

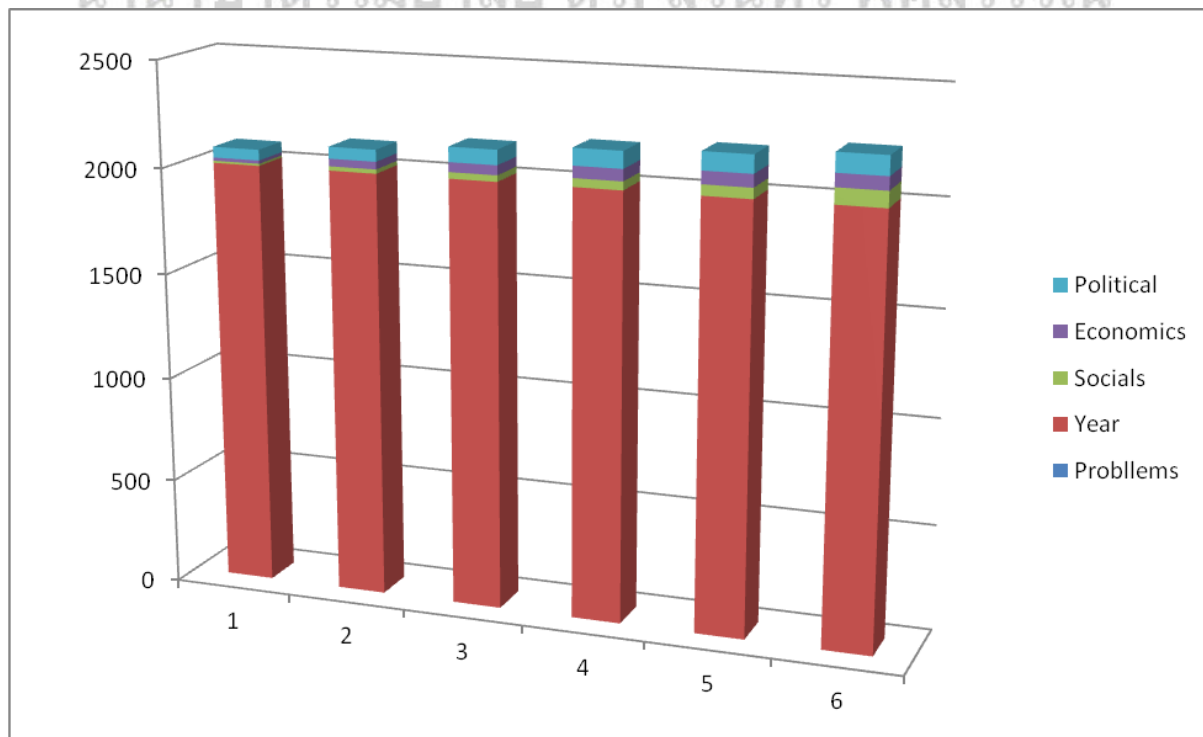
A New Paradigm Member of Farmer 10 year a ...go.....2011-2018

Kittinant Phitsuwan

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1.Introduction: Purpose of the topic : Thailand Economic problems and issues. Topics II Case study : Socials Economics and Political

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1.1 The evolution and impact of international tourism in Thailand is the topic of discussion. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach, the institution of international tourism is chosen to illustrate both the less desirable behaviour and character traits of hosts and guests because it is a cultural product which leads to direct intercultural human contact, not only contact mediated by the exchange of goods and services. Tourism is an open system largely determined by its environmental system, i.e., the economic, social, psychological, cultural, political, ecological and international context of which it is but a part. This concept is central to the present work

and a fundamental aim is to show the interrelations that exist between various elements of the tourism system and general developments within host and guest countries. Beginning from a historical perspective, of the Thai social system and the evolution of international tourism in Thailand are discussed in detail. The following two chapters analyse the tourist industry from an economic viewpoint, detailing balance of payments and the employment impacts of tourism, and a comprehensive analysis of the hotel industry, tour business and airline industry. Attention is then focused on the tourist and the host in turn, when consciousness, motivation and demand are discussed. Thai women, prostitution and tourism, and the search for authenticity and nature are then the focus of indepth discussion. The concluding chapter examines tourism context and impact and offers an integrative outlook for an alternative future.

