

Palang Thai

พลังไทย



พลัง (palang): *n* 1. Power. 2. Empowerment. - ไทย (thai): *adj.* 1. Independence. 2. Self-reliance

We are a Thailand-based non-profit organization that works to ensure that the transformations that occur in the region's energy sector are economically rational, and that they augment, rather than undermine, social and environmental justice and sustainability.

To change the energy industry in the Mekong region, one has to operate at many levels. Research papers and workshops speak to specialists; direct outreach to communities and small entrepreneurs builds working examples in the field that can inform and influence policy; outreach to the general public through media creates "pull" for change. But some of our greatest impacts come through cultivated connections with -- and analysis provided to -- decision-makers in government, utilities, and NGOs.

Public interest energy policy analysis: we work with Thai NGOs and government agencies to analyze electricity policy and practice from a public interest perspective.

- Focus on Mekong Region electricity sector reform and renewable energy policy
- Through litigation, successfully helped reverse privatization of electric monopoly utility EGAT.
- Provide analysis and testimony to Thai National Economic and Social Advisory Council (NESAC), the Thai Senate, Energy Policy Planning Office (EPPO), and Department of Alternative Energy and Efficiency (DEDE), environmental NGOs, consumer groups.
- Publish articles in academic journals, industry magazines, and local press: *Pacific Affairs, Refocus, Home Power, Far Eastern Economic Review, Krungthep Turakij, Matichon, Prachachart Turakij, The Nation, Financial Times of Asia...*



Burmese amputee learns solar electric technical skills with BGET

Net Metering (Grid connected renewable energy): enabling the implementation of grid-connected renewable energy projects.

- Drafted Thailand's Very Small Power Producer (VSPP) or "net metering" legislation, adopted May, 2002. Over 16 MW of renewable energy interconnected by end of 2005
- Help change laws to allow bigger renewables (up to 10 MW per site)
- Work with utilities, government & communities to lower technical and bureaucratic barriers to renewable energy grid interconnection.

Border Green Energy Team (BGET): building local capacity on Thai/Burma border to construct/repair renewable energy projects.

- 200,000 solar home systems were installed by Thai government with no maintenance plan. We provide hands-on trainings to hundreds of local technicians to fix systems and inform users of warranty rights.
- Hands-on training on design, construction, and operation for four remote village micro-hydro projects.
- Hands-on workshops provided 28 solar electric systems (so far) to clinics in war-torn ethnic minorities areas in Burma.
- Renewable energy trainings and solar-electric powered computer training centers in refugee camps.



Penstock construction for micro-hydro Huai Kra Thing village, Tak Province.

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