

## บทความรับเชิญ

# Economic and Social Costs from Drug Abuse Control Policy of the Thai Government.\*

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## 1. Introduction

It may not be said that the last two decades of drug abuse control policy of the Thai government met with success. based on the consideration of the numbers of offenders, the amounts of drugs found. The steady increase of prisoners each year has over-loaded the Thai prisons. It is evident that drug-abuse prisoners comprise more than 70% of the total incarcerated persons. The following impact from this fact is the annual increase of the government budget in fighting with drug abuse problems. Even though, drug abuse has been one of the most critical social problems of Thailand for many years, it seems that the Thai government has not been truly aware that the state policy merely aiming at eradicating drug trafficking and traffickers with strong measures is not appropriate under the current changing circumstances. The Thai government has not undertaken the evaluation of the drug policy concerning its annual costs, the loss to the Thai society brought about by this policy.

## 2. Research Methodology

To estimate the cost of drug abuse control policy of Thailand, the author adopted the method of Pacula and et al (2009) as a starting point. The author has the view that mere economic factors will not be sufficient in the estimation of the total costs. Therefore, the author also combined the theories of the new institutional economics and political economy, formulating a new theory for the estimation of the costs of the drug abuse control policy. From the theory A, as an original one, stressing the use of drugs, there are 3 types of costs: 1) health cost 2) productivity cost and 3) criminal cost (see table 1). Then, going to theory B, stressing both the use of drugs and policy, it has 4 types of costs: 1) health cost A, 2) productivity cost A, and 3) criminal cost as in theory A. Other costs being introduced were : (1) drug abuse law enforcement cost, sueing, arresting, taking into custody of persons who are alleged with drug abuse, and loss of productivity arising from offenders being kept in jail. The fourth type of cost, other

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\*This article is partly from a research entitled : "Dialogue on Drugs : Freedom of Female Prisoners." The year B.E.2017 By Sungsidh Piriyaangsan and et al. The purposes of the study was to examine the Scale and Social and Economic Impact of Drug abuse control Policy of the Thai Governmen.

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direct cost - as he called, was introduced. This costs include: (1) cost from drug abuse prevention policy and (2) cost from drug hazard reduction.

In this article, the theory C, being modified from theory A and B for better result and more suitable to Thai society, will be introduced. (see table 1). In this new theory, the author main trains that the costs of drug abuse problem do not only arising were from the use laws and the policy as mentioned in theory B. As a matter of fact, there are also, the economic and social costs of offenders families as well. In other words, costs arising from crimes do not only occur directly the person sphere, but can also occur in the public sector namely in law enforcement operation as well. From field study, the author found that keeping the prisoners in jails had created actual costs and expenses both in economic and social aspects. For example, the legal enforcement of narcotic control law that lacks of juristic norm, abusing the use of law through corruption, employing attorney for the cases and daily expenses for offenders while being kept in jails, etc. In table 1, Theory C or the theory on economic and social costs of drug abuse problems proposed by the author has the 5 components: 1) cost of public policy on drugs. 2) The cost of labour productivity 3) The cost from crimes 4) social cost and 5) The cost of prisoners being kept in jails.

### **3. Estimation of Economic and Social Costs from Drug Abuse Problems in Thailand.**

In making the estimation of economic and social costs from drug abuse problems in Thailand, the costs are categorized as follow : 1) The cost from public policy on drug abuse. 2) The cost of labour productivity 3) The cost from crimes and 5) The cost from prisoners being kept in jails.

**3.1 The cost from public policy operation on drug abuse.** Total numbers of cases about drug arrested by police in the fiscal year of 2007 – 2015 revealed the total number of drug offenders as 2,388,260 persons (see table 2). Table 3, classifying the narcotics being arrested, showed that during this period of time, amphetamine had the highest amount, with 234,536,669 million tablets. Table 4, showing statistics of prisoners, and the numbers of narcotic prisoners, all over the country during the year 2008 – 2015, showed the arising ratio of drug prisoners as compared with general prisoners through out the period. In the year 2008 this ratio was at 54.94% but it was at 70.71% in the year 2015. For the budget about drugs during the year 2007 – 2016, the statistics were shown in table 5.

**3.2 The costs of labour productivity.** In making the estimation of the labour productivity loss of the society, the estimation was divided into 6 parts: They were : (1) estimation from the numbers of the drug offenders in the whole country. (2) estimation of the labour productivity loss from the prisoners in jails under the drug laws all over the country. (3) estimation from the numbers of drug addicts to be treated. (4) estimation from the numbers of drug addicts to be voluntarily treated. (5) estimation from the numbers of children and youths being arrested with drug cases, and (6) estimation from the numbers of unemployed drug addicts and without being or imprisoned.

**1) Estimated loss in labour productivity from the numbers of drug prisoners imprisoned through out the country.** Table 4 showed the numbers of drug prisoners through out the country during the year 2008 – 2015 and the losses of labour productivity, the social cost or their working opportunity losses. The table showed that the labour productivity of the drug prisoners during the year 2008 – 2015 was 81,537.80 million baht.

