

CONTENTS

Section 1 : General Information	7
• Historical Background	7
• Geography	7
• Population	9
• Political and Administrative System	10
• Finance and Business	12
• Public Facilities	13
• Tourism	17
• Trade	19
Section 2 : Economic, Social and Environmental Situation and Outlook	23
• Economic Situation and Outlook	24
• Social Situation and Outlook	41
• Natural Resources and Environmental Situation and Outlook	54
Section 3: Major National Development Directions	61
• Public Administration Reform	61
• Holistic Approach to Provincial Administration	66
• Major Infrastructure Projects	70
• Energy Strategies: For Thailand's International Competitiveness	79
• International Economic Cooperation	82
Section 4: The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and Four Main National Agenda	101
• Sufficiency Economy Philosophy	101
• Alleviation of Poverty and Income Distribution Problems	109
• Enhancing Thailand's Competitiveness	113
• Social Capital Development	120
• Sustainable Development	124
Section 5: Major Events in Thailand in 2004	127
• NESDB's Annual Conference 2003	127
• Meetings under Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation Schemes	129
Section 6: The NESDB and Related Agencies	131
• Key Functions	132
• Organization Structure	134
• Organization Chart	137
• Related Links	138