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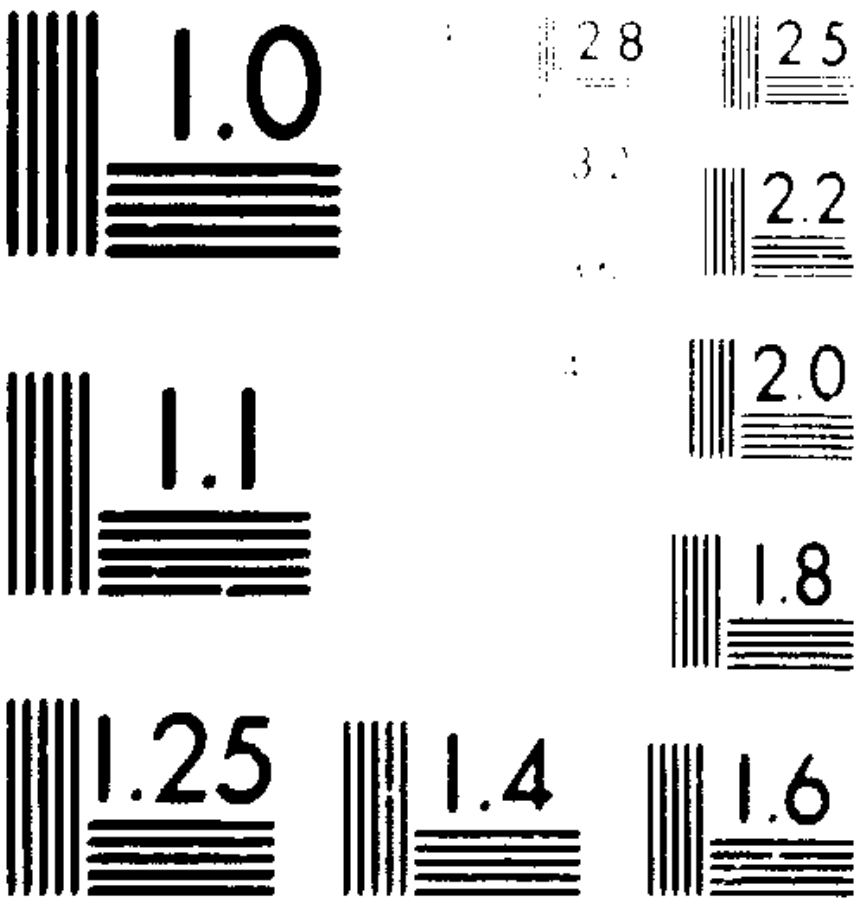
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UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

14 September 1981

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Mission to Thailand

of

Frans J. Soede
Senior Industrial Development Officer
Institutional Infrastructure Branch
Division of Industrial Operations

14 August and 6 September 1981

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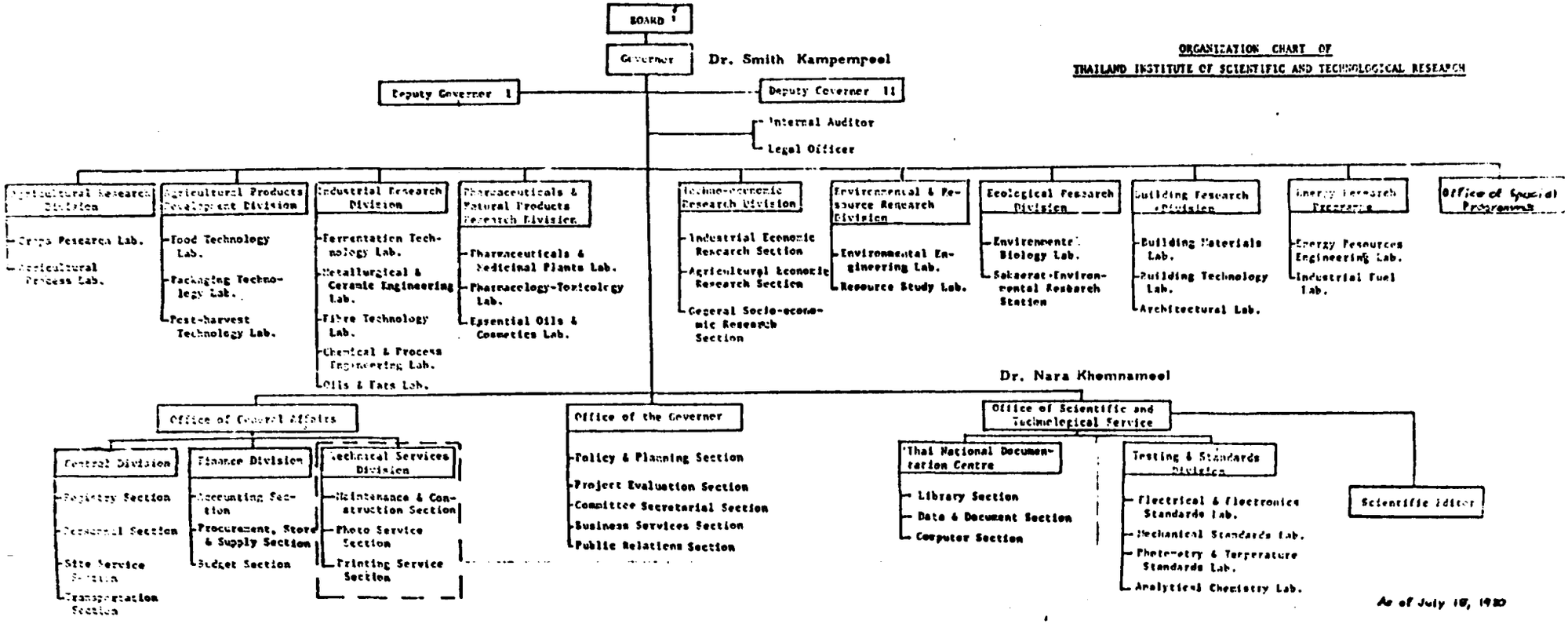
1. I used the opportunity of my mission to China to see Mr. Nara Khomnamool, Director, Office of Scientific Technological Services, Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR), on Friday 14 August and on Sunday, 6 September 1981, mainly on the subject of possible twinning arrangement between TISTR and the Institute of Instrument Design in Sofia, Bulgary. The latter Institute has proposed to send two consultants to Bangkok at their cost including air transportation. TISRT has been requested to pay the per diem for the two consultants during 10 days. The total cost is in the order of US$1500. It appears now that TISRT is not able to pay these expenses because they do not have any budgetary allocation for this purpose. However, they hope that UNIDO may be in a position to cover these costs from UNIDF or other resources.

