

Community Justice in Thailand

The Roles of the Community in
Offender Rehabilitation and
Crime Prevention.

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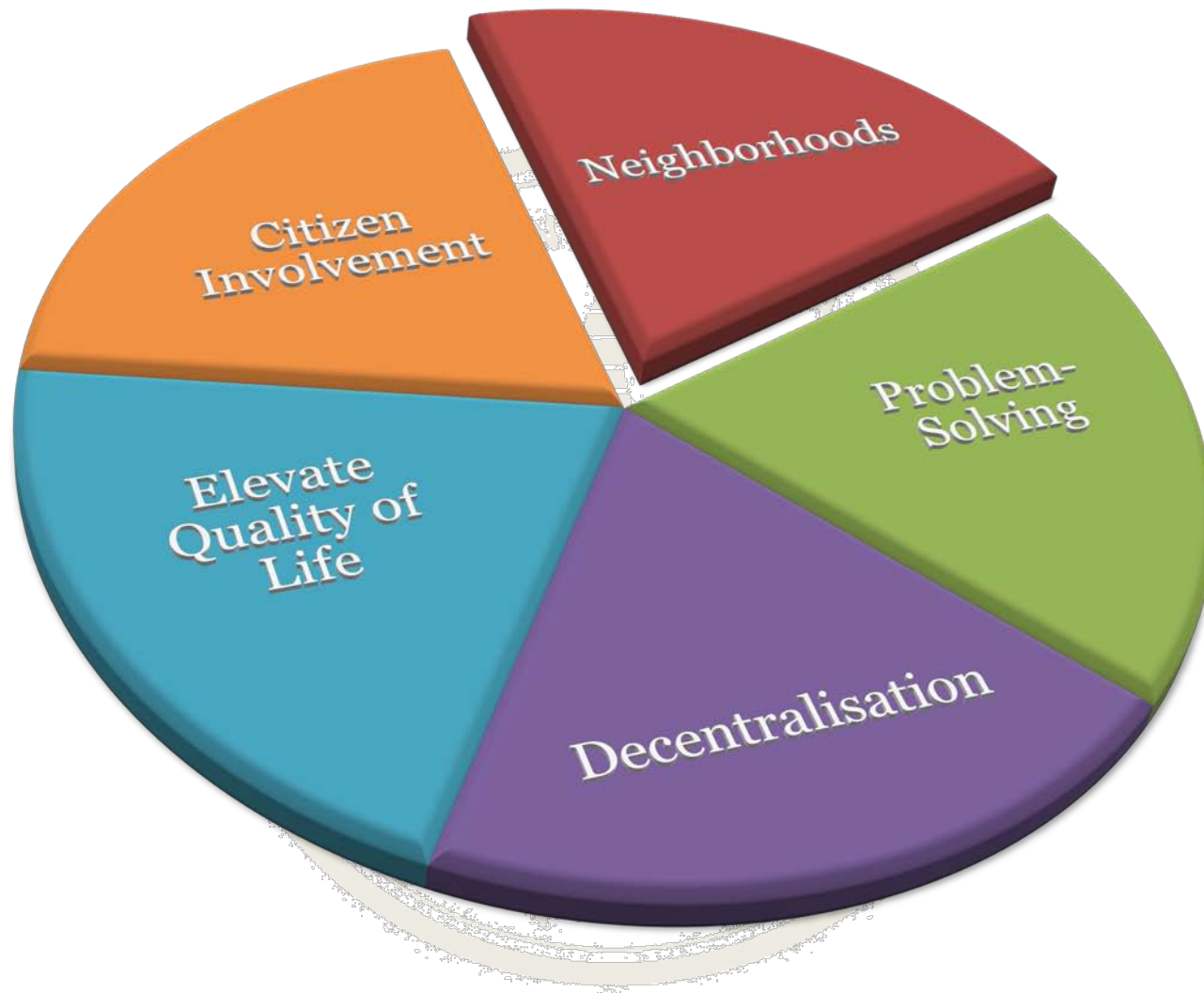
Department of Probation

- Pre- and Post Sentence Investigation
- Offender Supervision, Rehabilitation, & Reintegration
- After-care services for offenders & ex-offenders
- Drug Treatment (Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Act, 2002)
- Promotion of Community Participation

I. Community Justice Principles

*“a **strategic method** of crime reduction and prevention, which builds or enhances **partnerships** within communities. Community justice policies confront crime and delinquency through **proactive, problem-solving** practices aimed at **prevention, control, reduction and reparation of the harm crime has caused**. The goal is to create and maintain vital, healthy, safe and just communities and improve the quality of life for all citizens”*