**2) Estimated loss of labour productivity of prisoners who face final sentence under the drug law.**<sup>1</sup> Table 6 showed the finalized prisoners under the narcotic law, causing the total loss of 74,076.22 million baht.

According to the types of offences occurring during the year 2008 – 2015, there were 806,206

persons. Among these offenders, they were alleged of taking drugs for the third time<sup>2</sup>. Supposing that each person was kept on the average in jail for 7 years which is the minimum period of time, and refused to pay fine for 850,000 baht each, due to lack of money or any reason. They agreed to be kept in jail to replace paying fine. According to the

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<sup>1</sup> A study about narcotic laws and an interview with the judges working with drug cases revealed that in making inquiry about guilt of drug offenders. If it was the first intake of drug, that person will be treated for rehabilitation. If to be punished, The amount of drug will determine the penalty. The punishment for the first intake is 6 months imprisonment, but with 2 years suspension and paying fine of 10,000 baht. For the first intake but with guilt from other cases, the penalty will come from other cases. For the second round of intake, one more year of imprisonment will be applied but with 2 years of suspension and 20,000 baht fine. For the third round of intake, 1 year of imprisonment will be applied, with no suspension and no fine.

For the allegation of drug possession, if not more than 0.5 gm. of Methamphetamine or 5 tablets, it will face with 1 year imprisonment but with suspension and 20,000 baht fine. If the possession of Methamphetamine more than 1 gm. or about 10 tablets, it will face with 1 year and 6 months imprisonment, but with suspension and 30,000 baht fine. If the possession of Methamphetamine more than 1.5 gm. or about 15 tablets, it will face with 2 years imprisonment. But if it is the first guilt, the suspension will be applied with 40,000 baht fine. If the possession of Methamphetamine more than 15 tablets, the law allows to assume that they are for sale. If the possession of Methamphetamine not more than 40 tablets, it will face with 2 years imprisonment, but with suspension and 40,000 baht fine. If the possession of Methamphetamine more than 40 tablets, it will face with 5 years imprisonment up to the whole life imprisonment and with 400,000 – 5,000,000 baht fine.

For those who are alleged on the possession for consumption or for sale and other purposes (production/ import / export, etc.), will face similar guilt. That is, for possession of Methamphetamine of 1-2 gm., will face with 6 years imprisonment and 400,000 baht fine.

For possession of Methamphetamine up to 2 – 4 gm., will face with 7 years imprisonment and 400,000 baht fine. For possession less than 5 gm., will face 8 years imprisonment and 450,000 baht fine.

For possession of Methamphetamine between 14 – no more than 20 gm., will face with 16 – 20 years imprisonment or 20 years term, or depending on the judges discretion and with 850,000 – 1,000,000 baht fine. For those who possess Methamphetamine more than 20 gm., will face the whole life imprisonment or death penalty. Without the complete compilation of official records. The interviewee judge has told his direct experience that most of the punishment were done with persons who possess Methamphetamine no more than 20 gm. And had faced with 7 – 15 years imprisonment.

For prisoners who do not have money to pay fine, after finishing the term in jail, they will be kept in prison to replace the fine. With the punishment of less than 300,000 baht fine, they will be kept in jail less than 1 more year. For the punishment of more than 300,000 baht fine, they will be kept in jail not more than 2 years.

<sup>2</sup> Due to difference between the information from The Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) and Royal Thai Police (RTP). The finalized numbers of prisoners under narcotic laws during the year 2008 – 2015 from ONCB = 806,206 persons while the numbers from RTP = 916,721 persons. In this case, the writer had used the number from ONCB which is the least one.

law, the rate of replacement is 500 baht fine for one day in jail, but the maximum imprisonment must not more than 2 years.<sup>3</sup> So the estimated labour productivity loss during 2 years will increase by 294,265.22 million baht.

### **3) Estimated loss of labour productivity from drugs addicts with compulsory treatment.**

Table 7 showed the Estimated labour productivity loss from drugs addicts under compulsory treatment with light allegation.<sup>4</sup> The table showed that during the year 2011 – 2015, total labour productivity loss from compulsory treatment of drug addicts with severe allegation was about 35,026.14 – 58,376.9 million baht. For Estimated labour productivity loss of the compulsory treatment of drugs addicts with light allegation was about 15,143.77 – 26,501.59 million baht. So the estimated labour productivity loss of drugs addicts under compulsory treatment both light and severe allegation during the year 2011 – 2015 was between 50,170 – 84,879 million baht.

### **4) Numbers of persons who voluntarily accept drug treatment from the Ministry of Health and estimated productivity loss during October 2002 – September 2011.**

Table 8 showed that during October, 1, 2002 until September, 30, 2011, they were people voluntarily accepting drug treatment with the ministry of health up to 477,353 persons. The treatment process took 4 months. The estimated loss of productivity during

the year 2002 – 2011 was about 10,306 million baht.