2. Mr. Khomnamool confirmed that instrument design has high priority in Thailand. Both at the Electrical Department of Chulalongkorn University and at two departments of the King Mongkut Institute of Technology (KMIT) there are teams at work on instrumentation and micro-processors but the major problem will be of course to produce prototypes which could be taken over by private industry for manufacturing. It is Mr. Khomnamool's idea to pull TISTR's and all other national resources together and with the assistance of the Bulgarian consultants and experts to launch manufacturing activities in instrumentation and automation.

3. A short visit was paid to some of the facilities of the TISRT. ..... Please refer to the attached organization chart and background paper.

It seems that the Institute, like many others in the world, is suffering from a number of structural deficiencies which were identified during the UNDP/UNIDO IRSI evaluation study such as lack of proper contacts with industry, too much emphasis on academic work, lack of experienced staff, low remuneration etc. etc.
Mr. Khomnamool, who is only about one year with the Institute, is trying to improve this situation but it is obvious that this is an enormous task. Moreover it seems that TISRT is covering too many fields and needs reorganization. The Governor Mr. Smith Kampempool was on mission but I suggested to Mr. Khomnamool that UNIDO may be of help to look into the problems.

ORGANIZATION CHART OF THAILAND INSTITUTE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH



As of July 16, 1980

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION OF THAILAND INSTITUTE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH (TISTR)

Prior to the establishment of the Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) by the industrial Product Standard Act B. E. 2511(1968), standards work in Thailand was unorganized and dispersed among several organizations with considerable overlap. A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project, for execution by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), was signed on International Standards Day, October 14, 1971. It marked the beginning of a joint venture between the Government of Thailand and the United Nations at an initial cost of approximately U. S. $775, 275 with the aim to establish the Thai Industrial Standards Institute, as the official body for preparing and publishing standards for goods produced in Thailand and for imported goods. At present, TISI is administratively as a department in Ministry of Industry. It is the largest document-standards preparation body in Thailand; it produces document-standards covering the whole of the industrial complex, whether that industry is concerned with the manufacture of consumer or industrial products; and it is the only body in Thailand empowered under an Act to certify goods and issue licenses to use the TISI standards mark.

TISI's certification programme includes both voluntary and compulsory standardization. The voluntary programme was launched first with an application dated 5 June 1972. As of mid 1974, 50 applications had been received under the voluntary certification programme. This resulted in the issuance of 24 licenses to use the Thai Quality mark. The applications included portland cement, asbestos cement sheets, PVC pipes, round steel bars, electric cable, dry cells, ballasts for fluorescent lamps, silverware, lead acid storage batteries, monosodium l-glutamate, deformed steel bars, toilet soap, toothpaste, fish sauce, concrete building blocks, and pozzuolana type cement. Now, pressure containers, automobile safety glasses, and some electric appliances are also in the list.

Implementation of the certification programme is dependent on accurate and competent tests of product quality characteristics at the factories and at the independent testing laboratories used by TISI to carry out tests on their samples. This is an extremely important part of the overall programme and requires a great deal of cooperation and attention by all parties concerned.

The main autonomous testing body for TISI's certification of industrial products is Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research(TISTR), a state enterprise in the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Energy. The Testing Service of TISTR is attached in the Division of Testing and Standards (TSD) under the direction of the Office of Scientific and Technological Service.

At present, the Testing and Standards Division of TISTR consists of

1) Mechanical Laboratory (main activity is testing)
2) Electrical Laboratory (main activities are testing, repair and calibration)
3) Electronic Laboratory
4) Photometric Laboratory (main activities are testing and calibration)
5) Thermometric Laboratory (main activity is calibration)
6) Analytical Chemistry Laboratory (main activity is chemical analysis)
7) Glass Technology Workshop (main activity is workshop)

In the other word, TSD's activity can be considered into three aspects, namely:

a) Instrument repair,
b) Standards and calibration,
and c) Testing

In addition, the Office of Scientific and Technological Service is initiating a programme on R & D for Instrument Design, relating to "Instrumentation & Automation". This programme will be a mutual cooperation between TISTR and the Institute for Instrument Design, Sofia, Bulgaria.

The function of the Office of Scientific and Technological Service is also to ensure that outgoing products meet the required quality standards by acting as an independent inspecting authority, e.g. gas cylinders for export to U.K., Australia, and Hong Kong, etc. The calibration of measuring instruments used in the process of production for quality assurance is included in this programme.

Thai industry has developed remarkably over the past few years. The quality of many industrial products in the country has become a matter of public concern. Although industrial complexes have installed sophisticated machineries with modern instrumentations and controls, testing equipment in various laboratories is still far from adequate to cope with the present demand.

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