

Review of:

“OVOP Network toward in East Asia and a Case study in Thailand: The authority between the government and the general public ”

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Overview:

This paper examines the Thai Model of One Tambon One Product (OTOP) has an apparent weakness that is the overruling government's authority of the general public. The paper clarifies this weakness causes the lack of local community's self-reliance that is conceived to be one of the main purpose of OTOP project by the author. The method in this research seems to be a comparative analysis between OTOP initiated by Thai national government and OVOP (One Village One Product) started originally by Oita prefecture government in Japan as the same policy project to OTOP with the main principles of 1)Local yet global 2) Self-reliance and creativity and 3)Human resource development. This paper focuses on the strong authority by the national government to control and manage the general public on the process of the Thai OTOP model. This authority process is discussed regarding the OTOP Directive Committee under the Prime Minister's Office, consisting of 16 related government agencies and 5 sub-committees. The author interprets: Consequently, because the project was initiated and directed by the central government from the start, this has made the local communities lack of the realization that the project belongs to everyone. Most local people feel like they are not part of the project since they do not have any involvement with the project's activities including the project initiatives, discussions and debates of the problems of their own communities. Therefore, the people living in these local communities do not share the responsibility to operate the project together collaboratively. According to this interpretation, the paper suggests the future direction for the Thai OTOP model by emphasizing the original ideology of the above three main principles.

The conclusion is clearly presented on the bases of the well organized discussion with the analysis and interpretation of the control and management in the OTOP project by the government that has more authority than the general public. Therefore the quality of this paper deserves to be published in a journal: my recommendation is that this article will be accepted for publication. However I have some comments to improve the paper as the following. Thank you for allowing me to participate in the editorial process at the International Journal of East Asian Studies.

(My comments to improve the paper)

Title:

The title of this article should be changed because “OVOP network toward in East Asia” is not discussed in the paper.

Introduction:

The introduction may be necessary because the detail of “Background of the One Tambon One Product (OTOP) project of Thailand” is not proper for introduction. In addition it may be possible that an introduction of this article is clearly presented since the paper is well organized towards the conclusion.

Materials & Methods and Result & Discussion:

The comparative approach to Japanese OVOP is suitable to discuss the future direction of Thai OTOP project. In the next article, if the author has a plan to write, an empirical approach will be expected for the discussion of this theme: especially the interpretation regarding the influence of party politic process such as an election campaign and populism projects may be examined by an empirical proof.

References:

There are not many reference articles of this subject regarding OTOP or OVOP. However there is a possibility to use references with regard to the discussion in the paper such as the attached articles to this review. (For a note of the bottom-up system in Japan) Kyungmi Son.(2011) "Qualitative change of a policy as a turning point toward local-oriented policy development", in Hiroshi Murayama(ed.) The new paradigm of policy development in Thailand, Thammasat Printing House.

(See the attached file A1 & A2 and underlines) (For a note of the Human resource development in Japan: 'Toyonokunijyuku') Kyungmi Son(2009) "A Japanese Case of Human Resources Policy for Rural Development", Thammasat university Institute of East Asian Studies, Japanese Studies Journal, Vol.26 No.1:39-53. (See the attached file B1 & B2 & B3 and underlines)

Recommendation:

The concept of the authority should be defined in a proper part regarding the overruling government's authority of the general public.