### **5) Numbers of children and youth being alleged with drugs and the loss of productivity during the year 2011 – 2014.**

Table 9 showed the numbers of children and youth living in the government Children Home during the year 2004 – 2014. The average number of children and youth per day was 1,890 persons. This number has been risen every year, until the year 2014, the number was up to 2,619 persons each day. Estimated loss of productivity from this group of children has increased from 3,450 million baht per year in the year 2004 up to 4,319 million baht per year in the year 2014. In summary, the estimated loss of productivity from the children and youth in the government Children Home for the whole year, during the year 2004 – 2014 = 56,710 million baht. In the same table, the estimated loss of productivity children and youth in the Training Centers during the year 2004 – 2014 = 6,466.56 million baht. Therefore, the total estimated loss of productivity from children and youth both in the Children Homes and Training Centers during the year 2004 – 2014 = 63,177 million baht.

### **6) Estimated loss of productivity from drugs users and drug addicts without being arrested.**

The ONCB had forecasted drug problem and trend during the period of the 11<sup>th</sup> National

<sup>3</sup> In making estimation of productivity of finalized prisoners, 2 new hypothesizes will be introduced : (1) to estimate the minimum wage, the official minimum wage was used and (2) the average imprisonment term of all the prisoners is 9 years, which is the lowest imprisonment.

<sup>4</sup> By making evaluation of the process starting from being arrested by the police until they are fully rehabilitated. For those offenders under compulsory rehabilitation from heavy allegation require 135 – 225 days of treatment. For those who face light allegation require 50 – 105 days treatment.

Table 1: The 3 Theories being used for making estimation of economic and social cost from narcotic problems.

<p><b>Theory A: Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Health costs</i></li> <li>● Rehabilitation/Treatment</li> <li>● Over intake of drug</li> <li>● Mortality rate</li> <li>● HIV/AIDS</li> <li>● Hep B/C</li> <li>● Unseen costs of drug addiction</li> </ul> <p>- <i>Productivity cost</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rate of pre-matured death</li> <li>● Short term impotency</li> </ul> <p>- <i>Crime cost</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Motivation for crimes related to drugs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Theory B: Use and Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Health cost</i></li> <li>● The same as in Theory A.</li> </ul> <p>- <i>Productivity cost</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Costs in Theory A.</li> </ul> <p>- <i>Crimes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Costs in Theory A.</li> <li>● Costs from narcotic law enforcement, accusation, imprisonment, and productivity loss from being kept in jails.</li> </ul> <p>- <i>Other direct cost</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cost of prevention policy.</li> <li>● Cost of harm reduction policy.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Theory C: Use Policy and costs of government, society and individual.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Costs of public drug policy.</li> <li>● Costs of prevention policy.</li> <li>● Costs of drug Suppression.</li> <li>● Costs of treatment.</li> </ul> <p>- <i>Costs of productivity.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Costs from the loss of productivity of drug offenders throughout the country.</li> <li>● Costs from the loss of productivity of persons under compulsory drug treatment.</li> <li>● Costs from the loss of productivity of persons under voluntary drug treatment.</li> <li>● Costs from the loss of productivity of children and youth committing quilt with drug.</li> <li>● Costs from the loss of productivity of</li> </ul>
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		<p>drug addicts prior to being arrested by government official.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Costs from crimes             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Costs from crimes related to drug in private sector.</li> <li>● Costs from crimes related to drug problem in public sector.</li> <li>● Bribe given to police</li> <li>● Internal Smuggling by official</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Social costs             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Costs from dying with pneumonia and AIDS.</li> <li>● Costs from dying by taking drugs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Primers costs             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cost from court fine.</li> <li>● Costs from expenses for hiring attorney.</li> <li>● Cost from personal expenses.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**Source:** Adapted from Rosalic Liccards Pacula et.al (2009); (U.S. Department of Justice, National Drug Intelligence Center, 2011)

**Note:** Theory C is proposed by the author.

Economic and Social Development Plan (B.E. 1990 – 1996) that the numbers of drug users/ drug addicts during the year 2011 – 2012 was probably between 1.4 – 1.7 million persons. Interviewing with a former deputy provincial police chief (February, 21, 2016) he believed that the government figure was very much lesser than the reality. He saw that the real figure should be higher than the government one by up to 2 – 5 times.<sup>5</sup> He estimated that the numbers of drug users without any job, were supposed to be about 10% of the total drug users, or around 140,000 – 170,000 persons. If the minimum wage in the year 2012 = 300 baht per day, the productivity loss of the society from this group of people during the year 2011 – 2012 should be at 24,180 million baht. In summary the cost of productivity loss from the 6 categories of labour during the year B.E. 2008 – 2015 will be 230,062 – 265,194 million baht.

**3.3 The cost from crimes.** The author divided the cost from crimes related to drug problems into 2 categories: 1) cost from crimes at personal and inter-personal levels, and 2) cost from crimes in public sector.

