

The Essential Guide to Living and Retiring in Thailand

2011 Edition

Michael Schemmann

ThaiSunset Publications

The Essential Guide to Living and Retiring in Thailand. 2011 Edition

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On My Arrival in Thailand

April 30, 2001¹

On the following day, during the morning, after a 16 hour flight including a stop in Hong Kong, the airplane was approaching Bangkok, unlocked the landing gear with a thump, put down its flaps, then touched the runway with a screech and a bump, rolled out and came to a stop in front of the termin building of the old Don Mueang airport.

The first view of the city had disclosed nothing very extraordinary; nothing, for instance, that could be compared with the magnificent City of Vancouver, British Columbia, where I had left the night before.

It was rice paddies and canals on a flat expanse, filled in by the sprawl of monotonous rows of town houses, factories and a series of high rises that mushroom at several centers here and there, a brown colored snake of a river, the Chao Phraya, traffic arteries packed with motorcycles, cars, trucks and buses under a light blue sky in the sweltering heat, in the tropics, 13° North, 100° East of Greenwich, 5 meters above sea level, and 12 million people.

Toward 10 o'clock the following morning, I made my formal call on the dean of the college of the graduate school of business of my new university, who received me as though I was an important person. I owed this distinction to my doctorate from California and certificate as a public accountant. In the view of this native of Thailand, these words were an official synonym for enlightenment, and I tried in vain to undeceive him.

Life in Bangkok soon became a burden, then a surprising pleasure.

It was Asia – the Asia which I had long intended to join – and that under the delightful circumstances of Western snobbism, and the imitation, grotesque even to the point of caricature, and the fashions, vices, and absurdities of an imitation culture.

¹ Adopted from Schemmann, Michael. 2005. "Lady of Pattaya".

Was I to have made this far journey, only to find the very thing which I had fled?

Nevertheless, I was advised there would be an event at the end of the the month, a seminar for the intake of the new MBA class at famous Resort in Pattaya, which interested me.

During a lavish dinner, the faculty was entertained with song and dance by the beautiful instincts of the young Thai ladies and gents who dispersed grace everywhere about them.

After the performance, I joined my colleagues to check out the nightlife of Pattaya.

We ended up at Marine Disco on Walking Street, packed with people of all ages, foreigners and many young ladies, and among them I met my wife.

Through the transparent nylon shirt hanging loosely over washed-out tight blue jeans one could see the smooth golden skin of her shoulders and arms, two firm buds rose on her breasts. She was a tall girl in her late teens with thick black hair and long legs, an ever so faint if not shy smile on her face.

She was really handsome, and there was nothing ridiculous in her pride, for the majestic mien is becoming to this race in memory of its long feudal history and endless line of powerful and savage chiefs.

I knew very well that her calculating love in the eyes of my own people would not have had much more weight than the venial complaisance of a harlot. But the amorous passion of a Thai courtesan is something quite different from the passivity of a Vancouverite concotte. There is a fire in her blood, which calls forth love as its essential nourishment; which exhales like a fatal perfume. These eyes and this mouth cannot lie. Whether calculating or not, it is always love that speaks from them...²

Perhaps it was obedience to her parents' wishes that within two weeks after meeting her in the Pattaya night scene she agreed to meet me in her village and to marry me.

² Prather et al. (1987). "Paul Gaugin. 1893-95. On His Arrival in Tahiti", p. 170.

I was so old in contrast to her that entering into the marriage contract I thought all of the advantages to be on my side. The engaging energy she radiated warned me that the real dangers of the adventure would be for me, not for her. She was not very talkative at first, at the same time, however, full of laughter mixed with melancholy, but above all given to teasing and mockery. We did not cease studying each other for weeks, but she remained impenetrable to me.

A master in keeping critical thoughts to herself, feelings of pain and hurt buried deep within her chest, her soul was not revealed immediately. It required much patience and study to begin to understand her. After I felt to have a grasp, she would suddenly surprise me with unexpected “jumps”. And when finally I believed that I could size her up, she would run off in laughter and variability.

Sometimes she came up to me unexpectedly and looked me straight in the eyes for minutes on end to see if I betrayed the slightest sign of uncertainty. And when confused by these externals I sought her innermost truth, she looked at me with tranquil assurance out of the depths of her never-ending smile and easy lightheartedness. My strength and resolution to keep a watch over myself, to remain master of myself so that I might remain a sure observer, were soon overcome. For my young Thai wife I was within a very short time an open book.

After two months, my wife asked permission to return to her family in the village. This had been promised whenever she wanted. Still I had the feeling that it was a good-bye forever. The following days were full of torment. Solitude drove me from our apartment and memories brought me back to it. I was unable to fix my thoughts upon work and study. Another week passed and she returned. Then a life to the full with happiness began, rising together with the sun, radiating like it. She no longer studied me, and I no longer had the feeling of having to justify and defend myself. We lived, both of us, in perfect simplicity. I was no longer conscious of the days and hours. The happiness was so

strange at times that it suppressed the very conception of it. All was good because all was beautiful. Wherever we went, my wife's direct engaging personality made her the center of attention, friends and colleagues spotting and then joining us in animated conversation.

I began our marriage as a teacher but soon became the student. I learned of societal rules and taboos not written in any book, of things ordinarily unseen but existing, if not by my observation then in the reality of my soul mate.

My wife was sometimes very wise and affectionate, and then again filled with folly and frivolity. Two opposite beings infinitely varied were mingled in one. They gave the lie, one to the other; they succeeded one another suddenly with astonishing rapidity. She was not changeable; she was double, triple, multiple – the child of an ancient race.

One day while we were visiting her village, the eternal itinerant Merchant who ranges over the country as well as continents, arrived with a box of trinkets of gilded copper. He spread out his wares and everybody surrounded him.

A pair of earrings passed from hand to hand. The eyes of the women shun; all wanted to possess them. My wife lifted her brows and looked at me. Her eyes spoke very clearly. I pretended I didn't understand. She drew me aside into a corner:

“I want them.”

I explained to her that in Bangkok those trifles had no value whatsoever, that they were of copper.

“I want them.”

“But why? To pay five hundred baht for such trash! I would be stupid. No!”

With passionate vulnerability her eyes filled up with tears, she urged:

“What? Would you not be ashamed to see the jewel in the ears of some other woman? One man is already talking of driving his motorbike to the ATM in the next village so that he can give the earrings to his *mia noi*”.

A *mia noi* is a second wife, literally the “small wife”. I went away. I returned, gave the five hundred baht note to the Merchant – and the sun reappeared.

Two days later was *Kao Pansa*, Buddhist lent, and my wife dressed to go to the *wat*, the temple. She looked beautiful in her long blue silk dress, golden necklace and arm rings glittering in the morning light.

“And the earrings?” I asked.

With some resignation in her voice, my wife replied:

“They are of copper.”

Then laughing aloud she ran off and joined her family.

Thailand is addictive, giving senior folks like myself the feelings of youth back by opening up a new chapter in our book of life; a life we thought had pretty well run its course. The days were filled again with expectation. For the benign sum of dollars too few to mention, paying for the impromptu wedding party, half the village took me in as the new member of her extended family. I first felt ridiculed when asked when we would have our baby until I realized that the concern was real, age being no barrier so long as everyone in my new family was adequately provided for.

After nine years, still amazed in Thailand!

The rest of the story:

- Michael Schemmann. 2007. "Lady of Isan. The Story of a Mixed Marriage from Northeast Thailand" (2nd ed.
- Michael Schemmann. 2005. "Lady of Pattaya."

Thailand's Geography

Life in Thailand – Fertility and abundance

Monsignor Jean-Baptiste Pallegoix (1854) writes: ³

"I do not know whether anywhere in the world there is an area equally fertile as Siam. Every year the silt of the Mē Nam [the Great River] fertilizes the plain which almost without work furnishes a great quality of excellent rice. It is not only sufficient to nourish the inhabitants but also to export to China and elsewhere more than 500,000 quintals [50,000 tons ⁴] every year. In an ordinary year, a quantity of rice (of about 20 litres) sufficient to feed a man during a month, costs only fifteen *sous*. ⁵ The harvests could be doubled or even tripled because one cultivates but half of the plain and by means of very easy irrigation, one could have two harvests while they are satisfied with one because of their laziness.

During flooding fish multiplies *ad infinitum* in rice-fields, reeds and aquatic plants. When the river enters its bed, part of the fish also enters. One can see them swim about, so to speak, in rice-fields and canals. Flock of storks, divers, pelicans, ducks and other aquatic birds feast on them day and night. The other part of the fish remains in the plain and populates natural lakes planted with lotus, watercress and other aquatic plants by thousands.

The back of the Gulf into which four great rivers throw themselves is also very rich in fish. A great species of sardines is so abundant there that, besides being the main food of the population for six months, twelve or fifteen large ships are loaded with them for the Island of Java.

Poultry is very common and a chicken is sold for three *sous*. Turtles are abundant. During certain periods one can buy a deer for four or five francs. Sugar is three to four *sous* a pound. For a *fluang* (seven and a half *sous*) one buys a load of bananas. Fruits and vegetables are found in abundance. Nevertheless, one should not think that the low price of things is a consequence of the scarcity of money because the salary of an ordinary laborer is from twenty to

³ Monsignor Jean-Baptiste Pallegoix (1854). "Description of the Thai Kingdom or Siam." p. 7.

⁴ One (1) quintal equals 100 kilograms.

⁵ About 0.75 francs.

thirty *sous* per day and then one still has to feed him. These low prices are only due to the great abundance prevailing in this area. Not only the plain is fertile; in valleys, on hills and even on high mountains one can see luxurious vegetation and rich produce."

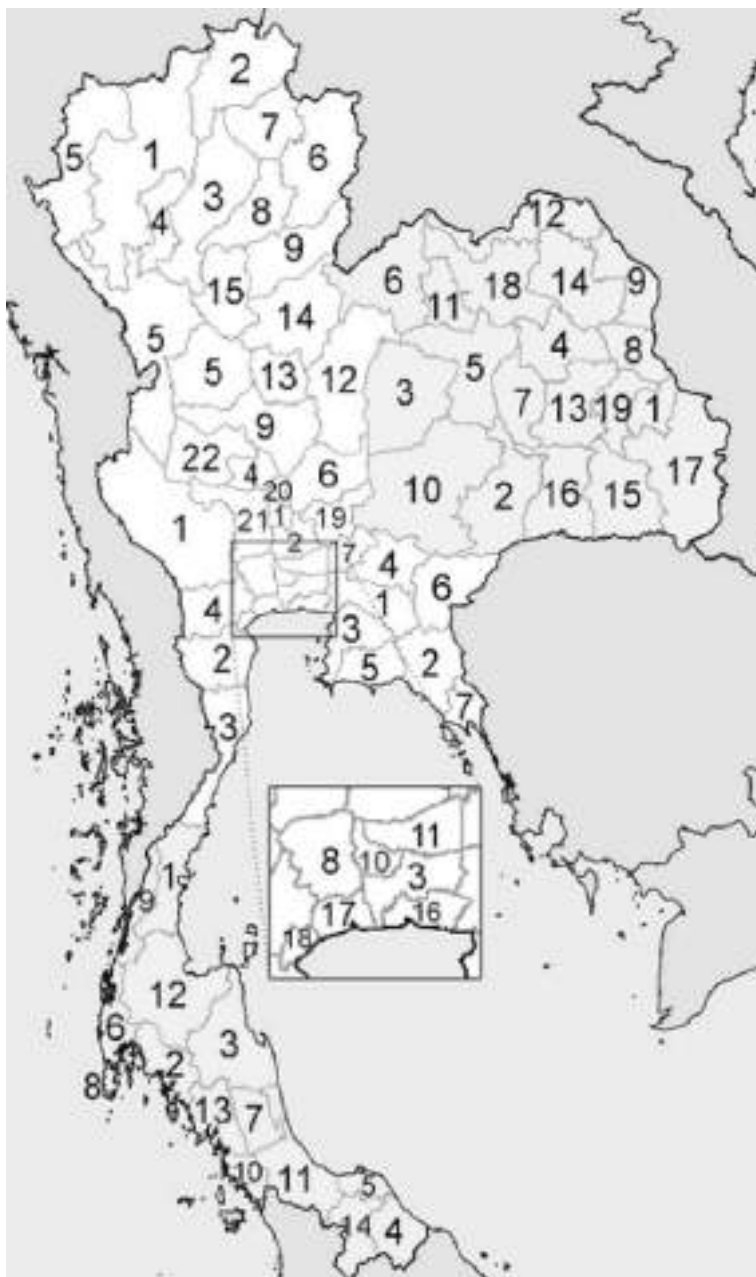
Population of the Kingdom distributed over the various nations.

The population of this vast country is not in proportion with its extent. It barely reaches six million souls. ⁶ They can be subdivided more or less as follows among the various nations:

Siamese or Thai	1,900,000
Chinese	1,500,000
Malay	1,000,000
Lao	1,000,000
Cambodians	500,000
Peguans	50,000
Karieng, Xong, Lava	<u>50,000</u>
Total [population 1854]	6,000,000

Thailand's population today [2010] is between 62 and 65 million.

⁶ Pallegoix (1854). Today Thailand's population is 65 million people.



Source: Wikipedia, "Regions of Thailand"

Geographical Regions of Thailand

The National Geographical Committee, appointed by the National Research Council, developed the six-region system in 1978⁷:

North

1. Chiang Mai (

North-East (Isaan)

1. Amnat Charoen
(

⁷ Wikipedia. "Regions of Thailand."

Central

1. Ang Thong (

East

1. Chachoengsao
(

Northern Thailand

It is a mountainous region from 15° to 20° Northern latitude, making it relatively cool, fresh and misty compared to Central Thailand and the South. A distinction can be made between Upper Northern Thailand including the cities of Chiang Mai and Mae, Hong Son, Chiang Rai and the Northern River Valleys, which is more mountainous, and Lower Northern Thailand, which is less mountainous including the cities of Tak, Sukothai, Phitsanulok, Phetchabun and Nakhon Sawan.

"Traveling up by rail through the central plains, there's no mistaking when you've reached the north of Thailand: somewhere between Uttaradit and Den Chai, the train slows almost to a halt, as if approaching a frontier post, to meet the abruptly rising mountains that continue largely unbroken to the borders of Burma and Laos. Beyond this point the climate becomes more temperate (downright cold at night between December and February), nurturing the fertile land which gave the old kingdom of the north the name of *Lanna*, 'the land of a million rice fields'."⁸

While summers, being March to May, can be hot rising into the high 30s Celsius during the day, during the winter months from November to February temperatures range from 15 degrees at night to 28 degrees in daytime (Chiang Mai). At higher elevations, temperatures can sometimes dip down to freezing point at night. It doesn't snow, but sleet does occur at times.

The hill tribes – chao khao (mountain people) – have no chiefs and are technically not tribes, comprise ten percent of the North's population, numbering over 800,000 people in around 3500 villages, who arrived in Thailand during the last century, originating in various parts of China and SE Asia, pre-literate societies who are clinging to their subsistence-oriented way of life with little change over thousands of years. A few villages are near main roads, but many can only be reached by hill tribe treks

⁸ Paul Gray and Lucy Ridout. "The Rough Guide to Thailand. The north." 7th ed., p. 311



Northern Thailand. Source: Wikitravel. "Northern Thailand"

(100,000 travelers per year served by many agencies), which are guided tours of several days through tropical countryside, including elephant riding and river rafting, staying overnight in different rough places. There is a Tribal Museum in Chiang Mai, originally established in 1965 as part of the Tribal Research Institute at Chiang Mai University (Monday to Friday, 9:00 to

16:00 hours, located behind the artfully landscaped *Rachamangkla Park*).⁹

Traditional life styles: Tai Yai. Burmese in origin, harvest rice, farm, raise cattle and trade. Their craftsmanship lies in weaving, pottery, wood carving and bronzeware. *Akha* have the largest population of any hill tribe in the region. Originating from Tibet and Southern China, they dwell on high grounds around 1,200 meters above sea-level. Within their villages they build a Spirit Gateway to protect them from evil spirits. *Lahu* are also from Southern China and live in high areas. They are known as hunters and planters. *Karen* live in various areas of the region which have valleys and riverbanks. *Hmong* from southern China are located on high land. They raise livestock and grow rice, corn, tobacco and cabbage. They are also known for their embroidery and silver. *Tai Lue* live in dwellings of usually only a single room wooden house built on high poles. They are skilled in weaving. *Lisu* from southern China and Tibet are renowned for their colorful dress and also build their dwellings on high poles. They harvest rice and corn and their men are skilled in hunting. *Yao* reside along mountain sides and grow corn and other crops. They are skilled blacksmiths, silversmiths and embroiders.

Chiang Mai. Urban population 150,000 (the Chiang Mai Metropolitan Area population is 970,000) including 60,000 students. The "Rose of the North" is a pleasantly distinct city from the rest of Thailand, is the largest city and transport center of the North, and is accessible by a comfortable overnight train ride from Bangkok, 700 km, and by road and air. The highway has four lanes all the way from Bangkok and is quite scenic, taking between 10 and 12 hours to drive plus stops. Air conditioned buses depart Bangkok at least every hour between 05:30 and 22:00 from Mo Chit Bus Terminal and take roughly 10 hours (fare 400 - 600 baht).

The old Lana Kingdom (1296-1599 AD) was centered at Chiang Mai and Sukhotai. Lana's *Mengrai* dynasty lasted until the

⁹ Paul Gray et al. (2009), pp. 311, 315-18, 336, 845.

city was occupied by the Burmese in 1558. The Burmese were pushed out by the Thais 200 years later, but the Burmese influence is still strong in art, the architecture and the cuisine. During this period, most of the temples were founded. The people of Northern Thailand speak their own dialect of Thai called *Kham Meaung* (or *Kham Muang*), however standard Central Thai is widely understood. In addition, the hill tribes speak their own languages. Culturally, Northern Thailand shows heavy influences from the neighboring cultures of Burma and Yunnan (China).¹⁰ Chiang Mai's old town is surrounded by a wall where most of the temples are. The new town for hotels, shops, banks and offices is to the east and the Ping River. Most of the guest houses and restaurants are between the old and the new town.

Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep is a temple founded in 1383 AD located 15 km drive from the city up the road on the mountain called Doi Suthep with a fabulous view of the city and surroundings. The wat is a sacred site to many Thais and is a popular destination of foreign visitors.

"Once inside the temple grounds; visitors must take off their shoes. Visitors must be appropriately dressed. The original copper plated chedi is the most holy area of the temple grounds. Within the site are pagodas, statues, bells and shrines. Aspects of the Wat draw from both Buddhism and Hinduism. There is a model of the Emerald Buddha and a statue of the Hindu God Ganesh. Views of Chiang Mai can be seen on the other side of the temple." (Wikipedia)

Activities: Elephant Show. The show begins with elephants bathing to cool themselves then mahouts would place a log harness on their backs. Finally, elephants will demonstrate their forestry skills. Elephant riding and rafting are the most popular activities. *Mountain Biking.* Mountain biking is done on several routes in Chiang Mai including around the old city moats. *Homestay at Ban Mae Kampong.* The village is situated in a

¹⁰ Wikitravel. "Northern Thailand."

mountainous area with jungle surroundings. Nearby attractions include waterfalls, a cotton weaving village and the Huai Hong Khrai Royal Agricultural Station. *Hill tribes Trekking*. Of particular interest to most are the six major hill tribes which inhabit the Northern Highlands. The largest group is Karen, followed by the Meo, Lahu, Yao, Akha and Lisu. They share animism beliefs and honor numerous forest and guardian spirits. Each tribe has distinctive ceremonial attire, courtship rituals, games, dances, agricultural customs, languages or dialects, aesthetic values and hygienic habits. *Bamboo Rafting-Whitewater Rafting*. Bamboo Rafting along the Mae Taeng River
(

Triangle", at which the borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar converge - an area which was very unsafe because of the drug smuggling across the borders. The Golden Triangle was once the hub of opium production which had much influence on cultural practices and lifestyles. Until this day, entire clans live together in bamboo houses and each village has its own individual character.¹²

Activities: Trekking. An extensive network of trails mainly used by hill tribe villagers covers the mountain areas of Mae Suai, Mae Salong, Doi Chaang and the banks along the Mae Kok River. *Golf.* Santiburi Chiang Rai is one of the best courses in the country and is only 15 minutes from the city. Waterford is an attractive course about 45 minutes north of Chiang Rai city. The Military course is on the way to the Mae Fah Luang Bridge, not far from the Dusit Hotel. The old airport has a short but tough 9 hole course. *Mountain Biking.* Chiang Rai has incredible mountain biking because of the extensive network of paved roads with little traffic and dirt roads in the mountains. A nice day ride is to start in the city, go out to the elephant village and continue on past it until you find a small single track suspension bridge. Cross it and turn left, back towards Chiang Rai. On the way you will pass two hot springs and eventually end up back in the city. *Long Tail Boat Ride.* A long tail boat ride on the Kok River is a fun way to experience the scenery and see hill tribe villages. There are daily trips from Thaton, near the Burmese border to Chiang Rai. The main boat station is on the north side of the Mae Fah Luang Bridge, not far from the Rimkok Hotel. *Elephants Riding.* Elephant riding is possible at Baan Ruamit, about 30 minutes from Chiang Rai by car or 1 hour by long tail boat ride.

Northeastern Thailand

"The original inhabitants of Southeast Asia were a short, hairy, black-skinned race related to the Australian Aborigines, commonly called Negritos. Today they are found only in the most

¹² Wikipedia. "Chiang Rai Province."

remote areas, still living a stone age lifestyle, but once they roamed the entire region, hunting and practicing slash-and-burn agriculture as far north as the Yangtze River.

Archeological excavations in Thailand (Spirit Cave, Non Nok Tha) and northern Vietnam (Dongson, Hoabinh) reveal a major surprise: the first Southeast Asians had agriculture and pottery at the same time as the city-states of ancient Mesopotamia. In fact, evidence now suggests that rice was grown here a long time before it was grown anywhere else, and even the pottery found here may be the world's oldest. The most impressive discovery was made at Ban Chiang, a hill on Thailand's Khorat Plateau, in the early 1970s; this hill covered a village that was settled continuously, for more than three thousand years. 126 skeletons were discovered intact, buried with the pottery and metal tools it was thought they would need in the afterlife. One 4,000-year-old skeleton was nicknamed "Nimrod" because he showed all the marks of a mighty hunter; he was unusually tall, and buried with deer antlers, hunting weapons, and a necklace of tiger claws.

Isan: (



similar to Cambodia.¹⁴

¹³ Ben Davies (1992), p. 9

¹⁴ Wikipedia. "Isan"

Even the oldest graves contained bronze bracelets, bells and spearheads, dating back as far as 3600 B.C.!"¹⁵

The people that first settled Isan around the Mekong Valley and the Korat Plateau were joined by the Khmers from Cambodia, by the Lao and the Mons, as well as by the Thai Yai and the Thai Noi whose origins are believed to lie in Yunnan Province in Southern China.¹⁶

Prominent aspects of the culture of Isan include the indigenous form of folk music, called *mor lam* (

the city, while some migrate to and fro. Others have emigrated in search of better wages. Rather than relocate as a family, they usually leave their babies and school-age children in the care of relatives, friends or neighbours." The young ladies of Isan are the backbone of the entertainment industries in Thailand, including Pattaya and Phuket, and certainly Bangkok. "An increasingly significant number of customers in the Internet shops, particularly in the cities, are young ladies searching for future Western husbands on the numerous dating sites." ¹⁷

Isan people have an ingrained contempt for the display of superiority by the people of Bangkok, and vice versa.

"*Mor lam* (also known as Isan dancing) needs a special mention as its festival-type production which is very commonplace in Isan, has not been exported to other regions. Although it is a very exciting affair, not being on the tourist trail it is largely ignored by foreign visitors. When the locals speak of *mor lam* (pronounced *mor'ram* with stress on the second syllable), one will often hear them say *pai doo morram* (lit. 'go see mor'ram'). They are referring to the most common form of evening entertainment in the region. Somewhere, in a village within easy reach, there will be a *mor lam* festival on a Friday or Saturday evening. Usually, the rock-festival sized stage is constructed either in a temple compound or on a sports field. Thousands of people will sit on mats on the ground and watch the fun-filled program of variety entertainment. The traditional music and song is accompanied by extremely colorful choreography, executed by a group of up to fifty female (and some male *katoey*) dancers. The fantastic costumes are changed several times throughout the program, and the transitions are bridged by often raunchy gags, slap-stick comedy, and speeches by local dignitaries. A *mor lam* festival is a family affair and the area is surrounded by food and drink stalls." ¹⁸

Udon Thani, with an urban population of 140,000, is a city less than an hour's drive south of the Mekong Valley and the border to Laos. There is little attraction to see in the city for most travelers.

"First to say I am an expat, originally from the UK and I have been living in Udon Thani for 6 years, plus another 2 years around Thailand...Udon is not perfect by any stretch and it has its draw backs as does any City but if your thinking of it as a possible place to retire or work you could do a lot a worse, my main pluses would be fantastic people, low cost living¹⁹, general low crime e.g.. safe to walk almost anywhere day or night, good infrastructure, good amenities, layed back life style, minimal red tape, low key night life, large airport, many good hospitals and schools and the ground is flat like Holland almost."²⁰

Fifty kilometers east of the city of Udon Thani is the UNESCO world heritage site, the village of Ban Chiang, a world renowned archeological site discovered in 1966.

Udon Thani airport was developed by the US military during the Vietnam engagement. Udon Thani has the highest percentage of Thai–Farang marriages in the country. "According to Mrs.Prakaikaew Ratanaka, local mayor and Chairwoman of the Association of Community Development Women Leaders Udon Thani Province, there are 2 districts in Udon Thani where the whole village only has foreign husbands. A foreign husband's house was conspicuous by its beautiful architectural style, well-dressed people and expensive cars. Very few foreign husbands were prepared to live a traditional Thai lifestyle, pursuing farming (a protected occupation reserved for Thais and not open to foreigners)."²¹

Khon Kaen, urban population 120,000, is another city on the Isan Plateau like Udon Thani an hour's drive to the north. Khon Kaen

¹⁹ "Without owning a car, i could easily live on 20 K baht a month as a single person. a car really isn't necessary. i'm not a heavy drinker, and once here and know your way around, no need to chase women, they will chase you." ("Cost of Living Information - Udon Thani" blog at <http://www.udonmap.com/udonthaniforum/cost-of-living-information-udon-thani-t5389.html>

²⁰ Udon Thani Review online at http://www.udonclassifieds.com/Udon_Thani_review.htm

²¹ "The Potential Perils of Marrying a Foreign Husband." Blog at <http://www.udonmap.com/udonthaniforum/the-potential-perils-of-marrying-a-foreign-husband-t11342-15.html>

is home to the well regarded regional Khon Kaen University ²² established in 1964 with nearly 40,000 students, which ranks number four by the Office of the Higher Education Commission based on teaching functions.

Nakhon Ratchasima – or Korat (

Nakhon Ratchasima has a sizeable airport built by the US during the Vietnam war, but serves instead of as a Royal Thai Airforce Base. The city has several large military barracks.

The "Silk Capital of Thailand", Pak Thong Chai, is clean and inexpensive city proper of 20,000 people surrounded by farming communities, a place of choice for many mostly European retirees who are living there with their Thai companions and children. The cheap and easily trainable local labour force has attracted a few Japanese electronics manufacturers, and a Jim Thompson Silk Company's plant and farm — a US military intelligence officer and legendary Thai Silk King who founded the company in 1947 and mysteriously disappeared while on a trip in Malaysia twenty years later.

Ubon Ratchathani, urban population of 90,000, 630 km Northeast of Bangkok, borders the three countries Thailand, Laos and Cambodia and is promoted as the *Emerald Triangle*, in contrast to the *Golden Triangle* in the north of Thailand, and is relatively unknown to Western tourism. The large number of fascinating temples dotting the city, turn Ubon into a place of pilgrimage at the beginning of Buddhist Lent, *Khao Phansa*, which covers a good part of the rainy season and lasts three lunar months. The people of Ubon Ratchathani Province are engaged in agriculture and livestock raising, are religious and still abide by tradition and culture. Locals usually dwell in groups of houses, speak their own dialects, and practice their traditional cultures.²⁴

Nakhon Phanom has an urban population of less than 20,000, located on the banks of the Mekong River.

"The Mekong River runs through the city marking the border with Laos, in the background, located on the opposite side of the river you can see the splendor of the tropical forest covered Laos mountains. For centuries groups of natives from Laos and other ethnic groups have migrated across the Mekong River, Laos's natives have the most prominence and this is seen throughout the province in the local traditions, style and customs. Today, the population of Nakhon Phanom is made up of people of Thai, Lao,

²⁴ Tourism Thailand. "Destination Guide. Ubon Ratchathani."

Vietnamese, and Chinese descent; the main languages spoken are Thai, Isaan and Vietnamese."²⁵

The US Air Force's 56th Special Operations Wing maintained an airbase at Nakhon Phanom during the Vietnam war, flying secret missions in World War-II type attack bombers without insignia "to prevent Communist infiltration over the Ho Chi Minh trail which meanders several hundred miles down Eastern Laos." ²⁶ "Ho Chi Minh resided between 1928 and 1931 at Ban Nachok, a small village on the road between the airbase and Nakhon Phanom. Both his home and a new modern museum are now open to the public."²⁷

Central Thailand

Bangkok. The town of Bang Kok (

Most of the canals have been filled in to make roads with endless rows of cheap shop houses, large featureless modern buildings, high rises and housing estates. The economic boom of the 1980s has attracted migrants from the country, creating the present day metropolitan sprawl, ridiculously congested traffic jams, and pollution.

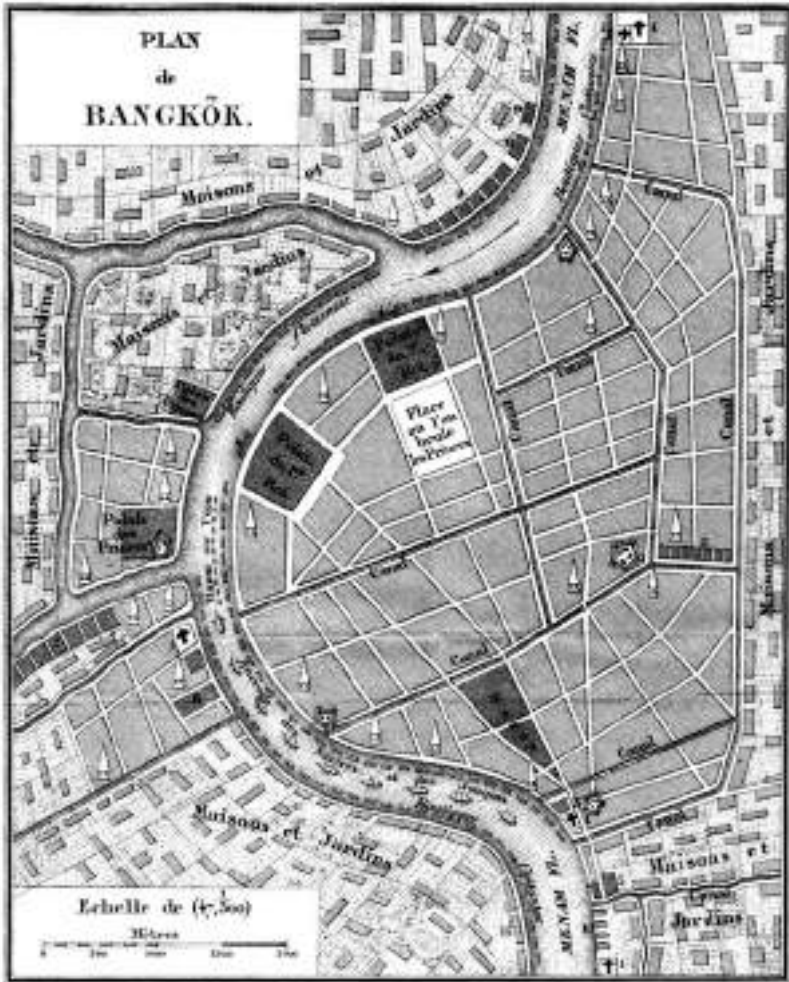
Historical description by Monsignor Jean-Baptiste Pallegoix (1854).²⁹

"The Port: "The main port, where almost all trade is done... is about a half day up the Më Nam [the *Chao Phraya* River] in the middle of the capital, Bangkok. "One seldom finds such a great port, so safe and so convenient because there are no sandbanks, no reefs, no storms to be feared, and up to ten thousand ships can moor there. Add to this that one is within reach of floating shops, the bazaar and warehouses and that water supply is very easily obtained because the river's water is excellent."

"Description of the capital: "Bangkok (the Village of the Wild Olive Trees) has become the seat of the government since the fall of Ayuthia. This city did not exist ninety years ago [1764]." The city had a population of 404,000 inhabitants, including 200,000 tax paying Chinese, and 120,000 Siamese. "Bangkok has inherited the name of Ayuthia. Thus it is called Krung Thèpa Maha Nakhon Si Ajutthaja Maha Dilok Raxathani, etc. which means, great royal city of angels, beautiful, unassailable, etc. It is situated on the two banks of the Më Nam River, eight leagues from the sea. The city in the strict sense forms an island of two leagues in circumference. It is surrounded by crenellated walls and flanked here and there by towers of bastions. Situated in the middle of vast gardens adorned with luxurious and perpetual greenery it displays a very picturesque appearance. Ships and a multitude of junks decked with flags are lined up along the two banks. Gilded spires, domes and high, admirably shaped pyramids adorned with drawings made of many-hued porcelain can be seen rising up. The stacked roofs of pagodas are adorned with beautiful gilding and covered with varnished tiles reflecting the sun's rays. Two rows of several thousands of boats, mostly very elegant. The fortress, white as snow, the city with its towers and numerous gates, the aligned canals which cross the city,

²⁹ Pallegoix (1854), p. 3.

the gilded spire of the palace with its quadruple stacked up façade, the variety of edifices in Indian, Chinese and European styles, the singular dress of various nations, the sound of musical instruments, the chants of comedies, the movement and life animating this great city, all this is for strangers a spectacle which elicits a pleasant surprise.



Par CHARLE, Géographe. 1854. Imp. de Kaepelin & Voltaire 17 Paris.

"There is not a single carriage in the city; everybody goes around by boat. The river and canals are almost the only roads used. There are some rare streets paved with large bricks in the interior of the city and at bazaars or markets.

