



# **Thai Education**

# Introduction

- Education in Thailand is provided mainly by the Thai government through the Ministry of Education from pre-school to senior high school. A free basic education of
- is guaranteed by the constitution, and a minimum of nine years' school attendance is mandatory.

# History

- Formal education has its early origins in the temper schools, when it was available to boys only. Thailand has never been colonized by a western power and structured education on the lines of education in developed countries was therefore slow to evolve until it gained new impetus with the reemergence of diplomacy in the late nineteenth century.

## Early education

- It is possible that one the earliest forms of education began when King Ramkhamhaeng invented the Thai alphabet in 1283 basing it on Mon, Khmer, and Southern Indian scripts. Stone inscriptions from 1292 in the new script depict moral, intellectual and cultural aspects.

## During the Sukhothai period (1238-1378)

- Education was dispensed by the Royal Institution of Instruction (*Rajabundit*) to members of the royal family and the nobility, while commoners were taught by Buddhist monks.

## period of the Ayutthaya kingdom from 1350 to 1767

- during the reign of King Narai the *Chindamani*, generally accepted as the first textbook of the Thai language, collating the grammar, and the prosody of Thai language and official forms of correspondence, was written by a monk,  
Pra Horatibodi
- On Narai's death, West and any forms of western education were practically severed.

# Development

- during the reign of King Rama IV(1851-1865) the printing press arrived Thailand making books available in the Thai language for the first time.
- King Rama V(1868-1910) continued to influence the development of education and in 1871 the first relatively modern concept of a school with purpose constructed building, lay teachers and a time-table was opened in the palace to teach male members of the royal family and the sons of the nobility.

- The Command Declaration on Schooling was proclaimed, English was being taught in the palace for royalty and nobles, and schools were set up outside the palace for the education of commoners' children. With the aid of foreign - mainly English - advisers a Department of Education was established by the king in 1887 by which time 34 schools, with over 80 teachers and almost 2,000 students were in operation



- The first university is named after King Chulalongkorn (Rama V), and was established by his son and successor King Vajiravudh (Rama VI) in 1917 by combining the Royal Pages School and the College of Medicine. In 1921, the Compulsory Primary Education Act was proclaimed.

# Modernization

- In 1960, the government began a series of five-year plans, and many of the extant purpose-built school buildings, particularly the wooden village primary schools, and the early concrete secondary schools date from around this time.
- In 1977, the key stages of primary and secondary education were changed from a 4-3-3-2 year structure to the 6-3-3 year system that is in use today.

## Recent

- On return to democracy in early 2008, after the December election, the newly formed coalition led by the People Power Party (Thailand)- a party formed by the remnants of deposed Thaksin Shinawatra's Thai Rak Thai party) - announced new allocations of funds for education, an increase in the number of teachers, and more changes to the national curriculum and university entrance system.

## School system

- The school structure is divided into four key stages: the first three years in elementary school, Prathom 1 - 3, are for age groups 6 to 8, the second level, Prathom 4 through 6 are for age groups 9 to 11, the third level, Matthayom 1 - 3, is for age groups 12 to 14. The upper secondary level of schooling consists of Matthayom 4 - 6, for age groups 15 to 17

- And divided into academic and vocational streams. There are also academic upper secondary schools, vocational upper secondary schools and comprehensive schools offering both academic and vocational tracks. Students who choose the academic stream usually intend to enter a university. Vocational schools offer programs that prepare students for employment or further studies.

## Academic year

- The school year in Thailand is divided into two semesters, and for primary and secondary schools generally begins on or around 15 May, to end in March, and from June to March for higher education. It has a two or three week break between the two terms in September. The long summer break coincides with the hottest part of the year and Songkran, the traditional Thai new year celebrations. Schools enjoy all public and Buddhist religious holidays and Christian and international schools usually close for the Christmas-New Year break.

# Uniforms

- **Students**

The dress code in primary and secondary grades for boys comprises knee-length dark blue, khaki, or black shorts with a pale white open collar short-sleeved shirt, long socks and brown or black trainers. Female students, wear a knee-length dark blue or black skirt, and a pale white blouse with a loosely hanging bow tie. The bow tie is dropped in favor of an open-necked pale blue shirt from Matthayom 4.

- In all Thai schools, one day per week, usually Thursday, is dedicated to scouting, when beige scout uniforms for boys and dark green guide uniforms are the rule, both wearing yellow neckerchiefs.
- University uniforms are standard throughout the country, and comprise a white blouse and plain or pleated skirt for the females, and long black trousers, a white long sleeved shirt with a dark blue or black tie for the males.



- **Staff**

As in all branches of the civil service at lower grades, teachers and staff in government schools wear a military style uniform. The female teachers and administrators of independent schools may be required to wear discrete, attractive uniforms, while staff in universities generally wear standard business attire.

## English language education in Thailand

- The use of English in Thailand while far from being as developed as in the Netherlands, Germany, the Scandinavian countries or the Philippines, is nevertheless rapidly increasing through the influence of the media and the Internet and is far greater, for example, than in France, the United Kingdom's nearest neighbor.

# Thai teachers

- The project reported that in over 60 percent of the teachers, the knowledge of the language and teaching methodology was below that of the syllabus level which they were teaching. Some teachers for age group 11 - or lower - in the language were actually attempting to teach age groups 15, 16, and even 17. Of the remaining top 40 per cent, only 3 percent had a reasonable level of fluency and only 20 per cent were teaching grades for which they were correctly qualified and competent.

## Native speaker teachers

- Several thousand native English speakers are employed in public and private schools throughout the country, their existence being encouraged by the need to develop students' oral expression and knowledge of foreign culture; much of their time however, is taken up with remedial teaching: putting right any grammar, orthography, pronunciation and cultural background that has been wrongly taught and which leads to great misunderstanding - they see this as a greater priority.

# Thai note which shown important of education in Thailand



- The former models depict the portrait of the monument of Their Majesties King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) and King Vajiravudha (Rama VI).

การศึกษาในบ้านเมืองเราจะเป็นข้อสำคัญที่หนึ่ง  
ซึ่งฉันจะอุตสาหะจัดขึ้นให้เจริญงอกโต  
พระราชดำรัสในรัชกาลที่ ๕

- The lower left legend reads in translation: Education in our nation is of the first importance/therefore I shall diligently improve it. /Thus remarked Rama V



- To the monument's own right appears a Thai government school and pupils.



- To the monument's left, a monk instructs boys (Thai: เณร) at a Wat as described in Buddhism in Thailand Ordination and clergy.



**THANK YOU FOR YOU ATTENTION**