**1) The cost from crimes related to drug problems inter-personal levels.** Table 2 showed the number of persons being arrested because of drug problems and the number of cases during the year 2007 – 2015, with the drug offenders comprising 2,388,260 persons. Table 10 showed the criminal cases covering 5 categories for the

whole country in the year 2013. Among all the categories, narcotic cases are the most, with 442,844 notified cases, and 461,494 persons being arrested. From interviewing with a district police chief in Bangkok metropolis and vicinity, it was found that drug offenders tended to be involved with other crime cases as well e.g., robbery and stealing in various manners. This police had evaluated the value of asset loss and psychological effect to the losers that being not less than 10,000 baht each. Table 10 showed the numbers of criminal cases, covering 5 categories for the whole country, in the year 2013 = 1,217,145 cases. Supposing that the criminal cases reach 1 million cases in one year, the total cases during the year 2007 – 2015 will be 9 million. **Therefore, the value of losses from crimes at the personal and inter-personal levels during that period would be around 90,000 million baht.**

**2) The cost of crimes related to drug problems in public sector.** During the year 2008 – 2015, ONCB had gathered the statistics about drug offenders who were public personnels. It was found that public personnels had been involved with drug trafficking increasingly.<sup>6</sup> The study revealed that in arresting drug users, hired drug shippers and traders of small scales, the police tended to commit at least 3 forms of crimes. *The first* one is to pressure for money from the victims. *The second* one related to the victims offering bribes to the police in exchange of being released.

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<sup>5</sup> Reason for being much lower than reality of the government figures are that the officials do not want the people above them realizing that there are problems in the area under their responsibility, which will interrupt the annual job evaluation and their job advancement.

<sup>6</sup> In the year 2008, there were 129 public personnels being arrested with drug allegation. It has increased up to 176 persons in the year 2015. During this period of time the total public personnels offenders were 1,274 persons. By average, during the 8 years period, the public personnels being arrested with drug allegation was 159 persons per year. A policeman, at the district chief, had evaluated that, the public personnels being arrested related to drug problems each

The amount of bribe money will depend on the amount of drug owned at that time. According to an interview with a policeman before the start of The People Reform Democratic Committee (PDRC) in November, 2014, the bribery offered by the alleged drug offender to the police in exchange of being released was about 30 – 40% of the total drug cases, but after the 2014 coup d’etat, the bribery to police was decreasing to 10 -20% of the total drug cases. Table 2, shows the numbers of arrested drug offenders during the year 2007 – 2015 to be 2,388,260. While the numbers of overall drug cases were 2,254,412. Suppose that bribery to police in exchange of being released during the year 2007 – 2011 was at 30 – 40% of the total drug cases of 1,988,589, the bribery or the number of drug offenders being released will be 596,577 – 795,436 cases. From the year 2015 onward, the bribery rate of 10 – 20% or the rate of being

released will be 26,582 – 53,165 cases. Therefore the estimated number of drug offenders being released through giving bribes to police during the year 2007 – 2015 will be 623,159 – 848,601 cases.

Base on the interviews with persons who deal with drug problems, it is found that the lowest estimated amount of bribery money given to police each time is around 30,000 – 100,000 baht. It is noticeable that drug offenders who rely on bribery, which include paying cash money to police, their offering of other valuable assets, such as watches, mobile phones, gold and other personal belongings, may be averted by the police as well. Based on this information, money gained from both bribery and other valuable belongings taken by police each time can range from about 30,000 – 100,000 baht.<sup>7</sup> The estimated value of bribery to police during the year 2007 – 2015, will be at about 18,695 – 84,860 million baht.

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year was actually less than 10% of the public personnels who were involved with drug problems. From interview with a former regional chief police, it was agreeable with his saying that almost every police station in Thailand, there were policeman with low ranks in the station involved drug trafficking. Therefore, in the present time, it is possible that there may be not lesser than 1,590 persons of public personnels dealing in drug trafficking.

The research done by Police Colonel Kasemsarn Chotcharkornpan and et al. (A Study on Preventive Measures for the Improvement of The Over Use of Authority beyond the limit: A Case Study on Mis – use of police Authority : 2009). The Investigation had been done about the wrong behavior of police in gaining of benefits from drug abuses cases that there were at least 9 methods: 1) making exhibit and arrest. The victim has no exhibit but the police makes it up. 2) arrest and then release, after the police has received what they force the victim to give such as money or other valuable assets in exchange of releasing the case. 3) cheating with exhibits seized. A part of exhibits may be sold for cash for personal benefit or to be given to the helper in the case. 4) giving help to offenders in court in exchange of bribes by giving wrong information in favor of the offenders, that may be leading to the dismiss of the cases. 5) asking for benefits in exchange of releasing the offenders. 6) arresting with lesser amount of exhibits, to lighten the accusations from keeping drug for trade to for uses. 7) the police having affairs with “night ladies”, and using them as drug agents to sell drugs. 8) wrongly use of authority by torturing offenders, forcing them to accept the guilt, or to disclose the sources of exhibits or the network of drug trading, and 9) mis – use of authority by adopting the method of “deceiving buy” with former drug offenders.

<sup>7</sup> Bribery is not possible in the case that there are personnels from other agencies : e.g. military or ONCB participating in the arresting mission.