"The most remarkable things of Bangkok are the palace and royal pagodas. The palace is an enclosure with high walls which is more than a quarter of a league in circumference. The entire interior of this enclosure is paved with beautiful marble or granite tiles. There are military posts and ready aimed guns here and there. From all sides one sees a multitude of small, elegant edifices adorned with paintings and gilding. In the middle of the great courtyard majestically rises the Mahaprasat with four facades covered with varnished tiles, decorated with magnificent sculptures and on top a gilded spire. The King receives ambassadors there. One also places a deceased King in a gold urn for close to a year before he is cremated. Monks preach there; the Queen and concubines listen to his sermon, hidden behind curtains. Some distance from there stands the great hall in which the King gives his daily audiences, in the presence of more than a hundred mandarins, prostrated with their faces to the ground. At the gates are gigantic statues brought from China. The walls and columns of the hall are adorned with paintings and magnificent gilding. The throne, shaped like an altar, is overhung by a dais with seven layers. The private quarters of the King adjoin the audience hall. Then comes the Queen's palace, the houses of the concubines and ladies of honor with a vast garden which is said to be splendid. There are also vast buildings enclosing the King's treasures: gold, silver, precious stones, furniture and precious cloths.

"In this vast enclosure of the palace is a tribunal, a theater for comedies, the royal library, huge arsenals, stables for white elephants, stables for price horses and warehouses for all kinds of things. One can also see a superb pagoda, the tiles of which are covered with silver mats and in which stand two idols or statues of the Buddha, one in massif gold and four feet high, the other made of a single emerald of one cubit in height, assessed by the English as worth 200,000 piasters (more than a million [French francs]).

"The royal pagodas are so splendid that one could not imagine them to exist in Europe. Some have cost up to 200 quintals of silver (more than four million francs). There are eleven within the enclosure of the walls of the city and some twenty outside the walls. The Xetuphon pagoda encloses a statue of the reclining Buddha, 50 meters long and perfectly gilded; in Bovoranivet they have used gold leaf (only for the gilding), worth more than 450 ounces of gold. A royal pagoda is a great monastery in which lodge 400-500 monks with a thousand children to serve them. It is a vast terrain or rather a garden in which a large number of pretty edifices rise up,

i.e.: some twenty belvederes in Chinese style, several great sermon halls, two magnificent temples, one for the idol of Buddha, the other for the prayers of the monks, 200-300 fine, small houses, partly of brick, partly in planks that are dwellings of monks, ponds, gardens, some twelve pyramids gilded or covered with porcelain, some of which are two or three hundred feet high, a clock tower, flag poles with on top gilded swans and with standards cut in crocodile shape, lions and granite or marble statues brought from China and at the two ends of the terrain canals covered with brickwork, sheds for boats, a pyre to burn the dead, bridges, enclosures walls, etc. In addition inside the temples everything is resplendent with paintings and gilding. The colossal idol appears like a mass of gold adorned with a thousand precious stones. Now, one can perhaps imagine what a royal's pagoda is like.

"The houses of Bangkok are of three kinds: some are of bricks and quite elegant, others of planks and those of the poor people are of bamboo. Thus fires are frequent and disastrous. Not seldom fire consumes 400-500 houses, but in seven or eight days everything has been rebuilt thanks to relatives and friends who come to help."

Today, 150 years after Pallegoix's description, the urban population of Metropolitan Bangkok has over 10 million people, about a third of the nation, in an area the size of 8,000 square kilometers or 3,000 square miles (1.5% of Thailand's land mass), or an area a little more than the State of Delaware.

Bangkok is not Thailand, but it's premier city — in all of its magnificent respects of architectural gradiosity, exquisiteness and trash, extremes of both, opulent wealth and extreme poverty.

Once called the "Venice of Asia", most the beautiful canals have disappeared and been turned into roads for screaming motorcycles, diesel buses puffing their exhaust into the already polluted sky, pickup trucks, and cars, cars, and more cars — but not all, and a few canals remain with excellent speedy commuter boat service.

Forced by the unbridled greed of the well-heeled, who all live in Bangkok, on the one hand, and the utter poverty of the masses on the other hand — many from the poor villages of their Northeast, of Isan — the people of this tolerant country seem to have no choice, but to turn natural beauty into filth, if it stands in the way of making a buck, so that anyone choosing the City of

Bangkok as their place of abode would be a case for the specialist in mental disease.

The foreigners' first port of call is usually Bangkok, jammed with people, motorcycles, pick-up trucks, stinky buses, endless waits at traffic lights, sidewalks packed with vendors making them unfit for walking, filthy open markets, big black construction ruins from the 1997 Asian financial crises that started here, and noise.

And this cancer, which is Bangkok, is growing, threatening and dictating the lives of its neighboring cities Samut Prakan to the south, Chachoensao to the east, Ayutthaya to the north, and Nakhon Pathom to the east. Bangkok is sucking in people like water, mostly the poor and dark-skinned farmers from Isan in the Northeast to fill positions as taxi drivers, construction workers, cooks, cleaning personnel, and the girls and boys who work the nights away in the entertainment districts of Patpong and Nana.³⁰

Ayutthaya. The city was founded in 1350 by King U-Thong, who went there to escape a smallpox outbreak in Lop Buri and proclaimed it the capital of his kingdom, often referred to as the Ayutthaya Kingdom or Siam.³¹ The Ayutthaya Kingdom, the precursor of modern Thailand, existed from 1350 to 1767. Ayutthaya was named after the city of *Ayodhya* in India, the birthplace of Rama in the Ramayana (Thai, *Ramakien*). Today, Ayutthaya is the home of several prominent beer brewing companies, including Beer Thip Brewery, and Cosmos Brewery (Chang Beer, Thailand's most popular).

Eastern Thailand

The geography of the region is characterized by short mountain ranges alternating with small basins of short rivers which drain into the Gulf of Thailand. Fruit is a major component of agriculture in the area, and tourism plays a strong part in the

³⁰ Michael Schemmann (2005). "Lady of Pattaya" pp. 30-31.

³¹ Wikipedi. "Ayutthaya (city)"

economy. The region's coastal location has helped promote the Eastern Seaboard industrial development, a major factor in the economy of the region.³²

Pattaya. Urban population of 100,000. The name Pattaya evolved from the march of Phraya Tak (later King Taksin) and his army from Ayutthaya to Chanthaburi (about mid 1700s). "When his army arrived at the vicinity of what is now Pattaya, he encountered the troops of Nai Klom, who tried to intercept him. When the two leaders met face to face, Nai Klom was awed by Phraya Tak's dignified manner and his army's strict discipline. He then surrendered without a fight. The place the two armies confronted each other was called Thap Phraya, which means the Army of the Phraya. This was later changed to Phatthaya, which happens to mean the wind blowing from the southwest to the northeast at the beginning of the rainy season. Today the city is officially known as Pattaya."³³

"A heavy-breathing and testosterone-fuelled testament to holiday hedonism, Pattaya has lured tourists for almost four decades, and it's showing no sign of slowing down. And as past visitors move on to more genteel Thai resorts, first-time travelers from Russia and Eastern Europe now air their new passports with a fling in Aisa's first and foremost Sin City. Anyone for Pattayagrad? The cast may be evolving, but the scenery and soundtrack remain the same. The gorgeous half-moon of Pattaya Bay swoops around the headland to (slightly) more refined Hat Jomtien, and delicate sea-breezes whip up a heady cocktail of suntan lotion, fast food, and motorcycle and jet-ski fumes. Wide-eyed package tourists jostle with Indian tailors, ruddy-faced middle-aged Western men, and beachfront fruit and seafood vendors. Thumping beats, cruising 'baht buses' and the commercial hubbub provide an irresistible symphony. And after dark the tourists' eyes open even wider with a stroll past Pattaya's infamous go-go bars amid the sex tourism hub of Walking St. Pattaya's a stay up late kind of town, but wake up earlier than most and there are activities galore to redress your

³² Wikipedia. "Eastern Thailand."

³³ Wikipedia. "Pattaya."

daytime/nighttime balance. Hit the dive shops to explore the city's offshore reefs and wrecks, or get some fresh air on world-class golf courses. And if you're here with the family, the kids (and mum and dad), will find plenty to do to make it a real holiday. The town's wicked essence remains defiantly intact, but around the fringes it's softening and becoming more inclusive. If you welcome it with a dash of confidence and a pinch of adventure, Pattaya's sun-kissed pursuit of happiness might prove irresistible."³⁴

The Vietnam War (1967-1972) brought tens of thousands of U.S. servicemen to Thailand, building airbases and supply depots for the B-52 carpet bombings of the unfortunate neighboring country. Bars sprang up around the bases at Taklee, Udon, Ubon and U-Tapao. GI's became the favorite marriage objects for the poor and destitute girls from the rice paddies of the Northeast who catered to them with both, their smiles and bodies.

When the monsoon season and heavy seas threatened the U.S. Navy, its ships sought shelter in the Bay of Thailand anchoring on the shores of a small fishing village called Pattaya in Chonburi Province a hundred miles south of the City of Bangkok. In 1959, the U.S. Military rented a few houses on South Pattaya's beach for the "Rest & Recreation" of servicemen from the nearby airbase at U-Tapao. A first hotel with bar by the name of Nipa Lodge followed, renamed today "Nova Lodge".

Pattaya soon became the Las Vegas of the Pacific for the U.S. Forces, or the Montmartre or Sankt Pauli for the Europeans who followed in the early seventies after the GIs had left, ceding Vietnam to the Vietcong. The bar and entertainment scene changed from military to tourist.

"There were not enough tourists to go around when women from all over the country, particularly from the deserted American bases, converged on Pattaya. You could walk the streets all day and all night without making one baht."³⁵

Today, Pattaya is a city with a population of one hundred thousand or more including a large population from Isan who feed on a steady flow of over a million sea-sand-sun-and-sex hungry

³⁴ Lonely Planet. "Introducing Pattaya."

³⁵ Sudham, Piran (1994), p. 73.

tourists a year. Mixed-in within the male tourist archetypes are young folks with back-packs making a stop on their world tour, as well as Australian and European families with young children who flock to Thailand because it is much more fun and cheaper than holidaying at home in spite of the airfare.

Older European couples, too, are strolling through the neon-lit “Walking Street” at night holding hands.

“They are so lovely to watch,” say the Thai girls melancholically, perhaps romanticizing love at old age in the foreign lands unthinkable in their own.

Pattaya has everything from shopping malls to hundreds of budget hotels and guesthouses, five-star hotels, European and Asian restaurants galore, forty golf courses within a ten-mile radius of the city, and first-class international hospitals.

Pattaya and its neighboring city of Sattahip, home of the Thai naval base, use the former U.S. air base of U-Tapao as their own city airport. The new Bangkok international airport, Suvarnabhumi Airport, south of Bangkok is only one and a half hours away by bus and limousine. Low cost air conditioned buses connect Pattaya with all of the major cities of Thailand. The highway to Bangkok is a two-hour ordeal on bumpy freeways and a toll-road or “motorway”. New motorways are still in the planning stage. Thailand has time because to hurry is showing very bad taste, but eventually gets the job done.

There is a single-track rail line from Bangkok to Sattahip with a stop in Pattaya on its daily run. Yes, one train a day, leaving Bangkok at the uncivil time of six o’clock in the morning, but not uncivil for Thailand where people rise with the sun as they ought to but don’t go to bed with it, so are perennially tired. I am *kee gee-ut* or tired is therefore an acceptable excuse.

Pattaya’s night light life emanates from 450 licensed open-air beer bars, several hundred Go-Go bars where scantily dressed and sometimes nude girls dance around polished poles showing off sometimes openly their wares, and hundreds of free-lance ladies of the night who work the sidewalks along Beach Road inviting prospective customers with their solicitations, “hallo welcome sexy man!”

If Thailand is the “Land of Smiles,” as it is, then Pattaya would be the City of Laughter, Drinking, Dancing, Singing and Making Love. Paid love given and taken with lots of smiles, jokes, and fun called *sanook*, and consequences that more often than not end in long-term relationships, marriages, new families with adoring Eurasian children called *lukung* who are the future movie stars of this young beauty-conscious nation.

Unrelenting moralists call Pattaya the “Brothel of the World” which it no-doubt is if one is of their mindset. A brothel is where a man buys sexual intercourse with a woman for the purpose of entertainment and relief. If he returns and asks the lady for a bond in marriage, she will most likely refuse because love destroys her business unless the monetary advantages are clearly on her side.

Typically, Thai ladies come to Pattaya to find and marry a farang, but as they are unequal in every respect to their future bridegrooms, they choose to enter the relationships from a level that is open to them: the night scene.

Their sorrow about each failure to build a relationship is covered over by monetary rewards for their services of a few hundred bath or even a thousand or two per night which would be the more than the weekly or even monthly wage if they worked in the export factories of the cities of Bangkok, Korat, Chonburi or Hatyai, earning five to eight thousand baht, money that the girls’ mothers are desperately waiting for in their villages back home.

Given the fact that sexual gratuities without guilt are commonplace in the Asian mentality, offering free and open relationship tourism, inexpensive clean fun and relief without violence, Pattaya should rather be noted as the St. Tropez, Island of Sylt or Waikiki of Southeast Asia rather than its City of Vice. Pattaya has all the other amenities and attributes of sun, sand and sea.

The U.S. marines, the European coalminers, and the men from the other arm pits of the world who used to build up Pattaya have now been replaced by mass tourism, but also by noblemen in pinstriped suits descending from first-class cabins at Bangkok’s International Airport, hurrying along the motor way in airport limousines to the five-star Royal Cliff or the Dusit Beach Resorts in Pattaya.

After eight o'clock at night these well-heeled vagabonds prowl the bars in shorts and blue jeans eyeballing beautiful teenage girls who could be their granddaughters, taking them back to their hotel rooms for a night of whatever turns their fantasies that cannot be refused.

The brave ones have breakfast with her in the hotel's restaurant in the morning and keep her for the entire stay of a couple of days or a week, sitting along the ocean shore, splashing in the water during the day hugging and kissing her, buying her small gifts and eventually a good payoff of a couple of hundred dollars, a small fortune for the girl; more than the dowry her mother would ever get for marrying her to a Thai husband from the village.

The lure of Pattaya, both for the farang in search of sexual adventure and relief, may be even love, and for Isan women in search of a future, is a very strong one and answers to man's primary need and motivator, not so easily found and filled elsewhere. *Pattaya dreaming...*³⁶

Rayong and Koh Samed. A major oil port with a couple of old refineries, 180 km south of Bangkok with an urban population 55,000 and 100 km of beaches along the Gulf of Thailand. Includes the very touristy island of "Koh Samed". The coast line has seen speculative land development that ended with the Asian financial crisis of 1997. Swedish land developers are slowly building up the costal area around Laem Mae Pim, an underdeveloped beautiful beach of some five kilometers, frequented by locals on weekends and holidays.

Koh Samed is serviced by boat from Ban Pe, has many lovely coves and cristal clear water, ideal for families. The second beach directly behind the Department of Tourism's gate (200 baht entrance fee for farlang, 20 baht for Thais), is Silver Sand (*Ao Phai Beach*) with a popular disco, a good Thai restaurant, and a very commendable and clean bungalow resort & restaurant called "Samed Villa".³⁷ Koh Samed sees many repeat visitors from

³⁶ Schemmann, Michael (2005). "Lady of Pattaya."

³⁷ Samed Villa at <http://www.samedvilla.com> operated by a Swiss-Thai couple, Josef Ottiger from Zurich, his wife Aporn Tel. +66 (0) 38 644 094, +66 (0) 38

Europe, and an increasing number of Thai weekend/holiday visitors from Bangkok, which speaks well for the island's price-quality ratio.

Chanthaburi. 320 km southeast of Bangkok with an urban population 30,000. "The word *Chantha* originates from the Sanskrit word *Chandra* meaning *moon*, and the word *huri* from Sanskrit *Puri* meaning *town* or *city*. Therefore, the province name literally means *Moon City*."³⁸ In 1893 France occupied Chanthaburi, returning it in 1905 when Thailand gave up ownership of the western part of Cambodia.

While the southern part of the province is located at the shore to the Gulf of Thailand and thus is mostly coastal alluvial plains, the hinterlands of the province are quite mountainous. The mountain range in the north has the highest elevation of the province, the 1556 m high Soi Dao Nua Peak.

Chanthaburi is a clean and appealing fruit growing area, producing nearly 400,000 tons of durian, which is about 50% of Thailand's production and approximately 30% of the world production of this fruit. Together with the neighboring province Trat, Chanthaburi is the center of gemstone mining, especially rubies and sapphires.

Koh Chang. 350 km away from Bangkok in the Gulf of Thailand, named Elephant Island for its shape. The island is reached by a car and truck ferries departing from Laem Ngop. "It is a mountainous island and Khao Salak Phet is the highest peak of all at 744 metres. Visitors are also met with several waterfalls, splendid reefs and rainforests. The island has an area of approximately 217 square kilometers. Koh Chang was previously an unsettled island but it is now important as a harbour for ships to escape from the monsoon, and dietary or fresh water resources, especially at Ao Salak Phet or Ao Salat (on the eastern side)

644 161 "Attractive clean rooms, some with sea view, in a pristine natural garden setting. Simply the best accommodation on the island."

³⁸ Wikipedia. "Chanthaburi Province."

which is well known to pirates, Hai Lam Chinese and Vietnamese."

Ko Chang is surrounded by 51 islands, a popular and upcoming one being Ko Mak, which is served from Laem Ngop, but also by daily excursions from the touristy fisherman's village on wooden stilts of Bang Bao at the southern tip of Koh Chang.

Ko Chang was little known, and the few families there made a living growing coconuts. Meaningful development of the island began in the late 1990s. Discovered by backpackers, "the island now receives 655,000 visitors annually, about two thirds of them Thai. Ko Chang is one of the few places with virgin forest, but the mad rush to cash in on tourism has resulted in an ugly sprawl along the road on the western side of the island. Land prices have skyrocketed, there are also beautiful if not high end resorts now popping up all over the island."³⁹

The popular area the wide sandy beaches of White Sand Beach which has seen substantial development since 2002, including sewage and a paved road. The beach can treacherous and has strong undertows, claiming many lives, Thai and farang, of tourists who swim out more than 30 meters (more than 20 lives in the spring of about 2003).

Western Thailand

Thailand's long mountainous border with Myanmar continues south from Northern Thailand into the north to Chumphon Province in the south, characterized by high mountains and steep river valleys, hosting less-disturbed forest areas, major dams, and mining.

Kanchanaburi is "frequented by tourists who have been attracted by its long history and ancient civilizations, a location of the Bridge over the River Kwae – 'Kwai' as it is known internationally and scene of the historic World War II. Producers of the movie the *Bridge Over the River Kwae* are guilty of giving

³⁹ Wikipedia. "Ko Chang."

the river and bridge both the wrong spelling and mispronunciation. It is pronounced 'Kwae' as in the English word 'Hair'. The province is also famous for its natural attractions such as forests, mountains, caves and waterfalls."⁴⁰

Phetchaburi city has a population of less than 30,000. The province includes the famous tourist place of Cha-Am.

Hua Hin – is in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province. Slogan: *City of pure gold, delectable coconuts and pineapples, delightful beaches, mountain and caves, land of spiritual beauty.*

In 1921 the state railway reached Hua Hin, and the Railway Hotel close to the beach was built. King Prajadhipok (Rama VII) liked the place so much that he built a summer palace there. The palace was named Wang Klai Kang Won ('Far from Worries'). It is now the full-time summer residence of His Majesty the King of Thailand. His Royal Highness Prince Krom Phra Naresworarit was the first member of the royal family to build a group of palaces at Ban Laem Hin, called *Sukaves*, and he gave the name *Hua Hin* to the beach next to his palace.

There is some "foreign-oriented nightlife around Soi Bintaht and Soi Selakam, with the typical beer bars, the usual discothèques, karaoke bars, live music venues, hotel bars and even a lady-boy cabaret, the Blue Angel. The pace of nightlife cannot compare with the larger western-oriented towns of Pattaya and Patong (Phuket), while the proximity to the Royal Palace means that there are no go-go bars."⁴¹ Hua Hin is being promoted by several European enterprises as a retirement area for the well to do.

South Thailand

Southern Thailand is on the Malay Peninsula bounded to the north by the *Kra Isthmus* as the narrowest part of the peninsula. The

⁴⁰ Wikipedia. "Kanchanaburi Province".

⁴¹ Wikipedia. "Hua Hin".

western part has steeper coasts, while on the east side river plains dominate.

Running through the middle of the peninsula are several mountain chains with the highest elevation at 1835 m Khao Luang in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. The limestone of the western coast has been eroded into many steep singular hills submerged by the rising sea after the last ice age, now forming



the many islands, like the well known Phi Phi Islands, and the famous so-called *James Bond Island* in the Phang Nga Bay.⁴²

The Malay peninsula was settled since prehistoric times. Archeological remains were found in several caves, some used for dwellings, other as burial sites as well. The oldest remains were found in *Lang Rongrien* cave located behind a small primary school (Ban Thap Plak) just north of Krabi town dating 38,000 to 27,000 years before present, and in the

contemporary *Moh Khiew* (Krabi Province) cave.

"Excavations in the Moh Khiew Cave in Thailand have uncovered a 25,800-year old skeleton. An analysis of these remains has shown that it is unlike Mongoloids, but is similar to a Late Pleistocene Australoid sample from Australia. It is widely believed that southeast Asia was once inhabited by people similar to the Australo-Melanesians, but this early population has been

⁴² Wikipedia. "Southern Thailand".

overwhelmed by Mongoloids, especially during the Holocene and afterwards." ⁴³

Bounded on both sides by oceans, the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand, the people of the South are a seafaring lot, and their cuisine contains some magnificent seafood dishes. South Thailand is also an exporter of rubber, tin and coconut. The vast stretch of coastline has long beaches and the popular tropical island resorts of Phuket to the west and, Koh Samui to the east.

Surat Thani, 640 km from Bangkok, has an urban population of 130,000, has no tourist attractions, and therefore a transfer point to the nearby islands of Koh Samui and Koh Pha Ngan.

Koh Samui has a population of 50,000 and has its own international airport with flights to Bangkok, Hong Kong and Singapore, and is also a docking place for world ocean cruises. *Samui*, as it is called by the locals, is roughly circular in shape and 15 km across, almost uninhabitable mountain jungle at the center, peaking at 635 m. A single 51 km road runs mostly along the coast to encircle the bulk of the island.

The island was probably first inhabited about 15 centuries ago, settled by fishermen from the Malay Peninsula and Southern China, as it appears on Chinese maps dating back to 1687, under the name *Pulo Cornam*. The name *Samui* may be an extension of the name of one of the native trees, *mui*, or from the Chinese word *Saboey*, meaning "safe haven".

"It was only the early 1970s that the first backpackers traveling on a coconut boat arrived on Ko Samui. For years after that the island just had a few bungalows and a trickle of travelers. In the early 1990s, boats of tourists began to arrive, and since then the island has soared in popularity. Samui is now the second most popular island destination in Thailand, after Phuket. Ko Samui is an oasis of natural beauty, with its white sandy beaches, dazzling coral, luscious lagoons, picturesque waterfalls, swaying coconut trees and crystal clear water. Tourism is now ahead of coconuts as the islands main industry." ⁴⁴

⁴³ Dienekes' Anthropology Blog.

⁴⁴ Wikipedia. "Ko Samui".

Many retirees are living on Ko Samui, due to the Thai climate, natural surroundings, and ease of living on the island.

Ko Pha Ngan has a population of 12,000 and is famous for its full moon beach parties "where you can live out your desert island dreams of palm trees and white sand beaches, and still have a blinding night out at a rocking party every month. With the global notoriety that the Full Moon Party has gained as being one of the biggest and best beach bashes in the world, we get more than our fair share of hedonists gracing our shores. Each year the scene here grows with the ever-increasing number of party faithful that return, bringing their mates and spreading the vibe. Haad Rin [on the southern tip of the small island] is home to the Full Moon Party and also houses about 3-5000 rather mad people; it is the island's nightlife capital and has Koh Phangan's biggest concentration of beach clubs that collectively put on the ultimate travellers get together. There are over 12 major sound systems running the length of Had Rin beach, catering for 8000 to 12,000 punters in low season, 15,000 to 20,000 in high season and up to 30,000 at New Year. Within this transient crowd of party animals some highly talented DJ's pass through, banging out their wares to the raging lunar explorers that have landed on planet party." ⁴⁵

Backpacking: "Koh Phangan was for about twenty years somehow a hideaway for backpackers in Asia. Today you will find all kind of "farangs" (tourists) from all over the world on this tropical island; Party peoples (going to the Full Moon Party), young (and old) "love birds", globetrotters, families, divers or just people looking for a place where they can enjoy total relaxation . But Koh Phangan is still "less exploited" than its larger sister island Koh Samui and the and some beaches are almost "empty" in low season. This is still a place where you can find a peaceful holiday with a book in a hammock in a very easy going bamboo resort." ⁴⁶

⁴⁵ FMP Full Moon Party with a great list of bungalows and resorts, prices and online reservation forms at <http://www.fullmoon.phangan.info/>

⁴⁶ Kohsamui.org "Koh Phangan Island" with a great description of the beaches and 'thousands of photos' from the Island.

Nakhon Si Thammarat has an urban population of 105,000, and was once an important trading town known to the Europeans as *Ligor*. In the 17th century British, Portuguese and Dutch merchants set up factories there and carried on an extensive trade.⁴⁷

"Many people who travel to Thailand talk about getting off the beaten path and seeing the 'Real Thailand'... getting off at Nakhon Si Thammarat to experience places like Khanom, Sichon and Tha Sala... Traditional resorts and bungalows can still be found at bargain prices...the region of Nakhon Si Thammarat is steeped in history and contains the most important temple in South Thailand at Wat Mahathat, it features one of the biggest national parks in the region at Khao Luang with enough waterfalls to keep anyone happy, and it's got lots of those special beaches. You know the ones you dream of, with palm trees slanting gracefully under a bright blue sky, the turquoise sea lapping at your toes, and no one else in sight. They're here, and they're not lined with concrete hotels!"⁴⁸ The region merits further investigation for travel, recreation and retirement.

Monsignor Jean-Baptiste Pallegoix (1854) has this account: ⁴⁹

"The population of Ligor [Nakhon Si Tammarat Province] is 150,000 inhabitants; the remainder is composed of Chinese, Malays and a few aboriginal tribes which inhabit the forests. These forests are most impenetrable. One must cut a path through them with iron and fire. One can observe very straight, gigantic trees without branches except a hundred feet high. Every so often one must pass a brook, a lake or a river because in general, the country is flat and often swampy. Rivers and small lakes are infested with crocodiles.

The city of Ligor is located in a charming and well-forested plain. It is surrounded by an enclosure of brick walls with a deep moat. Except for its fine temples there is nothing remarkable. Its population, including Chinese, is about 12,000 souls. The river forming the port is two to three fathoms deep

⁴⁷ Wikipedia. "Nakhon Si Thammarat".

⁴⁸ Everything in Nakhon Si Tammarat.

⁴⁹ Pallegoix (1854), pp. 11-12.

and at the mouth there is a great harbor safe for junks trading there.

The main products of the country are: rice, tin, gold, pepper, rotan, die woods, ivory, etc. The galleys with oars of Ligor are elegant and well-equipped, because their sails are made of white cloth and not from woven bulrushes like the sails of Malay boats. The silversmiths of Ligor have a craft entirely their own. It consists of inlaying silver vases with gold-leaf patterns, very pleasing to the eye, on a black background. The religion of the Ligorians was the same as that of that of the Thai, but this is not the place to speak about that."

Songkhla is a city of 75,000 people on the Gulf of Thailand, 30 km from Hat Yai, and 950 km from Bangkok. Songkhla is a melting pot of Thais, Chinese and Malays, a medieval pirate stronghold, is a historic, albeit sleepy town with a thriving fishing community, was initially named *Sa-thing*, a port and a coastal trading post where Indian, Persian and Arabian merchants came to exchange their products.⁵⁰

On December 8, 1941, hours before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Imperial Japanese Army landed eight Thai locations, also at Songkhla, and proceeded south toward Malaysia, eventually capturing Singapore.⁵¹

Hat Yai is Thailand's fourth largest city with an urban population of 160,000. "It is an extremely popular tourist spot for Malaysians on holiday... Prices are high. Hat Yai does not have much western traffic."⁵² "Being an economic center of the lower Southern Thailand, Hat Yai became a target of terrorism."⁵³

Krabi, 820 km from Bangkok, has an urban population of 25,000 with perhaps the country's oldest history of continued

⁵⁰ Tourism Thailand. "Songkhla."

⁵¹ Wikipedia. "Songkhla".

⁵² Wikitravel. "Hat Yai".

⁵³ Wikipedia. "Hat Yai".

settlement.⁵⁴ "After dating stone tools, ancient colored pictures, beads, pottery and skeletal remains found in the province's many cliffs and caves, it is thought that Krabi has been home to homo sapiens since the period 25,000 - 35,000 B.C."

At the start Bangkok period in the late eighteenth century, when the capital was finally settled at Bangkok, an elephant kraal was established in Krabi to ensure a regular supply of elephants. Many followers emigrated so that soon Krabi had a large community in three different boroughs.

"Krabi is an ideal getaway destination teeming with natural attractions including white sandy beaches, fascinating coral reefs, numerous large and small islands and verdant forests with caves and waterfalls.

"Krabi's topography is mostly mountains and highlands separated by plains in some parts. Flowing through Krabi City to the Andaman Sea at Pak Nam Sub-district is Maenam Krabi which is 5 kilometers in length. In addition, there are several canals originating from the province's highest mountain range... The provinces sandy soil conditions are suitable for growing various agricultural products, particularly rubber trees, palms, coconuts, cashew nuts and coffee. "

Krabi has two world class beaches Ao Nang and Hat Rai Le, stunning limestone cliffs and rock formations which make it a heaven for rock climbers, and a National Park located approximately 40 kilometers from town with lakes, caves and spectacular natural scenery.⁵⁵

Krabi is a top destination for beach and islands lovers including Koh Lanta and Phi Phi islands for yachtsmen, scuba-divers, snorkelers and day visitors from Phuket.

Ko Lanta, the island south of Krabi city, is surrounded by several coral-fringed islands and is a well-known diving site. The largest island, Ko Lanta Yai, is the site of park headquarters, and is also home to *Chao Le*, or sea gypsies who sustain themselves largely through fishing.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Wikipedia. "Krabi".

⁵⁵ Amari.com. "Introduction to Krabi".

⁵⁶ Wikipedia. "Krabi".

Phuket, the island about the size of Singapore, has a population of 320,000. The name is apparently derived from the word *bukit* (Jawi: بوکیت) in Malay which means hill, its appearance from a distance. The island was on one of the major trading routes between India and China, and was frequently mentioned in foreign ship logs of Portuguese, French, Dutch and English traders. Phuket has seen trade with the English, Dutch and French since the 1600s for its rich natural resource of tin.⁵⁷

On December 26, 2004 an other areas was stuck by a tsunami killing as many as 5,300 people nationwide, and tens of thousands more throughout the wider Asian region. As many as 250 people were reported dead in Phuket including foreign tourists and as many as a thousand unreported deaths of illegal Burmese workers building new beach resorts in the Khao Lak area.

Tin mining has been a major source of income for the island since the 16th century, employing Chinese workers mostly Hakka Chinese, and their influence on Phuket culture and cuisine can still be felt today.¹ Today, Phuket's economy rests on rubber plantations and tourism including sex tourism, though illegal, taking place in Phuket.

Since the 1980s, the sandy beaches on the western coast of the island have been heavily developed into tourist centers, with Patong, Karon and Kata being the most popular ones.

In July 2005, Phuket was named as one of five of the world's chosen retirement destinations by *Fortune Magazine*.⁵⁸ Thousands of expatriates are living in Phuket, many of them retirees, although one of Thailand's more expensive retirement destinations. Quote from Fortune Magazine:

"Janpen 43 and John Magee 66:

John Magee had always worked in big cities. His banking career took him across the globe from New York to Copenhagen, Beirut, Cairo, and finally Hong Kong, where he spent the last 17 years of his career working for American Express Bank. On weekends, he

⁵⁷ Wikipedia. "Phuket Province".

⁵⁸ Elen Florian Kratz. "Paradise Found: Where to Retire Abroad." *Fortune Magazine*, July 11, 2005.

would visit Phuket, an "indescribably beautiful" little fishing village in Thailand. The place was so remote he couldn't find a fax machine. Eventually he leased a piece of property on the beach and built a house, where he retired in 1992. He sold it four years ago, not long after meeting his wife, to build a four-bedroom, two-kitchen house (cost: \$375,000). Soon after he retired, he started the island's first English-language newspaper, the Phuket Gazette, as a hobby. 'I love writing,' he says. "But I had never had the opportunity to do it.' The fishing village has come a long way since Magee first visited. 'There used to be a lot of backpackers here,' he says. 'Now there are a lot more retired lawyers, bankers, and businesspeople.' And a lot more fax machines."

Phuket has a tropical climate with a dry season from November to April and a rainy season from May to October. Average temperatures are consistent year-round. Average highs range from 29 °C (84 °F) to 33 °C (91 °F); average lows range from 23 °C (73 °F) to 26 °C (79 °F).

The People of Thailand

The 'national character'

The Thai have a gentle, light, unthinking, timid and gay character, do not like quarrels nor anything that feels like anger or impatience, and would be scandalized by hearing a priest speak with zeal and vehemence in his sermon. "They are lazy, fickle, distracted and especially very demanding. When they see something curious in the hands of a foreigner, they wish to have it but also, when they have received it, they are very considerate and offer small gifts to show their gratitude. They have a charitable nature and never let a poor person leave without giving some cowries, rice or fruits... Outdoors, they Thai are very reserved in respect to relations with women, and their laws are very severe on this point. The smallest caress given a woman often leads to a court case, and the person convicted of having taken liberties with a daughter or a wife so somebody else runs sometimes the risk of seeing himself sold as an ordinary slave. The Thai are very much in love with games and entertainment, and one can say that they pass almost half their time amusing themselves. They are witty and intelligent, and they imitate certain art objects which some from Europe very well."⁵⁹

"The Siamese are very obeisant and testify to a great respect for authority... Old ave is very much honored by them. The children show themselves full of consideration, respect and attention toward their father and mother, and there is no insult to which they are more sensitive than an insult toward those who have given them life."

