Thai Air Quality Monitoring Network

Source: Adapted from Thailand Air Quality Monitor, 2002

Monitoring is central to implementing an effective air quality management program in any country. Thailand has established an extensive air quality monitoring network with the aim of providing up-to-date information on major atmospheric pollutants.

Thailand commenced air quality monitoring in 1983. The monitoring network has progressively evolved and expanded to cover a variety of pollutants. Air pollution monitoring assesses compliance with air quality standards. The majority of sites in all five regions (North, Northeast, East, Central, and South) monitor particulates, CO, NO_2, SO_2, and ground-level ozone. However, not all stations monitor all these pollutants, and some monitor other pollutants in addition to those mentioned here.

The primary responsibility for monitoring rests with the PCD. Its monitoring network currently consists of 71 monitoring sites nationwide, which are linked to PCD's central computer system located in Bangkok.

Number of Monitoring Stations in Thailand

Location	Monitoring Stations Agencies	Permanent Station	Meteorological Station
BMR	PCD	21	19
	MET	-	4
	BMA	1	-
Central	PCD	4	4
	EGAT	3	-
	MET	-	6
North	PCD	7	7
	EGAT	7	-
	MET	-	20
Northeast	PCD	2	2
	EGAT	-	-
	MET	-	16
East	PCD	7	7
	EGAT	20	-
	MET	-	12
South	PCD	3	3
	EGAT	-	-
	MET	-	21
Total		75	121

Source: PCD, MET, BMA, EGAT, MoPH – 2002

Notes: 1. BMA has 1 mobile station, EGAT has 2 stations, and PCD has 7 stations (2 stand by permanently in Mae Moh). 2. The responsibility for air monitoring has been transferred from MoPH to PCD.

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) used to maintain air quality monitoring stations throughout Thailand but has stopped operating them for routine monitoring. They are now used only for specific research. A fleet of mobile units is maintained by MoPH to respond to area-specific pollution complaints. The primary focus of MoPH monitoring is to study the health effects of air pollution.

Bangkok's City Government, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), has one permanent air and noise monitoring station and one mobile monitoring unit. Under the decentralization process mandated by the new Constitution, BMA and other city governments in Thailand will progressive assume responsibility for air quality monitoring functions, while policy making and standard setting will continue to remain in the purview of national level agencies such as PCD and MoPH.