The second one: the smuggle of drug by officials for personal gains or “ต๋อนยา”<sup>8</sup> in Thai. Table 3, shows the numbers of drug cases averted during the year 2007 – 2015, indicating that during this period of time, the amount of Methamphetamine or exhibit being arrested were up to 234,536,669 tablets. Supposing that, a number of policemen who seized the Methamphetamine mis – used their authority by smuggling with drugs seized, keeping 50% of them for personal benefit (or = 117,268,335 tablets), this amount of drugs will be sold out at about a half cheaper than market price. Methamphetamine was sold at 300 baht each in the market. The corrupting police sold the cheated one at 150 baht each. Therefore during the year 2007 – 2015, this cheating police would have revenue from selling Methamphetamine as their own benefit about 17,590 million baht. In summary, **total cost from crimes related to drugs occurring in both private and public sector during the year 2007 – 2015 will have the value of 126,285 – 192,450 million baht.**

**3.4 Social costs.** The author divided this type of cost into 2 categories: 1) social cost from death causes by pneumonia and HIV/AIDS, and 2) social cost from death with drug substance found.

**1) Social costs from death caused by pneumonia and HIV/AIDS.** Table 11 showed the

numbers of death from pneumonia and HIV/AIDS during the year 2008 – 2014 = 176,592 persons. Because there was no record available about the ages of dead persons from these two causes, nor record of public expenses involved in health care provision, the estimation of public expense was not possible. However, we could estimate the loss of productivity of this group of people during the year 2008 – 2014 as about 16,996.85 million baht.

**2) Social cost from death of persons found with drug substance.** Table 12 showed the figures of death with drug substance found for the whole country during the year 2007 – 2014, up to 39,183 persons. The estimated loss of productivity from this group of people during this period of time was about 2,449 million baht. Therefore, the social cost from death caused by pneumonia and HIV/AIDS during the year 2008 – 2014 and the social cost from death caused by drug substance found during the year 2007 – 2014, bringing the productivity loss at about 46,327 million baht.

**3.5 Cost of offenders and prisoners being kept in jails.** The author realize that this type of cost can be explained in economic term which can be quantitatively calculated, and in social term which can not be quantitatively calculated.

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<sup>8</sup> Behavior of police in this case may happen in 2 different styles: The police can seize the drugs without owners, drugs being thrown in trash bin, or in jungle. The police may give this drug to “police helpers”, to use it in “deceiving buy” with drug addicts, small or big selling agents. (From interview with the former Regional 1 Police Chief. February, 15, 2015). But for some policemen, they may give this drug to his helpers for selling to gain personal benefits. Some others may keep the drugs seized for their own benefits. Interviewing with a police, it was found that arresting of a medium or large cases each time, if no personnels from other agencies joining the task, more than 50% of drugs seized will be allocated for personal benefits of the police. In this cases, it was known that hired drug shippers will keep 1 – 2 million baht of cash for each round of shiping for paying bribe to police. Therefore, when the police can arrest drug shipper, they may gain both reward from arresting and some amount of drugs that can be used for illegal trading as personal benefits. This activity also satisfies the drug offenders for lessening about of drugs being seized. They can face with lesser penalty.

For the quantifiable amount of cost, there are 2 components : (1) cost from fines given to court.<sup>9</sup> Based on the interviews done with prisoners in the prisons, it was found that their monthly average expenses in prison were 3,000 baht. In the year 2015, drug prisoners for the whole country were 230,074 persons. (see table 4). The prisoners expenses during the year 2008 – 2015 were at about 3,533.19 million baht.

**3.6 Total estimated economic and social costs from drug problems in Thailand.** The study revealed that the total economic and social costs from drug problems in Thailand, could be divided into 6 parts: (1) the costs from public drug policy during the year 2007 – 2015, was 74,076.22 million baht. + (2) the cost from the loss of productivity during the year 2008 – 2015 was 730,117 – 799,958 million baht. (3) the costs from crimes related to drug problems both in the private and public sector during the year 2007 – 2015 was about 58,839 – 125,004 million baht. + (4) social costs from death caused by pneumonia and HIV/AIDS during the year 1994 – 2007 and social costs from death caused by drug substance found during the year 2007 – 2014, bringing the total social costs at around 56,211 million baht, and (5) cost of prisoners kept in jails during the year 2008 – 2015 was about 8,283 million baht. **Therefore, the total economic and social costs of drug problems in public, society and private individuals who were drug offenders, during the study period, all together, the least estimated value was at 927,526 – 1,063,532 million baht. It was about 1.4 – 1.6% of GDP during the year 2007 – 2014.**<sup>10</sup>

#### 4. Summary.

The objectives of this study was to investigate the scale and the economic and social impact of the narcotic control policy of the contemporary Thai government. To obtain the answer, the author had developed a new research methodology based on the economist's theories for social impact evaluation. The findings showed that total economic and social costs of Thailand during the year 2007 – 2015, at least, was between 927,526 – 1,063,532 million baht or about 1.4 – 1.6% of GDP during the year 2007 – 2014.