"The Siamese value frankness and sincerity. This is not to say that lying is unknown to them. On the contrary, they often lie, but rarely to their equals. It is almost always to superiors they lie in order to excuse themselves or to escape punishment threatening them."⁶⁰

⁵⁹ Pallegoix (1854), pp. 103-5.

⁶⁰ Pallegois (1854), p. 104.

"[B]y referring to de la Loubère's 1693 account of an ordinary Siamese when he was not called up for a few months service under the *corvée* system. Their recreations included cock fighting, fireworks, boat races, kite flying, boxing, gambling, conjuring and puppet shows. They are described as being very homely and fond of their wives and children.

'The home life of a Siamese is thus filled with leisure. Aside from his public duties, he hardly works at all; he seldom goes out or hunts, and is usually to be seen either on his back or on his hunkers, eathing, amusing himself, smoking or sleeping. His wife will wake him at 7 a.m. for a meal of fish and rice. He then goes back to sleep. At midday he has a second meal and a third one at sunset. The time between meals is occupied with the siesta, while gaming and gossip fill in the spare moments. It is women who do the work in the fields as well as the buying and selling in the city.'

The English, throughout their periods of residence in Siam, had more of a reputation for drunkenness than any other race and this habit together with the idyllic surroundings and way of life made it difficult for them to return to the harsh cold world of their own northern isle."⁶¹

Thai Festivals

Songkran (Thai:

shrines as well as Buddha images at monasteries by gently pouring water mixed with a Thai fragrance over them. It is believed that doing this will bring good luck and prosperity for the New Year. In many cities, such as Chiang Mai, the Buddha images from all of the city's important monasteries are paraded through the streets so that people can toss water at them, ritually 'bathing' the images, as they pass by on ornately decorated floats." ⁶² "It is during this time that the people learn from the astrologers whether the angel of the year mounts a tiger, a cow, a bear, a horse, a dragon or some other animal." ⁶³

Visakha Bucha: On the 15th day of the sixth month (May), celebrating the birth, enlightenment and passing away of Gautama Buddha. One of the holiest days in the Buddhist calendar with a procession of candle lights around the temples.

Khao Phansa and *Ok Phansa*: *Vassa* is the annual monsoon rains descend, the rain retreat or Buddhist Lent is marked by two major religious events: one for the entering of the rainy season called *Wan Khao Phansa*" (

thousand oarsmen. The people only start their procession when those of the Kind have been completed." ⁶⁵

Loi Kathong , literally a small floating raft of a banana tree decorated with lit candles and flowers, is held on the full moon of the 12th month in the traditional Thai lunar calendar, which usually falls in November, "expiatory gifts to the angels of the river to ask forgiveness for having washed oneself and for having thrown dirt into its waters."⁶⁶ "According to the writings of H.M. King Rama IV in 1863, the originally Brahmanical festival was adapted by Buddhists in Thailand as a ceremony to honor the original Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. Apart from venerating the Buddha with light (the candle on the raft), the act of floating away the candle raft is symbolic of letting go of all one's grudges, anger and defilements, so that one can start life afresh on a better foot. People will also cut their fingernails and hair and add them to the raft as a symbol of letting go of the bad parts of oneself. Many Thai believe that floating a krathong will create good luck, and they do it to honor and thank the Goddess of Water, Phra Mae Khongkhla (

around the Grand Palace and other well-known locations decorated with colored lights and magnificent adornments.



Chulalongkorn Day, 23rd October, is a public holiday commemorating King Rama V the Great (20 September 1853 – 23 October 1910) visited British colonies in Asia, and most of Europe, modernized Thailand, establishing the first hospital, railways, post office, and abolished corvée ⁶⁹ and slavery. "

Phra Bat Somdet
Phra Poramintharamaha
Chulalongkorn Phra
Chunla Chom Klao
Chao Yu Hua

(Thai:

Constitution Day is celebrated on the 10th December, a national holiday, to commemorate the start of the constitution monarchy in 1932.

New Year's - December 31st. Thailand has adopted by custom the Western New Year's festival, schools and offices are closed, and people go home to their villages to be with their parents, family and friends.

Christmas. Thailand, being a Buddhist country, does not celebrate Christmas, and there is no feeling of the Spirit of Christmas in Thailand, except sporadic advertisement in the Western malls.

Thai Food

"The usual food of the Thai consists of rice, fish, vegetables and fruit. They do not make bread." Wheat flour is used for making cakes. "The Chinese and the rich eat a lot of pork, which is very digestible and healthier than in Europe... poultry, deer meat, aquatic birds, buffalo or cow meat dried in the sun, turtles and sea fish. They eat frogs, silkworms, bats, big rats, crocodiles, boa snakes and even eggs of a species of ant. The inhabitants of the countryside are of great temperance. The majority lives on rice, dried fish, bananas, soft shoots of trees, cress and other aquatic plants which they soak in a spicy sauce called *name phrik*. The

his half-sisters. They were all the daughters of Mongkut [Rama IV] – Savang Vadhana, Saovabha, and Sunandha with Concubine Piam and Sukumalmarsri with Concubine Samli. (Source: Wikipedia. "Chulalongkorn"). "King Rama V was to become the country's greatest patriarch, siring no less than 77 children (44 girls, 33 boys). At the time, procreation on a large scale was expected of a Siamese King but like everything else he accomplished, fathering a large family was just another part of the big plan. To implement the necessary changes that would bring Siam into the modern world, absolute control was required and government officials needed to be educated, well traveled and above all, loyal to the king. This could only be guaranteed by placing blood relatives into key posts across the land and to achieve that aim, King Chulalongkorn took many wives and courtesans. Daughters of high-ranking officials were chosen, thus bestowing honor on the father and securing his political support. The resulting offspring were destined to become the future league of ministers and to this day, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren comprise the present nobility of the Kingdom." (Source: Welcome to Chiangmai & Chiangrai. "King Chulalongkorn, Rama V. The Fifth King of the Chakri Dynasty").

use of this sauce is general in the whole country. From the King to the lowest slaves, they all love it."⁷¹

"A dish very much to the liking of the Siamese is half-rotten fish prepared in the following way: they wait for the fish to smell bad, then pile it in an earthen bowl which they top up with salted water. When this fish is cooked it dissolves in a liquid paste which they eat by soaking in it pods of long peppers, heads of mint, quarters of raw eggplants or soft shoots of mango, orange or other trees."⁷²

There are two cuisines in the country: The Chinese and the Thai. The Chinese prepare almost all their dishes without salt, often adding some sugar, so they are often soft, fat and tasteless until they include fish, crabs and slated vegetables.

The Thai cuisine is always strong and spicy. Their favorite sauce is curry. A simple recipe is to fry fish or some kind of meat in a frying pan with oil or a small quantity of pig fat, while one crushes red peppers, peppers, ginger, salt, garlic, onions, kapi and tamarind with tumeric powder in a stone mortar. When the hole has been reduced to a paste one adds brime, then adds this paste to the frying pan and after having stirred it some time, pours a suitable quantity of water on it. This curry can be modified by adding coconut milk to it.⁷³

The Thais eat all their meals seated on a mat or carpet. The dishes are served separate from the rice, and are taken with a spoon from the plates. For all the rest, fingers used to be sufficient. Today they primarily use the spoon, and the fork just helps the food onto the spoon. They will use a spoon for everything, even cutting their meat with the spoon.

The usual drink is pure water.

"Thai people love sharing food. If you go out for lunch or dinner with Thai friends, you are most likely to be asked whether you'd like a single dish or dishes to share. To share or not to share, that is a question entirely up to you. To make things easier, it helps to observe or ask other people in your group what style they're going for. If they've decided on sharing, then you should

⁷¹ Pallegoix (1854), pp. 107-8.

⁷² Pallegoix (1854), p. 108

⁷³ Pallegoix (1854), p. 109.

join in the fun. It's not entirely true if you've heard that Thai people tend to eat all day. Generally, they eat three main meals a day just like the rest of the world, but they have a habit of *gin len* ('snacking') between meals.

"The whole spectrum of hawker food from savory *look chin ping* (grilled meat balls), sweet *roti* pancake wrapped around sweetened condensed milk with a choice of banana or egg and fried bugs, to freshly-squeezed orange juice, fresh fruits, and frittered bananas are available, at incredibly low prices, virtually everywhere in the city [of Bangkok]."⁷⁴

Fulbright's Do's and Don'ts in Thailand ⁷⁵

Affection between the sexes should not be displayed in public. No holding hands or kissing. Avoid things, people and situations you don't like rather than moan about them or try to change them. Beckon waiters and servants with the hand, palm downwards, fingers straight and waving rapidly. Don't clap, snap fingers or hiss.

Boasting is disliked; don't compare your country and people favorably with Thailand and the Thais. Buddha images should be kept in a high place and treated with great respect. It is against the law to take or send them out of the country except under very special circumstances.

Ceremonies are normally open to everybody; at family ceremonies money is often given, inside an envelope, to the host or placed in the tray provided. Do not wear bright colors to a funeral.

Criticism: Avoid it; if absolutely unavoidable, balance with praise and be very indirect.

Discretion is admired as maturity; if you must do naughty things, do them in private.

Dress your status. Women do not wear shorts or revealing clothing.

⁷⁴ AsiaWeb direct. "Typical Thai Meals & Eating Habits".

⁷⁵ Fulbright. United States Educational Foundation. "Do's and Don'ts in Thailand."

Eating habits are flexible. Most people eat with a spoon and use a fork to load it. Salt is replaced by the liquid *nam pla* (fish sauce). During ceremonies always eat after the monks. Inviting to eat is an everyday greeting, the normal reply is 'eaten already'.

Feet must be kept to yourself. Not on the desk. Certainly not pointing at anybody. Do not step over anybody or anybody's food.

Flatter whenever possible, Thais love it.

Fun: The essential ingredient of anything worth doing; have it.

Generosity is the sign of an important person; don't be mean.

Gifts are to be opened in private.

Hair and heads should not be touched. If you do so by accident, excuse yourself.

Introductions are less frequent and more meaningful than in the west. Social inferior is addressed first. Invitations are often less specific than in the west. If attendance and punctuality are important, use a card. If you specifically invite somebody to your house, they expect to eat there.

Laundry: If done by a man, don't be surprised if he refuses to wash a woman's underclothes.

Legs should not be crossed whether sitting on floor or chair in the presence of monks.

Lower the body a little when passing in front of, or between, people.

Monks are the most important people in the country and must be treated with respect at all times. Touching of a monk or his robes by a woman is strictly taboo. [A male sitting next to a monk in a bus may be asked to hand the monk's bus fare to a female conductor, and accept the change on his behalf and hand it to the monk].

Names: Use a person's first name, not the family name. Adults should be addressed as Kuhn unless a title is used.

Parties: Dress appropriately; do not wear black unless at funeral.

Pass objects with the right hand, touch left hand to right

forearm if extra respect is required. Women never pass directly to monks.

Paying is done after eating/drinking, not before; the inviter pays; if no clear invitation, the superior pays; 'going Dutch' is very rare.

Please: See 'thank you'.

Pointing with fingers is acceptable for objects and animals but not for people [and never to sacred images or icons].

Relax, take it easy, especially at the beginning of your stay.

Rice is the lifeblood of Thailand; don't throw it away in front of Thais.

Royalty must be treated with the greatest respect; stand up when images of the King or Royal Family appear on the cinema screen [but not in front of a TV in a private home].

Shoes come off at the door of the main temple building and at all homes.

Sit in the place you are directed to. Superiors in front, inferiors at the back.

Speak gently, do not raise your voice.

Smile and people will like you. A smile can be used to excuse small inconveniences, to thank for small services and to return the *wai* [folded hands] of children and servants.

Tempers must be kept.

Thank you, like 'please', is expressed verbally much less frequently in Thai; a smile is often enough. Throwing any object is [extremely] bad manners.

Titles are always used.

Visiting homes without specific invitation is normal; gifts of fruit, cakes, flowers, etc. are appreciated but not necessary. Shoes are taken off unless requested to keep them on. Casual visitors should be invited to drink and, if mealtime, to eat.

Wai [fold your hands in front of your chest to greet] monks, old people and your social superiors. Do not *wai* servants, laborers and children. The lower the head, the more respect is shown. The inferior initiates the *wai*. Whatever the *wai* received, reply with a lesser one.

Walk slightly behind monks and old people.

The Thai Family

The rural family in the typical village setting is an extended family. Typically, three generations live together in one house on posts, often in a single room, or more in one compound, with buffalos and cows kept underneath at night, and chicken running around all day. The toilet, called water house *hong nam*, is a separate small outhouse with water tanks for showers and squatting toilet. The codes of behavior are learned early on, that will guide the throughout much of his/her later life, whether it is spent in the village or beyond.

"There is little privacy, though this is not as highly regarded as in Western countries, and the communal life style instills a strong sense of social harmony in which tact, compromise, and tolerance are essential."⁷⁶ The father is nominally the leader, but the mother is the *de facto* head of household, particularly in matters of family finance, unless she is a notorious gambler, or if the father with his diverse interests cannot be trusted.

Children are taught early on to respect the elders in their family. This same delineation of roles also applies to the wider world outside the Thai family and will remain deeply ingrained throughout life, thus explaining the reluctance of younger Thais to oppose or confront a senior – especially a teacher or professor at university – during their subsequent careers in business or government. One of the prime responsibilities of children is to take care of parents in their old age, meaning after the parents stopped working which may be as early as 40 years of age. There is no feeling of being inconvenienced by this duty of caring for aged parents, although children working in Bangkok nowadays, faced with their own financial hardships, often miss their payments, hoping a sibling at home will make up for them.

⁷⁶ ThailandLife.com "Thai Rural Family".

Thailand's Buddhist Temples and Monks



A Monk in Meditation ⁷⁷

Gautama Siddhartha was born in Nepal, married, became a father, and at age twenty-nine left the pampered existence in the palace where he was kept by his father to shield him from the evils of the world. He successively met an old man, a sick man, a dead body and a hermit and became aware of the pain and suffering in the world. After years of wondering and leading an ascetic life of self-denial, Gautama sat down under

the famous tree at *Bodh Gaya* in India, and meditated in the Lotus position for 49 days, contemplating the causes of suffering, until he achieved enlightenment after subduing Mara's, the Evil One', temptations to distract him, pointing the fingers of his right hand at the ground calling the earth to witness.

Following enlightenment, Prince Gautama became a *Buddha* and began preaching, characterizing his doctrine as the Dharma, or wheel.

Gautama Buddha died at the age of eighty 543 BC, which is the first year in the Thai calendar. For example, the year 2010 Anno Domini or AD, is the year 2553 Buddhist Era or BE. At his death, Buddha is believed to have risen into *Nirvana*, the state of nothingness which knows no suffering and from which there is no reincarnation. ⁷⁸

⁷⁷ Pallegoix (1854), Table 10.

⁷⁸ Gray, P. et al (2009), pp. 811-12.

Buddha's teaching were written in the Pali language in a form known as Theravada, "the doctrine of the Elders". Later, a new movement called Mahayana, "the Great Vehicle", emerged introducing Buddhist saints or bodhisattva who postponed entering Nirvana in order to teach.

Theravada Buddhism practiced in Thailand believes in karma, that every action has a consequence, and reincarnation, being reborn slightly higher of the karmic ladder each time (animals being at the bottom and monks at the top, women on a lower rung than men), until the blissful state of non-being, Nirvana, is reached.

The English Monk, Phra Peter Pannapadipo, writes in his famous book:⁷⁹

"The pressures of modern society lead many to believe that the way to happiness and freedom is through the acquisition of material things...

We crave for the situations and things that we believe make us happy. If we can't get them, we mentally suffer. When we have them, we crave for more. When we lose them, we suffer again. And we crave for release, for freedom, from those things or situations that make us unhappy. Our conditioned clinging, craving and aversion delude us mentally, becoming the basis for habitual and frequently unwise responses to the thing, people and situations with which we come into contact.

Whether we acknowledge it or not, most of us are under subtle pressure to compete, to acquire, and to measure our spiritual worth by our temporal gains... We become so busy achieving an acquiring that we shut off that part of our mind which might question whether this is really the best way to live our lives... but if we are lucky there may come a moment when some spark of sanity inside says 'Stop!'

According to Phra Peter, most lay Buddhists follow five Precepts:

Not to cause harm to any living creature [– including oneself].

⁷⁹ Phra Peter Pannapadipo. 1997. "Phra Farang. An English Monk in Thailand." Bangkok: Post Books, The Post Publishing Plc., p. 19.

To refrain from taking what is not given.
To refrain from illicit sex.
To refrain from false speech.
To refrain from taking drink or drugs which cloud the mind.

The monks of Thailand, the 200,000-strong *Sangha* (monkhood), follow 227 precepts,⁸⁰ set the example by living a life close to the enlightened Middle Way, serve as officiants on ceremonial occasions (weddings, funerals), and preach the Dharma (doctrine). Monks do not cook their own food, but most gather it from the community by making alms rounds each day early in the morning.⁸¹

Being a 45-year-old former businessman from London and now a monk with a shaven head in yellow robes in Thailand, a rather unique way to retire in this country – open to any foreigner to become a novice if the Abbot will accept him – Prah Peter relates an interesting moment:

"One senior monk of whom I am especially fond came out with a small pearl of wisdom that I have never forgotten. Nine of us

⁸⁰ Book entitled *Phra Vinai*, volume *Patimôk*. "This rule is so severe and detailed that it is impossible for the *phra* to observe it completely and loyally. It gives a great idea about the detachment, mortification, patience and all other moral virtues of the Buddha who is its author." (Pallegoix (1854), p. 269. See Appendix "A".

⁸¹ "During the latter half of the 20th century, most monks in Thailand began their careers by serving as *dek wat* (Thai:

[monks] were sitting in the back of a pick-up waiting to be taken somewhere or other [monks are not allowed to steer a vehicle], when a chatty new monk, trying to be friendly, said something to me in Thai which I didn't understand at all. He turned to the other monks and said, '*Mai ruu reung*,' 'He doesn't know what's going on.' The senior monk then said to him, '*Mai ruu ruang: sabei*,' a Thai idiom meaning something like, 'When you don't know what's going on, you are content'. For me, that has really proved to be the case."⁸²

The Thai Sangha does not ordinate women, but women dressed in white robes are seen and are known as nuns or *mae chii*, shaving their heads, and keeping eight instead of the 227 precepts of the monks.

Thais cultivate animistic spirits, and certain Hindu gods, for help with some immediate problems. "... [The emperor] employs Brahmin priests and astrologers to determine auspicious days and officiate at certain royal ceremonies and, like his royal predecessors of the Chakri dynasty, associates with the Hindu god Vishnu by assuming the title Rama IX – Rama, hero of the Hindu epic the *Ramayana*, having been Vishnu's seventh manifestation on earth."

"If a Thai want help in achieving a short-term goal, like passing an exam, becoming pregnant or winning the lottery, he or she will quite likely turn to the Hindu pantheon, visiting an enshrined statue of Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva or Ganesh, and making offerings of flowers, incense and maybe food. If the outcome is favorable, the devotee will probably come back to show thanks, bringing more offerings and maybe even hiring a dance troupe to perform a celebratory *lakhon chatri*. Built in honor of Brahma, Bangkok's Erawan Shrine is the most famous place of Hindu-inspired worship in the country."⁸³

Superstitions

⁸² Pannapadipo (1997, p. 283.

⁸³ Gray et al. (2009, p. 815-16.



Spirit houses for sale

Every building in Thailand has a more or less elaborate spirit house (*saan phra phum*) in the form of a miniature temple raised on a short column for the spirits ousted by the disturbance of the earth and air through construction. Figurines representing the guarding spirit are put inside and daily offerings of bottled water and candles are made, even food is placed inside to keep the spirits happy, because a disgruntled spirit is a dangerous spirit.⁸⁴

"The superstitions one observes among the Siamese are not at all part of their religion because the Buddha has prohibited his followers to consult soothsayers, to lend belief to omen and in general to engage in any superstitious practice. All the vain observances used in Siam thus come from China and especially India where the Brahmins excel in juggling, divination and judicial astrology."⁸⁵

Seers and soothsayers called *módu* are consulted during illness, when things have been lost, to fix the time of a marriage, to undertake a journey, to have luck in gambling, to recover stolen goods or to be told their fortunes.

A new born child will be given an official name which is normally Sanskrit in origin, will consist of two or more syllables and will invariably mean something positive such as long life or happiness to be used on legal and official documents. The child will also be given a nickname by the elders, grandfather and grandmother, which h/she carries for life, to confuse the bad spirits and stop them from being attracted to the baby. Nicknames

⁸⁴ Gray et al. (2009), p.816.

⁸⁵ Pallegoix (1854), p. 277.

are one syllable names such as *Lek* (small), *Fon* (rain), *Fah* (sky), *Gob* (frog), *Gai* (chicken) or *Ouan* (fat). "It's also believed that spirits are attracted to the beautiful and some Thai people, particularly the older generation, may 'compliment' a new-born baby by referring to it as *nakliat* (ugly) or *ouan* (fat)."

All over Thailand vendors are selling jasmine garlands on traffic intersections for 20 Baht. Drivers hang these from their mirror as an offering to the guardian spirit who lives in the car, to protect the vehicle and its inhabitants. Small amulets are placed into the glove compartment to please the spirit.

As they saying goes, Thai people believe that it is bad luck to cut one's fingernails or get a hair cut on a Wednesday, and some barber shops are closed on Wednesdays. Don't smell the flowers offered to a monk or for Buddha or something bad will happen to your nose. "Don't stomp your feet in the house because it will scare the house spirits away and the house will be left without protection. Don't eat while lying down because you will come back as a snake in the next life."⁸⁶

Marriages

"Thai marriage ceremonies between Buddhists are generally divided into two parts: a Buddhist component, which includes the recitation of prayers, and the offering of food and other gifts to monks and images of the Buddha, and a non-Buddhist component rooted in folk traditions, which centers on the couple's family."⁸⁷

In times of old, it was unknown for Buddhist monks to be present at any stage of the marriage ceremony itself. Because monks attend to the dead during funerals, their presence at a marriage (associated with fertility and procreation) was considered a bad omen. A monk may be consulted for astrological advice in setting an auspicious date for the wedding. A couple would seek a blessing by the monks early in the morning, which will only be attended by relatives and close friends of the bride

⁸⁶ Thailand tips & advice. "Superstitions in Thailand."

⁸⁷ Wikipedia. "Culture of Thailand".

and groom. The wedding festivities would take place away from the temple, and would often take place on a separate day. The strictures of the past have been significantly relaxed. It is not uncommon for a visit to a temple to be made on the same day as the wedding day.

The wedding day morning will normally begin early (approximately 6 – 7a.m.) with monks arriving to visit the couple who are to be married in the home. The monks – usually nine in number – will chant and say prayers whilst a lit candle is placed in a bowl of water. Food is offered to the monks. Nobody is permitted to eat until the monks have finished their meal. After their meal, the monks will begin their chants again and the senior monk will bless the couple, and everybody present, with holy water. The monks then return to the temple each with an envelope containing 100 baht in cash.

"Wedding invitations list the times that each of the most important ceremonies start. The timing of the Buddhist ceremony is set to ensure good luck and will commence at an auspicious time such as 09.09 (9 is a lucky number in Thailand). Thai people aren't generally renowned for their punctuality, but they will pay particular attention to wedding times to ensure good luck for the couple being married. When it comes to the evening feast or wedding reception, invitations are more casual and a verbal invite can suffice." ⁸⁸

The Thai dowry system is known as the *sin sodt*, which is sometimes purely symbolic, and the amount (not less than 40,000 baht) may or may not be returned to the groom after the wedding. The dowry is normally 'negotiated' by the parents of the bride and the bridegroom.

The Thai formalities of a marriage between a farang and a Thai are straight forward, can be completed in one or two days, depending on the complexity of the rules and speed of the foreigner's Embassy in Bangkok, and are described in a separate chapter.

⁸⁸ Watdee.com "Weddings & Honeymoons in Thailand".

Funerals

A story from a popular blog:⁸⁹

"My friend died. He was old and had cancer and other problems so had been in hospital. At home he was attended by a farang doctor. He died at home. The farang doctor was phoned and he said correct procedure was to phone police since the death occurred at home. Police came and were very nice. Local newspapers also came with photographers but we told them to B---er Off. Police took photo(s), asked for passport and took details, wrapped body in new clean white cloth and put in pickup and transported to Bangkok to the Police Forensic Dept at the Police Hospital for autopsy.

A farang friend notified the British Embassy and overseas relatives. As far as I remember the Embassy said to go to local Town Hall for Death Certificate. The Embassy issued a Letter of Release which is in Thai and is permission to move the body. Cost of this letter was Baht 1,763. The death certificate needed to be translated from Thai to English and Embassy cost for this was Baht 4,475. In order to do translation Embassy needed original death certificate, passport, and postal order made payable to embassy along with a cover letter and address to which translation was to be sent. Extra certified copies were available at baht 2,263 each. Embassy asked that covering letter and documents be sent to them by EMS but because we didn't trust EMS we hand delivered to Embassy.

Friends went to Embassy to get Letter of Release and body was transported to local Bangkok Hospital as there was no room at the Wat. The Funeral Director said he would transport for baht 15,000. Cost of overnight stay at local Bangkok Hospital was baht 1,000 and hospital transport to Wat the following day was baht 500. Hospital needed to see Death Certificate and any other relevant documents.

As far as I know funeral director was not involved because the deceased's Thai partner organised everything (coffin, flowers, etc.) with the Wat. But Embassy recommended Teckhong Funeral Directors, Khun Harin, tel 02 221 1680. I can't remember what K. Harin said it would cost if they looked after everything.

⁸⁹ Thai Visa. Author unknown. Published at <http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/Death-Thailand-t132708.html>

To receive Letter of Release from Embassy the Embassy will need to see your ID.

I suppose all the necessary info re death of foreigner is available on your Embassy's internet site."

Traditionally funerals short of a week, starting with a party on the day following the death (or even the same evening if death occurred early morning), during which food and drink is served, accompanied by popular music, even movies, to entertain the guests.

All the time, the body of the deceased is kept in a decorated metal air-conditioned coffin at the part, which is normally his or his family's house. A photograph of the deceased is displayed. People come and say prays, lighting a candle and burning incense sticks.

Crying is discouraged during the funeral, so as not to worry the spirit of the deceased. Many activities surrounding the funeral are intended to make merit for the deceased. Monks are invited to chant prayers to provide merit for the deceased, as well as to provide protection against the possibility of the dead relative returning as a malicious spirit. A picture of the deceased from his/her best days will often be displayed next to the coffin. Often, a thread is connected to the corpse or coffin which is held by the chanting monks during their recitation; this thread is intended to transfer the merit of the monks' recitation to the deceased. The corpse is cremated, and the urn with the ash is usually kept at the local temple. The Chinese minority however bury the dead.⁹⁰

The formalities involved in the death of a foreign citizen in Thailand, requiring notification of his embassy, next-of-kin, embalming or cremation instructions, can be quite complex, and can be obtained online from the embassies in Bangkok.⁹¹

Moral Virtues

⁹⁰ Wikipedia. "Culture of Thailand".

⁹¹ E.g., Embassy of the United States. Bangkok, Thailand. "Death of a U.S. Citizen" online at <http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/service/death-of-a-us-citizen.html>. (See also The Nation. Thai Visa Forum Blog online at <http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/service/death-of-a-us-citizen.html>)

The term "morality" is a human invention, a human social construct, in the West dictated from above and easily learned. The center of a Buddhist person is his or her head; other parts are less significant and therefore not as easily violated. Maintaining his/her dignity, karma, and face may be more important, for example, than keeping one's virginity. From these diverging points a view, it is almost impossible to come to an acceptable common definition of what is called in West an act of moral turpitude – conduct considered contrary to community standards of justice, honesty or good morals – known in the West as "prostitution".

All human beings are conceived and born into this world by the same physical acts, and to pass judgment on their value, moral or otherwise, in itself can be seen as immoral, an offence against the individual's pro-creational rights of choice. The choices people make concerning their sexuality are entirely their own, and Western morality cannot encroach on Asian values, or their absence, by imposing their own.

Human actions (*kamma*, *kaama*, or *karma*) in the Buddhist framework were to be judged based on both the intention or motive (*chetanaa*) and the consequences (*vipaaka*) of the action. Altruistic actions which helped in the establishment and promotion of a just society were encouraged in the *dharmaniyama* (moral duty code).

In their theories of causality Buddhists challenged the view that human destiny was unaffected by the ethics or morality of human actions. They countered the doctrine of amoral causation (*akriyavaada*) whose adherents argued that there was no merit in doing good and no demerit for doing evil. (An extreme expression of such thinking was seen in philosophers who denied all morality and saw no crime in the killing of any person.)

The danger in each of these theories was highlighted in these words: "Thus for those who fall back on these three erroneous views as essential dogma, there is neither the will to do what is ought to be done, or not to do what is ought not to be done, nor necessity to do this deed or abstain from that deed. No moral improvement or intellectual culture can be expected from them.

Unlike religions that were based on revealed truth or the sanctity of every word in a holy textbook, the Buddhist belief system prescribed 'reasoning based on investigation' as the

means of determining ones *dhamma*, (or *dharma* as in Hindu practise). In a parable in the *Kaalaama Sutta*, followers of Buddhism are advised not to accept any moral codes on the following ten grounds: (1) Vedic authority (*anussava*), (2) tradition (*paramparaa*), (3) hearsay or report (*itikiraa*), (4) textual authority (*pittakasampadaa*), (5) apparent agreeability of the view (*sama o no garu*), (6) authority of the holder of the view (*takkahetu*), (7) apparent logicity of the view (*nayahetu*), (8) the fact that the view is an accepted standpoint (*aakaaraparivitakka*), (9) inadequate reflection on reasons (*bhabbaruupataa*), or (10) the fact that the view agrees with one's own (*ditthinijjhaanakkhanti*).⁹²

Sexual permissiveness is, and has been for centuries, an Asian societal norm rather than a vice. Visiting a prostitute or a paid mistress or maintaining a second, third, or more common law wife – although not lawfully married and therefore with no rights to an inheritance – is not uncommon in Thailand and, when it happens, is most often accepted by the main and normally older first wife, so long as her and their children's material support is not in jeopardy.

The visitation by a Thai husband of a massage parlor for sexual gratification – and all men who can afford it do – does not constitute grounds for divorce by the wife, but a wife entertaining a boy friend for sexual pleasures does.

The arrival of foreigners in Pattaya, Bangkok, Phuket and Ko Samui did not change the norms, except that young ladies, mostly from the impoverished Northeast (Isan), took the initiative to meet the foreigners, enjoy themselves as best they could and take their money, sometimes even marry the foreigners who was normally an older man who could be their father or even grandfather, so that the relationship that ensued was terminal rather quickly in any event, and the Isan lady could return home with what is a fortune in her village, and still marry the local man of her dreams, no stigma being involved.

⁹² South Asian History. " Buddhist Ethics and Social Criticism".

Kritaya Archavanitkul, a Thai human rights activist, interviewed by the University of California's Institute of International Studies, said:

"This is sad to say, that the Thai social structure tends to accept this sort of abuse, and not only to accept – we have laws, we have bills that vitally support the existence of these sex establishments. That's one thing. And also, we have a Mafia that is also involved in the political parties, so this keeps the abuse going. The second reason is a cultural factor. I don't know about other countries, but in Thailand the sexual behavior of Thai men accepts prostitution. Every class of Thai men accept it, although not all Thai men practice it. So they don't see it as a problem. So when it comes to the policymakers, who are mostly men, of course, they don't see this as a problem. They know there are many women who are brought into prostitution in Thailand. They know that some are treated with brutal violence. But they don't think it's a terrible picture. They think it's just the unlucky cases. And, because of the profit, I think there are many people with an interest involved, so they try to turn a blind eye to this problem."

"Support of prostitution is pervasive in political circles, as the *BBC News* reported in 2003 that 'MPs from Thailand's ruling *Thai Rak Thai* Party are getting hot under the collar over plans by the party leadership to ban them from having mistresses or visiting brothels' ... 'One MP told *The Nation* newspaper that if the rules were enforced, the party would only be able to field around 30 candidates, compared to its more than 200 sitting MPs.'

"Attitudes towards women can be described by MP Thirachai Sirikhan, informing *The Nation* newspaper, 'To have a *mia noi* (mistress) is an individual's right. There should be no problem as long as the politician causes no trouble to his family or society'.

"Both politicians and police have been supporting and indulging in the prostitution industry *openly*. Kuhn Tavich, a veteran politician at 76 years was under fire in 2005 for impregnating a 14 year old girl, who worked across the street from the congressional building. It is well-known, for example, that the father of a female member of Parliament is the owner of the Poseidon massage parlor on Ratchadapisek Road [in

Bangkok], a fairly deluxe establishment with several stories of jacuzzi-equipped rooms.

After a police raid on some Bangkok parlors where policemen had sex with prostitutes, 'Acting Suthisan Police chief Colonel Varanvas Karunyathat defended the police action, saying that the (police) officers involved needed to have sex with the masseuses to gain evidence for the arrest.' Apparently this is standard practice as a separate police force did the same in Pattaya in May 2007.

"Even more evidence of politicians supporting the prostitution industry and the sexual habits of elderly Thai men in general can be gleaned from the fact that Viagra is being given to elderly voters in exchange for their votes in an election drive."⁹³

⁹³ Wikipedia. "Prostitution in Thailand".

Thai Law

Siam back in 1854

Monsignore Pallegoix (1854) chronicles: "I have read the entire code of laws. They have appeared very wise in general, in conformance with natural law and well adapted to the character and moral of the nation they have been made for. They claim that this code of laws, in essence, is the same as that of the famous Manu, the Indian legislator... The law says: 'Any court case must be concluded in three days' and, nevertheless, the judges make them last two or three years."⁹⁴

Pallegoix (1854) writes: Proceedings are commenced by filing a complaint with the tribunal's chiefs, whereupon a white neckerchief is tied around the neck of the accused, who is brought to the *thim* or provincial jail according to the maxim "guilty until proven innocent", unless released on the payment of "bail". The judge hears the complaint and the written depositions of sworn witnesses, eliminating some for reason of relationship. After being read, the depositions are sealed with wax. Compensation and court costs must be paid, if the accused has been slandered. If the accusation is for theft, the guilty party is punished by blows of the rotan to make him/her denounce all accomplices. "All these people will be caught, and the case is so complicated it will never finish. The two parties, each on their own side, offer money to the judges who purposely let the affair drag on for a long time. Often, by means of a certain sum, the guilty person even manages to escape and disappear, and the innocent person loses his charges and expenses. Almost always the parties who are battling mutually ruin each other. When they have nothing to give anymore, the judges drop them then and there. The best means to win a case is to promise a large sum to some influential person or other who takes charge of your affair. Almost everywhere justice is venal but perhaps more so in Siam than elsewhere."

