

## ROLE OF SUPPORT SERVICES IN PROMOTING INNOVATION IN THAILAND

By

Ms. Pochaman Tagheen  
Senior Scientist, Planning and Policy Analysis Section,  
Department of Science Services, Thailand

## DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE SERVICE

The Department of Science Services (DSS), which functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), is the oldest scientific organization in Thailand. It has several units that provide services for science, technology and innovation. The services offered include:

- Laboratory testing and analyses in physics, chemistry and biological sciences;
- Calibration of scientific instruments;
- Technical consultation and training for laboratory personnel;
- Proficiency testing and accreditation body for setting up quality assurance laboratory;
- Research and development (R&D); and
- Science and technology (S&T) information dissemination.

### **1. Laboratory testing and calibration**

DSS provides testing and analyses services on the chemical, physical and biological properties of raw materials and industrial products to the government sector and the public. The data derived from testing and analyses could be utilized in many ways, such as industrial product standardization, food product registration, customs and goods inspection, product certification, product innovation and quality control.

### **2. Research and technology transfer**

DSS conducts research and experiments in various fields – such as food, ceramics, new materials, and pulp and paper – to develop production processes and improve the quality of raw materials and products. The technologies developed are transferred to target groups, thus promoting S&T capabilities of the nation in pursuing sustainable development.

### **3. Laboratory accreditation**

The Bureau of Laboratory Accreditation of DSS provides accreditation services to testing laboratories in both the government and the private sectors in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025, and accreditation services in proficiency testing in accordance with ISO/IEC 17043 to all agencies other than those of DSS. The Centre for Laboratory Proficiency Testing (CLPT) is the agency responsible for organizing proficiency testing programmes conforming to international standards. Proficiency testing programmes cover the fields of chemistry, food chemistry, microbiology, environment, calibration, etc. CLPT also produces control samples used for laboratory quality assurance.

### **4. S&T personnel training**

The DSS Bureau of Laboratory Personnel Development is tasked with providing training to laboratory personnel and scientists to improve their skills and competence in new technology and techniques. Training is provided in the form of short-term courses, professional courses and e-learning.

## **5. S&T information**

DSS has a well-stocked S&T library with large volumes of books, journals, e-books, e-journals, patent documents, standard documents, etc.

[This presentation was followed by a short video film on the Department of Science Services]