From the aforementioned figures, the author maintained that the philosophy, concepts, policy and Thai narcotic laws should be revised, adapting then for better compliance with the motions proposed by UN Office on Drug and Crime – UNODC. Otherwise, the problems of over crowded prisons caused by increasing drug prisoners and losses of productivity of people related with drug problems in the country will be chronic in Thai society and in turn will ruin the Thai economic systems potentiality at last.

The resolutions of UNODC in the year 2017, emphasize the need to change the outlook towards drug users, from being “criminals” to being “patients”. **It is appropriate for Thai government, as a member country, to consider making adjustment about policy and laws in drug suppression. It should also include correction about the classification of Methamphetamine, Marijuana, Mitragyna speciosa as legal drug substances, under close public supervision. Besides, those who are “drug offenders”,**

<sup>9</sup> This is the alternative costs: being kept in jail instead of paying fine.

<sup>10</sup> Gross Domestic Products (GDP) during the year 2007 – 2014 = 66,713 billion baht.

aiming at using them for consumption, without for commercial purposes, should be treated as patients. Correction of definitions in narcotic laws about using, owning, using and owning, selling, own for selling, production, import and export etc., should be implemented in accor-

dance with the UNODC resolutions. This action will make the Thai drug suppression policy adhere to the principles of human rights, health and security of man, accepting of individual rights and freedom without harming others.

**Table 2:** Drugs seized during the fiscal years 2007 - 2015

Year	No. of cases	No. of offenders	Use accusation		Other accusation (1)	
			No. of cases	No. of persons	No. of cases	No. of persons
2007	72,070 (3.2)	78,063 (3.3)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2008	133,242 (5.9)	142,703 (6.0)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2009	151,240 (6.7)	161,919 (6.8)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2010	191,252 (8.5)	204,082 (8.5)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2011	318,427 (14.1)	336,457 (14.1)	152,919 (17.3)	153,358 (17.3)	165,508 (20.1)	183,099 (20.0)
2012	351,229 (15.6)	370,226 (15.5)	190,735 (21.6)	191,241 (21.6)	160,494 (19.5)	178,985 (19.5)
2013	422,526 (18.7)	441,772 (18.5)	246,692 (27.9)	247,263 (27.9)	175,834 (21.3)	194,509 (21.2)
2014	348,603 (15.5)	367,628 (15.4)	179,556 (20.3)	179,834 (20.3)	169,047 (20.5)	187,794 (20.5)
2015	265,823 (11.8)	285,410 (12.0)	112,847 (12.8)	113,076 (12.8)	152,976 (18.6)	172,334 (18.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,254,412</b>	<b>2,388,260</b>	<b>882,749</b>	<b>884,772</b>	<b>823,859</b>	<b>916,721</b>

**Sources:** Police Headquarters for Narcotic Suppression, Royal Police Office, 2016

**Note:** (1) accusation of production, import/export, possess for sale own.

(2) ( ) = percentages

(3) data during the year 2007 - 2010 were from DNCB

(4) data during 2011 - 2015 were from Royal Police Office.

(5) n.a. = not available

Table 3: Drugs Seized: classified by types of exhibits during the fiscal year 2007 - 2015

Year	Methamphetamine (tablets)	Ice (kg.)	Heroin (kg.)	Dry Marijuana (kg.)	Cocaine (kg.)	Mitragyna speciosa (kg.)
2007	8,716,470	55.65	94.7	5,441	n.a.	n.a.
2008	10,612,996	506.74	19.68	15,354	n.a.	n.a.
2009	12,075,696	100.73	4.74	7,271	n.a.	n.a.
2010	35,185,331	605.32	425.62	16,058	n.a.	n.a.
2011	49,710,742.00	2,155.17	176.47	10,826.58	28.77	31,355.95
2012	117,933,473.00	2,072.06	765.09	27,768.18	59.63	45,003.60
2013	117,953.47	2,072.06	765.09	27,768.18	59.63	42,168.40
2014	96,157.45	1,073.60	497.26	28,104.60	32.29	52,722.90
2015	87,849.93	1,443.92	182.23	25,000.00	33.70	75,851.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>234,536,668.84</b>	<b>10,085.25</b>	<b>2,930.88</b>	<b>163,591.36</b>	<b>214.02</b>	<b>247,101.96</b>

Source: Police Headquarters for Narcotic Suppression, Royal Police Office, 2016 and ONCB

Note: (1) data during the year 2007 - 2010, were from ONCB.

(2) data during the year 2011 - 2015, were from the Royal Police Office.

(3) n.a. = not available

(4) data from RPO showed that in the year 2015 220, 930.11 kg. Of dry marijuana was seized. After consulting with the former ONCB secretary, realizing it was very much higher than the reality, so the adjusted figure is only 25,000 kg.