"It is said the prisons are terrible. They are dark in which criminals are stacked away by the hundreds. Fortunately, they only stay in there during the night because they are used all day long to saw beams, to carry bricks or sand, to build roads or for

⁹⁴ Pallegoix (1854). "Legislation", p. 189.

other difficult work and they are given only a little rice with salt. When night falls they are returned to jail. They are all made to sleep next to each other and a long chain is passed through a big iron ring which they have on their legs. The end of the chain is attached to a post with a big padlock in such a way that, being all in chains like this, they cannot turn and are obliged to their necessity on the spot and stay like this in the dirt and vermin until the next day. One can imagine what these unfortunates have to suffer in a tedit atmosphere and in a heat of thirty to thirty-five degrees! ... Those who are thrown in jail for debts do not stay there long because their relatives and friends do everything to pay their debts and get them out. But those who are in there for theft or other crimes cannot be freed except by a formal order of the King, but nevertheless, a great number find a means to escape from it. They send their relatives or friends to bring gifts and money to the prince who inspects the prisons and promise him even more if he releases the person..."⁹⁵

The Court System

There are four categories: The Constitutional Court, the Administrative Court, the Military Court, and the Courts of Justice.. The Courts of Justice comprise the Civil Court, Criminal Court, Tax Court, Labor Court, International Trade and Intellectual Property Court, Juveline and Family Court, and Bankruptcy Court.⁹⁶

Thailand does not know the jury system.

The Office of the Attorney General handles criminal and some civil cases, presenting the interests of the government. A Lawyers' Concil of Thailand sets rules of conduct, and issues lawyer's permits.

⁹⁵ Pallegoix (1854), pp. 191-192.

⁹⁶ Becker et al. (2008), pp. 17-18.

The Lawyer's Council gives free consultations in the Thai language.⁹⁷

Thais try to avoid going to court because this is associated with bad luck. Criminal matters may befall the foreigner not as a matter of choice. There are several stages:

Criminal Procedures

1. Investigative stage, where the police collects evidence including the interview of witnesses and issues a report, and may – after obtaining a subpoena, except in serious cases – search a person or location, confiscate items, arrest a suspect, and allow a suspect to post bail during the investigation.

For misdemeanors or lesser offences, the suspect can only be held for the duration of the questioning session. Police and investigators may hold a suspect for up to 48 hours, which may be extended to not more than 3 days.

The investigative office has the power to stop the investigation; determine that the case should not be prosecuted, releasing the suspect if in custody; send the case to the prosecutor. A criminal case involving embezzlement or fraud can be compromised if the victim withdraws the complaint; and the investigative officer has the power to fine the accused.

2. In the prosecution stage, the prosecutor can: stop the investigation; determine that there are insufficient grounds and request the court to release the suspect, or return bail; press charges in court.

3. In the initial court stage, the court of first instance can dismiss the case; hold a trial and impose punishment – confiscating property, imposing a fine, authorizing detention, imprisonment, or the death penalty; send the case to appeals.

4. The penalty stage depends on the judgement. Capital punishment is by lethal injection. On certain auspicious occasions, such as the King's birthday, some prisoners may be pardoned or their sentences may be reduced.

⁹⁷ The Lawyer's Council of Thailand. 7/89 Mansion 10, Rajadamnoen Avenue, Pranakorn District, Bangkok 10200. Tel. (66) 2 629-1430, email: legalaid@lawyerscouncil.or.th. A 24-hour volunteer hotline at 02 282-9906 arranges for volunteer lawyers in criminal matters " and to get help in setting up a meeting to interrogate suspects". (Becker et al. (2008), p. 23)

The suspect or accused has the rights to have a lawyer present them in a criminal matter, and to meet and consult with his lawyer in private; if not a Thai speaker, to have an interpreter provided; to have a lawyer present during the investigative stage; if in custody to receive visitation; to be treated if sick; following a written request, to post bail himself or by friends, relatives, his lawyer, or a bailman.

Bail

Minimum amounts of bail for various cases found on various websites from the Court of Justice and the Thai Police Department, which may be subject to change: ⁹⁸

- Life and bodily injury:
 - Murder – from 300,000 baht.
 - Attempted murder – from 200,000 baht.
 - Careless driving causing death – from 200,000 baht (personal vehicle), from 250,000 baht (commercial vehicle)
 - Serious bodily injury harm – from 150,000 baht.

- Danger to the public:
 - Arson – from 100,000 baht.
 - Carelessly causing fire – from 100,000 baht.
 - Perjury or using or producing false documents – from 100,000 baht.

- Property offences:
 - Receiving stolen property – from 100,000 baht.
 - Theft – from 100,000 baht.
 - Theft and use of a vehicle in the commission of a crime or use of when causing serious crime – from 150,000 baht.
 - Snatching property – from 150,000 baht.
 - Extortion – from 100,000 baht.
 - Robbery – from 200,000 baht.
 - Gang robbery – from 300,000 baht.
 - Cheating and fraud, cheating a lender, or embezzlement – from 100,000 baht.
 - Cheating the public – from 200,000 baht.

⁹⁸ Becker et al. (2008), pp. 37-38.

- Trespassing or causing property damage – from 100,000 baht.
- Government officials:
 - Misconduct or inappropriate action – from 150,000 baht.
 - Perjury or making false declaration – from 100,000 baht.
- Use of firearms:
 - Carrying firearms without registration – from 100,000 baht.
 - Carrying firearms with registration – from 50,000 baht.
- Sexual offences:
 - Rape and indecent assault – from 200,000 baht.
 - Obscenity or pornography – from 200,000 baht.
 - Having sex with minors, molestation of women, or pimping – from 200,000 baht.
- Trespassing on forest land or causing harm to animals in the forest:
 - Up to 10 *rai* (5 acres) – from 100,000 baht.
 - More than 10 *rai* – from 150,000 baht.
- Narcotics offences:
 - Possession of marijuana – from 10,000 baht.
 - Sale of marijuana – from 200,000 baht.
 - Possession of heroin or methamphetamine – from 100,000 baht.
 - Sale of heroin or methamphetamine – from 300,000 baht.

Release on a promise by the defendant to appear in court may be ordered without bail for less serious cases including fights, defamation, extortion, or petty theft.

Asian Human Rights Commission

The Asian Human Rights Commission published a statement posted on the internet 2006-10-20; excerpts are reprinted in part below:⁹⁹

"An October 17 [2006] article in the *Bangkok Post* reported that the Ministry of Justice there has to pay hundreds of millions of Thai Baht in compensation to people who have been wrongfully prosecuted for crimes they did not commit."

"Among the wrongful serious criminal charges, while a certain number may simply be due to careless police work, others will have been deliberately concocted against innocent people, in exchange for cash or other favors. The police in Thailand are almost universally recognized as thoroughly corrupt and frequent users of torture and other means to extract confessions and falsify material evidence. They also have strong links with the crime world. Under these circumstances, it is not sufficient to urge investigators to check the facts before submitting a case. This may simply lead to more sophisticated falsification of evidence, particularly where the charges are serious, as in the cases demanding compensation from the government. The real issues go to the nature of justice and society in Thailand. Is the level of criminal intimidation in the society so high that the guilty persons cannot be prosecuted and innocent ones used instead? Are the police so heavily influenced by criminals that they will sooner falsify cases than seek to locate and charge the culprits? How can these deep institutional and social problems be addressed?"

"The head of the Department of Rights and Liberties Protection has urged criminal investigators to get proof before arresting suspects, because his department has to pay out 250 million Thai Baht (USD 6.7 million) for 2890 cases of false charges from last year alone. As its entire annual budget is only 420 million Thai Baht (USD 11 million), it will spread the payments over two years, leaving the question hanging as to where the money will come from to pay those persons who claim

⁹⁹ Asian Human Rights Commission – Statement. "Thailand: False criminal cases much more than a problem of money" online at <http://www.ahrchk.net/statements/mainfile.php/2006statements/788/>

compensation this year. The director, Charnchao Chaiyanukij, was quoted as saying that,

'I would like to call on state officials involved in investigating the cases to collect clear evidence before making arrests, because wrongfully charged people, to whom the government has to pay compensation, account for more than 30 per cent of the cases deliberated.' "

Thailand's Prisoner Statistics – for the year 2006

Status:

Convicted prisoners	108,610
Pending appeal	21,088
Awaiting investigation	11,450
Awaiting trial	10,060
Others	378

Offences:

Narcotics	60%
Property	19%
Life (murder, attempted murder)	9%
Sex	5%
Bodily harm	3%

Penalties:

Under 5 years	51,523
5 - 20 years	41,993
20 - 50 years	12,131
Life imprisonment	2,869
Death penalty	94

Source: Ministry of Justice, Department of Corrections for the year 2006.¹⁰⁰

¹⁰⁰ Becker et al. (2008), p. 109.

Nationality Law

Article 15 of the United Nations' *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* of 1948, adopted by Thailand in 1948, provides in Article 15 that (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality, (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

In principle, nationality law follows either *jus soli* (the law of land) or *jus sanguinis* (the law of the blood), or on a combination of the two. *Jus soli* is the principle in which a child born in a country's territorial jurisdiction acquires that country's nationality. Examples are the US, Canada, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, France and its overseas dependencies. Under *jus sanguinis*, nationality is passed on through the blood line, either the father or mother must normally be a citizen of a country in order for the child to be a citizen by birth. Examples are Germany, Switzerland.

In the U.S., the term *national* usually means someone who has U.S. nationality, but not U.S. citizenship, by virtue of living in a U.S. territory. Residents of American Samoa and Swains Island are considered U.S. nationals; Congress has granted full citizenship to residents of the remaining territories. U.S. nationals have the same rights to enter, live, and work in the U.S. as citizens; voting rights are the only major difference. Legally, however (and in the broader sense), U.S. citizens are also U.S. nationals; United States passports issued to nationals bears an endorsement stating that the holder is a U.S. national but not a citizen.¹⁰¹

A child born to a mother and father who are both Thai citizens is automatically Thai, whether born inside or outside Thailand. Citizenship of others depend on the immigration status (whether legal or illegal).¹⁰² The Thai Consulate General in Vancouver, BC, Canada provides the following table online:¹⁰³

¹⁰¹ Wikipedia. "Nationality Law".

¹⁰² Becker et al. (2008), p. 55.

¹⁰³ *Royal Thai Consulate General, Vancouver. "Thai Citizenship Information"*.

Born within the Territory of the Kingdom of Thailand

Case	Nationality of Father	Nationality of Mother	Matrimony Status	Thai Nationality
1	Thai	Thai	Registered	Yes
2	Thai	Thai	No	Yes
3	Thai	Legal Alien	Registered	Yes
4	Thai	Legal Alien	No	Yes
5	Thai	Illegal Alien	Registered	Yes
6	Thai	Illegal Alien	No	Yes
7	Legal Alien	Thai	Registered	Yes
8	Legal Alien	Thai	No	Yes
9	Illegal Alien	Thai	Registered	Yes
10	Illegal Alien	Thai	No	Yes
11	Legal Alien	Legal Alien	Registered	Yes
12	Legal Alien	Legal Alien	No	Yes
13	Legal Alien	Illegal Alien	Registered	No
14	Legal Alien	Illegal Alien	No	No
15	Illegal Alien	Legal Alien	Registered	No
16	Illegal Alien	Legal Alien	No	No
17	Illegal Alien	Illegal Alien	Registered	No
18	Illegal Alien	Illegal Alien	No	No

Born outside the Territory of the Kingdom of Thailand

Case	Nationality of Father	Nationality of Mother	Matrimony Status	Thai Nationality
1	Thai	Thai	Registered	Yes
2	Thai	Thai	No	Yes
3	Thai	Other Nationality	Registered	Yes
4	Thai	Other Nationality	No	No
5	Other Nationality	Thai	Registered	Yes
6	Other Nationality	Thai	No	Yes

"Naturalization" (to become a citizen of Thailand) is a complex matter and beyond the scope of this publication.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁴ See The Nation. Thai-Visa Forum. "Story of My Thai Citizenship" and Thai Visa "Acquitting Thai Citizenship" (links listed in the Bibliography).

Residency (Residence permit)¹⁰⁵

It allows the holder to live permanently in Thailand, with no requirement to apply for an extension of temporary stay. An alien registration book will be issued, which is the equivalent of the ID card held by Thais, and the permanent resident can have his/her name included on a house registration document. While work permits are still required if working, but it is an easier process. When buying a condominium, funds do not need to be from abroad. A permanent resident may become a director of a public company; and apply for an extension of stay or permanent residence for non-Thai family members. There is a quota of not more than 100 persons per annum per country.

Personal qualifications:

- i. Investment category (min. 3 -1 0 million baht investment in Thailand); or
- ii. working/business category; or
- iii. support a family or humanitarian reasons category (legal husband or wife; legal father or mother; child who is under 20 years of age up to the submission date of application and must be single);
or
- iv. expert/academics category; or
- v. other category.

Applications are usually taken from October to the end of December. The results are normally announced in May and the residence permits will be issued in December.

An applicant must have held a non-immigrant visa for at least of three un-broken years prior to application for permanent residency and hold a non-immigrant visa at the time of submitting an application. The current fee is 7,600 baht.

The documents required depend on the category under which the application is made.

Approval of a residence permit (payable on receipt of residence book) :

191,400 baht

¹⁰⁵ Thai Visa. "Residency (Resident permit) as of 2006-12-22

Approval of a residence permit (payable on receipt of residence book)

Approval of a residence permit (payable on receipt of residence book) for a foreigner married to a Thai, the spouse of a resident, and any of their children who have not reached the status of a Thai juristic person (i.e., unmarried children aged below 20 years)

95,700 baht

Upon issue of a residence book, the foreign resident must register the place of residence in Thailand at the local Amphur Office and obtain a house card. Within seven days after receipt of the residence certificate application for an alien book (red book) must be made at the local police station, to re-register every year and pay the fee of 200 Baht (and report every five years for a stamp in the book).

The residency permit does not expire but may be revoked. A re-entry permit is required on leaving the country for a fee of 1,000 baht for a multiple.

An alien with permanent residency status will be eligible to apply for Thai citizenship after 5 consecutive years under this classification.

Dual Nationality and/or Citizenship

Travelers on dual passports, for example Thai and UK, advise to leave and arrive Thailand on their Thai passport, and arrive and leave the UK on their UK passport, "changing passports in the air," presenting both passports (the Thai and the UK) ONLY to the airline at the time of check-in to satisfy the airline that the traveler does not need a visa for the destination country. The airlines are NOT concerned with the issue of dual nationality, but it is their duty see proof of permission to enter the destination country, so as to avoid having to fly the passenger back at their own expense if entry is refused.

Thai Immigration, on the other hand, is not concerned with foreign visas. Their duty is to check that the passenger is entitled to leave the country (or that foreigners have not overstayed the permitted time of their entry stamp or visa) taking back the Departure Card; or to take the Departure Card from Thai passport holders and stamp and return to them their Reentry Card by stapling it into the Thai passport.

Therefore, at Thai Immigration's exit control, only the Thai passport ought to be presented along with the airline's boarding pass.

On arrival in the foreign country, the foreign passport is presented, or that passport which does not require a visa (Thais travelling to a ASEAN country such as Cambodia, Vietnam or Laos, etc.

The reverse procedure is followed on return, leaving the UK on the UK passport, and arriving in Bangkok on the Thai passport.

Thai customs may not even appreciate it, and in fact may well be confused, if both the Thai and the foreign passports, which may delay departure or arrival, whichever the case may be, are investigated.

To repeat:¹⁰⁶

"Thai immigration does not ask to see proof of your right to enter the country of destination. That is the airline's job.

1. Airline check-in in UK: show UK and Thai passports.
2. Immigration counter on departure from UK: show UK passport.
3. Immigration counter on arrival in Thailand: show Thai passport.
4. Airline check-in in Thailand: show Thai and UK passports.
5. Immigration counter on departure from Thailand: show Thai passport.
6. Immigration counter on arrival in UK: show UK passport.

The important thing regarding immigration is to always use the same passport for entering and leaving a particular country."

¹⁰⁶ The Nation. Thai Visa Forum, tatt 2008-11-13

Decision at the age of twenty years

Thailand citizenship is governed by the *Nationality Act B.E. 2508 as amended by Acts B.E. 2535 No. 2 and 3 (1992)* and Interior Ministerial Regulations (see Appendix C). According to section 14, it appears that a Thai child who acquires the foreign nationality of his/her father and desires to retain that foreign nationality, is required to make a declaration within one year after attaining the age of 20 years of his/her intention to renounce his/her Thai nationality.¹⁰⁷

Section 14

A person of Thai nationality, who was born of an alien father and has acquired the nationality of his father according to the law on nationality of his father, or a person who acquires Thai nationality under Section 12 paragraph 2 is required, if he desires to retain his other nationality, to make a declaration of his intention to renounce his Thai nationality within one year after his attaining the age of twenty years, according to such form and in the manner as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

If, after consideration of the said intention, the Minister is of opinion that there is reasonable ground to believe that such person may acquire the nationality of his father or a foreign nationality, he shall grant permission, except in cases where Thailand is being engaged in armed conflict, or is in state of war, he may order the dispensation of any renunciation of Thai nationality.

There appear to be no penalty provision in the Act (the Ministerial Regulations have not been consulted), if a person upon attaining the age of 20 fails to comply with section 14.

There may be constitutional issues concerning gender discrimination of the parents, and given the international trend of

¹⁰⁷ "I think that these days the only issue for a Thai who is a male is [that he is] subject to the national [military] service lottery at age 20 (I think). This can be waived if what we might call ROTC courses are taken in High School, otherwise at some point he will be required to furnish the document showing he participated in the lottery." (*Thaihome Nan* at <http://teakdoor.com/doing-things-legally/21323-dual-nationality.html>)

allowing dual citizenship, in particular if acquired by birth, the Nationality Act is prone to change and amendment.

It is beyond the scope of this publication to discuss the often complex questions of loss of original non-Thai nationality. The new trend appears to be more liberal, as for example with the United States that has a uniform administrative standard of evidence based on the premise that U.S. citizens intend to retain United States citizenship when they obtain naturalization in a foreign state. ("U.S. Dual Citizenship" see Appendix B.)

Marriage in Thailand

Marriages in Thailand among locals are almost exclusively unregistered. The number of couples who registered their marriages as husband and wife at government registration offices across the country has fallen from 7/1,000 in 1994 to 5/1,000 (five per one thousand) in 2003. "The largest decline in registered marriages was in the country's northeastern region... The statistics may show a decline in the belief of the institution of marriage and in traditional family values." "There is no statistical data available on the rate of infidelity or the separation of families, which is relatively high."¹⁰⁸

"These days more Thai women are becoming autonomous economically and to a greater extent are more independent. They have additional sources of emotional support and a determination to divorce and abusive husband and live on their own. The divorce rate in Thailand has been growing steadily and women are now re-marrying more often than staying single."

The wedding ceremony followed for the unregistered marriages is the same as for those who register themselves "at the amphur", the mayor's office, and is described in the chapter "Thai Habits and Customs".

¹⁰⁸ Becker et al. (2008, p. 74.

Prenuptial Agreement

According to Becker et al. (2008), a prenuptial agreement is a new concept in Thailand.¹⁰⁹ Thailand is a community property State, distinguishing between personal property brought into the marriage, and common property (community property) acquired during the marriage. Upon divorce, only common property is subject to division, normally fifty/fifty. If the couple reside in Thailand, the document is best drawn up in Thai, and if drawn up in another language, it may be prudent to provide a Thai translation for the Thai spouse together with proper legal representation to avoid a later challenge claiming lack of representation and/or misunderstanding.

"You should still have documented proof that your future spouse understands the contents of the agreement before signing it, even if it is in Thai. This could mean getting witness statements attesting that the spouse read, indicated understanding, and agreed to the document before signing it. To be valid, Thai law requires two witnesses to sign the prenuptial agreement."

"Under Thai law, you may be able to specify the properties involved and categorize them as common property and personal property. You may also specify how finances will be managed during the course of your marriage."¹¹⁰

Marriage Registration

- Foreigner obtains a certificate from his/her embassy, which may be in the form of a sworn affidavit, attesting to the effect that there are no obstacles to the marriage (eg., single/divorced and free to marry).¹¹¹
- Thai translation of the above.
- The Thai translation is legalized by the Legalization Division of the Consular Affairs Department at 123 Chaengwattana Road,

¹⁰⁹ Becker et al. (2008), p. 62.

¹¹⁰ Becker et al. (2008), p. 62-63.

¹¹¹ See *Siam Legal* online at http://www.siam-legal.com/Thailand_Service/thailand-marriage-laws.php

Laksi, Bangkok 10210, who authenticate the consular signature and stamp.

- The Amphur's of Ban Lamung (Pattaya) or Bumkum (Bangkok) are equipped to formalize the marriage, and other amphurs based on inquiry (see Siam Legal's website in the footnote). Two witnesses are required, and, depending on the officer's inclinations, a translator ought to accompany the foreigner, requiring submission of the following additional information:

- if the woman is a widow or a divorcee, the dissolution of the former marriage must have taken place at least 310 days before the new marriage, in order to avoid issues of pregnancy, unless a medical certificate is presented to the effect that she is not pregnant, which is not available if (a) a child has been born during that period, (b) the divorced couple intend to remarry, or (c) a court order disallows the woman to remarry.

- the applicants' occupations and income (this may or may not be requested)

- alimony payments and outstanding private debts, if any

- names and addresses of two contact persons residing in the applicants' area

- two witnesses

- an original valid passport, or official Thai ID

- if the Thai spouse is between the lawfully marriagable age of 17 but less than 20 years of age (age of majority), parental consent must be provided, which can be done having the parents serve as the two required witnesses.

A foreign marriage does not have any effect on the legal status of the Thai spouse in Thailand, and s/he will still be considered single, which may be an advantage for a Thai woman, since her legal rights in Thailand will be uneffected, and she will still have the title "Miss". To validate the foreign marriag in Thailand, it needs to be registered with a Thai embassy or consulate in the foreign country.¹¹²

Registration of the foreign marriage at the Thai embassy or consulate takes the following steps:

- One of the parties must be a Thai citizen

¹¹² Becker et al. (2008), p. 65.

- The two parties to the marriage appear in person to register
- Thai citizen's ID card or valid Thai passport and valid passport of the foreign party are presented along with a photocopy of each
- the original divorce certificate or court order (if applicable)
- certificate of name change (if applicable)
- pregnancy test (if requested)
- acceptable proof of parental consent, if one or both of the parties is/are of marriageable age (17 years) but below the age of majority (20 years) – which is not an infrequent occurrence for Thai ladies.

There is, or used to be, an issue surrounding Thai land ownership for a Thai woman (not a Thai man) lawfully married to a foreigner. It used to be that a Thai woman was restricted from acquiring land while married to a foreigner, however, in practice the land department requires the foreign husband to sign a waiver to the effect that the acquired will be personal property of the Thai wife, and not common property.

From time to time, the Royal Thai government announces a "crack down" on circumvented land ownership by foreigners through their spouses by stating that the real property acquisitions will be voided on examination, unless the Thai wife shows that she used her own and not her husband's funds for the acquisition. Then, nothing further is published, putting the matter to an apparent rest because its enforcement would not be in the public interest and the property markets, particularly in such popular places where foreigners congregate, including Pattaya and Phuket which would hardly exist without them.

Americans marrying Thai

Americans marrying a Thai spouse in Thailand on the assumption that the subsequent visa application will receive preferential treatment, whereas in fact quite the opposite is the case.

"The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok refused Chompoo a visitor's visa by reason that she was now married and would not return to Thailand, overstaying her visitor's status in America. The poor man [groom] had made the wrong application, I told him. 'Had you not married in Thailand first, but asked for a fiancée visa in order to marry Chompoo in the United States, the visa would have been granted, no problem.' The outcome would have been the same, but the convoluted and perverse rules didn't see it that way." 113

The above case involved the United States, and a case involving a Canadian woman and her Nepalese husband at the Canadian Embassy in Bangkok was even more convoluted. A foreigner marrying a Thai spouse in Thailand runs the risk of returning home without her or him, which could have easily been avoided with a few inquiries at the Thai Embassy and the foreign embassy in Bangkok.

A Thai spouse of independent means (supported by proof of land ownership, employment, bank deposits) ordinarily will be not be refused a visitor's visa by the US, Canadian, and any of the European embassies. It is a different story for the local ladies and gentlemen of the entertainment industry, and the embassy staff's scrutiny may even protect the inexperienced and unscrupulous foreigner from being entrapped.

Children

Children born to Thais receive the last name of their father, whether the parents are lawfully married, common law, or not at all. Upon divorce, custody of girls is normally awarded to their father, while custody of boys is awarded to their mother on the rationale, that a girl awarded to her mother is more likely to be sexually abused by her stepfather.

¹¹³ Schemmann, Michael. 2004. "Lady of Pattaya." Chapter 8. Nakhon Ratchasima: ThaiSunset Publications.

Divorce in Thailand

Divorce Registration by Mutual Consent

Both parties appear at the registration office in person, or at the embassy or consulate, where the marriage was registered, complete and sign several forms, cosigned by two witnesses, and in about one hour's time they are divorced. Documents required: Original marriage certificates, a divorce contract dividing the property, resolving support issues, child custody and visitation rights, if any, the foreigner's passport and Thai spouse's national ID card. The registrar will ask questions regarding the settlement of assets and liabilities, the children's living arrangements, child support, alimony, and such other matters. The divorce certificate issued contains the details of the conditions of divorce. The fee is minimal.¹¹⁴

Divorce by Court Order

If one party will not agree to a divorce by mutual consent then you need to file with the courts for a divorce. In order to proceed with a divorce in this instance you will need to assert grounds for divorce and make personal appearance in court. Grounds for divorce in Thailand include the following circumstances:¹¹⁵

1. a 3-year period of separation
2. One spouse has deserted the other for over one year
3. The husband has taken another woman as his wife
4. The wife has committed adultery
5. One spouse is guilty of misconduct (criminal or otherwise)
6. One spouse has physically or mentally harmed the other
7. Lack of Maintenance and Support
8. One spouse has had incurable insanity for at least 3 years
9. One spouse has broken the bond of good behavior

¹¹⁴ Becker et al. (2008), p. 75.

¹¹⁵ Siam-Legal. "Divorce. Divorce in Thailand" online at http://www.siam-legal.com/legal_services/thailand-divorce.php?gclid=CKuJxNL58aACFQJB6wodhC3cHA

10. One spouse has an incurable, communicable and dangerous disease
11. One spouse has a physical disadvantage so as to be unable to cohabit as husband and wife.

For parties married outside of Thailand do not normally seek a divorce in Thai courts, although technically it is possible to file for divorce in Thailand, but only under certain circumstances, namely if the laws of the country of marriage do not conflict with the law in Thailand, the place(s) of residency, and the grounds for divorce.

Fraudulent Divorce

A fraudulent application by a spouse claiming abandonment, whereas in fact s/he has abandoned the other spouse, and the resulting *ex parte* court order allowing the registrar of marriages to register the divorce, is effective until challenged in criminal court and an on the basis of the criminal court's order apply for a rehearing of the case in the Family and Juvenile Court.¹¹⁶

¹¹⁶ Schemmann, Mchael. 2005. "Lady of Pattaya." "Foretelling Dream" describes a case in point of a divorce fraud and the lawyer's advice.

Visas

Thailand's immigration laws and regulations are complex, and as a result or for other reasons are not applied consistently and uniformly by the Embassies, Consulates and Immigration officers who are generally quite helpful.

Notice: At the end of September 2009, the Bangkok Immigration Bureau moved from Soi Suan Plu, off South Sathorn Road in Bangkok, and is now located ten kilometers north at the new Government Complex (except special labor of Laos, Cambodian and Myanmar nationalities service at old office):

**Bangkok Immigration,
Government Center Chaengwattana Building B , No. 120 ,
Moo 3 , Chaengwattana Road , Tungsohong Sub-
District, Laksi District, Bangkok 10210
Tel: 0-2141-9889, Fax: 0-2143-8228.**

Summary

Basic Information Normally tourists from most countries receive a 30-day tourist stamp in their passport on arrival in Thailand by air (15 days by land) . This can be extended up to 15 days (7 days) at the immigration office for a fee of 1900 baht. When the extension expires, the tourist must leave Thailand. The over-stay penalty is 500 baht/per up to a maximum of 20,000 baht .

Tourist Visa

Tourist Visa at the Thai embassy or consulate-general are easy to get and you will normally be granted for a 60-day stay which can be extended for another 30 days at the immigration office for

1900 baht, thus 90 days in total. Tourists can also ask for a double entry visa to enter Thailand two times and stay in Thailand up to 6 months by cross a border and re-entering after 3 months to stay another 3 months.

Business Visa (Non Immigrant B)

Individuals who wish to work in Thailand enter with a Non Immigrant "B" Visa obtained in their home country with a letter of employment and other documents in support from the employer in Thailand, which is initially issued for 3 months if this is first time working in Thailand, which is eventually extended in Thailand to a one-year visa, provided a work permit has been obtained in Thailand following the initial 90-days Non-B visa.. Special treatment is obtained for applicants who come under Board of Investment approved projects.

Married to a Thai citizen (Non Immigrant O) If the applicant is married to a Thai lady/man and can show proof of your marriage, a 1-year Non-O Visa can be issued by a Thai Embassy or Consulate-General, or by way of change of status by the Bangkok Immigration Bureau on Chang Wattana Road (see Notice above).

Criteria's for retirement visa

Retiree obtains a for a 90-day Non-Immigrant visa from a Thai Embassy or Consulate-General abroad. The remainder of the formalities including 1-year at a time extensions can be completed on arrival in Thailand (see details below).

Requirements:

1. Application form T.M.7 completed
2. Passport plus copy of passport or substitute document.
3. One 4 x 6 cm photo.
4. 500 baht fee.
5. Proof of financial status or pension.

6. Proof of a sum of 800,000 baht in a Thai bank OR an income of not less than 65,000 baht per month must be presented - OR a combination of balance in the bank and a monthly income. Example: 400,000 Baht in the bank and 32,500 Baht coming in every month.
7. If the alien is ill, or of poor health and is sensitive to colder climates or has resided in Thailand for a long period, and is 50-59 years old, special consideration may be given.. For info try Tel: (02) 287-3905 or 287-3101-10 (ext 2259-61).

Retirees who are married to a foreigner, e.g. British man lawfully married (common law does not suffice) to, say a Filipina, can apply for an "O" status non-immigrant visa under normal criteria of 800,000 baht or 65,000 baht income each month (or a combination thereof).

Thailand's visa and immigrations rules and regulations are constantly changing and the most accurate advice would be straight from the horse's mouth: the Royal Thai government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs website in English at www.mfa.go.th. The proper link is "Visas and Travel Documents". The following information has been compiled from the MFA's website, edited for clarity, and is passed on for the reader's benefit bearing in mind the Disclaimer above.

Further Contents:

Tourist Visa Exemptions

Visa on Arrival

Visas issued:

1. General information
2. Types of Visa
3. Issuance of Visa

4. Tourist Visa Exemption
5. Visa on Arrival
6. Non-Immigrant Visa "B" (for Business and Work)
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9. List of countries which are declared Yellow Fever infected Areas
10. List of countries which have concluded Agreements on the Exemption of Visa Requirements with Thailand
11. List of countries which have concluded bilateral agreements on visa fee exemption with Thailand
12. Summary of countries and territories entitled for Visa Exemption and Visa on Arrival
13. Questions & Answers on Thai Visa
14. Information on Visa Exemption for Thai passport holders
Travel Documents issued:
 1. Issuance of Travel Document for Aliens (TD)
 2. Issuance of Emergency Certificate (EC)

Tourist Visa Exemptions

- Please note that Tourist Visa Exemption does not apply to foreigners holding Travel Document for Aliens issued by these countries.
 - Foreigners entering Thailand under the Tourist Visa Exemption category must possess adequate finances for the duration of stay in Thailand (i.e., cash 10,000 Baht per person and 20,000 Baht per family).
1. Australia : Commonwealth of Australia
 2. Austria : Republic of Austria
 3. Belgium : Kingdom of Belgium
 4. Brazil : Federative Republic of Brazil (****)
 5. Bahrain : State of Bahrain
 6. Brunei Darussalam : Negara Brunei Darussalam
 7. Canada
 8. Denmark : Kingdom of Denmark
 9. Finland : Republic of Finland

10. France : French Republic
11. Germany : Federal Republic of Germany
12. Greece : Hellenic Republic
13. Hong Kong : Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
14. Iceland : Republic of Iceland
15. Indonesia : Republic of Indonesia
16. Ireland : Republic of Ireland
17. Israel : State of Israel
18. Italy : Republic of Italy
19. Japan
20. Korea : Republic of Korea (****)
21. Kuwait : State of Kuwait
22. Luxembourg : Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
23. Malaysia
24. Monaco : Principality of Monaco
25. Netherlands : Kingdom of the Netherlands
26. New Zealand
27. Norway : Kingdom of Norway
28. Oman : Sultanate of Oman
29. Peru : Republic of Peru (****)
30. Philippines : Republic of the Philippines
31. Portugal : Republic of Portugal
32. Qatar : State of Qatar
33. Singapore : Republic of Singapore
34. Spain : Kingdom of Spain
35. South Africa : Republic of South Africa
36. Sweden : Kingdom of Sweden
37. Switzerland : Swiss Confederation
38. Turkey : Republic of Turkey
39. United Arab Emirates
40. United Kingdom : United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
41. United States of America
42. Vietnam : Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Visa on Arrival

- According to the Interior Ministerial Announcements, passport holders from 21 countries and territories may apply for visas at

the immigration checkpoints for the purpose of tourism for the period of not exceeding 15 days.