5 Elements of Community Justice (Karp & Clear 2000)

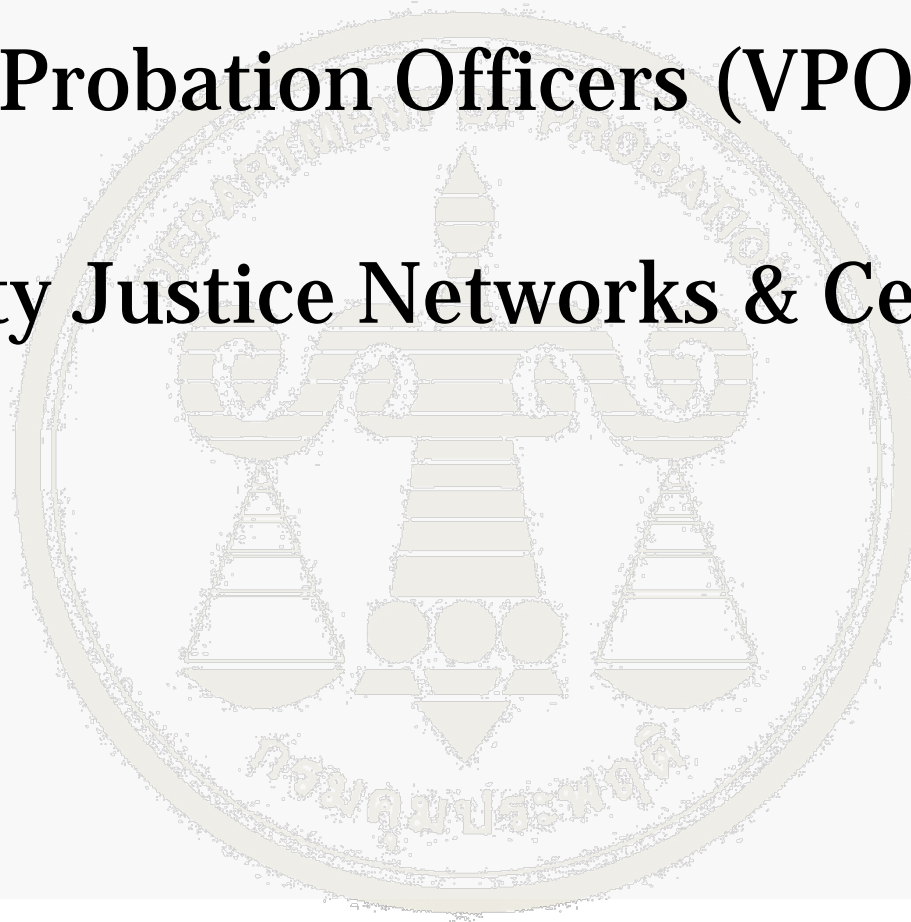


II. Emergence of Community Justice

- **Prior to 2005**
 - **Community Justice Networking in Offender Rehabilitation**
 - **Promoting Justice in Southern Border Provinces**
 - **Community Justice Networks in Fighting Against Drug Abuses**
- **2005 National Strategy – ‘Justice for All, All for Justice’**
 - **Community Justice Development Pilot Project (Action Research)**
 - **National Expansion of Community Justice Centres**

III. Community Involvement in Offender Rehabilitation & Crime Prevention

- Volunteer Probation Officers (VPOs)
- Community Justice Networks & Centres



Volunteer Probation Officers (VPOs)

- **Assisting in probation services**
- **Key linkages between DOP & the community**
- **Offender rehabilitation, reintegration**
- **Public protection**
- **13,774 VPOs in 738 Centres (2013)**

Community Justice Networks & Centres

- Being empowered to build just and peaceful society
- *Think Together, Design Together, Decide Together, Improve together, & Achieve Together*
- Proactively involved in justice activities e.g. crime prevention, offender rehabilitation & reintegration, conflict resolution, and legal consulting service
- 80,998 networking members in 768 Centres (2013)

Roles of Community Justice Networks

- Providing basic legal advice
- Resolving conflicts
- Serving as a crime-watch/prevention unit, reporting crimes
- Supporting offender rehabilitation & reintegration
- Providing victim support
- Establishing & operating a community justice Centre
- Promoting social justice

Evaluation of the Community Justice Project:

'Proactive Crime Solution: Relating Factors for Effective Crime Prevention by Community Justice Networks' Narkvichetr & Suwannabura 2012

Objective

- Examine ongoing practices of community justice in Thailand, its achievement in crime prevention, and associating factors with the success in preventing crime

Method

- Survey 140 members of 21 community justice networks in four differing parts of Thailand

Findings

- The networking members and Centres in this study addressed that this initiative greatly enhanced the community's involvement in justice matters, senses of unity, and those of fairness.

