

The Kingdom of Thailand



About Thailand

Capital City:

- Bangkok

Monetary Unit:

- Baht (THB)

Major Languages:

- Thai

Main Exports:

- Rice
- Textiles
- Rubber
- Jewelry

Our Immigration Services in Thailand

Business Travel – Guidance & assistance with Non-Immigrant visa applications for foreign nationals who will enter Thailand for short-term business travel or who intend to apply for a work permit

Work Permits Applications for Intracompany Transferees or Trainees – For foreign nationals who will enter Thailand to work or undergo training

Permanent Residency – For foreign nationals who have been working in Thailand for at least three years

The Thai Economy

Home to over 66 million people, Thailand is the fiftieth largest country in terms of land area and twenty-first most populous country in the world. Thailand has a free-enterprise economy that has enjoyed much growth over the past two decades. A recent Economist Intelligence Unit report predicts GDP growth for Thailand throughout 2011. The 2011 Index of Economic Freedom ranks Thailand tenth amongst Asian-Pacific countries.

Thailand has a long history of international trade, dating back to the fifteenth century. The country's first significant trade treaty was the Bowring Treaty in 1855 with Britain. Shortly after that, it also signed treaties with 14 other countries including the U.S., France, Russia, Sweden, Spain, and Japan. Thailand was one of the founding members of ASEAN and has been instrumental in the formation and development of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). Source: <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com>

Thailand's economy is largely driven by exports, including machinery and electronic components, agricultural products and jewelry, and account from more than half of its GDP. Thailand's main trading partners are the U.S., Japan, China, Malaysia, and the EU. Thailand is the world's top exporter of rice and nearly fifty percent of its labor force is employed in agriculture. While enjoying relatively positive economic growth and performance, Thailand is generally considered politically unstable. The current political climate may undermine consumer and business confidence, and limit foreign investment Source: <http://tinyurl.com/yqknfx>

For detailed information about Thailand's Economy and Economic Outlook, visit the World Bank web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/3ocws4u>

Business Travel to Thailand

Foreign nationals who wish to travel to Thailand for business should ensure their passports are valid until at least six months beyond the stay and have evidence of onward passage (return flight). Thailand participates in the APEC Business Travel Card scheme. Business travelers who are card holders may not be required to obtain a visa prior to entry to Thailand.

Otherwise, foreign nationals who wish to work, conduct business or undertake investment activities in Thailand must apply for a Non-Immigrant Visa at the Royal Thai Embassies or Royal Thai Consulates-General prior to travel. There are several different categories of Non-Immigrant Visas, including B (Business Visas), B-A (Business Approved Visas), and IB (Investment & Business Visas). The visas are issued for either single or multiple entries, based upon the proposed activities. Business visitors are eligible for admission for a maximum period of 90 days.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs maintains an updated list of foreign entry requirements and missions abroad at the following web site: <http://www.mfa.go.th>

Living in Thailand

While expatriates live throughout Thailand, Bangkok has the largest expatriate population. An international city and transportation hub, Bangkok offers many western conveniences, including international schools, shopping

Continued on next page.

malls, a variety of cuisines, cultural offerings, and a modern lifestyle. Home to over eight million people, it is densely populated and has severe traffic congestion.

Chiang Mai, in the north, offers a cooler climate and less expensive cost of living. Approximately 10,000 foreign nationals live in this town and take advantage of its international schools, numerous restaurants, modern malls, and nearby mountain environment. Located in the south, Phuket is known for its beautiful coastline and is much more popular amongst tourists.

Thai Business Culture

Most people in senior management speak English apart from in very small companies, or those situated outside the industrial belt of Bangkok, where English is not widely spoken. Most businesses prefer visitors to make appointments and punctuality is advisable. In Bangkok, traffic must be taken into consideration when going to appointments.

The normal business greeting is the handshake, but it is conventional to greet those of the opposite sex with a wai, a slight bow with the hands held together at chest height. Business cards should be exchanged at the end of any meeting. Be sure to pass objects with your right hand.

Thai Work Permit Process

- 1 Foreign national's Non-Immigrant Visa Category "B" application at Royal Thai Consulate abroad
- 2 Application for Temporary Work Permit at the Department of Employment
- 3 Application for Extension of Stay Permit at Immigration Bureau followed by application for Re-Entry Permit and Extension of Work Permit

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Thailand

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Thailand. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Non-Immigrant Visa Application and Work Permit preparation and filing; detailed guidance on

the visa stamping and post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Royal Thai Consulate abroad and employment or immigration offices may be available.

Generally, only locally registered entities may sponsor foreign nationals for work permits in Thailand. Individuals who work without valid work authorization may be expelled from Thailand. Thus, if your company's office in Thailand anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

Goel & Anderson, LLC
1984 Isaac Newton Square East
Suite 203
Reston, Virginia 20190
USA

Phone: +1 703.796.9898
Fax: +1 703.796.9005
E-mail: info@goellaw.com

www.goellaw.com