

## ■ ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTES

# Minister calls for special court

An environmental court should be set up to deal with environment conflicts and ensuing protests by disgruntled villagers, the National Resources and Environment Ministry proposed yesterday.

Chatri Chuaiprasit, the ministry's deputy permanent secretary, said a mechanism should be in place to bring about peaceful solutions to environmental disputes and establish a spirit of conciliation between villagers and the government.

"Conciliation is a process necessary in tackling conflicts. Mediators are needed to assist in the process," Chatri said.

The government must first train officials to bring about peaceful negotiations, he said, citing a recent pilot project to solve a conflict over the management of water on the Ping River.

An environmental court might be needed in the future to deal with concerns about natural resources, he said. - *The Nation*.