

Office of the Non-Formal Education Commission **ONFEC**



Ministry of Education

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Background in Brief

Office of the Non-Formal Education Commission (ONFEC) is one of the administrative units under the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education responsible for providing education for out-of-school people in line with the education reform under the National Education Act 1999 and the Amended Act 2002. ONFEC is also responsible for general affairs of the Coordinating Committee for the Promotion and Support of Nonformal and Informal Education Commission.





The Office of the Non-Formal Education Commission was, in the past, derived from the status of the Department of Non-Formal Education developed through merging the Adult Education Division, under the General Education Department with the Centre of Educational Technology and the Centre for Educational Museums under the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. The Department was established on March 24, 1979. Later, in 2003, when there was restructuring of the Ministry of Education and its administrative system, all tasks of the Department were then transferred to the Office of the Non-Formal Education Commission (ONFEC) on July 7, 2003.





Main Tasks of ONFEC

The main tasks of the Office of the Non-Formal Education Commission could be categorized into 4 areas as follows :

1. Serving as the centre for promotion and coordination of lifelong education and acting as the Coordinating Committee for the Promotion and Support of Nonformal and Informal Education.
2. Enhancing capacity and creating lifelong learning opportunity of the out-of-school population, especially of the working-aged population.





3. Promoting and supporting participation of all segments in the society to take more roles in organizing nonformal education and informal education instead of the former role as provider only.

4. Promoting lifelong education through ICT system management and the use of educational ICT networks, namely distance education, science centre for education, educational radio and television stations, local radio, public library, museum, community learning centre and learning sources for upgrading educational level of the working-aged population and for lifelong learning of the general public.





Goals

Working-aged population will upgrade their educational level to at least secondary education so as to make them knowledge workers with moral values and ethics. They as well will have critical thinking with life skills and lifelong learning culture leading to the learning society on the basis of rendering support and participation among all segments in the society.





Target Groups

According to the strategy for nonformal and informal education reforms for promotion of lifelong learning, ONFEC target groups have been categorized into 3 major groups as follows :

1. Out-of-school-aged group who is considered as a marginal group in society, namely the disadvantaged ; i.e, people with disabilities, homeless people, excluded people, hilltribes, border people, children, people without nationality, women and young people or people who live far away in the remote rural areas with no service of educational unit while the Educational Service Area Office cannot provide them with formal education, such as indigenous hilltribes, etc.