- The applicant must possess means of living expenses at the amount of 10,000 Baht per person and 20,000 Baht per family accordingly.
- The applicant must possess a passport with at least six-month validity and must present full paid ticket which is usable within 15 days since the date of entry
- Visa on arrival is provided at 24 designated international checkpoints and applicants should submit the application form duly filled out and to which his/her recent photograph (4 x 6 cm) is attached. The application fee is 1,000 Baht.
- Visitors who enter the Kingdom with Visa on Arrival generally cannot file an application for extension of stay except in special cases such as illness which prevents them from traveling, etc. They can submit an application at the Office of Immigration Bureau , Immigration Division 1, Soi Suan Plu, South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120. Tel. 02 287-3127 or 02 287-3101-10 ext. 2264-5 or at website <http://www.immigration.go.th>

List of countries and territories is as follows :

1. Bhutan : Kingdom of Bhutan
2. China : People's Republic of China
3. Cyprus : Republic of Cyprus
4. Czech : Czech Republic
5. Estonia : Republic of Estonia
6. Hungary : Republic of Hungary
7. India : Republic of India
8. Kazakhstan : Republic of Kazakhstan
9. Latvia : Republic of Latvia
10. Liechtenstein : Principality of Liechtenstein
11. Lithuania : Republic of Lithuania
12. Maldives : Republic of Maldives
13. Mauritius : Republic of Mauritius
14. Oman : Sultanate of Oman
15. Poland : Republic of Poland
16. Russian Federation
17. Saudi Arabia : Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
18. Slovakia : Slovak Republic

19. Slovenia : Republic of Slovenia
20. Taiwan
21. Ukraine

List of Thailand's Immigration Checkpoints which provide facilities for issuance of visas on arrival :

1. Suvarnabhumi Airport
2. Don Muang International Airport , Bangkok
3. Chiangmai International Airport , Chiangmai
4. Phuket International Airport , Phuket
5. Hatyai International Airport , Songkhla
6. U Tapao Airport , Rayong
7. Mae Sai Immigration Checkpoint , Chiengrai
8. Chieng Saen Immigration Checkpoint , Chiengrai
9. Chieng Khong Immigration Checkpoint , Chiengrai
10. Betong Immigration Checkpoint , Yala
11. Sadoa Immigration Checkpoint , Songkhla
12. Samui Airport , Surat Thani
13. Sukhothai International Airport, Tak Immigration Checkpoint
14. Bangkok Harbour Immigration Checkpoint, Bangkok
15. Sri Racha Immigration Checkpoint , Chonburi
16. Mabtaput Immigration Checkpoint , Rayong
17. Nong Khai Immigration Checkpoint, Nong Khai
18. Samui Immigration Checkpoint , Surat Thani
19. Phuket Immigration Checkpoint , Phuket
20. Satun Immigration Checkpoint , Satun
21. Krabi Immigration Checkpoint , Krabi
22. Songkhla Harbour Immigraion Checkpoint , Songkhla
23. Chiangrai Airport Immigration Checkpoint, Chiangrai
24. Surat Thani Airport Immigration Checkpoint , Surat Thani

Visas – General Information

1. In generally, a foreigner wishing to enter Thailand should obtain a visa from a Thai Embassy or a Thai Consulate-General abroad. Nationals of certain countries listed above do not require a visa if they meet the following exemption requirements:

(1) the individuals are nationals of countries listed above which are exempted from visa requirements when entering Thailand for purposes of tourism, and are permitted to stay in the Kingdom for a period not exceeding 30 days. (See "Tourist Visa Exemptions" above.)

(2) the individuals are nationals of countries which hold bilateral agreements with Thailand on the exemption of visa requirements. Individuals within this category are permitted to enter and stay in Thailand for a period not exceeding 15 days. (See "Visa on Arrival" above).

3. Individuals traveling from/through countries which have been declared Yellow Fever Infected Areas must acquire an International Health Certificate verifying the receipt of a Yellow Fever vaccination.

4. Nationals of certain countries are required to apply for a visa only at the Royal Thai Embassy or the Royal Thai Consulate-General in the applicant's country of residence, or at the Royal Thai Embassy which has jurisdiction over his or her country of residence. Travelers are advised to inquire about authorized office for visa issuance at any Royal Thai Embassy or Royal Thai Consulate-General before departure. Contact details and locations of Royal Thai Embassies and Royal Thai Consulates-General are available at www.mfa.go.th/web/10.php.

5. To apply for a visa, a foreigner must possess a valid passport or travel document that is recognized by Thailand and comply with the conditions set forth in the Immigration Act of Thailand B.E.2522 (1979) and regulations. In addition, the visa applicant must be outside of Thailand at the time of application.

6. In general, applicants should apply for the visa in person. However, Thai Embassies and Consulates-General in some countries and in some cases may accept applications sent through representatives, authorized travel agencies or by post.

7. The period of visa validity is different from the period of stay. Visa validity is the period during which a visa can be used to enter Thailand. In general, the validity of a visa is 3 months, but in some cases, visas may be issued to be valid for 6 months, 1 year or 3 years. The validity of a visa is granted within the discretion of the Thai Embassy or Consulate-General and is entered on the visa sticker.

8. On arrival in Thailand, the maximum period of stay is granted by an immigration officer and entered on the arrival stamp. Travelers who wish to stay longer than such period may apply for extension of stay at the main Immigration Bureau in Bangkok, Chaengwattana Road, Bangkok ¹¹⁷ or at an Immigration office located in the provinces.

9. Foreigners entering Thailand are not permitted to work, regardless of their types of visa, unless they are granted a work permit. Not every type of visa is eligible for a work permit. Non-immigrant "B" (for business) is the normal one, but even non-immigrant "O" qualify, according to personal information from the Bangkok Immigration Bureau. Further information may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labor. Their website is only in Thai at <http://www.doe.go.th/> without an English version.

10. Thai Embassies and Consulates-General have the authority to issue visas to foreigners for entry into Thailand. The authority to permit entry and stay in Thailand, however, is with the immigration officers (a "dual-check system" similar to that of the U.S.). In some cases, the immigration officer may not permit a foreigner holding a valid visa entry into Thailand, if the immigration officer has reason to believe that the foreigners is an aliens prohibited from entering Thailand under the Immigration Act B.E. 2522 (1979).

¹¹⁷ Government Center Chaengwattana Building B , No. 120 , Moo 3 ,
Chaengwattana Road , Tungsonghong Sub-District, Laksi District, Bangkok
10210 Tel 0-2141-9889, Fax 0-2143-8228

11. According to the Immigration Act of Thailand B.E. 2522 (1979), foreigners who fall into any of the following categories are prohibited to enter Thailand:¹¹⁸

(1) Not a genuine valid passport or document used in lieu of passport; or having a genuine valid passport or document used in lieu of passport without valid visa issuance by a Thai Embassy, Thai Consulate-General, or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with exception of those who meet visa exemption requirements.

(2) Insufficient means of living following entry.

(3) Entering to be employed as an unskilled or untrained laborer, or to work in violation of the Alien Work Permit Law.

(4) Mentally instability or carrying a disease listed in the Ministerial Regulations (e.g., a) leprosy, b) contagious

¹¹⁸ Section 12 of the Immigration Act for the Kingdom of Thailand describes the characteristics of Aliens that are or may be prohibited from entering the Kingdom and are outlined as those:

- 1) Having no legal passport or having a passport but no visa.
- 2) Having no means of sustenance for entry into the Kingdom.
- 3) Entry into the Kingdom for occupation as a laborer.
- 4) Unsound mind or illness from the following diseases: a) leprosy, b) contagious tuberculosis, c) elephantiasis, d) addicted to drugs, e) alcoholism, f) stage 3 syphilis.
- 5) Never vaccinated for smallpox or contagious diseases as prescribed by the regulations of the Ministry and not allowing a doctor screening immigrants to diagnosis the disease.
- 6) Having been convicted by judgment of a Thai court or a foreign court and imprisoned, except for petty offenses or offenses committed by negligence.
- 7) Conducting himself in such a way as to be credible to believe that the person would be harmful to society or may disturb the peace or the security of citizens or the security of the Kingdom or a person with a warrant of arrest issued by a government official of a foreign country.
- 8) Conducting himself in such a way as to be credible to believe entry into the Kingdom would be for purposes of prostitution, trafficking women or children, narcotics trafficking, smuggling for tax evasion purposes or doing business conflicting with peace and order or morality.
- 9) Having no money on his person.
- 10) Having been exiled by the Thai government or government of a foreign country or whose habitation rights in the Kingdom or in foreign countries have already been revoked or sent out of Thailand by a government official. (Thailand Law Forum. "Thailand Legal News".)

tuberculosis, c) elephantiasis, d) addicted to drugs, e) alcoholism, f) stage 3 syphilis).

(5) No vaccination against smallpox; or inoculated, or undergone any other medical treatment for protection against disease; and having refused to have such vaccinations administered by the Immigration Doctor.

(6) Prior imprisoned by judgment of the Thai Court; or by lawful injunction or judgment of a foreign court, except for petty offence, or negligence, or an exception according to the Ministerial Regulations.

(7) Exhibiting behavior which could cause possible danger to the public; or having the likelihood of being a nuisance or constituting any violence to the peace, safety and security of the public or to the security of the nation; or being under warrant of arrest by competent officials of foreign governments.

(8) Reason to believe that entry into Thailand is for the purpose of being involved in prostitution, the trafficking of women or children, drug smuggling, or other types of smuggling which are against public morality.

(9) Having no money or bond as prescribed by the Minister under Section 14 of the Immigration Act B.E. 2522 (1979) (Appendix D).

(10) Being a person prohibited by the Minister under Section 16 of the Immigration Act B.E. 2522 (1979) [the "Act" is in Appendix D].

(11) Being deported by either the Government of Thailand or that of other foreign countries; or having been revoked the right of stay in the Kingdom or in foreign countries; or having been expelled from the Kingdom by competent officials at the expense of the Government of Thailand unless exemption is provided by the Minister on an individual basis.

Types of visas described below

1. Transit Visa
2. Tourist Visa
3. Non-Immigrant Visa

Types of visas NOT described below

4. Diplomatic Visa
5. Official Visa
6. Courtesy Visa

1. Transit Visa

Description: This type of visa is issued to applicants who wish to enter the Kingdom for the following purposes:

- to participate in sports activities (sportsmen, sportswomen, etc.)(category "S" – Those who are scheduled to stay in the Kingdom longer than one month , Non-Immigrant Visa category “O” can be issued to them)
- the person in charge or crew of a conveyance coming to a port, station or area in the Kingdom (category "C").

Documents required:

- Passport or travel document valid not less than 6 months
- Completed visa application form
- Recent 4 x 6 cm photograph of the applicant
- Evidence of onward travel (confirmed and fully paid ticket) from Thailand
- Evidence of support (20,000 baht per person and 40,000 baht per family)
- Visa of a third country is a passport or travel document

Visa fee: 800 baht per entry (subject to change without notice)

Period of stay: Not exceeding 30 days.

Extension of stay: File application at Bangkok Visa Bureau on Chang Wattana Road (address and numbers at the beginning of this Chapter), including for change of status, if needed, at the discretion of the Immigration officer.

Additional requirements: Nationals of certain countries need to apply for a transit visa at the Thai Embassy or Consulate-General in their home country.

2. Tourist Visa

Description: For purposes of tourism.

Documents required:

- Passport or travel document valid not less than 6 months
- Completed visa application form
- Recent 4 x 6 cm photograph of the applicant

- Evidence of onward travel (confirmed and fully paid ticket) from Thailand
- Evidence of support (20,000 baht per person and 40,000 baht per family)
- Consular officers may request additional documents deemed necessary.

Visa fee: 1,000 baht per entry (subject to change without notice).

Period of stay: On arrival not exceeding 30 or 60 days. Nationals of countries which are on Thailand's Tourist Visa Exemption list or have a bilateral agreements on visa exemption with Thailand (see table above) will be permitted to stay for a period of not exceeding 60 days. Nationals from other countries who hold a tourist visa will be permitted to stay in Thailand for a period of not exceeding 30 days.

Extension of stay: File application at Bangkok Visa Bureau on Chang Wattana Road (address and numbers at the beginning of this Chapter), including for change of status, if needed, at the discretion of the Immigration officer.

Additional requirements: Nationals of certain countries need to apply for a transit visa at the Thai Embassy or Consulate-General in their home country.

3. Non-immigrant Visa

Description: Issued for the following purposes

- to perform official duties (Category "F", known for short as "Non-F")
- to conduct business and/or work (Category "B", known for short as "Non-B")
- to invest with the concurrence of the Thai ministries and departments concerned (Category "IM", known for short as "Non-IM")
- to invest or perform other activities relating to investment subject to the provision of the established laws on investment (Category "IB", known for short as "Non-IB")
- to study, to come on a work study tour or observation tour, to participate in seminars, to attend a conference or training course,

to study as foreign Buddhist monk (Category "ED", known for short as "Non-ED")

- to work as a film-producer, journalist or reporter (Category "M", known for short as "Non-M")

- to perform missionary work or other religious activities with the concurrency of the Thai Ministries or Government Departments concerned (Category "R", known for short as "Non-R")

- to conduct scientific research or training or training in a research institute (Category "RS", known for short as "Non-RS")

- to undertake skilled work or to work as an expert or specialist (Category "EX", known for short as "Non-EX")

- other activities (Category "O", non for short as "Non-O") including: family reunion, to perform duties for the state enterprise or social welfare organizations, retirement for the elderly (50 years and over), to receive medical treatment, as a sport coach as required by Thai Government, to be a contestant or witness for the judicial process.

Documents required:

- Completed visa application form

- Passport or travel document with validity not less than 6 months (18 months required for one-year visa application)

- recent photograph 4 x 6 cm (taken within past 6 months)

- Evidence of support (20 baht per person and 40,000 baht per family)

- Certificate of marriage or equivalent ("O")

- Transcript letter of acceptance from the concerned schools/universities/institutes ("ED")

- Letter from Thailand's Board of Investment. ("IB")

- Official Note certifying the purpose of travel from the Government Agencies /Embassies and Consulates / International Organizations / State Enterprises in Thailand. ("F" / "B" / "ED" / "M" / "R") - letter of approval from the Ministry of Labor (To obtain this letter, the prospective employer in Thailand is required to submit Form WP3 at the Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labor Tel 02-2452745, 02-2453209 or at a Provincial Employment Office in the respective province.)("B")

- Letter from a company stating the objective of the visit to Thailand ("B")
- Document showing correspondence with trading partners in Thailand. ("B") - Letter of invitation from companies qualified to employ foreigners. ("B")
- Employment contract indicating rationale for employing the applicant as well as his/her salary, position and qualifications (document must be signed by authorized managing director and affixed the seal of the company) ("B")
- Copy of Work Permit issued by the Ministry of Labor (only in case the applicant has previously worked in the Kingdom) ("B")
- Copy of corporate documents; namely 1) list of shareholders 2) business registration and business license 3) company profile 4) details of business operation 5) list of foreign workers stating names, nationalities and positions 6) map indicating the location of the company 7) Balance sheet, statement of Income Tax and Business Tax (Por Ngor Dor 50 and Por Ngor Dor 30) of the latest year 8) Alien income tax return (Por Ngor Dor 91) and 9) Value-added tax registration (Por Ngor Dor 20) , etc. ("B")
- Copy of educational records of the applicant and letters of recommendation from the prior employers, identifying job description and length of service time. ("B")
- Document indicating the number of foreign tourists (for tourism business only) ,or document indicating export transactions issued by banks (for export business only)("B")

The document to be submitted for non-immigrant visa application is contingent upon necessities and appropriateness of purposes stated in the application form.

- Consular officers reserve the rights to request additional documents as deemed necessary.
- Copies of company documents must be signed by Board of Directors and affixed the seal of the company.
- In the absence of a required document, a letter explaining the unavailability of such document must be provided.
- The applicant must sign on each page of the copy.
- Documents in foreign languages must be translated into Thai. If translated into English, it should be notarized by notary organs or the applicant's diplomatic/consular mission.

Visa fee: 2,000 baht for single entry; 5,000 baht for multiple entries.

Validity of visa: 3 months (multiple could be valid for one year)

Period of stay: Initially granted for 90 days unless otherwise restricted by the Office of Immigration Bureau.

Extension: Those qualified persons can obtain an additional one year stay permit counting from the date of entry in the Kingdom pertaining to the Office of the Immigration Bureau's regulations on extension of stay. The extension of stay is at the discretion of the Immigration officer.

N.B. Applicants wishing to stay in the Kingdom longer than 90 days have to file their application either at the Thai consular mission abroad or at the Office of Immigration Bureau in Bangkok located on Soi Suan Plu, off South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120 , Tel 02 287-3101-10 (or website at (<http://www.immigration.go.th>)). The consular officer must refer the case to the Office of Immigration Bureau for approval. Upon receiving approval, the consular officer may issue the visa as instructed by the Bureau.

Additional requirements: Nationals of certain countries are required to apply for a visa only at the Thai Embassy or Consulate-General in their home/residence country or at the designated Thai Embassy. Therefore, travelers are advised to contact the nearest Thai Embassy or Consulate-General to find out where they may apply for a visa to Thailand before departure.

To repeat:

Thai Retirement Visa O-A

Source: Bangkok Law Online ¹¹⁹

A Thailand retirement visa is meant for foreigners 50 years and over, whether they still work or not outside Thailand is of no concern to Thai Immigration. A foreigner issued a retirement visa (the category non-immigrant O-A) is not allowed to work in Thailand. (Thailand Immigration Bureau Bangkok informed the author verbally that a Non-immigrant O visa holder "married Thai" can apply for a work permit/)

In the case of a retiree: permission will be granted for a period of not more than 1 year at a time, the following rules and conditions are guidelines for the Immigration Bureau to follow in granting foreigners permission to stay in the Kingdom of Thailand on a temporary basis.¹²⁰

The alien has obtained a temporary visa non-immigrant visa; and

- is 50 years of age or over; and
- proves income of not less than 65,000 baht per month; or deposit with a bank in Thailand of not less than 800,000 baht

¹¹⁹ Bangkok Law Online. "Thai Retirement Visa O-A" at

<http://www.bangkoklawonline.com/index.php/thai-retirement-visa> – Contact at <http://www.bangkoklawonline.com/index.php/contact>

¹²⁰ An alien who entered Thailand before October 21, 1998 and continuously allowed to stay in the Kingdom as a retiree must be 60 years of age or over and has regular income. Bank account deposit must not be less than 200,000 and evidence of the account deposit for the previous 3 months must be shown; or he/she has a monthly income of not less than Baht 20,000. If alien is under 60 but not less than 55 years of age, regular income with a bank account deposit of not less than Baht 500,000 and evidence of the account deposit for the previous 3 months must be shown, or a monthly income of not less than Baht 50,000.

(400,000 if registered married to Thai) as shown in bank account transactions for the past 3 months (and confirmed by separate letter from the bank on the date of the application); or annual income plus bank account deposit totaling not less than Baht 800,000 bank deposit (as confirmed by separate letter of the bank) as of the filing date of application.

Every 90 days that applicant resides in Thailand they must report to their local Thai Immigration office but does not have to leave the country every 90 days. If there is no Thai Immigration office in their immediate location, they may report to the local Thai Police Department where they live. They may also report by mail but they will need to complete form TM 47 and submit the form with a copy of the picture page of their passport as well as a copy of the page containing the Thai Immigration stamp from their most recent entry into Thailand. For each succeeding application, include a copy of the most recent stamp issued by Thai Immigration the last time they reported. When applying by mail, the applicant must include a return envelope with enough postage for certified mail. Send required documentation to the Thai Immigration office in Bangkok.

In the case where the accompanying spouse is not eligible to apply for the Category O-A (Long Stay) visa, he or she will be considered for temporary stay under Category O visa. A marriage certificate must be provided as evidence.

There is no longer the requirement that the applicant for a retirement visa must apply for a type O-A Visa from a Thai consulate or embassy outside of Thailand. Foreigners entering on any visa class will be able to request a non-immigrant visa for retirement inside Thailand if they satisfy the retirement visa requirements and if they are allowed to remain in Thailand till the retirement visa is issued and have a valid passport validity of not less than 18 months.

Be aware that if you are issued this type of Non-Immigrant "O-A" Visa, you are not permitted to work in Thailand.

Real Property

Bare bones of Thai property law for foreigners ¹²¹

Thai law permits an alien to own condominiums so long as less than 40% of the condos or apartments in the building are owned by foreigners. The percentage used to be 49%, a stipulation that was only meant to be in place for one year and has since expired.

A Thai legal entity can be the legal owner of real property including a house so long as no one foreigner effectively owns more than 39% of the company (recently amended from 33%) and total foreign ownership of the company does not exceed 49%.

The Thai spouse of a foreigner can own property (a recently changed legal status due to gender equality in the new 1997 constitution revision), in her name only. Many foreigners lose the enjoyment of the property when the relationship "changes".

A foreigner can lease land for 30 years, with an option for another 30 years, the first 30 years are guaranteed they are registered with the Land Department, however the second can be contested.

With Board of Investment ("BOI") approval a foreign entity may own land outright within the approved activities.

Real property for sale or rent

The following examples are taken at random from "Thailand's Property Trader – incorporating Pattaya Trader" for September 2009, which may well have been the bottom of the real estate market depression following the so called "Global Financial Crisis of 2007-2010" (with no end in sight).

¹²¹ See also Heath, Chris. (2007). Enzine articles. "Property Law in Thailand" (see Bibliography) Chris Heath is the sole proprietor of Soho Properties, a real estate agency located in Bangkok Thailand – <http://www.soho-properties.com/>



New home in the country: South of Nakhon Ratchasima – Year 2009
Costs: land US\$ 10,000; construction US\$ 40,000.

Houses for sale

"Pattaya Park Hill 1, Pattaya East Side, 2 floors, 280 square meters living space, plot size 296 square meters, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living room, European kitchen, cable TV & dish. Phone line/internet, 2 car ports, fully furnished, 24 hour security. Sales price at THB 9,900,000" [USD 310,000]. (ID 1050 Seaboard Properties...)

"Nice for living townhouse on soi Nernplubwaan (Pattaya East Side), 2 bed, 1 bath. Sale very cheap price 800,000 baht" [USD 25,000].

Houses for rent

"House for rent in Central Pattaya near Carrefour [a large shopping center on Center Road], fully furnished. 5,000 baht/ month" [USD 156].

"House for rent. Naklua soi 16, land 800 sqm, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished and private pool with waterfall. For rent 100,000 baht/month" [USD 3,125].

Condos of sale

"Fantastic Studios, Baan Suan Lalana Condo, 40 sqm, swimming pool view of garden view respectively. 1 bedroom, built-in European kitchen, dining area, fully furnished with bed, built-in cabinet and wardrobe, dining table, air cons, TV, cable TV, fridge, microwave etc. from THB 1,350,000 only." [USD 42,200]

"Wong Amat Garden Beach – 22nd floor one bedroom unit. Breathtaking view to the Coean and to the Sanctuary of Truth. High grade furnished and equipped. Foreign Ownership. THB 5,700,000 [USD 178,000] (Ref.: C 432)." (Pattaya Agency)

Condos for rent

"Jomtien Beach Paradise Resort – Sea view, large studio, fully equip. wooden fl., teak furniture, kitchen, a/c, cable, TV, DVD, Home theater. Safe box, bath, balcony, pool, tennis, gym, sauna, restaurant, mini mart, laundry, security, gov. elec. Rate. Jomtien beach front. 12,000 baht - 10,500 p/m ask. [USD 375 – 312] FREE kayaka/mountain bike to use (owner)."

"Condo for Rent – central Pattaya, 32 sq.m. studioroom fully furnished call for full details. 8,000 THB." [USD 250] (Pattaya Property)

Commercial property

"Guesthouse/Townhouse at Pratamnak Hill. The Guesthouse/Townhouse contains 7 rooms each with 32 sqm, TV, bathroom, nice furniture. Ready to take over." (ID 602, Seabord Properties)"

"Commercial Property. Office for rent at the best location on North Pattaya road, the corner between Second Road and North Pattaya Road. Area 46 sqm. Only 15,000 baht/month." [USD 470]

"Commercial Property. One of the busiest beer bars in Soi 8 is for sale! Reliable staff, fantastic walk-by trade and huge numbers of regular punters. Monthly profit in excess of 100,000 baht! Priced at 1.7 million baht including all stock, fixtures and fittings."

Land for sale

"This land is in a good location in Jomtien [next South of Pattaya]. 1896 sqm [0.47 acres] of plot size, the land is open for business opportunities. Ready to build on. Sales price 9,500,000 THB [USD 300,000]. (ID 578 Seaboard Properties)

"Phoenix Golf Course – 1 rai 16 tlv [0.41 acres] set near to the golf course with river frontage, many quality homes have been built around this area. THB 1,500,000" [USD 47,000]

"Khao Yai – Plots with services for sale in stunning mountain scenic peaceful area, golf, vineyards, National Park. The 7th best ozone layer and World Heritage site only 150 km from Bangkok. Price starting 7000 THB/psw." [THB 1,750/sqm or USD 55,000/acre]

The cost of raw rice land in the interior is currently between THB 35,000 to 55,000 per rai, or about between USD 2,700 and 4,300 per acre. In general, there are no zoning restrictions and one can build on farmland.

1 square wah	= 4 square meters
1 acre	= 2.471 rai or 43,560 square feet (sqf)
1 ngan	= 100 sq. wah or 400 square meters (sqm)
1 rai	= 4 ngan or 1600 square meters
1 hectare	= 6.25 rai or 10,000 square meters

<u>Sq. Wah</u>	<u>sqf.</u>	<u>sqm</u>	<u>Ngan</u>	<u>Rai</u>	<u>Acres</u>
1	43	4			
100	4.305	400	1	0.25	0.10
400	17.222	1.600	4	1	0.40
800	34.444	3.200	8	2	0.80
1.200	51.667	4.800	12	3	1.20
1.600	68.888	6.400	16	4	1.60
2.000	86.111	8.000	20	5	2.00
2.400	103.333	9.600	24	6	2.40
2.800	120.555	11.200	28	7	2.80
3.200	137.777	12.800	32	8	3.20
3.600	155.000	14.400	36	9	3.60
4.000	172.222	16.000	40	10	4.00

Cost of Living

- Rent is described under Real Property.
- Incomes Taxes: foreigners are not normally taxed by Thailand on income from abroad – consult tax treaty between Thailand and the foreign country.
- Medical care is described under Hospitals and Medical Care.
- Transportation: see specific chapter.

Food and Beverages

The following examples are from Tesco Lotus Supermarket, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand on 2010-04-08. The table below uses a foreign exchange rate of 32.0000 THB/USD (Thai baht/US dollar).

Item	Unit	THB	USD
Meat - Pig	1 kg		\$3.28
Chicken breasts	1 kg		\$3.03
Chicken legs	1 kg		\$2.09
Bologna sausage	100 g		\$0.66
Shrimp - fresh medium size	100 g		\$4.66
Eggs - large	dozen		\$1.97
Sliced bread - 20 slices	480 g		\$1.00
Rice - jasmine (top quality)	5 kg		\$4.03
Coconut milk	500 ml		\$0.78
Soybean cooking oil	1 liter		\$1.44
Mazola cooking oil	1 liter		\$3.88
Tesco "Maggi"	700 ml		\$0.63
Tuna can	185 g		\$0.91
Spaghetti	500 g		\$1.72
Rice Vermicelli	400 g		\$0.75
Pepper - ground, black	100 g		\$1.97
Potatoes - top quality	1 kg		\$1.00
Carrots - top quality	1 kg		\$0.53

Broccoli - top quality (imported)	1 kg	\$2.00
Tomatoes - average quality	1 kg	\$0.59
Lettuce	bunch	\$0.25
Sudkhum Kale	bunch	\$0.25
Radishes - long	1 kg	\$0.47
Onions - top quality	1 kg	\$0.59
Garlic - large cloves (pack)	280 g	\$1.09
Lettuce - bundle	100 g	\$0.25
Watermelon	1 kg	\$0.69
Cantaloupe - yellow	1 kg	\$0.78
Banana - ripe	1 kg	\$0.47
Item (continued)	Unit	THB USD
Butter	227 g	\$2.16
Milk - pasteurized fresh	2 liters	\$2.25
Ovaltine 20 bags	700 g	\$3.28
Coca Cola	1.5 liters	\$0.72
Coca Cola/Fanta/Sprite, etc.	335 ml can	\$0.38
Nescafe	100 g	\$1.89
Coffee - ground "The Coffee Bean Brand" mocha	200 g	\$3.49
Beer - Tiger (can)	335 ml	\$0.97
Beer - Heineken (can)	335 ml	\$1.22
Beer - Heineken (large can)	500 ml	\$1.69
Beer - Singha (large bottle)	630 ml	\$1.75
Beer - Chang (large bottle)	640 ml	\$1.25
Beer - Chang (box large bottles)	12 bottles	\$13.59
Wine cooler "Spy" red	275 ml	\$0.91
French white/red wine "Plaisir"	750 ml	\$8.93
Seagram's 100 Pipers 40% Scotch Whisky	750 ml	\$10.91
Bacardi White Rum 40%	750 ml	\$19.03
Gilbey's Gin (UK) 40%	700 ml	\$10.00
Rice "Brandy" Lao Khao 40%	625 ml	\$2.66
Pantene hair shampoo	400 ml	\$4.03
Colgate toothpaste	100 g	\$0.72
Washing detergent (generic)	650 g	\$0.84
Candles in a pack (15 cm height)	50 pieces	\$3.72
Toilet tissue	6 rolls	\$0.97
Baby diapers (size L, generic)	20 pieces	\$3.09

Pair of nylon socks	1 pair	\$0.50
Sandals - rubber/day to day use	1 pair	\$0.91

There are significant seasonal fluctuations for some vegetables, but for all fruits. Meats show some fluctuations, while beverages and staple goods are stable throughout the year.

Tobacco products are still "the old price". A pack of Marlboros costs about 60 baht, or \$1.92, and local brands are half the price.

Hospitals and Medical Care in Thailand

In general, medical practitioners in Thailand speak good English. Because more often than not, they learned from American text books.

The *Medical Tourism Corporation* writes:¹²²

"Thailand offers medical treatments at almost one tenth of US costs, combined with high quality of medical care as well as medical technology. With medical tourism being recognized as a national industry in the county, the Thai government has taken several measures to promote the healthcare industry.

"Since the tourism industry in Thailand is already very well established, the necessary infrastructure is already in place for visitors. Also, hospitals in Thailand provide more personal care as compared to the United States or United Kingdom, with some providing additional services such as language interpreters and special international wings to cater specially to international tourists."

Another website gives these examples for cost:

	<u>USA</u>	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>India</u>	<u>Thailand</u>
Coronary				
Angioplasty	31,000-70,000	13,000	11,000	13,000
Heart Bypass	66,000-150,000	20,000	10,000	12,000
Hip Replacement	22,000-53,000	12,000	9,000	12,000
Gastric Bypass	33,000-58,000	13,000	11,000	13,000

Source : Thaiwebsites.com "Cost of Medical Treatment in Bangkok" <http://www.thaiwebsites.com/cost-medical-treatment.asp> quoting *Time Magazine* 31 July 2006; prices as suggested by one surgical tourism agency; the first price quoted

¹²² Medical Toursim Corporation. "Medical Tourism Thailand"

for US is the average of Insurer's cost price; the second price for US is the average for retail cost.

And adds a personal experience and/or as related from friends :

Arthroscopic Surgery of one knee cost us about 2,500 US \$ (including one-day stay at hospital). Long-term stay in a VIP suite in Bumrungrad Hospital (VIP suite consists of a bedroom and a sitting room, total area about 70 square meter) at internal medicine department, costs around 15,000 baht per day (about 400 US \$). This included room rate (you can deduct a few thousand baht, if you select the actually very adequate standard room), food, doctors fee, medication.

Clinics

There are many local clinics and doctors' offices in the towns. Their fees for minor treatments and consultations are around 200 baht per visit, or more if medication is dispensed. Many towns have special clinics including gynecology.

Public Hospitals

Most days have a "yellow card" these days and treatment is free of charge. The days when the house needed to be sold to pay for the doctor's and hospital bills are in the past.

Public government hospitals are being expanded or built continuously, and are not automatically inferior to private hospitals, except that the smaller centers are not fully equipped and rely on transfer to the regional hospitals. In fact, the delivery of a baby in a public hospital including, for example a cesarian operation, may be in the range of 17 - 25,000 baht, and two or three times the amount in a private hospital. The same applies to other procedures.

Terlecky et al (2007), pp. 113-14, give two examples:

A foreigner with anemia and occasional need for a blood transfusions was quoted 50,000 baht by the Bangkok Pattaya Hospital, but had the procedure done for "a staggering cheap 2,000 baht" at Queen Sirikit Navy Hospital in nearby Sattahip.

Another friend had a hernia operation and was quoted 54,000 baht for the surgeon's fee and 10,500 baht per night for the room, which would typically be a private room with baht, fridge, TV and a sofa for a friend to sleep on. Being uninsured and on a budget, the friend "opted for the government hospital in Nathon, Koh Samui. The surgeon's fee was 16,000 baht and he paid 1,500 bah per night for an equivalent room, but with a sea view. The operation went well, but the patient was unhappy with the follow-up care. He had a secondary infection, and when he went back to the hospital, the doctor was uninterested in his condition, prescribed some antibiotics, and sent him away without an explanation of what to do next."

Hospitals in Bangkok and around Thailand

Source: ThaiWebsites.com at

<http://www.thaiwebsites.com/hospitals.asp>

Samitivej Hospital

Samitivej Hospitals are a group of international class hospitals located in Bangkok, Thailand. We provide quality tertiary care, from cosmetic surgery to major operations such as open heart surgery and organ transplantations. Samitivej Sukhumvit hospital is located in soi 49, Sukhumvit Road.

<http://www.samitivejhospitals.com/>

Phyathai Hospital

Phyathai consists of four hospitals; Phyathai 1 and 2 in the center of Bangkok, Phyathai 3 also in Bangkok but in the Thonburi area, Phyathai Siracha, located a short drive south from Bangkok and just outside Pattaya. Newly established international ward. Old specialized medicine is represented.

