

## Canada-Thailand Collaboration in Technologies for Persons with Disabilities - Phase I and II

In partnership with the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) and Rathchasuda College.

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| <b>Dates:</b>         | 1998 to 2002  |
| <b>Primary sites:</b> | Bangkok, Thailand                                     |
| <b>Budget:</b>        | \$99,000 CAD for phase II, unknown budget for phase I |
| <b>Donor:</b>         | Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)      |

### Overview

At the time of the project's onset, nearly 2% of Thailand's population had a disability - over 1 million people. Under 5% of people with disabilities were able to receive an education. In 1991 the government of Thailand began to prioritize the wellbeing of people with disabilities as they passed the "Rehabilitation Act". This act sought to improve educational opportunities for people with disabilities and allow them to enter the workforce. The ICACBR was brought in as a partner for Thai initiatives in a project that worked to improve understanding and use of assistive technology for people with disabilities. The ICACBR aided in the Thai run phase I of this project, and organized phase II independently.



The project worked to improve the use of assistive technology through many means including policy development, personnel education, research, and improvement of the availability of technology and services for people with disabilities.

The project created a "Centre of Excellence" that operated a training program for professionals who worked with people with disabilities and aided them to utilize technology in educational or vocational environments. The centre was also the site of research initiatives that worked to determine the needs of people with disabilities in Thailand and find solutions to meet those needs.

Thailand was awarded the "Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award" in 2001 in recognition of its progress towards the United Nations "World Program of Action Concerning People With Disabilities". The award recognized Thailand's achievements in raising awareness of people with disabilities, its passage of the Declaration on the Rights of Thai Persons with Disabilities, Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act, and the establishment of the National Commission for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. The Canada-Thailand Collaboration in Technologies for Persons with Disabilities contributed to these efforts.

### Sources and Project Resources

1. Canada-Thailand Collaboration in Technologies for Persons with Disabilities - Phase II project overview\*
2. Canada-Thailand Collaboration in Technologies for Persons with Disabilities - Phase II website archive\*
3. Seminar on Assistive Technology 2002 (Bangkok, Thailand) Part 1-3

\*used to generate this report