1.2 Thai political and economic problem

Thailand's General Outlook 2010-2011. This hub takes a look at the political and economic outlook of Thailand for 2010-2011 and beyond. The main source of this outlook is the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). According to the Economist Intelligence Unit report filed September 2010, the following are the highlights of Thailand's political and economic outlook for 2010-2011: Even though Thailand currently enjoys a relative calm following the violent end to antigovernment protests in mid-May, Thailand's political crisis does not appear to be nearing an end. Recently, Thailand's current Prime Minister managed to strengthen his hand, but he does not appear willing to risk calling an early election. The government will continue to run a budget deficit for the next two years; the shortfall will average 2.8% of GDP. The Bank of Thailand (BOT, the central bank) will tighten monetary policy. Owing to the strong performance of the economy in the first two quarters of 2010, the Economist Intelligence Unit has revised up its GDP growth forecast for the year as a whole from 4.1% to 7%. Growth will moderate to 4% in 2011. Consumer

prices will rise in 2010 after a year of deflation in 2009. However, inflation will not accelerate rapidly, partly because of the strength of the baht, which has appreciated sharply against the US dollar in recent months.

· Thailand's exporters are enjoying a rapid increase in revenue as a result of the recovery of the global economy, and the current account will remain in surplus in 2010-11. Fun Facts about Thailand Thailand is located in Southeast Asia and is part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It is bordered by Cambodia on the east; Laos on the east and northeast; Burma (Myanmar) on the northwest and west; and Malaysia on the south. It has a long peninsula on the south which is nearly surrounded by the Indian Ocean on the southwest and the Gulf of Thailand on the southeast.

According to the CIA's World Fact Book, Thailand has a population of 65 million citizens, 85% of which are ethnic Thai. Thailand's Political Outlook for 2011 and Beyond Without a doubt, Thailand's political situation is a mess and Thailand's political outlook for 2011 and beyond does not look pretty. For just over four years Thailand has endured an intensely adverse domestic political climate. For most of those four years there has been political turmoil between various factions; most notably between the political parties backed up by citizens who are poor and come from rural settings and other parties representing the more wealthy and burgeoning middle class from urban areas. Finally in May 2010, Thailand's domestic political climate became so out of control, the current prime minister ordered a severe crackdown on the opposition that resulted in a relative calm.

However, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, Thailand's political problems do not appear to be over and Thailand's political outlook for 2011 does not seem to be a positive one. Current prime minister Abhisit Vejjajiva does seem to be strengthening his

hand and gaining more control over the governmental affairs of the country. He has done so by working with a military group to crack down on the opposition through a campaign of repression. Even though Abhisit is getting stronger and has the powerful military behind him, he is not yet ready to call for early elections. EIU reports that the current situation does not lend itself to elections because all opposition parties are unlikely to support the outcome no matter which party receives the most votes. Another potential problem that could potentially add even further uncertainty and struggle to Thailand's political outlook for 2011 and beyond is the health condition of the very popular reigning monarch. The current monarch has long been seen as a stabilizing force in Thailand's domestic affairs, but has not been seen in nearly a year. The king is in his eighties and has been in a state of declining health for some time. Observers are not sure what will happen to the monarchy if and when the king passes away.

1.3 Thailand's Economic Outlook 2011 and Beyond

According to the forecast of the Economist Intelligence Unit, GDP growth in the Thai economy will come in around 4% in 2011, with political uncertainty continuing to undermine consumer and business confidence. However, as in the first half of 2010, although political risks could hinder future investment, business operations in Thailand (particularly in the country's industrial zones) are likely to be generally unaffected in any direct way by political unrest. Thus, as long as global demand continues to grow, Thailand's export-oriented manufacturers should continue to reap the benefits. It should be noted that EIU consider a "double-dip" recession in the world economy to be unlikely, and believe that the current softening of global growth is best understood as a natural adjustment following a period of unsustainably rapid stimulus-driven expansion since mid-2009. Political difficulties are nevertheless likely to continue in Thailand to complicate the public sector's plans for large-scale investment.