<http://www.phyathai.com/>

Bangkok General Hospital

Bangkok Hospital is one of the biggest hospitals in Thailand providing tertiary healthcare. Bangkok Hospital has gradually expanded its network to many provinces and is now the flagship

of a whole network of hospitals throughout the country: The Bangkok Hospital Group. The International Medical Center (IMC) at Bangkok Hospital is a department especially for foreigners, with a team of multi-lingual interpreters. <http://www.bangkokhospital.com>

Thai Red Cross Society

The Thai Red Cross Society offers medical services at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital. Blood transfusion services, eye and organ storage and allocation. Child support and disaster relief services. <http://www.redcross.or.th/>

Bangkok Christian Hospital, Silom Road

Bangkok Christian Hospital is one of the longest established general hospitals in Bangkok. It offers specialized medical treatment, both in-patient and out-patient. The hospital also offers modestly priced general check-up services. <http://www.bkkchristianhosp.th.com/>

Phuket International Hospital

Phuket International Hospital is a large hospital providing acute care hospital services. Specialty medical and surgical services are provided including cardiology, neurosurgery, extensive trauma care, hyperbaric medicine for diving emergencies, pediatrics, obstetrics, plastic surgery, Lasik eye treatment, dialysis and dental services. <http://www.phuketinternationalhospital.com/>

Aikchol Hospital Public Co. Ltd.

Aikchol Hospital is located in Chonburi Province. Aikchol Hospital has various services such as advanced diagnostic, therapeutic, and modern medical facilities, utilizing a wide range of medical technologies along with highly qualified specialists, medical teams, and nursing staff. <http://www.aikchol.com/>

Nonthavej Hospital

With a full range of hi-tech medical equipment as well as medical experts in each specialized area, we now many specialized centers: Minimal invasive surgery, orthopedic center, heart center, diabetics center, respiratory center, gastrointestinal center, dental center, wellness center. Other specialized clinics. Located Nonthaburi. <http://www.nonthavej.co.th/>

Sakarin Hospital

Located on Srinakarin Road , Eastern Bangkok, Sikarin Hospital has 245 beds and provides full inpatient and outpatient services as well as 24 hour emergency services. In house ambulance service serves the busy Bangna-Trad Highway area.

<http://www.sikarin.com/>

Manarom Hospital

As the nation's first and only private hospital for mental and behavioral health care, Manarom Hospital is committed to attain and enhance a leadership role in behavioral health, mental health, and psychiatric services. Located Sukhumvit Soi 70. Child and adolescent, geriatric services. Chemical dependency treatments. <http://www.manarom.com/>

Bangkok Adventist Hospital

Bangkok Adventist Hospital (BAH) has been present in Bangkok for more than 70 years. It provides primary care, emergency services, pediatrics, specialty services, community health classes. Our focus is on providing you and your family quality service and compassionate health care close to home. Located Phitsanulok road. <http://www.mission-hospital.org/>

Mission Hospital Phuket

Mission Hospital Phuket exists to provide Christian healthcare services according to professional standards and quality in order 'to make people whole'. Mission Hospital is a 'not for profit' medical service provider and forms part of the over 400 strong health service operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world. <http://www.missionhospitalphuket.com/>

Mahidol University – Ramathibodi Hospital

The Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital was opened in 1969. Ramathibodi Hospital serves 5,000 out-patients per day and has more than 1,000 beds for tertiary care of complicated and severely ill patients in various specializing departments and units. Sirikit Medical Center, serves as a center for modern research projects. The hospital is expanding further with a new and state-of-the-art medical center, named Theparal Medical center. <http://www.ra.mahidol.ac.th/>

B.Care Medical Center and Spa

B.Care Medical Center is a fully-equipped private general hospital, located on Pahol Yothin Road, just 10 minutes from Don Muang Airport. The 150-beds institution is known for its expertise in alternative medicine and holistic treatment approaches. Besides conventional and alternative medicine, B.Care also operates a spa on its premises. <http://www.bcaremedicalcenter.com/>

Bangkok Adventist Hospital, Phitsanulok Road

Also known as Mission Hospital, Bangkok Adventist Hospital is a general hospital with registered capacity of 200 beds, situated on Phitsanulok Road, Bangkok, and owned and operated by the Christian Medical Foundation of Seventh–Day Adventists. The hospital is part of the worldwide Adventist health care network. <http://www.mission-hospital.org/>

Bangkok Hospital Samui

Bangkok Hospital Samui is local health care facility. We provide a range of medical services and specialties, that include emergency and trauma care, surgery, internal medicine, orthopedics, pediatrics, ear-nose-throat treatments, obstetrics and gynecology, neurosurgery, nephrology, psychiatry, cardiology and ophthalmology. <http://www.samuihospital.com/>

Chaophya Hospital, Bangkok Noi

Chaophya Hospital is a private hospital located in Thonburi, Bangkok. It offers general pediatric, medical and surgical services. Also traditional Chinese medicine. Adult stem cell therapy (still experimental, we think) is being promoted. <http://www.chaophya.com/>

BNH Hospital, Convent Road, Bangkok

The BNH Hospital (Sathorn - Convent) is a modern 225-bed, hospital to international standards. The hospital provides service in both inpatient and out patient departments with physicians in every field of medicine available on 24 hours basis. <http://www.bnhhospital.com/>

Pram 9 Hospital, Bangkok

Pram 9 Hospital is located on Praram 9 Road. It has the following departments : Medicine ; Surgery ; eye, ear, nose and throat department ; pediatrics ; obstetrics and gynaecology ; dental department ; rehabilitation department. <http://www.pram9.com/>

Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok

The Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital strives to be an excellent medical institute in Southeast Asia. We train quality graduates and medical staff who can provide ethical and up-to-date medical services in accordance with international standards. Also conducting medical research in a conducive academic atmosphere. Well reputed academic hospital in Bangkok, Thailand (ed.). <http://www.si.mahidol.ac.th>

Vejthani Hospital, Bangkok

Vejthani Hospital is one of the most modern private hospitals in Bangkok. Most departments of our hospital are staffed with overseas-trained doctors and specialists who can ensure that communication is no barrier. Located on Ladprao Road, Bangkok. <http://www.vejthani.com/>

Pattaya International Hospital

Pattaya International Hospital is one of Thailand's most modern medical centers. It offers 80 inpatient beds, 24 hours emergency service, and a full range of advanced facilities, including intensive care, obstetrics, x-ray, laboratory, pharmacy, dental clinic, fully-equipped operating theaters and a physical therapy center.
<http://www.pih-inter.com/>

Wattana International Clinic, Phuket

Wattana Clinic has the following treatment centers : General Medicine, General Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Dental Center, Hyperbaric Medicine, Rehabilitation Center, X-Ray Center. Located Patong, Phuket.
<http://www.wattanaclinic.com/>

Ramkhamhaeng Hospital, Bangkok

With 350 beds and seven sister hospitals Ramkhamhaeng has the resources, experience and expertise to provide international quality health care at very competitive prices.
<http://www.ramhospital.com/>

Vibhavadi Hospital, Bangkok

Vibhavadi hospital is a 350-bed private hospital since 1986. Present health care by team of specialists, available 24-hours 7 days, modern facilities, multi-lingual Foreigners Service Department. Located Ngamwongwan Rd. Jatujak, Bangkok.
<http://www.vibhavadi.com/>

Chiangmai Ram Hospital

Chiangmai Ram Hospital : Serving 1000 out-patients per day, 350 in-patients. Specialists in all fields available around the clock.
<http://www.chiangmairam.com/>

Bangkok Phuket Hospital, Phuket

BPK boasts 42 full-time physicians across the spectrum of medical care and a further 50 on a consulting basis. Our goal of being the tertiary level hospital serving the southern region of Thailand is within sight. Part of Bangkok General Hospitals.
<http://www.phukethospital.com/>

Saint Louis Hospital

St. Louis Hospital is a non-profit private hospital. We heal general patients—outpatients and inpatients—by specialists in every specialization and devoted nurses. (Sathorn Road, Bangkok).
<http://www.saintlouis.or.th/>

Aek Udon International Hospital

Located in the NorthEastern Region of Thailand, Aek Udon International Hospital is the newest and largest private hospital in the region. It also consistently ranks as the best hospital in the region.
<http://www.aekudon.com/>

Bangkok Pattaya Hospital

Bangkok Pattaya Hospital provides a broad spectrum of comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care for Thai and expat communities.(Pattaya City) <http://www.bph.co.th>

Bumrungrad International Hospital

Bumrungrad International Hospital is an internationally accredited, multi-specialty hospital on Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok. Southeast Asia's largest private out-patient clinic, featuring 30 specialty clinics and over 600 physicians, 554 inpatient beds, and complete state-of-the-art diagnostic, therapeutic and intensive care facilities.
<http://www.bumrungrad.com>.

"Bumrungraddeath" is a website and warning of an American father whose 23-year old son died at Bumrungrad Hospital.
<http://www.bumrungraddeath.com/>

List of Hospitals in Thailand

(Source: Wikipedia at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_hospitals_in_Thailand.

The list is not necessarily complete)

Ayutthaya

- Navanakorn General Hospital
- Ayutthaya Hospital
- Sena Hospital
- Ratchathani Hospital
- Supamitr Hospital
- Peravech Hospital
- Wangnoi Hospital

Bangkok

- Bangkok Adventist Hospital
- Bangkok Christian Hospital
- Bumrungrad International Hospital website
- Camillian Hospital
- Manarom Hospital website
- Nakornthon Hospital
- Saint Louis Hospital
- Sikarin Hospital

Cha Am

- Cha-Am Hospital

Chiang Mai

- McCormick Hospital
- Chiangmai Ram Hospital
- Chiang Mai Ram 2 Hospital
- Chang Phuak Hospital
- Chiang Mai Central Memorial Hospital
- Chiang Mai Dental Hospital
- Chiang Mai Neurological Hospital
- Chiang Mai University Hospital
- Chinda Hospital
- Dararasmi Hospital
- Dr. Eddy Clinic
- Dr. Wong Hospital
- Klai Mor Hospital
- Lanna Hospital
- McKene Rehabilitation Center
- Nakornping Hospital

- Rajavej Chiang Mai Hospital
- Ruam Padh Hospital
- St.Peter Eye Hospital
- Vector Borne Disease Control 2
-

Chiang Rai

- Kasemrad Hospital
- Overbrook Hospital
- Sriburin Hospital
- Chiang Rai Prachanukhro Hospital
- Fort Mengraimaharaj Hospital

Hat Yai

- Hat Yai Hospital
- Sikarin Hatyai Hospital
- Senanarong Hospital
- Raj Yindee Hospital
- Bangkok-Hat Yai Hospital
- Songklanakarin Hospital, Faculty of Medicine Prince of Songkla University
-

Hua Hin

- San Paulo Hua Hin Hospital
- Dr. Boonkrong Hospital
- Hua Hin Hospital

Khon Kaen

- Khon Kaen Ram
- Sri Nagarind Hospital, Faculty of Medicine Khon Kaen University
- Jitavej Hospital
- Rachapruk Hospital
-

Lampang

- Khelang Nakorn-Ram Hospital

Loei

- Muang Loei Hospital

-

Nakhon Sawan

- Sawanpracharak Hospital
- Paknampo Hospital
- Rajanagarindra Psychiatric Hospital
- Srisawan Hospital
- Si Khwae Hospital
- Romchat Hospital
- Ruamphat Hospital
- Rattanavej Hospital

-

Nakhon Si Thammarat

- Maharat Nakhon Si Thammarat Hospital

Nakhon Ratchasima

- Maharat Nakhon Ratchasima Hospital
- Rajanagarindra Psychiatric Hospital
- Bangkok Hospital
- Saint Mary's Hospital
- Por Pat Hospital
- Veterinary Hospital

-

Pathum Thani

- Ake Pathum Hospital
- Navanakorn General Hospital

Nonthaburi

- Bamrasnaradoon Hospital
- Pranangklaao Hospital
- Parkredvejakarn Hospital
- Royal Irrigation Hospital
- Kasemrad Rattanathibes Hospital

Pattaya

- Bangkok Pattaya Hospital, Sukhumvit Road
- Banglamung Hospital, Sawang Fah Road, Naklua
- Pattaya International Hospital, Soi 4
- Pattaya Memorial Hospital, Central Pattaya Road

Phayao

- Phayao Ram Hospital

Phitsanulok

- Naresuan University Hospital
- Buddhachinaraj Phitsanulok Hospital
- Intermedical Hospital
- Pitsanuvej Hospital
- Rattanavej Hospital
- Rattanavej 2 hospital

Phuket

- Bangkok Phuket Hospital
- Phuket International Hospital- website
- Mission Hospital
- Patong Hospital

Rayong

- Bangkok Hospital Rayong

Roi Et

- Roiet Hospital
- Kasetwisai Hospital
- Srisomdej Hospital

Sattahip

- Queen Sirikit Naval Hospital

Saraburi

- Kasemrad Hospital

Si Racha

- Phayathai hospital, Si Racha
- Samitivej hospital, Si Racha
- Somdej Pra Boromrajathevi na Sriracha Hospital
- Laemchabang International Hospital, Si Racha
- Ao Udom Hospital, Si Racha

Songkhla

- Songkhla Hospital

Surin

- RuamPad Hospital

Trang

- Trang Ruampat Hospital

Ubon Ratchathani

- Rajavej Hospital
- Ubonrak Thonburi Hospital
- Sappasit Prasong Hospital
- Supasit Prasong Camp Hospital
- Romklao Hospital
- Phaya Thai-Ubon Hospital

Udon Thani

- Aek Udon International Hospital
- Paolo Memorial Hospital
- Wattana Hospital
- Chai-Kasem Hospital
- Rattana Hospital
- Dr. Piroj Hospital
- Udon General Hospital

Yasothon

- Dr. Hann Hospital
- Yasothon General Hospital website (Thai)
- Ruamphat (Doctors') Hospital

Transportation

"Transport in Thailand is varied and chaotic, with no one dominant means of transport. Bus transport dominates in long distances and Bangkok, with motorbikes dominating in rural areas for short trips, supplanting bicycles. In Bangkok, Pattaya, and other large cities, public motorbike taxis take people door to door. Slow rail travel has long been a rural long distance transport mechanism. An overwhelming number of taxis can be found in Bangkok. Recently there has been a surge in air travel, urban rail, and private automobiles, especially among tourists, expats, upper class and growing middle class. Areas with navigable waterways often have boats or boat service, and many innovative means of transport exist such as tuk-tuk, vanpool, songthaew, or even elephants in rural areas." (Wikipedia. "Transport in Thailand")

A foreigner can register and own a motorcycle and/or vehicle outright in his own name.

An international driver's license is recommended (even if expired). The foreign driver's license can be converted into a Thai driver's license issued initially for one year and renewed for five years. A Thai translation, small photo (the photo shops know how to do), confirmation from the Immigration Bureau or office confirming the place of residence, and a minimal fee and patience is all that is required. It is advised to bring a speaker of Thai along to answer questions.

Vehicle prices

New motorcycle examples:

- Honda Wave 110i Front-Rear Drum brake, kick start, 110cc, PGM-FI – Price 34,000 Baht.

- Honda PCX 125i Scooter, "the Powerful Little Giant", front disk brake, spoke wheels, PGM-FI fuel injection – Price 69,800 baht.

New passenger car examples:

- Toyota Yaris – Price starts at 539,000 baht
- Toyota Altis – Price starts at 729,000 baht
- Toyota Wish station wagon – Price starts at 1,117,000 baht
- Toyota Camry – Price starts at 1,214,000 baht

New commercial vehicles:

- Toyota pickup Vigo Smart Cab – Price starts at 567,000 baht
- Toyota Commuter van – Price starts at 1,119,000 baht
- Toyota Fortuner multipurpose – Price starts at 1,014,000 baht

The used motorcycle and car market is there, but prices are outrageously high compared to Europe or North America, so that it does not make sense to buy a used vehicle, except, perhaps, in a distress sale.

Most vehicles in Thailand are locally made Diesel Pickup trucks (Toyota, Nissan, Mitsubishi and Ford, etc.). Repairs and maintenance are not expensive, and run about one third of the cost in North America.

Fuel is virtually non-taxed and varies daily with the world market price for oil. Compressed natural gas vehicles and service stations are springing up all over the country. Conversions are about 60,000 baht, but dual fuel vehicles are available from the manufacturers.

In general, Thailand's roads are good, although some parts can found in unexplainable disrepair for years, including sections of

the much traveled Southern route between Petchaburi and Surat Thani, while other parts are repaved without any apparent need.

The highway network links every part of Thailand. The four lane highways often have overhead concrete pedestrian crossings interspersed about every 250 meters in populated areas. There are no on and off ramps, highways are separated by median with breakage for U-turns, except in Bangkok where ramp style U-turns predominate.

A number of undivided two lane highways have been converted into divided four-lane highways, greatly enhancing safety and speed. A Bangkok – Chonburi-Pattaya Motorway (Route 7) links Bangkok and the Suvarnabhumi International Airport and Eastern Seaboard.

The motorway network is still small. Coupled with Bangkok's extensive expressway network, the motorways provide a relief from regular traffic in Bangkok. The government is said to be planning infrastructure investments in various mega projects including motorway expansion to approximately 4,500 kilometers.

The expressway network: Thailand uses the expressway term for toll road. Most of expressways around Bangkok and suburban areas are elevated with some sections on the ground level. Expressways are used to avoid heavy traffic jams in Bangkok and reduce traffic time, but are sometimes congested during rush hour.

Bus service: Buses are the major method of transportation for people and packages, and are the most popular means of long distance travel. For example, the fare for the 800 km bus ride from Bangkok to Nong Kai is about US\$ 15 one way. Tour and VIP class long-distance "blue" buses are air conditioned, while city- and other-class buses are not air conditioned and often packed with people. Bangkok city buses come in various sizes, types, and prices, from half size, full size, double length, open window, fan, and air conditioned.

Skytrain: Bangkok has a German-built elevated commuter train which has been extended all the way to the new Suvarnabhumi Airport scheduled to operational by April 2010. (Bangkok Post 23/02/2010.)

Trains: Thailand has a romantic, exceedingly cheap, and slow inter-connecting railway system that is used a lot by Thais including young people, who have the time but not the money, and by foreign backpackers. The State Railways of Thailand system connects with the Singapore line along peninsular Malaysia. Chiang Mai is the principle Northern terminal. North Eastern Nong Khai connects with the Lao capital of Vientiane. The trains are slower than European or American trains. The 700 km journey from Chiang Mai to Bangkok takes about 14 hours on mostly overnight trains with sleeping compartments. The comparative slow speed of the train may be a treat for those who truly appreciate the view of the rolling lush country-side which takes them into the heartland of Thailand.

Appendix A

On the *Prah* or Monks

By Monsignor Jean-Baptiste Pallegoix

The monks, or Buddhist priests in Siam, are called *phra* (great). The Europeans have called them *talapoins*, probably from the name of the fan which they hold in their hand, which is called *talapat* (meaning palm leaf). The *talapoins* are monks who live in monasteries under the leadership of an abbot called *chàovat*. In the countryside, a monastery barely ever has more than ten or twelve monks, but in the towns and in the capital, it contains from one to six hundred. They evaluate the number of monks in Bangkok alone at about 10,000 and in the whole kingdom at more than 100,000.¹²³

The dress for a monk consists of a yellow *langouti*, a belt, coat and shawl of the same color. He must always have his head and eyebrows shaved and hold on his hips a big iron cooking pot contained in a beggar's pouch worn around his neck. Before his eyes he holds a fan of palm leaves so that his sight does not stretch farther than four cubits.

When somebody wants to become a monk, he is dressed entirely in white. He descends to a large boat with his relatives and friends. They play musical instruments. The boat is loaded with offerings for the pagoda. It is preceded, accompanied and followed by a host of other boats making resound the tunes of their joyous songs. When this crowd has arrived at the temple, the new member is introduced into the hall of ceremonies in which are gathered ten or twelve *prah*, required for ordination. The person who is charged with the office is called the *upaxa*. He is seated on a carpet, in the back of the hall, having his twelve colleagues divided left and right. The candidate is presented by a monk with the title reader. The latter says in loud voice: "I present this man who requests to be ordained *phra*." The candidate advances on his knees, solutes three times, and joining his hand to

¹²³ Currently about 200,000 *phra* according to Gray et al (2009), p. 814.

his forehead, addresses the chief of the assembly saying: "Venerable President, I accept you as my *upaxa* (the person who ordains)." After which he is made to step back twelve cubits. Then the reader says to him: "Candidate, I will ask you several questions to which you must reply truthfully. Are you affected by leprosy?" The candidate replies: "*Phante*, Lord, I do not have leprosy." —"Are you subject to lunacy?" —"*Phante*, no, Lord." —"Have the sorcerers cast a spell on you?" —"*Phante*, no, Lord." —"Are you indebted?" —"*Phante*, no Lord." —"Are you a slave or fugitive?" —"*Phante*, no, Lord." —"Do you have the agreement of your parents?" —"*Phante*, yes, Lord." —"Have you reached the age of twenty years?" —"*Phante*, yes, Lord." —"Do you have a yellow *langouti*, a belt, coat and shawl with a cooking pot?" —"*Phante*, yes, Lord." After these questions, he is told to approach. He advances on his knees, salutes again and holding his hand joined together, he says: "Oh, Father-Benefactor, I ask to be admitted to the dignity of *phra*. Have mercy on me, pull me out of the state of a lay person to make me enter the perfect condition of *prah*." He repeats this three times. Then the reader says loudly: "Brothers, if anybody has reasons to oppose the ordination of the candidate, he must speak now," and after pausing a moment, he adds: "Because everybody remains silent, proof of agreement, the thing is done." A book is brought in which the name of the candidate, the hour, day and year of the ordination is written. During this time, the new *prah* leaves his white clothes and dresses completely in yellow. A fan is placed in his hand and a cooking pot under his arm. Then the reader addresses him with these words: "Now that you have received the dignity of *prah*, I must instruct you about your duties and indicate to you the sins you must avoid. A *phra* must go out to receive alms everyday. He must always dress in yellow. He must live in his temple and not in the houses of laymen. He must abstain from carnal pleasures, from lying, stealing and killing animals.

The person who is initiated into the monkhood must stay at least three months in the monastery. After this time, he can abandon his state and take up secular clothes and if, later, he wants to return to the temple, the ordination is done like the first time. Quite some people keep the yellow dress for only one or

two years and even only for a few months after which they marry, which is contrary to the original institution of the Buddha. Old monks do not defrock and keep the yellow dress until they die. Monks must leave this sacred dress before their last breath. According to their belief it would be a crime worthy of hell to die in this saintly costume.

The monks have some kind of hierarchy which they observe very loyally. The first dignity among them is called *sangkharà* meaning: King of the Cenobites. The *sangkharàt* is nominated by the King. He has jurisdiction over all monks and all temples of the Kingdom. But one does not observe him exercising it in any way. His authority is reduced to making reports to the King from time to time, in respect to religious matters and in presiding over all assemblies of temple chiefs when the King convokes them to deal with or judge certain religious affairs of things in respect to monks. After the *sangkharàt* come the great abbots of royal monasteries whose title is *somdet chao* and *raxakhana*, terms which mean Princes of the Monks. It is again the King who nominates and installs them because he is the supreme religious chief and among his titles, he always takes that of protector and preserver of the sect of the Buddha. Every abbot is master in his monastery. Under him he has a great vicar called *chao khun balat* and a chief secretary called *chao khun samu*. Then come the simple monks who have under them *nen* or *samanen*. These are disciples or postulants who, not having reached the age of twenty, nevertheless wear the yellow robe and are doing, so to speak, their novitiate. These *nen* are bound by the eight commandments, i.e., the five general commandments which are common with lay people and three others, as follows: Not to eat from noon to dawn of the next day; not to taste the perfume of flowers and not to wear any; not to sit on mattresses or on chairs higher than twelve inches.

The entire order of the monks is subjected to the authority of a prince established by the King to guard over their good conduct. Under his orders the prince has a certain number of commissioners, called *sangkhari*, who have the right to seize and bring delinquents to his tribunal. There, their yellow dress is taken away; they are administered blows of the rotan and sent to prison

or for forced labor according to the gravity of the crimes they have made themselves guilty of.

For three months of the year, i.e., during the rainy season, the monks must stay in their respective monastery. The entire remainder of the year they are free to go from one monastery to another, to undertake long journeys and even to wander in the forest as they please and in the most distant regions of the Kingdom. They know very well how to take advantage of this liberty. Everywhere one meets these wandering monks who travel to entertain themselves, to look for medicinal plants or roots or gold and silver minerals. Because a great number of them are given over to alchemy or to medicine, although their rule strictly defends it.

Here is the life that these monks lead: at the crowing of the cock they sound their gong or beat the drums, no doubt to give a signal to the women to boil rice. They wake up their *luksit* or pupils and send them to prepare the boat. During that time they take a bath and get ready and together recite a few prayers in Pali in the temple. Then they descend to the boat and stop for a moment in front of all the shops or houses where women, prostrated, hands joined, greet them and put big spoonfuls of rice, fish, vegetables, fruits and cakes into their cooking pots. When they have completed their tour and the big pot is full, they return to the monastery, put aside what they like to keep for themselves and deliver the remainder to the *luksit*. After having had their meal, they smoke, drink tea, or chat or else take a walk. They receive visits and gifts almost during the entire day. They also read a little, study a few Pali books or teach reading and writing to their pupils. But to judge from the care they put in it, it is sufficient to know that of every ten of these *luksit*, who pass seven to eight years in the temple, at the most one knows how to read and write correctly when he leaves the monastery. At 11 or 11:30 a.m. the monk takes his second meal. That must end a little before noon and from that moment, he must abstain from food until the next day. Nevertheless, there are eight things that he can have during the interval without breaking his fast, such as tea, sugar, coconut milk, palm sugar, etc. The monks are often invited to preach in private houses, but those who invite them must

prepare a host of things in advance to offer and which are displayed in the hall. One can see a multitude of platters with supports or various sizes there. In one there are 80 *ticals*, in the other cotton cloths or yellow silk. Some contain areca-nut and betel or tobacco, packets of tea, candy sugar, candles, rice, dried fish and all kinds of supplies to the point that this display looks almost like a market. After the sermon, all these objects are eagerly transported to the preacher's boat. During the rainy season the monks gather at night in the temple where the idol of the Buddha is placed. There, all together, they recite their Pali prayers for more than an hour. Their nocturnal prayers are nothing but emphatic praise for the Buddha.

The rules of the monks are contained in books entitle *Phra Vinai* constituting mostly long commentaries of this rule, but the 227 articles monks must observe are xposed in a single volume called *Patimôk*. This rule is so severe and detailed that it is impossible for a *phra* to observe it completely and loyally. It gives great idea about the detachment, mortification, patience and all other moral virtues of the Buddha who is its author. I will be satisfied here to indicate the most remarkable points of this famous rule:

- Oh *Phikhu!* (oh beggars!—the name the Buddha gives his followers) you will not kill or strike any animal.
- Do not seal what belongs to others.
- Abstain from carnal pleasures.
- Do not attribute your merits to yourself, and do not derive vanity from your sanctity.
- Do not cultivate the land for fear of killing some worm or other insect.
- Do not cut trees because they are blessed with life.
- Do not drink distilled liquor, wine or any other intoxicating drinks.
- Do not take any food after noontime.
- Do not watch comedy, and do not listen to musical concerts.
- Abstain from perfumes and scented waters.
- Do not sit in places higher than twelve inches.
- Do not touch gold or silver.

Do not discuss futile things.
Do not wear any flowers behind your ear.
Pass the water, which you want to drink, through a cloth for
fear that there may be some small animals in it.
If you distance yourself to take care of needs, bring water to
wash yourself.
Do not borrow from lay people.
Do not carry with you knives, lances, swords or any other
weapon.
Do not eat expressly.
Do not sleep beyond what is needed.
Do not sing amorous songs.
Do not play musical instruments.
Do not play the dice, chess or any other games.
Take care not to sway your arms when walking.
Do not make fire with wood for fear of burning any insects
that live in it.
You will live off alms alone and not from the work of your
hands.
Do not administer medicine to pregnant women for fear of
causing the child in their womb to die.
Never cast eyes on women.
Make no incisions that cause blood to flow.
Do not engage in trade; sell nothing.
Do not smack your lips while eating.
When you walk in the streets, you must be meditative and
hold the *talapat* in front of you so as to avoid seeing more
than four cubits in front of you.
Every fourteenth of the moon, you will shave your hair and
eyebrows with a copper razor.
When you are seated you must cross not stretch out your legs.
After having taken your food, do not keep the remainder for
tomorrow but give it to the animals.
Do not keep more than one robe.
Do not caress children.
Never speak with a woman in a secret place.
Do not feed ducks, chicken, cows, buffaloes, elephants,
horses, pigs, dogs or cats.

When preaching and explaining the meaning of Pali be careful
not to change the meaning.
Avoid speaking badly of others.
When you wake up, get up immediately, provided it is light
enough to distinguish the veins in your hands.
Do not sit down on the same mat with a woman.
Do not mount a mare or a female elephant.
Do not go into a boat that has been used by a woman.
Do not touch a woman, not even a very small girl.
Do not boil rice because it contains a germ of life.
Take nothing that has not first been offered with joined hands.
Do not enter a house unless if somebody invites you to.
If, while sleeping, you dream about a woman, it is a sin and it
must be atoned for.
Do not covet what belongs to others.
Avoid cursing earth, wind, water, or fire.
Do not sow misunderstandings or disagreement among others.
Do not wear expensive clothes.
Do not rub your body against whatever.
Do not wear shoes that hide your heels.
Do not receive any gifts from the hands of women; they must
only place them in front of you.
Do not eat anything that has life in it, nor vegetables or grains
that can still grow or germinate.
When you have eaten something do not say: this is good, that
is not good. These words smack of sensuality.
Never burst out with laughter.
Do not cry over the death of your parents, and do not be
saddened by it.
Do not roll up your *langouti* to get through the water or to walk
in the streets.
When you take your food, do not talk with anybody.
When eating do not drop rice here and there.
Do not gird your *langouti* below the navel.
Do not eat meat from man, elephants, horses, snakes, tigers,
crocodiles, dogs or cats.
Do not sleep in the same bed with anybody else.

When you are asking for alms or walk in the streets, do not cough to attract eyes to you.

When you are going to recite chants near a dead person you must reflect on the instability of human things.

You must bescend your *langouti* eight inches below your knee.

Do not say crude words in the presence of women.

Do not shake your head while walking.

Do not keep areca-nut and betel in your mouth during the night.

When you have committed sins you must confess them to your superior.

Every evening you must sweep the temple.

You must take care to wash your pot very well. (The pots are made of beaten iron and their shape, including the lid, quite resembles a gourd of average size.)

When you go some place, take care not willingly to crush under your feet ants and other insects.

When walking in the street or obtaining alms you will greet nobody.

"Monks caught in the act of adultery are defrocked of their yellow robe, whipped until they bleed and then condemned to cut grass of the elephants for the rest of their lives. This punishment is equal to forced labor. It is the punishment for the greatest criminals. They are called taphun and none of them, despite the greatest protection, can buy himself out of this ignominious condition." ¹²⁴

Such are the main maxims ordered in the *Patimôk*. It can be clearly seen from this short sketch of the monks' rules that it is almost impossible to observe them perfectly. Thus, the *phra* make no scruples of breaking them every so often.

In the sacred books one finds very beautiful sermons of the Buddha, in which he instills the monks with the sublime virtues worthy of a true philosopher. For example, when speaking to

¹²⁴ Pallegoix (1854). "Legislation", p. 193.

them about the instability of human things, he says to them: "Do not attach yourself to things of this world because they will escape you regardless. Nothing in the universe belong to you. Your person itself does not belong to you because you can not maintain it in the same state and it continuously changes in shape." He also teaches them not to muster hate or love for whatever it may be, to bring their souls to such a state of indifference that good or evil will meet with the same insensitivity, that they are not touched by praise than by insult, by good treatment than by persecution, and that they endure hunger, thirst, privation, illness, and even death, with an equally imperturbable soul. He cites examples of monks who lived in the great safety amidst tigers. From time to time the ferocious animal devours one of them without the others experiencing the smallest fear or thinking about leaving their cherished solitude.

The monks see it as one of their tasks to preach to the people but, besides that, they are very little bothered with whether their doctrine is put into practice or not. The lay people can happily engage in all kinds of licentiousness and commit acts contrary to the Buddhist religion. These monks never make them any reprimands. They are not in charge of the souls. They imagine that sanctity is for them alone and that it is impossible for laymen to achieve it.

The Thai have great veneration for monks. They give them pompous titles, and prostrate themselves before them even in the middle of the street, joining their hands above their heads. Mandarins and princes greet them with both hands, but the King salutes only with one hand and makes them sit close to his person. Every day he distributes alms to more than three hundred of them, serving them with his own hands, an example the Queen and the main concubines follow with great devotion. This great veneration is not directed toward the person but toward the robe. That is why, as soon as a monk is defrocked, he instantly loses any rights to the respect and privileges which they formerly testified toward him. The Siamese are convinced that one acquires great merit by taking the yellow robe and that this merit is applicable to the souls of deceased parents. This is why they demand that all their boys become monks at least for some time.

Very often rich people, out of a spirit of devotion, say to their slaves: "If you want to make yourself *phra*, I give you your freedom." The slaves, who do not ask anything better, eagerly follow the desire of their master. At the full moon of the fifth month it is the custom in Siam that lower-ranking persons wash their superiors with perfumed waters. On that day the *phra* wash their abbot and in turn the people wash the monks to express their respect and gratitude to them.

The profession of *talapoin* is quite lucrative because especially women like continually to offer them gifts and for the short time a *phra* devotes himself to preaching, he soon acquires a small fortune which brings him in a position to establish himself. Moreover, they enjoy a numbr of privileges. They are exempt from any corvée and of any service, do not pay any tribute and are never stopped by the cymbals of customs posts. Of this they take advantage procuring, be it for themselves or their relatives, all kinds of merchandise which, thanks to the yellow robe, are exempt from paying royal taxes on dues on monopolies.

There is a time of the year when *phra* make some kind of retreat amidst fields or in the forest to expiate errors against the rules which they have made in the course of the year. This retreat lasts three weeks. They make small huts of leaves in which they are supposed to meditate all night long and during the day come back to visit their temple and sleep in their cells. During these wakes in the woods they have no other defense against ferocious animals than a flimsy trelliswork of bamboo; thus, the people claim that tigers have respect for *phra* and even come to lick their feet and hands when they are meditating.

