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Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

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PCD has developed “Air Pollution State Forecast System” to build confidence in particulate matter information

Mr. Pralong Dumrongthai, Director General of Pollution Control Department (PCD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment revealed that due to recent state of particulate matter in Northern provinces and Bangkok affecting people’s health, together with PCD’s 20-Year Pollution Management Strategy Development being in line with national strategies and plans regarding environmental management and the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan according to sustainable development principal which focuses on the reduction of particulate matter and benzene in important and pollution management system needed areas such as capacity building study and potential determination, PM2.5 state forecast for warning, and preparedness of new pollution including Nano-particle, Long length transport pollution, etc., so PCD has developed “Air Pollution State Forecast System” as a tool to support the operation in accordance with the said strategies in archiving outcome. This system can also be used as a tool to support situation problem management in target areas such as in the North and Bangkok more accurately. The said system has been developed on basis of air pollution dispersion mathematic modal and meteorological and atmospheric mathematic modal developed by US. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and US. Environmental Protection Agency, Mr. Pralong said.

Mr. Pralong said, nowadays the said system is used to support air pollution state forecast with highest accuracy not more than 3 days in varied areas namely, 1) Bangkok and its vicinity 2) areas of 9 provinces in the North of Thailand, the system can forecast state of particulate matter in these areas including transboundary movement of haze pollution 3) pollution control area of Na Phra Lan subdistrict, Saraburi province, the system can evaluate state of particulate matter occurred from area pollution sources and 4) pollution control area of Map Ta Put subdistrict, Rayong province, the system can evaluate carrying capacity in particular VOCs occurred from pollution sources. Additionally, the system can be used to support emergency case which needs to be responded promptly and effectively including to evaluate complaints situations from air pollution problem.

In order to support the achievement of air pollution management, PCD has improved and developed technologies to increase processing capacity (computing system) of forecasting to be able to predict in advance from 3 days to 3-5 days with more accuracy to build confidence of people in governmental implementing activities, Mr. Pralong said eventually.