I'm writing in reference to another excellent article by Voranai Vanijaka (“Drowning in the Kingdom’s political divide”, Nov 13).

The German experience with floods, the US Katrina catastrophe and the recent Japanese earthquake and tsunami teach us that sometimes natural disasters cannot be predicted or avoided but they can be better managed if they do occur.

Can politicians manage them effectively? No.

The safety of the three basic resources for human sustenance — water, air and food should not be compromised.

From the current status of air and water pollution in Bangkok it is clear that Thai politicians are incapable of safeguarding people’s health.

While the city skyline is covered with pollution we are putting more and more cars on the road.

Misguided populist policies such as 100,000 baht tax incentives for first-time car buyers will only add more pollutants to the air we are breathing.

Food safety is also becoming a serious issue.

It is important that the current government move fast to create national and regional agencies that are independent of the government charters, committees, cronyism and patronage that have plagued the Thai society.

These agencies should comprise only highly qualified technocrats, experts and professionals in the field to monitor and manage natural disasters.

The Thai military is a very useful resource in a crisis but it is also laced with the poison of partisanship and patronage.

Thailand is on the brink of an economic crisis. We need not go to the US or Europe to learn about air, water and food safety. Maybe we should take some lessons from Singapore.

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