Among the multitude of *phra* one meets a few who are really very austere. They are true to their rules, do not eat vegetables and especially peas or carrots; they always keep a hand on a big rosary of 800 grains on which they incessantly recite prayers in Pali. They walk without looking at anybody, eyes lowered, with a mortified and penitent look. But the great number of *phra* have no scruples about speaking while walking, looking left and right, running from one house to the next and committing a host of acts contrary to the rules. Idleness, laziness, vagrancy, pride,

arrogance, vanity, greed and immorality are as many vices one often observes in monks.

In the surroundings of the temples there is a certain class of women who are called *nang xi*. These are widows who, not knowing what to do, devote themselves to service of the *phra*. The abbot of the monastery gives them a white robe by means of which they have the right to ask alms, not only for themselves but also for the monastery to which they are attached. If they behave badly, they are chased away and brought to their relatives to be punished. These half-nuns must recite some kind of rosary, and it is said that when they pray they are obliged to turn their back to each other. There is also a class of men who are called *ta thén* who dress in white and devote themselves to temple service as *nang xi* do. Their main task is to sweep temple avenues and public halls of the monastery.

The monks' dwellings are temples the description of which has been given elsewhere. Some travelers have written that in India and especially in Siam, there were hospitals for animals. But they have formed a false idea of these alleged hospitals. In reality, the temples are but a place of asylum for animals. When somebody has small dogs or small cats which he does not want to feed, he will leave them in the temple for others, out of devotion, offer *phra* a couple of peacocks, geese, chickens or cocks for the decoration of the temple, or still others set a few hundred big fishes free in the fishponds of the monks. Pious believers sometimes bring pigs, monkey and turtles to set them free in small temple woods. But often this afflux of animals become a great subject of temptation for the *luksit* and for the monks themselves because when gifts of believers are not abundant, the *luksit* or *nen* put their hands on these easily caught guests. It sometimes happens that at night, while the monks sleep, people from the neighborhood, armed with a casting-net or some other kind of fishing gear come to depopulate the pond or they off-handedly take away a pig, at the risk of being showered with stones if the monks wake up to the distressed cries of the poor animal they are spiriting away.

Appendix B

U.S. Dual Citizenship

Advice about Possible Loss of U.S. Citizenship and Dual Nationality by the U.S. Department of State:¹²⁵

The Department of State is responsible for determining the citizenship status of a person located outside the United States or in connection with the application for a U.S. passport while in the United States.

POTENTIALLY EXPATRIATING ACTS

Section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1481), as amended, states that U.S. citizens are subject to loss of citizenship if they perform certain *specified* acts *voluntarily* and *with the intention to relinquish* U.S. citizenship. Briefly stated, these acts include:

1. obtaining naturalization in a foreign state (Sec. 349 (a) (1) INA);
2. taking an oath, affirmation or other formal declaration to a foreign state or its political subdivisions (Sec. 349 (a) (2) INA);
3. entering or serving in the armed forces of a foreign state engaged in hostilities against the U.S. or serving as a commissioned or non-commissioned officer in the armed forces of a foreign state (Sec. 349 (a) (3) INA);
4. accepting employment with a foreign government if (a) one has the nationality of that foreign state or (b) an oath or declaration of allegiance is required in accepting the position (Sec. 349 (a) (4) INA);

¹²⁵ U.S. Department of State. Bureau of Consular Affairs. "Advice about Possible Loss of U.S. Citizenship and Dual Nationality".

5. formally renouncing U.S. citizenship before a U.S. diplomatic or consular officer outside the United States (sec. 349 (a) (5) INA);
6. formally renouncing U.S. citizenship within the U.S. (but only under strict, narrow statutory conditions) (Sec. 349 (a) (6) INA);
7. conviction for an act of treason (Sec. 349 (a) (7) INA).

ADMINISTRATIVE STANDARD OF EVIDENCE

As already noted, the actions listed above can cause loss of U.S. citizenship only if performed voluntarily and with the intention of relinquishing U.S. citizenship. The Department has a uniform administrative standard of evidence based on the premise that U.S. citizens intend to retain United States citizenship when they obtain naturalization in a foreign state, subscribe to a declaration of allegiance to a foreign state, serve in the armed forces of a foreign state not engaged in hostilities with the United States, or accept non-policy level employment with a foreign government.

DISPOSITION OF CASES WHEN ADMINISTRATIVE PREMISE IS APPLICABLE

In light of the administrative premise discussed above, a person who:

1. is naturalized in a foreign country;
2. takes a routine oath of allegiance to a foreign state;
3. serves in the armed forces of a foreign state not engaged in hostilities with the United States, or
4. accepts non-policy level employment with a foreign government, and in so doing wishes to retain U.S. citizenship need not submit prior to the commission of a potentially expatriating act a statement or evidence of his or her intent to retain U.S. citizenship since such an intent will be presumed.

When, as the result of an individual's inquiry or an individual's application for registration or a passport it comes to the attention of a U.S. consular officer that a U.S. citizen has performed an act made potentially expatriating by Sections 349(a)(1), 349(a)(2), 349(a)(3) or 349(a)(4) as described above, the consular officer will simply ask the applicant if there was intent to relinquish U.S. citizenship when performing the act. If the answer is no, the consular officer will certify that it was **not** the person's intent to relinquish U.S. citizenship and, consequently, find that the person has retained U.S. citizenship.

PERSONS WHO WISH TO RELINQUISH U.S. CITIZENSHIP

If the answer to the question regarding intent to relinquish citizenship is **yes** , the person concerned will be asked to complete a questionnaire to ascertain his or her intent toward U.S. citizenship. When the questionnaire is completed and the voluntary relinquishment statement is signed by the expatriate, the consular officer will proceed to prepare a certificate of loss of nationality. The certificate will be forwarded to the Department of State for consideration and, if appropriate, approval.

An individual who has performed **any** of the acts made potentially expatriating by statute who wishes to lose U.S. citizenship may do so by affirming in writing to a U.S. consular officer that the act was performed with an intent to relinquish U.S. citizenship. Of course, a person always has the option of seeking to formally renounce U.S. citizenship abroad in accordance with Section 349 (a) (5) INA.

DISPOSITION OF CASES WHEN ADMINISTRATIVE PREMISE IS INAPPLICABLE

The premise that a person intends to retain U.S. citizenship is not applicable when the individual:

1. formally renounces U.S. citizenship before a consular officer;
2. serves in the armed forces of a foreign state engaged in hostilities with the United States;
3. takes a policy level position in a foreign state;
4. is convicted of treason; or
5. performs an act made potentially expatriating by statute accompanied by conduct which is so inconsistent with retention of U.S. citizenship that it compels a conclusion that the individual intended to relinquish U.S. citizenship. (Such cases are very rare.)

Cases in categories 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be developed carefully by U.S. consular officers to ascertain the individual's intent toward U.S. citizenship.

APPLICABILITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE PREMISE TO PAST CASES

The premise established by the administrative standard of evidence is applicable to cases adjudicated previously. Persons who previously lost U.S. citizenship may wish to have their cases reconsidered in light of this policy.

A person may initiate such a reconsideration by submitting a request to the nearest U.S. consular office or by writing directly to:

Express Mail:

Director
Office of Policy Review and Inter-Agency Liaison
(CA/OCS/PRI)
Overseas Citizens Services
Bureau of Consular Affairs
U.S. Department of State
4th Floor
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Phone: 202-736-9110
Fax: 202-736-9111
Email: ASKPRI@state.gov

Regular Mail

Director
Office of Policy Review and Inter-Agency Liaison
(CA/OCS/PRI)
Overseas Citizens Services
Bureau of Consular Affairs
U.S. Department of State
SA-29, 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20520

Each case will be reviewed on its own merits taking into consideration, for example, statements made by the person at the time of the potentially expatriating act.

LOSS OF NATIONALITY AND TAXATION

P.L. 104-191 contains changes in the taxation of U.S. citizens who renounce or otherwise lose U.S. citizenship. In general, any person who lost U.S. citizenship within 10 years immediately preceding the close of the taxable year, whose principle purpose in losing citizenship was to avoid taxation, will be subject to continued taxation.

See ...

- Internal Revenue Service Instructions for Completion of Form 8854
- Internal Revenue Service Guidance on Expatriation Reporting Requirements
- Internal Revenue Service Expatriation Tax

Copies of approved Certificates of Loss of Nationality are provided by the Department of State to the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to P.L. 104-191. Questions regarding United States taxation consequences upon loss of U.S. nationality should be addressed to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

DUAL NATIONALITY

Dual nationality can occur as the result of a variety of circumstances. The automatic acquisition or retention of a foreign nationality, acquired, for example, by birth in a foreign country or through an alien parent, does not affect U.S. citizenship. It is prudent, however, to check with authorities of the other country to see if dual nationality is permissible under local law. Dual nationality can also occur when a person is naturalized in a foreign state without intending to relinquish U.S. nationality and is thereafter found not to have lost U.S. citizenship: the individual consequently may possess dual nationality. While recognizing the existence of dual nationality and permitting Americans to have other nationalities, the U.S. Government also recognizes the problems which it may cause. Claims of other countries upon dual-national U.S. citizens often place them in situations where their obligations to one country are in conflict with the laws of the other. In addition, their dual nationality may hamper efforts to provide U.S. diplomatic and consular protection to them when they are abroad.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See also information flyers on related subject available via the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs home page on the internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. These flyers include:

- Dual Nationality
- Advice About Possible Loss of U.S. Citizenship and Seeking Public Office in a Foreign State
- Advice About Possible Loss of U.S. Citizenship and Foreign Military Service
- Renunciation of United States Citizenship
- Renunciation of U.S. Citizenship by Persons Claiming a Right of Residence in the United States

02/ 01/2008

Appendix C

Thailand's Nationality Act B.E. 2508 as amended by Acts B.E. 2535 No. 2 and 3 (1992)

Given on the 21st day of July, B.E. 2508
(1965) Being the 20th Year of the Present
Reign.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej has been graciously
pleased to proclaim that:

Whereas it is expedient to revise the law on nationality,

Be it, therefore, enacted by the King, by and with the advice and
consent of the Constituent Assembly in the capacity of the
National Assembly, as follows .

Section 1. This Act shall be called the "Nationality Act,
B.E. 2508"

Section 2. This Act shall come into force on and from the
day following the date of its publication in the Government
Gazette.

Section 3. The following shall be repealed:

- (1) The Nationality Act, B.E. 2495;
- (2) The Nationality Act (No. 2), B.E. 2496;
- (3) The Nationality Act (No. 3), B.E. 2499;
- (4) The Nationality Act (No. 4) B.E. 2503.

Section 4. In this Act:

"Alien" means a person who does not have a Thai nationality;

"Competent official" means the person appointed by the Minister for the execution of this Act;

"Minister" means the Minister taking charge and control of the execution of this Act.

Section 5. The acquisition of Thai nationality under Section 9 or 12, the loss of Thai nationality under Chapter 2, or the recovery of Thai nationality under Chapter 3, shall be effective upon its publication in the Government Gazette and shall have an individual effect.

Section 6. The Minister of Interior shall take charge and control of the execution of this Act and shall have the power to appoint competent officials and to issue Ministerial Regulations fixing fees not exceeding the rates annexed to this Act, and to exempt any person as he thinks fit from fees for the following:

- (1) Application for naturalization as a Thai;
- (2) Certificate of naturalization as a Thai;
- (3) Application for recovery of Thai nationality.

Such Ministerial Regulations shall become effective upon their publication in the Government Gazette.

Chapter 1. Acquisition of Thai Nationality

Section 7. The following persons acquire Thai nationality by birth:

- (1) A person born of a father or a mother of Thai nationality, whether within or outside the Thai Kingdom;

(2) A person born within the Thai Kingdom except the person under Section 7 *bis* paragraph one.

Section 7. bis. A person born within the Thai Kingdom of alien parents does not acquire Thai nationality if at the time of his birth, his lawful father or his father who did not marry his mother, or his mother was:

- (1) the person having been given leniency for temporary residence in Kingdom as a special case;
- (2) the person having been permitted to stay temporarily in the Kingdom;
- (3) the person having entered and resided in the Thai Kingdom without permission under the law on immigration.

In case the Minister deems it appropriate, he may consider and give an order for each particular case granting Thai nationality to any person under paragraph one, in conformity with the rules prescribed by the Cabinet.

The person who is born within the Thai Kingdom and has not acquired Thai nationality under paragraph one shall be deemed to have entered and resided in the Thai Kingdom without permission under the law on immigration unless an order is given otherwise according to the law on that particular matter.

Section 8. A person born within the Thai Kingdom of alien parents does not acquire Thai nationality, if at the time of his birth, his father or mother was:

- (1) Head of a diplomatic mission or a member thereof;
- (2) Head of a consular mission or a member thereof;

- (3) An officer or expert of an international organization;
- (4) Member of a family, either as a relative under patronage or servant, who came from abroad to reside with the person in (1), (2) or (3).

Section 9. An alien woman who marries a person of Thai nationality shall, if she desires to acquire Thai nationality, file an application with the competent official according to the form and in the manner prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

The granting or refusal of permission for acquisition of Thai nationality shall lie with the discretion of the Minister.

Section 10. An alien who possesses the following qualifications may apply for naturalization as a Thai:

- (1) becoming *sui juris* in accordance with Thai law and the law under which he has nationality;
- (2) having good behavior;
- (3) having regular occupation;
- (4) having a domicile in the Thai Kingdom for a consecutive period of not less than five years till the day of filing the application for naturalization;
- (5) having knowledge of Thai language as prescribed in the Regulations.

Section 11. The provisions of Section 10 (4) and (5) shall apply if the applicant for naturalization as a Thai;

- (1) has rendered distinguished service to Thailand or has done acts to the benefit of official service, which is deemed suitable by the Minister;

- (2) is a child or wife of a person who has been naturalized as a Thai or has recovered Thai nationality; or
- (3) is one who used to have Thai Nationality.

Section 12. Any person being desirous of applying for naturalization as a Thai, shall file an application with the competent official according to the form and in the manner prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Should the applicant for naturalization as a Thai, under paragraph one, have children who are not *sui juris* in accordance with Thai law, and who have a domicile in Thailand, he may concurrently apply for such naturalization for his children. In this case, such children shall be exempt from possessing the qualifications under Section 10 (1), (3), (4) and (5).

The granting or refusal of permission for naturalization as a Thai shall lie with the discretion of the Minister. In case the Minister deems appropriate to grant permission, he shall submit the matter to the King for Royal Sanction. After the Royal Sanction, the applicant shall make an affirmation of loyalty to Thailand.

A person who has been naturalized as a Thai is entitled to apply for a certificate of naturalization as a Thai.

Chapter 2. Loss of Thai Nationality.

Section 13. A woman of Thai nationality who marries an alien and may acquire the nationality of her husband according to the nationality law of her husband, shall, if she desires to renounce Thai nationality, make a declaration of her intention before the competent official according to the form and in the manner prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 14. A person of Thai nationality, who was born of an alien father and has acquired the nationality of his father according to the law on nationality of his father, or a person who

acquires Thai nationality under Section 12 paragraph 2 is required, if he desires to retain his other nationality, to make a declaration of his intention to renounce his Thai nationality within one year after his attaining the age of twenty years, according to such form and in the manner as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

If, after consideration of the said intention, the Minister is of opinion that there is reasonable ground to believe that such person may acquire the nationality of his father or a foreign nationality, he shall grant permission, except in cases where Thailand is being engaged in armed conflict, or is in state of war, he may order the dispensation of any renunciation of Thai nationality.

Section 15. Except in the case under Section 14, a person who has Thai nationality and other nationality, or who acquires Thai nationality by

naturalization shall, if he desires to renounce Thai nationality, file an application with the competent official according to such form and in the manner prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

The granting or refusal of permission for renunciation of Thai nationality shall lie with the discretion of the Minister.

Section 16. With respect to an alien woman who acquires Thai nationality by marriage, her Thai nationality may be revoked if it appears that:

- (1) The marriage was effected by concealment of facts or making any statement false in material particular;
- (2) She commits any act prejudicial to the security, or conflicting with the interests of the State, or amounting to an insult to the nation;
- (3) She commits any act contrary to public order or good morals.

Section 17. With respect to a person who has Thai nationality, by reason of his having been born within the Thai Kingdom of an alien father, his Thai nationality may be revoked if it appears that:

- (1) He has resided in a foreign country, of which his father has or used to have nationality, for a consecutive period of more than five years as from the day of his becoming *sui juris*;
- (2) There is evidence to show that he makes use of the nationality of his father or of a foreign nationality, or that he has an active interest in the nationality of his father or in a foreign nationality;
- (3) He commits any act prejudicial to the security or conflicting with the interests of the State, or amounting to an insult to the nation;
- (4) He commits any act contrary to public order or good morals.

The Minister in the event of (1) or (2), and the Court in the event of (3) or (4) and upon request of the public prosecutor, shall order the revocation of Thai nationality.

Section 18. When there exist circumstances suitable for maintaining the security or interests of the State, the Minister is empowered to revoke Thai nationality of the person who acquires Thai nationality under Section 7 Bis. paragraph two.

Section 19. The Minister is empowered to revoke Thai nationality of a person who acquires Thai nationality by naturalization if it appears that:

- (1) The naturalization was effected by concealment of facts or making any statement false in material particular;

- (2) There is evidence to show that he still makes use of his former nationality;
- (3) He commits any act prejudicial to the security or conflicting the interests of the State, or amounting to an insult to the nation;
- (4) He commits any act contrary to public order or good morals;
- (5) He has resided abroad without having a domicile in Thailand for more than five years;
- (6) He still retains the nationality of the country at war with Thailand.

The revocation of Thai nationality under this section may extend to children of a person whose Thai nationality is revoked in case such children are not *sui juris* and acquire Thai nationality under Section 12, paragraph two and the Minister shall, after the order for revocation of Thai nationality has been given, shall submit the matter to the King for information.

Section 20. A Committee shall be set up consisting of the Under Secretary of State for Interior as chairman, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Director-General of the Department of Administrative Affairs, the Director-General of the Police Department and the Director-General of the Public Prosecution Department as members, having the duty to consider the revocation of Thai nationality under Sections 16, 17(1) or 18, 19.

Where circumstances appear with respect to any person that his Thai nationality may be revoked, the competent official shall submit the latter for consideration of the Committee. After consideration, the Committee shall refer its opinion to the Minister for direction.

Section 21. A person of Thai nationality who was born of an alien father and may acquire the nationality of his father according to the law n nationality of his father shall lose Thai nationality if he obtains an lien identification card according to the law on registration of aliens.

Section 22. A person of Thai nationality who has been naturalized as an alien, or who has renounced Thai nationality, or whose Thai nationality has been revoked, shall lose Thai nationality.

Chapter 3. Recovery of Thai Nationality

Section 23. A woman of Thai nationality who has renounced Thai nationality in case of marriage to an alien under Section 13 may, if the marriage has been dissolved by whatsoever reason, apply for recovery of Thai nationality.

In applying for recovery of Thai nationality, a declaration of intention shall be made before the competent official according to the form and in the manner prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 24. A person of Thai nationality, together with his parent while not becoming *sui juris*, shall, if he desires to recover Thai nationality, file with the Competent official an application according to the form and in the manner prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations within two years from the day of his becoming *sui juris* under Thai law, and the law under which he has nationality.

The granting or refusal of permission for recovery of Thai nationality shall lie with the discretion of the Minister.

Rates of Fees.

- (1) Application for naturalization as a Thai each time 5,000 baht
- (2) Application for naturalization as a Thai for a child of the applicant, who is not *sui juris* each time 2,500 baht
- (3) Certificate of naturalization as a Thai each copy 500 baht
- (4) Substitute of the certificate of naturalization as a Thai each copy 500 baht
- (5) Application for recovery of Thai nationality each time 1,000 baht
- (6) Other applications each copy 5 baht

Source: Scan from "Nationality & Statelessness" Vol. II, IBHI Humanitarian Series, 1996

Appendix D

Thailand – Immigration Act

In the name of his Majesty King Bhumibol
Enacted on the 24th of February B.E. 2522 the 34th year of the
present reign.

Whereas it is deemed proper to revise the Law on Immigration

Section 1: This Act shall be called the “Immigration Act, B.E. 2522”

Section 2: This Act shall be in force ninety days from the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

Section 3: Immigration Acts:

1. B.E. 2493 (1950)
2. B.E. 2497 (1954 – NO.2)

Shall be repealed in lieu all others laws, regulations, or rules
which are provided for in this

Act or contradictory hereto or inconsistent herewith, the provision
of this Act shall be applied.

Section 4: In this Act:

“ Alien” means any person who is not of Thai nationality under
the nationality Act.

“ Conveyance” means any vehicle or beast of burden or any other
object(s) which may be used in conveying persons from one place
to another.

“Owner of Conveyance” includes an agent of the owner, a person
renting, an agent if the person renting, possessor, or an agent of
the possessor of the conveyance, as the case may be.

“Person in charge of conveyance” means the master of the vessel or person responsible for the control of the conveyance.

“Crew of conveyance” means the person who has a function, duty, or work in the conveyance, and in the interest of this Act, it includes the person in charge of conveyance driving the conveyance without a crew.

“Passenger” means any person other than the person in charge, or the crew of conveyance

“Immigrant” means any alien who enters the Kingdom.

“Immigration Doctor” means any doctor appointed by the Director General to carry out the provisions of this Act.

“House Master” means any persons who is the chief possessor of a house, whether in the capacity of owner, tenant, or in any other capacity whatsoever, in accordance with the law on people act.

“ Dwelling Place ” means any place used for habitation such as a house shed , boat or floating house which human beings inhabit .It also includes the precinct of the place used for habitation , whether it be enclosed or not , in accordance with the Penal Code.

“Hotel” means any place built for remuneration for travelers or persons who wish to look for a place to stay or rest for a period of time, in accordance with the law on the hotels.

“Commission” means The Immigration Commission.

“Competent Official” means any officer appointed by the Minister to carry out a function in conformity with this Act.

“Director” means Director General of the Police Department.

“Minister” means the Minister in charge of this Act.

Section 5: The Minister of Interior shall be in charge and have control for the executive of this Act and shall have power to appoint competent officials, and Issue Minister Regulations; to fix fees and other expense not exceeding rates annexed to this Act and to fix other activities for the execution of this Act. Such Ministerial Regulations shall become effective after having been published in the government Gazette.

Chapter 1: Immigration Commission

Section 6: The immigration Commission will consist of the Under Secretary of the Minister of Interior as Chairman and the following members:

- Under Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Director General, Police Department
- Director General, labor Department
- Director General, public Prosecution Department
- Secretary General, Board of Investment Committee
- Secretary General, National Security Council
- Director, Tourist Organization of Thailand
- Commander of Immigration Division as member and secretary

Section 7: The Immigration Commission shall have power and duty to:

1. Revoke permission for temporary stay in the Kingdom under Section 36 Para 1.
2. Consider and appeal under Section 36 Para 2.
3. Permit aliens to enter into and assume residence in the Kingdom under Section 41 Para1
4. Fix qualifications of any aliens asking to take up residence in the Kingdom; and to fix conditions pertaining to the national security; and to fix other conditions under Section 41 Para 2.

5. Fix Regulations for residence applications of aliens temporarily entering into the Kingdom under section 41 Para 4.
6. Permit aliens to enter into and take up residence in the Kingdom under Section 43 Para 1 and to fix regulations for display of the aliens financial status under Section 43 Para 2.
7. Permit the alien, who is authorized to stay in the Kingdom temporarily, to take up residence; and to permit and fix conditions in rendering permission to the alien who has applied for taking up residence in the Kingdom to remain in the Kingdom for the time being under Section 45 Para 1 and 2.
8. Give order to revoke permission for taking up residence in the Kingdom under Section 47 Para 3.
9. Permit aliens, who have a residence in the kingdom, to continue that residence in the Kingdom under Section 51 Para 1.
10. Consider revocation of a residence permit under permit under Section 53.
11. Give advice, suggestions and view to the Minister on establishing standard operating procedures for local official and for other officials, regarding national security, as well as issuance of Ministerial Regulations under this Act.
12. Consider and give opinions on immigration matters as assigned by the cabinet or by the Minister.

Section 8: In the performance of duty of the Immigration Commission under this Act, the Committee member who is also the secretary shall, without delay, submit matters under committee jurisdiction to the chairman of the Committee; his duty, he (the committee member who is also the secretary) shall without delay, submit them to the committee member who is appointed by the committee. The chairman of the committee or the committee member so appointed shall call for a meeting in accordance with the urgency of the matter and in accordance with the rules and regulations fix by the committee. In the meeting of the

Commission, if the Chairman does not attend the meeting or is not in the Meeting of the members of the meeting shall select one member to preside over the Meeting. The quorum of any meeting will consist of no less than half of all members. Decisions of the meeting will be decided by a majority vote. One member has one vote. If the voting score is equal, the Chairman of the meeting shall make the deciding vote.

Section 9: The Immigration commission may appoint Sub – Committees or may empower any Competent Official to carry out any assigned function. The provision of Section 8 shall be applied Mutandis for the meeting of the Sub – Committee.

Section 10: In the performance of duties under this Act, the commission shall have power to issue written orders asking persons concerned to give facts or to present documents pertaining to meters under the power and duty of the Immigration Commission.

Chapter 2: Entering and Department the Kingdom

Section 11: Persons entering into or departing the Kingdom must other and leave by way of Immigration check points, designated landing, stations or areas and in accordance to the prescribed time as published in the Government Gazette by the Minister.

Section 12: Aliens which fall into any of the following categories are excluded from entering into the Kingdom:

1. Having no genuine and valid passport or document used in lieu of passport; or having a genuine and valid passport or document used in lieu of a passport without Visa by the Royal Thai Embassies or Consulates in Foreign countries; or from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs , excepting if a visa is not required for certain types of aliens in special instances.

Obtainment of Visa and visa exemption will be under the

- rules and conditions as provided in the Ministerial Regulations.
2. Having no appropriate means of living following entrance into the Kingdom.
 3. Having entered into the Kingdom to take occupation as a laborer or to take employment by using physical without skills training or to work in violation of the Ministerial Regulations.
 4. Being mentally unstable or having any of the disease as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.
 5. Having not yet been vaccinated against smallpox or inoculated or undergone any other medical treatment for protection against disease and having refused to have such vaccinations administered by the Immigration Doctor.
 6. Having been imprisoned by the judgment of the Thai Court; or by a lawful injunction; or by the judgment of the Court of foreign country, except when the penalty is for a petty offense or negligence or is provided for as an exception in the Ministerial Regulations.
 7. Having behavior which would indicated possible danger to the public or likelihood of being a nuisance or constituting any violence to the peace or safety of the public or to the security of the public or to the security of the nation , or being under warrant of arrest by competent officials of foreign governments.
 8. Reason to believe that entrance into the Kingdom was for the purpose of being involved in prostitution, the trading of woman of children, drug smuggling, or other types of smuggling which are contrary to the public morality.
 9. Having no money or bond as prescribed by the Minister under him
 10. Being a person prohibited by the Minister under Section 16.
 11. Being deported by either the Government of Thailand that of or other foreign countries; or the right of stay in the Kingdom or in foreign countries having been revoked; or having been sent out of the Kingdom by competent officials at the expense of the Government of Thailand

unless the Minister shall consider exemption on an individual special case basis. The examination and diagnosis of disease of a physical or mental nature, including protective operations as against disease, shall be conducted by the Immigration Doctor.

Section 13: The bellowed listed aliens shall not be required to have a passport or document in lieu of passport:

1. Any person in charge of or the crew of a seagoing or air conveyance making an entry into a port, station or locality in the Kingdom and departing therefrom. For convenience in controlling these persons, the competent official may issue them a certificate in accordance with the form as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.
2. A citizen of a country with has its boundaries adjacent to Thailand making at a temporary journey across the border under compliance with the agreement between the Government of Thailand and of that country.
3. A passenger of an international train holding a through ticket and making a transit journey across Thailand under compliance with the international agreement between the Government of Thailand and of the country concerned, including the conductor and crew of such train.

Section 14: The Minister shall have power to issue public notice in the Government Gazette requiring the alien entering into the Kingdom to have with either money or bond, or shall have power to order an exemption under any condition. The public notice issued by the Minister under the first paragraph of this section shall not apply to children under the age of twelve years.

Section 15: Aliens entering into the Kingdom under bellow listed status shall be exempted from complying out the function or the prohibition under Section 11, Section 12 (1), (4) and (5) and Section 18 Para 2.

1. Persons on Diplomatic Missions sent by a Foreign country' s government to perform duties in the Kingdom ; or which are traveling through the Kingdom to perform duties in another country.
2. Consular parties and their employees sent by a foreign country's government to perform duties in the Kingdom to perform duties in another country.
3. A person which a foreign country's government has sent to perform duties or missions in the Kingdom with the approval of the Thai Government.
4. A person performing duties or missions in the Kingdom for the government of Thailand in accordance with the agreements of the Government of Thailand and of the foreign country involved.
5. Officer Chief of International Organizations or Department performing duties in Thailand, which are protected by law or which the Thai Government has concurred with, including officer, specialists or other persons, who are appointed or responsibilities in the Kingdom for said Organization or Departments or for the Thai Government under an agreement with the Thai Government has made with such International Organizations or Departments.
6. Spouses or children under patronage or being a part of the allowable household of persons under paragraph (1) , (2) , (3) , (4) or (5)
7. Privates servants traveling from foreign countries to work at the residence of the persons under (1) or any person having a document showing status equivalent to that of diplomatic immunity, in accordance with the agreement that the Thai Government has made with Foreign Governments or with International Organizations or Departments.
8. Case (1) , (2) , (6) or (7) shall be in compliance with agreements made between concerned countries and with mutual reciprocation. The competent official shall have power to question or examine evidence for the purpose of

ascertaining whether a person entering into the Kingdom is under the exemptions provided for this Section.

Section 16: In the instance where for reason of national welfare or safeguarding the public peace, culture, morality, or welfare, or when the Minister considers it improper to allow any alien or any group of alien to enter into the Kingdom, the Minister shall have power to exclude said alien or group aliens from entering into the Kingdom.

Section 17 : In certain special cases , the Minister , by the Cabinet approval , may permit any alien or any group of aliens to stay in the Kingdom under certain conditions , or may conditions , or may consider exemption from being conformity with this Act.

Section 18 : The competent official shall have power to inspect persons entering into or leaving the Kingdom , In light of this provision , persons entering into or departing from the Kingdom must submit a list of items as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations , and must be inspected and approval by the competent official assigned to the Immigration check point.

Section 19 : In inspecting and considering whether an alien is forbidden from entering the Kingdom , the competent official shall have authority to allow said alien to stay at an appropriate place after promising that he will present himself to the competent official to received his orders on a specified date , time and place ; or if the competent official deems appropriate he may call for a bond or call fir both bond and security ; or the competent official may detain said aliens at any place for paragraph , the competent official shall have power to call a person , who's statement the competent official has reason to believe may be useful in case of doubt, to give oath, testimony, or statements to the competent officials. If there is reason to suspect that any alien has entered into the Kingdom for the purpose committing acts specified in Section 12 (8) or for the purpose taking therein , or any woman or child enters into the Kingdom for a temporary stay by ordering said person(s) to report

in person to him and answer his questions ; or the competent official may officials at the Local Police Station where said person (s) will reside , within a period of time prescribed by the competent official which shall not be less than seven day intervals.

Section 20: In the instance where the competent official has detained any alien under the provision of Section 19, the competent official shall have grounds to detain said alien in so far as it is necessary, under the circumstance but not more than forty – eight hours beginning at the time of this (detainee’s) arrival at the office of the competent official. In case of necessary, the period of forty – eight house may be extended, but not to exceed seven days, and the competent official shall record the reason foe such extension. If it necessary to detain any alien longer than the period of time provided in the first paragraph, the competent official shall apply to the Court for an order to further detain said alien and Court may order further detention, if found necessary, not exceeding twelve days at each application. However, if the Court deems it appropriate, the Court may order that said alien be temporary.

Section 21: The expense of detaining an alien shall, under Section 19 and 20 be charge to the account of the owner, or person in charge, of the conveyance bringing the alien into the Kingdom. If there appears to be on owner or person in charge of the conveyance , or the alien concerned entered into the Kingdom without coming by way of a conveyance , the expense shall be charged to his (alien’s) account.

Section 22: In the instance where the competent official discovers that an alien is forbidden from entering into the Kingdom under the provisions of Section 12, the competent official shall have authority to order said alien by written notification to leave the Kingdom. If said alien is not satisfied with the competent official’s order, he (alien) may appeal to the Minister. The order of the Minister shall be final. Appealing cases are not allowed under Section 12 (1) or (10), but if the Minister does not have an

order within seven days beginning from the date of submitting the appeal, it is considered that the Minister has ordered that said alien is not forbidden from entering into the Kingdom under Section 12. Appeal must be submitted the competent official within forty – eight hours beginning from the time of received said order from the competent official and must comply with the pattern (and a fee must be paid) an provided in the Ministerial Regulations. When appeal is submitted by the alien concerned, the competent official shall delay deportation of said alien until an order for said case is receive from the Minister. While processing under order of the competent official or while waiting for an order from the Minister, as the case may be, the provisions of Section 20 shall not be applied.

Chapter 3: Conveyance

Section 23: The owner or person in charge of a conveyance must bring the conveyance into or out of the Kingdom thought the proper route, immigration check point, port boundaries station, or area, and time, which the minister shall publish in the Government Gazette.

Section 24: The competent official shall have power to check conveyances entering into or leaving the Kingdom; or to check conveyances where there is reason to suspect that passengers are being taken in or out of the Kingdom; except in the case that such conveyance is being used for the official activities of the Government of Thailand or of a Foreign Country for which permission is granted by Government of Thailand.

Section 25: When any conveyance enters onto or leaves the Kingdom, the owner or person in charge of said conveyance must report the date and time of arrival or departure of the conveyance at the port, station, or area in accordance with the pattern outlined in the Ministerial Regulation to the competent official at the office of Immigration controlling said port, station or area within the specified time as published by the competent official. In the instance that the provision of Para 1. cannot be carried out ,

the owner or person in charge of the conveyance shall , in person , as soon as possible , report to the competent official at the nearest Immigration Office. In making a report of the arrival or departure of conveyances under the provision of this Section, the Minister, if he deems it proper, may exempt any conveyance, or place it under new stipulations.

Section 26: The owner or person in charge of any conveyance entering into or leaving the Kingdom must submit a list (passenger and crew) in accordance with the pattern prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations and must be inspected by the competent official at the place and under conditions published by the Director General. In the instance that an inspection must be conducted at any other place, which is other than the place published by the Director General under Para. of this Section, such inspection must be approved by the Director General or a competent official deputized by the Director General.

