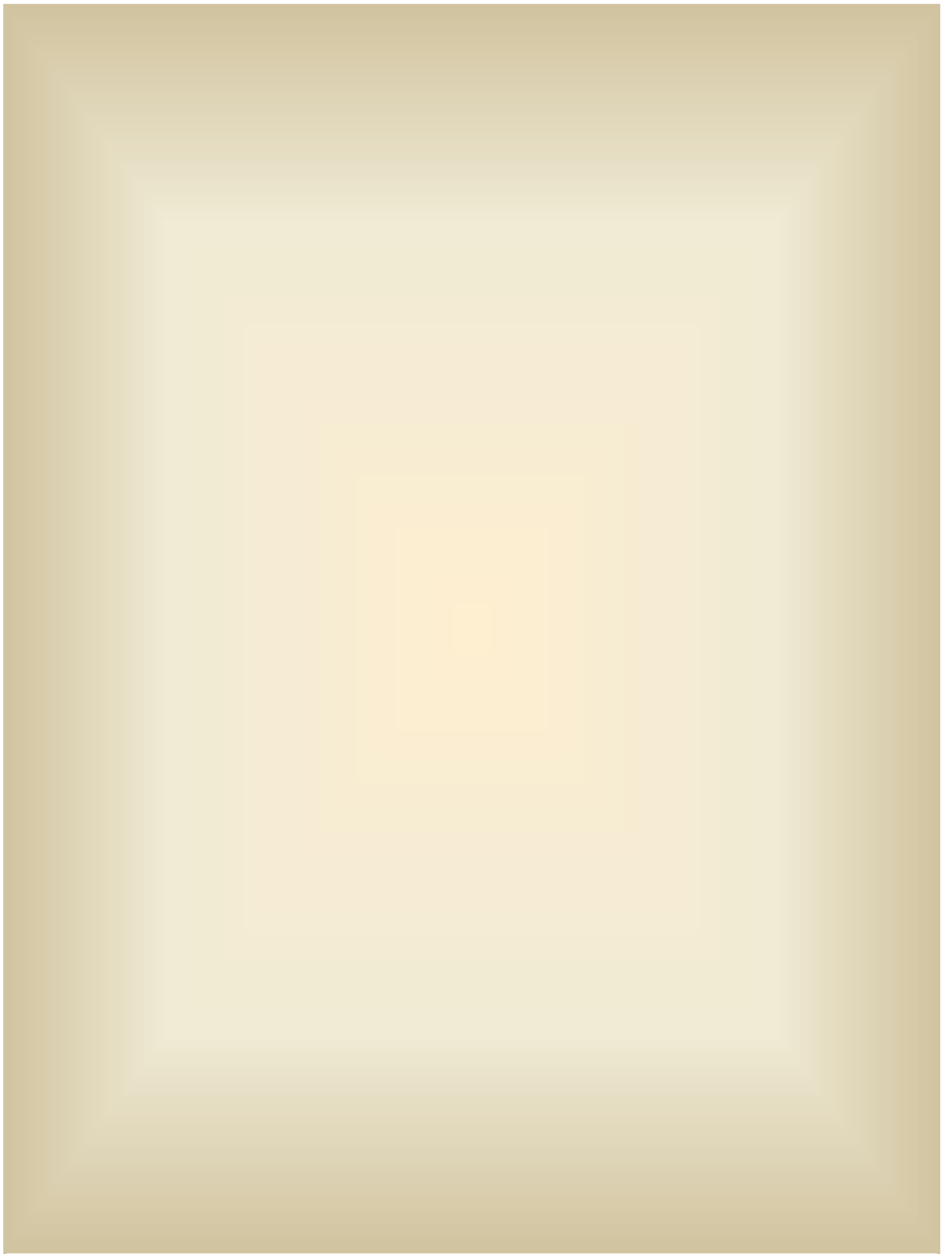


Table 1: Date and number of TAOs elected

Date of TAO Elections	Number of TAOs
1. May 1, 1995	617
2. April 28, 1996	2,143
3. May 11, 1997	3,637
4. July 18, 1998	617
5. January 22, 1999	350
6. June 10, 2000	2,143

**Table 2: Number of TAO members
by gender**

TAO Elections	Male	Female	Total
1. May 1, 1995	n.a.	n.a.	11,919
2. April 28, 1996	39,339	3,390 (7.93%)	42,729
3. May 11, 1997	57,998	5,543 (8.72%)	63,541
4. July 18, 1998	11,398	1,147 (9.41%)	12,545
5. January 22, 1999	4,721	437 (8.47%)	5,158
Total Current Members (2-5)	113,456	10,517 (8.48%)	123,973

Table 3: Number of registered voters and the number who voted by gender

Election Year	Number of Registered Voted			Number of People Who Voted		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1995	2,406,090	n.a.	n.a.	1,227,664 (51.02%)	n.a.	n.a.
1996	9,356,154	4,633,164	4,722,990	5,526,306 (59.07%)	2,669,963	2,856,343
1997	11,766,081	5,817,762	5,948,319	7,480,799 (63.58%)	3,610,015	3,870,784
1998	3,733,073	1,833,919	1,899,154	2,317,208 (62.07%)	1,114,354	1,202,854
1999	821,873	408,347	413,526	562,150 (68.04%)	273,097	289,053