



## **World Bank: HIV is leading cause of Thai youth deaths**

BANGKOK, March 11 (TNA) – HIV was one of the most leading causes of death among Thai youths, according to a World Bank report.

The World Bank and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security held a seminar at Chulalongkorn University on Tuesday, presenting the World Bank research "Thailand Social Monitor on Youth 2008: Development and the Next Generation" by Luis Benveniste, the World Bank's Country Coordinator on Human Development.

The report showed leading causes of young Thai men and women's death were road accidents, HIV and suicide.

Lack of sex education and a prevalence of sexual behaviour had led to a high rate of HIV infection among young people.

Young Thai people started having sex at the age of 14-18 with only 10-30 per cent using condoms, according to the statistical evaluation.

Consuming unhealthy food is also a problem. In 2005 about 22 per cent of Thai youngsters were considered overweight, while in 1986, only three per cent of Thai youth were judged as being overweight.

A large proportion of youth are performing at, or below, the most basic level of mathematics, science, and language ability, according to international assessments.

Vocational education is not producing enough competent technical labour to adequately serve the demand in the industrial sector.

Researchers suggested that the government should present policy to develop young generation in compatible with the economy and society, while extending opportunities for youth and providing second chances for those who make wrong decisions.

They also support enforcing bans on advertising tobacco and alcohol use, and said that sex education should be offered in the curriculum to improve their learning. (TNA)-E004