Section 27: For the purpose of inspection, the owner or person in charge of any conveyance into or leaving the Kingdom shall be required to do as follows:

1. Prevent passengers or crew from leaving the conveyance or any quarters arranged with the approval of the competent official without the permission of the competent official, except in the instance that the person in charge and crew of the conveyance are the same person, such a person is allowed to leave the conveyance in the status of the person in charge for her purpose of notifying the competent official as outlined under Section 25. If the passengers or crew of said conveyance fail to comply with or otherwise cause a disturbance to, the provisions of Section 29 Para. 2 shall be applied Mutatis Mutandis. The expense of talking action under the provisions of this paragraph shall be charged to the account of the owner or person in charged of the conveyance.
2. Submit to the competent official a list of passengers and crew, including the person in charge of the conveyance

according to the pattern as prescribed by the Ministerial Regulations and within the period of time fixed by the Director General or a competent official.

3. Cooperate fully with the competent official in following the provisions of this Act.

The provisions of this Section shall apply to the owner or person in charge of the conveyance from or to the border, and conveying passengers into the kingdom or talking passenger to the border for the purpose of leaving the Kingdom. This applies to passenger entering into or leaving the Kingdom only.

Section: 28 While in the Kingdom. If there is an increase or production in the number of crew members or a change in crew members of the conveyance or if any crew of the conveyances shall not leave the Kingdom, the owner of the conveyance, or the person in charge of the conveyance in the instance where there is no conveyance owner in the Kingdom, shall notify the competent official in accordance with the pattern as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations. In the instance where the crew of the conveyance shall not leave the Kingdom as stated in Para 1. , and the crew of the conveyance are aliens , the owner or person in charge of the conveyance , as the case may be , shall take such person (s) and turn them over to the competent official as soon as possible. If the said crew of the conveyance resists the owner or person in charge of conveyance in the course of complying with the provisions of Para 2. , the provision of Section 29 Para 2. shall be applied Mutatis Mutandis. The expense for carrying out this paragraph shall be charged to the account of the owner or person in charge of the conveyance.

Section 29: When the competent official discovers any illegal alien or has reason to suspect any alien of being illegal for entering into the Kingdom, the competent official shall have authority to order the owner or person in charge to the conveyance to detain said alien in the conveyance or to send said alien to any place for the purpose of interrogation by the competent official or else deporting said alien. In the instance that

said alien resists, or cause a disturbance, the owner or person in charge of the conveyance of his agent may ask the local administrative or police officials to detain or arrest said alien. If assistance from such official cannot be immediately rendered, the owner of person in charge of the conveyance shall have authority to arrest said alien over to local administrative or police officials, who shall without delay, turn said alien concerned over to the competent official for the purpose of carrying out this Act. The expense concerning action taken under this Section shall be charged to the account of the owner or person in charge of the conveyance.

Section 30 : In the instance where there is reason to suspect that a violation of this Act has taken place , the competent official shall have the authority to order the owner or person in charge of conveyance to stop the conveyance or to take the conveyance to any place necessary for inspection. The order under Para.1 maybe carried out by giving a signal by any other means which is understandable.

Section 31: During the time any conveyance enters into the Kingdom, beginning from the time said conveyance comes through the Kingdom until the competent official will complete his inspection, no person, who is not an official, shall be permitted to board said conveyance or to bring another conveyance alongside or to enter the area or place arranged for inspection, except as authorized by the competent official. The owner or person in charge of the conveyance shall not ignore or allow any one to do so in accordance with Para1.

Section 32: In the instance of a conveyance which is leaving the kingdom but during or after the time of inspection by the competent official, said conveyance is still within the Kingdom. No person except the competent official shall be allowed to board said conveyance or bring another conveyance alongside the conveyance in question, unless authorized by the competent official. The provisions of Para. 1 shall be applied to the area or place which is arranged for the purpose of inspection during the

time when the person who is to leave the Kingdom has not yet boarded the conveyance. The owner or person in charge of the conveyance shall not ignore these requirements or allow anyone else to act under this Section.

Section 33: In the instance that a competent official has to conduct an inspection of the conveyance during non – duty hours; or at any other place besides the one published by the Director General under Section 26 Para. 1 : or to go outside his office in order to detain such conveyance ; or has to wait to conduct an inspection of the conveyance without it being the fault of the competent official , the owner or person in charge of the conveyance shall have to pay a fee for such services and other expenses as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Chapter 4: Temporary Stay in the Kingdom

Section 34: aliens entering into the kingdom for a temporary stay may enter for the below listed activities:

1. Diplomatic or Consular Missions.
2. Performance of official duties.
3. Touring
4. Sporting
5. Business
6. Investing under the concurrence of the Ministries and Departments concerned.
7. Investing or other activities relating to investing subject to the provisions of the law on investment promotion.
8. Transit journey.
9. Being the person in charge of the crew of a conveyance coming to port, station, or area in the Kingdom.
10. Study or observation.
11. Mass media.
12. Missionary work under the concurrence of the Ministries and departments concerned.
13. Scientific research or training or teach in a Research Institute in the Kingdom.

14. The practice of skilled handicraft or as a specialist
15. Other activities as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 35: The Director General or the competent official deputized by the Director General shall have the authority to permit the alien, who entered to stay temporarily in the Kingdom under Section 34, to remain in the Kingdom under any prescribed conditions. The periods of time which one is authorized to stay in the Kingdom are as Follows:

1. Not exceeding 30 days for a case under Section 34 (4), (8) and (9)
2. Not exceeding 90 days for a case under Section 34 (3)
3. Not exceeding one year for a case under Section 34 (5), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14) and (15)
4. Not exceeding two years for a case under Section 34 (6)
5. As deemed necessary for a case under Section 34 (1) and (2)
6. As deemed appropriate by the Commission of Investment Promotion, for a case under Section 34 (7) If it is deemed necessary that the aliens have to stay in the Kingdom Longer than the period of time prescribed in the paragraphs (1) (2) (3) and (4) the Director General shall consider granting the aliens extension of stay for a period not exceeding one year for each time. After granting permission, the Director General shall report to the Commission for their information, with the reason, within seven days from the date of granting. Each time when applying for an extension of temporary stay in the Kingdom, the alien shall submit an application and pay the fees as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations. While waiting for directives the alien may be permitted to stay.

Section 36: Where there is a proper reason, the Director General or the Immigration Commission shall have power to revoke permission previously authorized the alien to stay temporary in the Kingdom, whether or not the Director General, or the official

deputized by the Director General, has granted such permission. In the case the Director General has ordered permission to be revoked, the alien whose permission has been revoked may appeal such orders to the Immigration Commission. Order of the Immigration Commission will be final. The appeal of the Director General's order under paragraph 2 of this Section shall be submitted to the competent official within forty – eight hours from the time of acknowledgement of such order from the Director General and must be complied with from and fees as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations. After cancellation of the temporary entry permit in reference to the provision of paragraph 1 of this Section, the alien must be notified by a written notice. In the case a written notice cannot be sent to the alien, yet the competent official has post a notice to the alien's place of stay , as previously notified, and forty – eight hours, have passed, it is assumed that the alien has received said notice.

Section 37: An alien having received a temporary entry permit into the Kingdom must comply with the following:

1. Shall not engage in the occupation or temporary or employment unless authorized by the Director General. or competent official deputized by the Director General. If, in any case, there is a law concerning alien employment provided hereafter, the granting of work privileges must comply with the law concerned.
2. Shall stay at the place as indicated to the competent official. Where there is proper reason that he cannot stay at the place as indicated to the competent official, he shall notify the competent official of the change in residence, within 24 hours from the time of removing to say place.
3. Shall notify the police official of the local police station where such alien resides, within twenty – four hours from the time of arrival. In the case of change in residence in which new residence is not located the same area with the former police stations, such alien must notify the police official of the police station for that area within twenty – four hours from the time of arrival.

4. If the alien travels to any province and will stay there longer than twenty – four hours , such alien must notify the police official of the police station for that area within forty – eight hours from the time of arrival.
5. If the alien stays in the Kingdom longer than ninety days, such alien must notify the competent official at the Immigration Division, in writing, concerning his place of stay, as soon as possible upon expiration of ninety days. The alien is required to do so every ninety days. Where there is an Immigration Office, the alien may notify a competent Immigration Official of that office. The provision of (3) and (4) shall not apply to any cases under Section 34 by any conditions as prescribed by the Director General. In making notification under this Section, the alien may make notification in person or send a letter of notification to the competent official, in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Director General.

Section 38: The house – master, the owner or the possessor of the residence, or the hotel manager where the alien, receiving permission to stay temporary in the Kingdom has stayed, must notify the competent official of the Immigration Office located in the same area with that hours, dwelling place or hotel, within 24 hours from the time of arrival of the alien concerned. If there is no Immigration Office located in that area, the local police official for that area must be notified. In case the house, dwelling place, or hotel where the alien has stayed under provision of Para.1 is located within the Bangkok area, such notification must be reported to the competent official at the Immigration Division. Making notification, in reference to the Para 1 and 2 of this Section, must comply with regulations prescribed by the Director General.

Section 39: After having received permission for temporary entry into the Kingdom, if the alien leaves the Kingdom it is considered that his temporary entry permit has expired. But , if prior to leaving the alien is granted permission to return by the competent official , and the alien returning is not excluded from entry under

Section 12.and the period of time previously authorized has not expired , the alien shall be authorized to stay in the Kingdom for the rest of the authorized time. In asking permission for re – entry, the alien must submit an application in accordance with the form and pay a fee in accordance with the rate and regulations as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Chapter 5: Entering to take Residence in the Kingdom

Section 40: Subject to the provisions of Section 42, 43 and 51, the Minister, by the approval of the Cabinet, shall have power to publish, in the Government Gazette, immigration quotas from year to year (not exceeding 100 persons per year from each country and not exceeding 50 persons who have no nationality). For the purpose of fixing immigration quotas, all the colonies of a country or each self – governing country shall be recognized as one country.

Section 41: Alien shall not be allowed to take up residence in the Kingdom unless authorized by the Immigration Commission and by the approval of the Minister, within the immigration quota limitation as prescribed by the Minister in accordance with the provision of Section 40, and providing that the alien concerned has received a Residence Certificate in accordance with the provision of Section 47. For the most benefit of the country in allowing the alien to take up residence in the Kingdom, the Immigration Commission shall fix regulations concerning qualification of the alien entering to take residence in the Kingdom of Thailand by considering income, property, knowledge, technical, professional ability, and family status of such alien in comparison with the Thai national populace, considering condition of national security or other appropriate conditions. So it can be used as a regulation and a condition to consider in allowing the alien to take residence in the Kingdom. In applying for a Residence Certificate , the alien may apply before coming into the Kingdom or apply after he has been granted permission to stay temporarily in the Kingdom The Committee can stipulate any requirement to an alien under

Section 34 who is holding a temporarily permit of stay and applying for a permanent resident visa. A permanent resident visa of alien obtained prior to his entry into the Kingdom will be effective when that alien enters the Kingdom to process the relevant formalities and obtains approval from the authorities indicated under Section 18, Para. 2 that alien must not be the person under Section 12 and Section 44, and must possess a residence certificate under Section 47. The alien is allowed to stay temporarily in the Kingdom during the period of processing the residence certificates.

Section 42: The provision of Section 40 concerning immigration quotas as published by the Minister shall not apply to the persons listed below:

1. An alien who previously entered to take up residence in the Kingdom and re – entered into the Kingdom in accordance with Section 48 or 51.
2. A woman having Thai nationality by birth who has renounced Thai nationality in the case of marriage to an alien.
3. A child of an alien father and mother born while the mother was out of the Kingdom and the mother has application of departure for return in accordance with the provision of Section 48. When the child entering into the Kingdom with father or mother who returns within the prescribed time as state in the application of departure for return and the child is under one year old.

Section 43: When any alien brings foreign not less than ten million baht, for investment in the Kingdom and the Immigration Commission has considered that it is not contradictory to the provisions of this Act, the Immigration Commission, with the concurrence of the Minister, shall allow said alien to take up residence in the Kingdom over and the above number of aliens as published by the Minister under Section 40, but not to exceed 5% of said amount each year. For the purpose of examination of foreign currency brought in for investment, the alien who is

allowed to take up residence under Para must display financial status for the period of not less than two years, but not more than five years, in accordance with the regulation prescribed by the Immigration Commission, or as the Immigration Commission may deem appropriate.

Section 44: No alien is authorized to take up residence in the Kingdom, if it appears that said alien:

1. has been punished with imprisonment by judgment or legal order of a Thai or foreign country court, except a minor offense committed by negligence, or an offense exempted as prescribed by the Ministerial Regulations.
2. Is unable to earn his living because of mental defect or physical infirmity or having any diseases as prescribed by Ministerial Regulations. The provision of (2) shall not apply to an alien father, mother, husband, wife or child of the one having domicile within the Kingdom and is able to support each other.

Section 45: If the alien who has been granted to stay temporarily in the Kingdom wishes to take up residence in the Kingdom, he must submit an application as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations to the Immigration Office in the area; the application must be submitted to the nearest Immigration Office. When the Immigration Commission considers that the quota is not over subscribed then notification prescribed by the Minister, in accordance with Section 40 or 43 as the case may be or the alien in the person under Section 44, the alien may be allowed to take up residence in the Kingdom under the concurrence of the Minister. When the alien applies for residence in the Kingdom and the authorized period of time granted him to stay temporarily in the Kingdom has expired during consideration. The alien may apply at the same Immigration Office for an extension of stay till the date the result of the consideration will be made know to him. The Immigration Commission or competent official deputized by Immigration Commission shall have power to grant permission by affixing any conditions. In submitting application in reference to

the first paragraph, the applicant must pay a fee as fixed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 46: Any alien entering into the Kingdom, and if while waiting to receive a Residence Certificate in reference to Section 41 or while waiting to know the result of consideration of the Immigration Commission, or of competent official deputized by the Immigration Commission under Section 45 Para 2., leaves the Kingdom, it is recognized that a leniency for temporary stay in the Kingdom in reference to Section 41 Para 5 or section 45 Para.2 is expired. Unless prior to departing the Kingdom the alien concerned has been granted permission to return by a competent official, and he has returned within the period of prescribed time, the alien concerned will be allowed to stay for the rest of the prescribed time.

Section 47: The alien who is allowed to take up residence in the Kingdom must apply for a Residence Certificate from the Director General or from a competent official deputized by the Director General within 30 days from the date receiving written notification from a competent official. In the case that the alien, whose age is under 12 years, is granted permission to take up Residence in the Kingdom, the person with guardian power or the guardian must apply for a Residence Certificate on behalf of the alien concerned. The Director General, or competent official deputized by the Director General, shall issue a separate Residence Certificate or together with the person having guardian power or the guardian. If the alien concerned fails to apply for a Residence Certificate within prescribed period of time, under Para.1 of this Section, the Immigration Commission may hold back issuing of permission to reside in the Kingdom. If so, a leniency for temporary stay in the Kingdom in reference to Section 41 Para.5 or Section 45 Para.2 would be expired. The applicant for a Residence Certificate must pay a fee as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 48: A residence Certificate is of permanent validity, but it expires when the holder leaves the Kingdom, unless prior to

departing, the holder has his departure for return document endorsed by a competent official in accordance with Section 50. In such a case, if the certificate holder returns to the Kingdom within one year from the date of endorsement and he is not excluded from entry according to Section 12 or 44, a Residence Certificate shall be considered still valid. The provisions of Section 12 (1) concerning visa, and (2) and (3) and (4) shall not apply to the first paragraph of this Section.

Section 49: The holder or person who has in his possession a Residence Certificate not used in reference to Section 48 must return it to the competent official. The person who has in his possession a Residence Certificate of a dead alien must return it to the competent official.

Section 50: Any alien having lawfully entered and being a resident in the Kingdom and wishes to leave the Kingdom with intention to return, shall:

1. Present his Residence Certificate to the competent official for endorsement of departure for return in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.
2. If no Residence Certificate has been issued, because said alien was granted permission to reside in the country before the regulation to obtain a Residence Certificate was in affect he must apply for the same through the competent official and conform to (1),
3. If there is not enough space for endorsement in accordance with (1), the holder must change his Residence Certificate in accordance to Section 52. Document of departure for returns valid for one year from the date of endorsement made by the competent official. The certificate holder can make as many departures and returns with the one year period as he desire. A fee must be paid as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations for notification of departure for return and for issuing a residence Certificate in reference to (2).

Section 51: Any alien who has formerly resided in the Kingdom but has no document of departure for return or has a document of departure for return, but has not returned to the Kingdom in reference to the time prescribed in Section 48 and the alien wishes to take up residence in the Kingdom again, he must submit an application in accordance with the procedure as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations for consideration and approval. When the Immigration Commission considers that the alien has reason and proper excuse and he is not excluded from entry under Section 12 and Section 44, the alien may be permitted to enter to take up residence in the Kingdom under the concurrence of the Minister, but the alien has to receive a new Residence Certificate. The provision of Section 45 Para.2 shall be applied Mutatis Mutandis while waiting for permission. The provisions in Section 12 (1) concerning visa, (2), (3) and (9) shall not apply with the case as provided in the first paragraph of this section. The applicant must pay fees as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 52: Whoever has lost documents issued under this Act, and wants to receive a substitute, or wants to change a Residence Certificate in reference to Section 50 (3), when the competent official is satisfied with the result of an investigation, a substitute or a change of Residence Certificate will be issued. The applicant must pay fees as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Chapter 6: Deportation of the Aliens

Section 53: If it is learned at a late date that aliens who came to stay in the Kingdom are among the persons excluded from entry because of any circumstance as prescribed in Section 12 (7) or (8) or (10) or Section 43 Para.2 or Section 44 or persons convicted under Section 63 or 64, the Director General will submit the matter to the Immigration Commission. If the Immigration Commission decides that the alien's permission to stay in the Kingdom should be revoked, the Immigration Commission will submit their opinion to the Minister for further consideration in revoking the Permission.

Section 54: Any alien who enters or come to stay in the Kingdom without permission or when such permission expires or is revoked, the competent official will deport such alien out of the Kingdom. The provisions of Section 19 and 20 will be applied *Mutatis Mutandis* if in the case that investigation for deportation in reference to Para.1 of this Section must be conducted. In case there is an order of deportation for the alien; while waiting for the alien to be deported the competent official may order the alien to stay at any prescribed place or he may order the alien to report to him (competent official) according to a prescribed date, time, and place with Security or with Security and Bond. The competent official may also detain the alien at any given place as many are necessary. The expense of detention shall be charged to the alien's account. The provision of this Section shall not apply to aliens entering and talking up residence in the Kingdom before the enforcement of the Immigration Act B.C. 2480 [1937]

Section 55: Aliens being deported under this Act shall be sent back by any conveyance or route as the competent official may consider appropriate. The expense of deportation shall be charged to the owner or person in charge of the conveyance which brought the alien into the Kingdom. If there appears to be no owner or person in charge of the conveyance, the alien committing the act against the provisions of Section 63 or 64 will have to pay the expense of deportation. The competent official shall have power to ask for deportation expenses from one of the aliens committing the offense or from all of them. However, if the alien concerned wishes to go by and other conveyance or by another route, at his own expense, the competent official may permit him to do so.

Section 56 : In the case where there is an exemption from a visa for the alien, under section 12 (1), and the alien has shown the competent official a ticket or any travel document of the owner of the conveyance or the person in charge of the conveyance or evidence of any other person, in accordance with the condition as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations, for the purpose of deporting from the Kingdom of such alien, the competent official shall have power to order the owner of the conveyance , the

person in charge of the conveyance , or the person issuing a ticket, document or evidence , as the case may be, not to cancel, return of alter the important vital statement on the said ticket, document or evidence, with or without any conditions. The order under Para.1 can be done by attaching to or by stamping in the said ticket, document or evidence, when the competent official has ordered, if here is cancellation , return or alternation of the important vital statement in the said ticket, document or evidence , finding it difference from the order given by the competent official, the competent official shall have power to order the owner of the conveyance , the person in charge of the conveyance, or the person issuing a ticket , document or evidence , as the case may be , to conform with the former condition as indicated on the ticket, document or evidence, for the purpose of deportation.

Chapter 7: Miscellaneous

Section 57: For the purpose of Chapter 7 miscellaneous; whoever claims his nationality is Thai and if there is not enough evidence for the competent official to believe that he has Thai nationality, it is presumed that such a person is an alien until he can prove other wise.

An application for proof of nationality under Para.1 of this Section will be submitted to the competent official in the accordance with the form and fees as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations. If such person does not satisfy the competent official's order, he may apply to the Court asking for consideration. In the case where there is an application to the Court upon receiving and application, the Court shall notify the Public Prosecutor, who may, in turn, have a right for objection thereto.

Section 58: Any alien who has no lawful document for entering the Kingdom under Section 12 (1); or has no Residence Certificate under this Act; and also has no identification in accordance with the Law on Alien registration, is considered to have entered into the Kingdom in violation to this Act.

Section 59: The Director General, or the competent official deputized by Director General, shall have the authority to arrest and suppress any person violating this Act. They shall also have the authority to issue a subpoena, warrant of arrest or search, make arrest, search, or detain. They shall also have the authority to conduct inquiry into the offense against the provisions of this Act in the same manner as the inquiry official under the Criminal Procedure Code.

Section 60: In any area where the Minister deems it proper to grant exemption from payment of any fees under this Act, he shall have the authority to do so by making public notification in the Government Gazette.

Chapter 8: Penalty

Section 61: Whoever fails to comply with the written order under Section 10 shall be punished by a fine not exceeding 5,000 Baht.

Section 62: Whoever fails to comply with the provisions of Section 11 or Para.2 of Section 18 shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding two years and a fine not exceeding 20,000 Baht. If the person committing an offense under Para.1 holds Thai citizenship he will be punished by a fine not exceeding 20,000 Baht.

Section 63: Whoever brings or takes an alien into the Kingdom or does anything which helps, assists, or facilitates an alien in making and entry into the Kingdom in contravention of this Act, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding 10 years and a fine not exceeding 100,000 Baht. When any owner or person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the provision of Section 23, and the conveyance carried the aliens entering into the Kingdom in contravention of this Act, it is first presumed that the owner or person in charge of the conveyance has committed an offense under Para.1 of this Section unless it can be proved that the owner or person in charge was unable to know of the presence

of said aliens in the conveyance, even though proper caution was exercised.

Section 64: Whoever knows of any alien entering into the Kingdom in contravention of this Act, and harbors, hides or in any manner assists said alien to evade arrest, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding 5 years and a fine not exceeding 50,000 Baht. Whoever allows an alien entering into the Kingdom in contravention of this Act, to stay with him, it is first presumed that said person is aware that the alien concerned entered into the Kingdom in contravention of this Act, unless it can be proved that he does not know, even though proper caution has been exercised. If the act committed under Para.1 of this Section is done in order to assist his father, mother, child, husband or wife, the offender may not necessarily be punished by the Court.

Section 65: Any owner or person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the provision of Section 23 shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding 50,000 Baht or both.

Section 66: Any owner or person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the provision of Section 25, Section 26 Para.1, or Section 27 (2) shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding 10,000 Baht or both.

Section 67: Any owner or person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the provision of Section 27(1) Para.1 or fails to cooperate with the competent official accordance with the provision of Section 27(3) shall be punished with a fine not exceeding 20,000 Baht.

Section 68: Any owner or person in charge of a conveyance, who fails to comply with the provision of Section 28 Para.1, shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding 10,000 Baht.

Section 69: Any owner or person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the provision of Section 28 Para.2 shall be

punished with imprisonment not exceeding 10,000 Baht. for each crew member of the conveyance that he has not turned over to the competent official.

Section 70: Any conveyance that has an alien passenger who is excludable from entry into the Kingdom according to Section 12(1), the owner or person in charge of the conveyance shall be punished with a fine not exceeding 20,000 Baht for each alien.

Section 71: Any owner or person in charge of a conveyance, who fails to obey the order given by the competent official under Section 29 Para.1, shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding 5 years and a fine not exceeding 50,000 Baht. If as a result of non – compliance with the provision of paragraph 1, thus causing the alien to escape, the said owner or person in charge shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding 10 years and a fine not exceeding 100,000 Baht.

Section 72: Any alien, who escapes from a conveyance or escapes while on the way to any destination when the competent official has told the owner or person in charge of the conveyance to detain the alien or to take the alien, in accordance with the provision of Section 29 or he escapes while under detention or the control of the competent official, said alien shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding two years or a fine not exceeding 20,000 Baht or both.

Section 73: Any owner or person in charge of a conveyance who fails to obey the order given by the competent official under Section 30 shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding 50,000 Baht or both.

Section 74: Whoever fails to comply with the provisions of Section 31 or 32 shall be punished with a fine not exceeding 10,000 Baht.

Section 75: Any alien, who fails to comply with the provisions of Section 37(1), shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding 10,000Baht or both.

Section 76 : Any alien, alien, who fails to comply with the provisions of Section 37(2),(3),(4)or(5) shall be punished with a fine not exceeding 5,000 Baht and with and additional fine not exceeding 200 Baht for each day which passes until the law is complied with.

Section 77: Whoever fails to comply with the provision of Section 38 shall be punished with a fine not exceeding 2,000 Baht. If said person is a hotel manager, he shall be punished with a fine from 2,000 Baht to 10,000 Baht.

Section 78: Whoever fails to comply with the provision of Section 49 shall be punished with a fine not exceeding 1,000 Baht.

Section 79: The owner, or person in charge of a conveyance, or person issuing a ticket, document or evidence, who fails to comply with the order given by the competent official under Section 56, shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding 500 Baht for each day until said alien shall leave the Kingdom but not exceeding 50,000 Baht or both.

Section 80: Whoever destroys an order given by the competent official under Section 56 Para.2, or causes such order to be blurred with the intention of not letting the owner of the conveyance, or the person in charge of conveyance, or the person issuing the ticket, document or evidence to receive said order of the competent official, shall be punished with a fine not exceeding 50,000 Baht.

Section 81: Any alien who stay in the Kingdom without permission or with permission expired or revoked shall be

punished with imprisonment not exceeding two years or a fine not exceeding 20,000 Baht or both.

Section 82: Any alien who evades the service of an order issued by the Minister Immigration Commission, Director General, or the competent official designated by the Immigration Commission, which is required to be served upon him [alien] under this Act, shall be punished with a fine not exceeding 5,000 Baht. If the order as stated in Para.1 is for deportation the offender shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding two years and fine not exceeding 20,000 Baht.

Section 83: In the case where the offenders, who shall be punished under this Act, are a juristic person, managing director, manager, or representative of such juristic person, they will be punished in accordance with the penalty provided for such offenses unless they can prove that they are not involved in the commission of an offense by said juristic persons.

Section 84: In all offenses under this Act, except the provisions of Section 62 Para.1 Section 63, 64, 71 and 82 Para.2. The settlement Commission, consisting of the Police Department's Director General or Representative, the Public Prosecution Department's Director General or Representative, and the Immigration Division's Commander or Representative, as the members shall have the authority to assign duty of settlement to the Inquiry Official or the competent official by fixing a settlement rule or any conditions as the Settlement Commission may deem proper. When the offender has paid the fine as stipulate, the case shall be deemed settled under the Criminal Procedure Code.

Transitory Provisions

Section 85: It is recognized that any alien who is authorized to stay temporarily in the Kingdom on the date that this Act comes into force is one who has been permitted to stay under this Act,

but said alien will be entitled to the rights and benefits only as stated in the previous application.

Section 86: Any alien allowed to stay temporarily in the Kingdom and who has stayed more than ninety days on the date that this Act comes into force, shall notify the competent official under Section 37(5) within 7 days from the date that this Act comes into force.

Section 87 : The house master, owner, or possessor of a dwelling place, or a hotel manager, who has allowed an alien to remain temporarily in the Kingdom on the date that this Act comes into force. Shall notify the competent official under Section 38 within 30 days from the date that this Act comes into force.

Section 88: It recognized that a Residence Certificate, issued under the law on Immigration before the date that this Act comes into force and still valid, will be valid as the Residence Certificate issued under this Act.

Section 89: It is recognized that the endorsement of departure for return, stamped on the alien's Residence Certificate by the competent official before the date that this Act comes into force, is remain valid as the endorsement issued under this Act.

Section 90: It is recognized that an alien who is detained for deportation on the date that this Act comes into force, is viewed as one who is detained for deportation under the provision of this Act.

Section 91: It is recognized that all alien's applications pending consideration on the date that this Act comes into force are viewed as applications submitted under the provisions of this Act.

Section 92: All ministerial regulations, regulations, orders, or resolutions of the Immigration Commission under the Immigration Act B.E. 2493 (1950), revised by the Second Immigration Act B.E. 249 (1954), which were still in force before

the date that this Act came into force, are still in force if they are not in contravention to this Act, until it would have the ministerial regulation, regulations, orders, or the resolutions of the Immigration Commission under this Act come into force.

Rate of Fees Services Charges and other Expenses Fees

- Appeal in reference to Section 22;
- each person not exceeding 500.00 Baht.
- Application for extension of temporary stay in the Kingdom in reference to Section 35;
- each person, each time, not exceeding 500.00 Baht.
- Appeal in reference to Section 36;
- each person not exceeding 500.00 Baht.
- Application for each re – entry permit, for holders of any visa application of entry, under Section 39.
- each person, each re – entry, not exceeding 500.00 Baht.
- Application for residency in the Kingdom in reference to Section 45;
- each person not exceeding 2,000.00 Baht.
- Certificate of Residence in reference to Section 47 or 51;
- each certificate not exceeding 50,000.00 Baht.
In the case the applicant for a Residence Certificate is the spouse or the child who is not sui juris of the alien talking residence in the Kingdom or of the person whose nationality is Thai;
- each certificate not exceeding 25,000 Baht.
- Endorsement of departure for returning in reference to Section 50(1);
- each person not exceeding 500.00 Baht.
- Certificate of Residence in reference to Section 50(2);
- each certificate not exceeding 5,000.00 Baht.
- Document issued in reference to Section 52;
- each document not exceeding 500.00 Baht.
- Application for proof of nationality in reference to Section 57;
- each person not exceeding 200.00 Baht.

Fee for Services and other expenses

- Inspection of a conveyance during non – duty hours; if the conveyance has no passengers;
 - each conveyance, each time, not exceeding 200.00 Baht.
- If the conveyance has passengers, the fee will be increased on a per person basis;
 - each passenger not exceeding 10.00 Baht.
- Inspection of a conveyance at a place other than prescribed by the Director General in accordance with Section 26(Para.1)
 - each conveyance, each day, not exceeding 200.00 Baht.
- Waiting for inspection of conveyance which is not the official's fault;
 - each day not exceeding 200.00 Baht.
- Going out of the office for controlling a conveyance;
 - each conveyance, each day, not exceeding 200.00 Baht.

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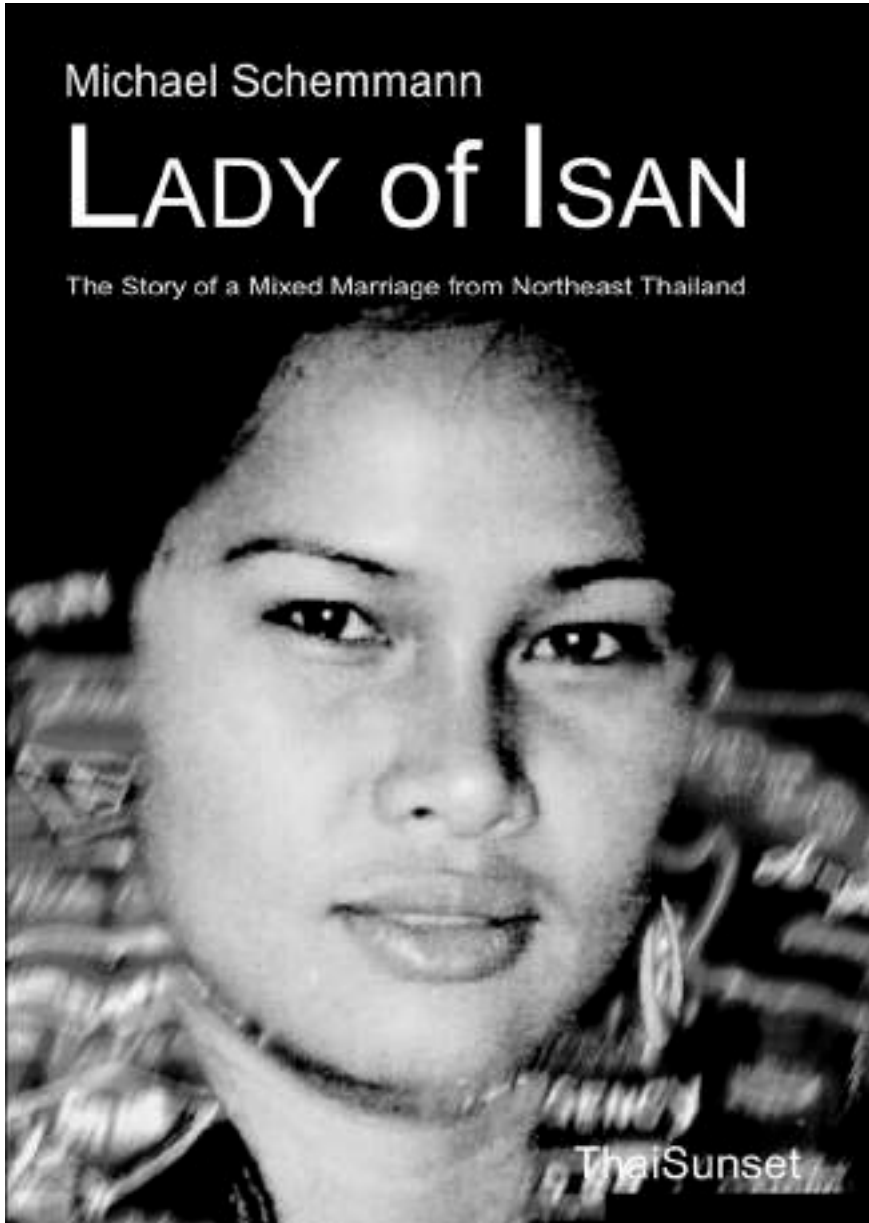
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