Key Success factors

- Dedication of community justice networking members and leaders
- The policies are responsive to the community's needs and benefits
- continuous and concrete supports for the networks and leaders from MOJ and related agencies

Evaluation of the Community Justice Project:

'The Evaluation of Community Justice Project'

DOP 2011

Objective

- The Evaluation of Community Justice Project

Method

- Questionnaires survey 624 participants - executives, practitioners, community justice networking members and committees, and other community members or service recipients

Findings

- Successful set up (preparation, support, trainings, Initiation of collaborations)
- Exchange Forum
- Members
 - have better understanding how to protect themselves, family, friends and the community from victimisation, how to avoid dispute and utilise mediation to resolve over 80 % of conflicts
 - were provided service fairly & responsively e.g. victim support, and offenders rehabilitation
 - feel at ease to seek for advice regarding legal, social, violence issues

Key Success factors

- Fair treatment to the members
- Sufficient and continuous supports
- Community Insights
- Stakeholders' involvement

Key Success Factors

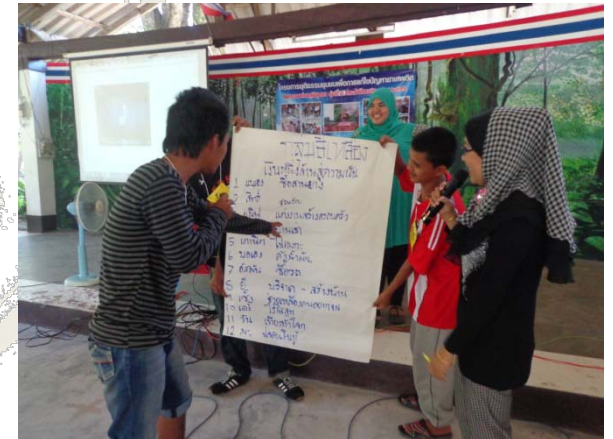
- Volunteer spirit, Dedication, & Contribution of the Community Justice Networks
- Response to the Community's Problems & Needs
- Continuous & Sufficient Support
- Equal & Fair Treatment to Community Members
- Coordinating with Local Organisations



Success Stories

Panomssarakam Community Justice Centre in Chacherngsao

- **Problem Solving activities**
 - Conflict mediation
 - Offender rehabilitation
 - Drug treatment through family support chains
- **Preventive activities**
 - “Youth Power to Fight Drug”
 - 'Envoy For Peace, Heading to the Harmonious Community'



Success Stories

Bhra-Buddha-Bhat Community Justice Centre in Saraburi



- **Reforming** people by working with offenders
- **Developing Skills** by providing vocational trainings and chances for offenders to express their capacities
- **Involving offenders** in public-oriented activities
– *“Hero” campaign*



Success Stories

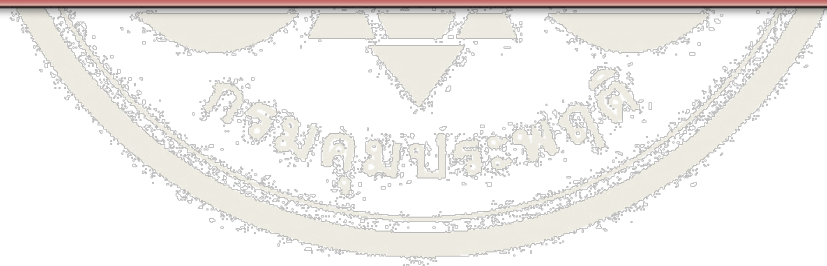
Koke Bho Community Justice Centre in Pattani

- **Offender rehabilitation/Employment service**
- **Conflict resolution**
- **Promoting community reconciliation**
- **Drug Prevention**



Challenges

How to
Sustain & Enhance
the community involvement



Ways Forward

The Government Policy under Prime Minister Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra (policy statement delivered on 23 August 2011)

“Promotion of social and quality of life”

By encouraging local communities and private sectors to participate in the processes & activities, and coordinating with local administration.





Ways Forward

Policies of Professor Chaikasem Nitisiri, Minister of Justice

Pillars of Involvement:

- Civil society involvement in the service delivery process;
 - Family involvement in preventing and solving drug abuse; and
 - Community involvement in offender rehabilitation
- Building capacity and strengthening roles of community justice network
 - Coordinating with Ministry of Interior and Royal Thai Police



21st Year of Department of Probation
Reintegrating Offenders into the Society and Moving Toward the ASEAN Community



Ways Forward

- **Sustain community involvement**
 - Assist community justice network by connecting with local, private, and public agencies
 - Working with local administration organisations to set up community justice centres
- **Enhance the involvement**
 - Family members – *Family Support towards Drug Free Life*
 - Young generations – *Junior VPOs/Networks*

ASEAN Networks

The ASEAN plus three conference on probation and non-custodial measures , 3-5 April 2013