**Table 4:** Statistics of prisoners with general law suit cases and drug prisoners of the whole country and losses of productivity of drug prisoners during the year 2008 - 2015

Year	General Prisoners (persons)	Drug Prisoners (persons)	Productivity loss of drug prisoners (mil. Baht)
2008	182,032 (100)	100,015 (54.94)	5,278,791,700
2009	190,028 (100)	101,903 (53.63)	5,457,924,680
2010	213,094 (100)	119,761 (56.20)	6,694,639,900
2011	220,776 (100)	128,750 (58.32)	7,197,125,000
2012	224,864 (100)	140,073 (62.29)	10,925,694,000
2013	251,819 (100)	166,699 (66.20)	13,002,522,000
2014	291,734 (100)	200,453 (68.71)	15,635,334,000
2015	325,361 (100)	220,074 (70.71)	17,345,772,000
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>81,537,803,280</b>

**Source:** Correction Dept., Ministry of Justice.

**Note:** 1. ( ) = Percentages

2. In the year 2008, the survey was done on Aug., 1st.

3. In making estimation of labor productivity during the year 2008 - 2015, 2 assumptions were adopted (1) 5 working days per week or 260 day per year. (2) if the prisoners were not kept in jails, they work receive the minimum wage in Bangkok and vicinity, during the year 2008 = 203 B/day, in the year 2009 = 206 B/day in the year 2010 - 2011 = 215 B/day, in the year 2010 - 2015 = 300 B/day.

**Table 5:** The government budgets for drug control during the year 2007 - 2016

<b>Year</b>	<b>Mil. Baht</b>
2007	4,016.93
2008	4,579.3
2009	4,817.85
2010	4,908.93
2011	4,940.58
2012	9,454.96
2013	11,288.2
2014	10,560.26
2015	8,827.97
2016	10,685.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,080.22</b>

**Source:** Correction Dept., Ministry of Justice.

**Table 6:** Statistics of drug prisoners, finalized prisoners according to narcotic laws and the losses of labour productivity from finalized prisoners during the year 2008 - 2015

Year	Drug prisoners (persons)	Finalized prisoners (persons)	Labour Productivity of finalized prisoners (mil. Baht)
2008 <sup>1</sup>	100,015	76,320	27,856.80
2009 <sup>2</sup>	101,303	87,563	31,960.50
2010 <sup>2</sup>	119,961	91,195	33,286.18
2011 <sup>3</sup>	128,750	107,329	39,175.09
2012 <sup>4</sup>	140,073	106,933	39,030.55
2014 <sup>2</sup>	200,453	168,108	61,359.42
2015 <sup>2</sup>	220,074	168,758	61,596.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,010,629</b>	<b>806,206</b>	<b>294,265.22</b>

Source: ONCB, Ministry of Justice.

Note: (1) No complete statistics gathered by ONCB.

(2) Data for the year 2013 not available.

(3) # 1 = data till Nov. of that year.

(4) # 2 = data till Oct. of that year.

(5) # 3 = data till Aug. of that year.

(6) # 4 = data till Apr. of that year.

(\*) Estimation of labour productivity from finalized prisoners relying on daily fine of 500 B. \* 2 years (730 days)

Table 7: Estimation of productivity losses of the people under compulsory treatment during the year 2011 - 2015

	2011 <sup>(1)</sup>	2012 <sup>(2)</sup>	2013	2014	2015
<b>No. of people under compulsory treatment</b>					
with severe accusation. (persons)	183,099	178,985	194,509	187,794	172,334
Loss of productivity (mil. Baht)	5,314.45 – 8,857.41	7,248.89 – 12,081.49	7,877.61 – 13,129.36	7,605.66 – 12,676.09	6,979.53 – 11,632.55
<b>No. of people under compulsory treatment</b>					
with light accusation. (persons)	153,358	191,241	247,263	179,834	113,076
Loss of productivity (mil. Baht)	1,978.32 - 3,462.06	3,442.34 - 6,024.09	4,450.73 - 7,788.78	3,237.01 - 5,664.77	2,035.37 - 3,561.89

Note: (1) by the min. wage of 215 B/day.

(2) the min. wage from the year 2012 on ward = 300 B/day.

(3) Data prior to the year 2011 were not available.

**Table 8:** No. of persons voluntarily receive drug treatment from the Ministry of Health and losses of labour productivity during Oct. 1, 2002 - Sept. 30, 2011

Duration	Voluntary (persons) <sup>(1)</sup>	Loss of labour productivity (mil.Baht) <sup>(2)</sup>
Oct. 1, 2002 - Sept. 30, 2003	294,889	5,980.35
Oct. 1, 2003 - Sept. 30, 2004	17,215	351.19
Oct. 1, 2004 - Sept. 30, 2005	13,128	275.69
Oct. 1, 2005 - Sept. 30, 2006	14,802	324.16
Oct. 1, 2006 - Sept. 30, 2007	15,776	361.59
Oct. 1, 2007 - Sept. 30, 2008	23,324	542.98
Oct. 1, 2008 - Sept. 30, 2009	29,456	728.15
Oct. 1, 2009 - Sept. 30, 2010	29,605	731.84
Oct. 1, 2010 - Sept. 30, 2011	39,158	1,010.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>477,353</b>	<b>10,306.23</b>

**Source:** Health Service Office, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health. data Compilation on Mar. 2, 2012.

