

## Community Enterprise Promotion Act, B.E. 2548 (2005)

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Community Enterprise Promotion Act, B.E. 2548 (2005) was originated from the drive of communities' representatives since B.E. 2544 (2001) by taking into account the need to legalize the status of groups in the communities, who carry out activities as community enterprises, and to promote community enterprises in a concrete means. In this connection, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives set up a committee to draft the act on community enterprise promotion which was subsequently proposed for consideration according to legislative procedures. The Community Enterprise Promotion Act was then promulgated in the Government Gazette no. 122 section 6 A on January 18, B.E. 2548 (2005) and entered into force since January 19, B.E. 2548 (2005).

The reason for promulgation of this act is that a certain existing community economy is not ready for trade competition at both domestic and international levels. So, it is deemed necessary to empower the communities to be self-reliant and to strengthen communities' economy for their readiness in the future trade competition at all levels, including the development of community enterprises towards small and medium entrepreneurs. This should be done through promotion of knowledge and local wisdom, income generation, mutual help, managerial capacity-building, and development of community enterprises types.

### Principal Content of Community Enterprise Promotion Act, B.E. 2548 (2005)

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#### Section 1 Community Enterprise

##### Principal content:

- Community enterprise interested in receiving extension service according to the Act must register to the Department of Agricultural Extension in line with the stipulated regulations set by the Board.
- Community enterprise interested in continuing the activities must inform the Department of Agricultural Extension within 30 days after the end of calendar year.
- Community enterprise intended to terminate operation must inform the Department of Agricultural Extension within 30 days from the date of termination.

## Section 2 Community Enterprise Network

### Principal content:

- Community enterprise network which registers to the Department of Agricultural Extension has the rights to access to extension services as stated in the Act.
- Management of community enterprise network must follow the rules and regulations of the network. The network operation is on voluntary basis whether it is juristic person or non-juristic person.
- Community enterprise network may provide advices and assistances in internal affairs of the network members, such as research study, provision of knowledge and advices for the sake of network implementation.
- Community enterprise network may provide advices and assistances in external affairs for the network members, such as coordination with government and private sectors including other community enterprise networks, acting as the center of unity and mutual assistance for community enterprise empowerment, and making policy recommendations or measures of different organizations to promote community enterprise to the Board.

## Section 3 Community Enterprise Promotion Board

### Principal content:

- The Community Enterprise Promotion Board (the National Board) consists of 28 members chaired by the Prime Minister or the designated Deputy Prime Minister. The Director-General of the Department of Agricultural Extension acts as the Board member and secretary. The National Board's missions are to provide opinion to the Cabinet on policy, measures and plan to develop and promote community enterprise; to coordinate with relevant government organizations and private sector; to provide assistance, support and advices to the community enterprises for their efficient implementation; as well as to encourage and facilitate patent, trade mark or intellectual properties registration, including the support in research study.
- The Provincial Community Enterprise Promotion Board (the Provincial Board) consists of 20 members chaired by the Governor or the designated Deputy Governor. The Director of Provincial Agricultural Extension Office acts as member and secretary. The missions of the Provincial Board are to provide opinion to the National Board on policy, measures and plan to develop and promote community enterprise; to coordinate with relevant government organizations and private sector; to provide assistance, support and advices to the community enterprises for their efficient implementation; as well as to encourage and facilitate patent, trade mark or intellectual properties registration, including the support in research study.

- The Department of Agricultural Extension has performed duties as the Secretariat Office of the Community Enterprise Promotion Board and the Provincial Agricultural Extension Office performs as the Secretariat Office of the Provincial Community Enterprise Promotion Board.

#### **Section 4 Community Enterprise Promotion**

##### **Principal content:**

- The registered community enterprise or community enterprise network can request for extension services or supports according to the means determined by the Board.
- The Board must identify measures to provide extension services and support in improving operation of the initially-established community enterprises in a full cycle means so that they can be empowered and self-reliant.
- The Board must identify measures to continuously provide extension services and support to self-reliant and empowered community enterprises in order that they can be well-prepared for higher level business.
- The Board must identify measures to provide extension services and support to community enterprise network in relation to the setting-up of entrepreneurship and marketing including the cooperation among community enterprises network, business sectors or other industries which will lead to the expansion and the security of enterprises' operation.
- The Coordinating Committee on Community Enterprises Development Fund shall be set up to coordinate the implementation of the fund.

##### **For additional information, please contact:-**

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