



# DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN BIOMASS COGENERATION PLANTS IN THAILAND

**CASE STUDY/INSIGHT**

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The COGEN centre within Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok played an active role in developing two modern rice husk based power plants in Thailand. One 10 MW cogeneration plant was implemented within a rice mill complex named Patum Rice Mill and Granary Public Co. Ltd, Pathumthani and the another one was 22 MW greenfield project.

These two projects changed the industry dynamics in rice husk based power generation in the whole of ASEAN region. Numerous site visits and study tours were organized by different groups to these sites to understand the modern technology to generate electricity using rice husk. Later on, many power plants were developed throughout the Southeast Asian region based on the confidence, expertise and knowledge gained from these projects.

The COGEN centre of AIT played an important role in the implementation of these projects in Thailand. We conducted the pre-feasibility study, feasibility study, preparation of tender documents and assisted in the tendering process, evaluation of the tender proposals, selection of equipment suppliers and issuance of contract.





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Hats off to these two pioneer project developers for playing a very prominent role in convincing other potential investors, project developers, authorities, policy makers, etc., to support similar rice husk projects in Southeast Asia. When it comes to biomass power generation sector, Thailand was always ahead of rest of the countries in the ASEAN region and the above two projects are best examples for the same.

The COGEN centre of AIT also conducted fuel availability study, pre-feasibility study, feasibility study for one 22 MW wood waste power plant and two 44 MW modern and efficient sugar cogeneration plants in Thailand. These two modern sugar cogeneration plants changed the sugar industry business economics and people from rest of Southeast Asian nations started visiting these projects to gain knowledge and confidence to implement similar projects in their own countries. In general, Thailand is also ahead in implementing several policies and mechanisms to promote biomass power projects and various international organizations and funding agencies played a supportive role in this aspect.