Note: (1) From ONCB, Office for Policy and Strategy, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Thunyarak Institute: on behalf of sub-committee for work collaboration in treatment Services.

(2) min. wage in Bangkok and vicinity during Oct.1, 215 - Sept. 30, 46 = 169 Baht/day; during Oct.1, 46 - Sept.30, 47 = 170 Baht/day; during Oct.1, 47 - Sept.30, 48 = 175 Baht/day; during Oct.1, 48 - Sept.30, 49 = 181 - 184 Baht/day; (the large. of 182. 50 Baht/day was used); during Oct.1, 49 - Sept.30, 50 = 191 Baht/day; during Oct.1, 50 - Sept.30, 51 = 194 Baht/day; during Oct.1, 51 - Sept.30, 53 = 206 Baht/day; during Oct.1, 53 - Sept.30, 54 = 215 Baht/day.

(3) No data available beyond the year 2011.

Table 11: No. and ratio of death from pneumonia and HIV/AIDS the year 2007 - 2014

Year	Ailment		Total (persons)	min. wage (Baht) <sup>(1)</sup>	Productivity loss (Mil.Baht) <sup>(2)</sup>
	Pneumonia and other lung diseases. (persons)	HIV/AIDS (immune deficiency caused by Virus) (persons)			
2007	14,179	5,522	19,701	191	3,762.89
2008	14,542	4,685	19,227	203	1,014.80
2009	14,542	4,046	18,588	206	3,829.13
2010	16,369	3,638	20,007	215	1,118.39
2011	16,884	3,758	20,642	215	1,153.89
2012	15,226	4,034	19,260	300	1,502.75
2013	21,676	5,683	27,359	300	2,134.00
2014	26,103	5,705	31,808	300	2,481.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>139,521</b>	<b>37,071</b>	<b>176,592</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,997</b>

Source: Health Statistic Report; Office for Policy and Strategy. The Ministry of Public Health.

Note: (1) min. wage for Bangkok and vicinity

(2) Productivity evaluation for 260 working days in one year.

**Table 10:** Statistics of 5 groups of Crimes for the whole country in the year 2013

groups of crimes	Notified (cases)	arrested (persons)
1. Serious criminal offence cases. (kill, steal, rob, etc)	4,716	2,940
2. life, body and sex (kill, injure, rape)	23,854	14,594
3. rob of property and valuable assets (infringe, destroy, damage)	50,149	23,067
4. interesting cases (robbery of motorcycles and car theft;)	30,368	8,569
5. damage to public	554,029	653,374
5.1 guns 35,167	37,399	
5.2 gambling 51,135	129,431	
5.3 drug abuse 442,844	461,494	
5.4 prostitution suppression	24,565	24,729
5.5 spreading of pornographic materials	318	232
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,217,145</b>	<b>1,355,829</b>

**Source:** Performances of protection and drug problem suppression of the police during the fiscal year 2011 - 2013, RPO.

Table 11: No. and ratio of death from pneumonia and HIV/AIDS the year 2007 - 2014

Year	Ailment		Total (persons)	min. wage (Baht) <sup>(1)</sup>	Productivity loss (Mil.Baht) <sup>(2)</sup>
	Pneumonia and other lung diseases. (persons)	HIV/AIDSs (immune deficiency caused by Virus) (persons)			
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2008	14,542	4,685	19,227	203	1,014.80
2009	14,542	4,046	18,588	206	3,829.13
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2013	21,676	5,683	27,359	300	2,134.00
2014	26,103	5,705	31,808	300	2,481.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>139,521</b>	<b>37,071</b>	<b>176,592</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,997</b>

Source: Health Statistic Report; Office for Policy and Strategy. The Ministry of Public Health.

Note: (1) min. wage for Bangkok and vicinity

(2) Productivity evaluation for 260 working days in one year.

**Table 12:** Statistics of drug substances found in death bodies of the whole year 2007 - 2014

Year	drug substances/alcohol found. (cases)	drug substances found.	drug only	Total (persons)	Estimated Loss of productivity (mil. Baht)
2007	3,411	777	500	4,688	232.81
2008	4,269	833	531	5,633	297.31
2009	3,913	673	438	5,024	269.09
2010	4,071	792	569	5,432	303.65
2011	2,988	620	444	4,052	226.51
2012	3,368	814	549	4,731	369.02
2013	3,459	1,265	699	5,423	422.99
2014	2,799	866	535	4,200	327.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,278</b>	<b>6,640</b>	<b>4,265</b>	<b>39,183</b>	<b>2,448.98</b>

**Source:** Health Statistics Report; Office for Policy and Strategy, The Ministry of Public Health.

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### Interviews

Mr.Permpong Chaowalit, former secretary of ONCB Police Lieutenant A, former police district chief in Central Region.

Police Lieutenant Amnuay Nimano, former Region 1 Police chief.