Furthermore, although the tourism sector is already showing signs of healthy recovery, further bouts of violence in the country would stall this process. In international trade the Economist Intelligence Unit forecasts that Thailand's current trade account will remain in the black, but the surplus will decline to the equivalent of 4.3% of GDP on average in 2010-11, from 7.7% in 2009 when merchandise imports contracted even more sharply than exports. Although the recovery in global demand is slackening, EIU foresees Thailand's exporters will continue to show growth in revenue and will maintain their competitiveness in a number of sectors, most notably electronics and vehicles. The import bill will also rise in 2010-11 as growth in consumption and investment resumes. The increase in imports will be particularly strong this year, reflecting the steep drop recorded last year.

1.4 Crime problem, the southern border of Thailand.

2. Description :

2.1 There were cross-cultural consistencies in the tendencies for total problems and externalizing to decrease with age, for internalizing to increase with age, for boys to score higher on total problems and externalizing, and for girls to score higher on internalizing. There was also cross-cultural consistency in the problems that received high versus low scores. Our previous findings supported standardized parental ratings as a method for assessing children across diverse cultures. Cross-culturally robust assessment procedures can facilitate research, training, and communication among professionals from different cultures. Such procedures can also aid professionals in assessing the millions of refugee and immigrant children who are creating challenges for many host cultures.

2.2 Our earlier findings concerning total problem, externalizing, and internalizing scores facilitated comparisons of children within and

between cultures with respect to a global measure of problems and two broad patterns. These measures are useful for identifying children whose problems sufficiently exceed those of their peers to warrant more detailed assessment. In addition to the global problem scores, the Child Behavior Checklist provides more detailed assessment in terms of eight syndromes that have been empirically derived from principal components analyses of parent, teacher, and self-ratings of thousands of clinically referred American children. Confirmatory factor analyses of parent, teacher, and self-ratings of thousands of referred Dutch children have supported the overall syndrome structure.

2.3 Bicultural comparisons of syndrome scores have revealed that particular pairs of cultures differ considerably more on certain syndromes than on others. However, bicultural comparisons cannot tell us whether those particular cultures are outliers with respect to certain syndromes, how much variability occurs in each syndrome across multiple cultures, or whether extreme scores on particular syndromes are associated with identifiable cultural differences.

2.4 The present study was designed to test variations in scores on eight empirically derived syndromes across 12 cultures in which the same standardized instrument was used to obtain parents' reports of their children's behavioral and emotional problems. By comparing all cultures within the same analyses, we could identify those that deviated significantly from an omnicultural mean score on each syndrome. Because age and gender differences might affect syndrome scores across, among, or within cultures, we also tested the main effects and interaction effects of these characteristics in relation to culture and to each other.

3. General Analysis :

3.1 Trends and Networks. Of all these activities, only contraband arms trading shows a falling trend, as a result of the decline of armed conflicts in the region. All others have a tendency to increase, because of their high profitability and the ineffectiveness of law enforcement.

Increasingly these activities are linked together in networks of organized crime. Guns are exchanged for drugs. Gambling profits are invested in prostitution. Routes and systems for smuggling drugs are adapted for traffic in people. Protection networks span across the whole range of the illegal economy. Thailand has acquired an international reputation as a country where illegal businesses can flourish because of poor law enforcement. This is bad for the nation's international image. It also attracts international illegal business to use the country as a base. Gangs of Pakistanis, Chinese Haw, Taiwanese, and Japanese Yakuza have recently been reported operating in Thailand. The Pakistani gang specializes in protection rackets, faking of passports, and drug trafficking in collaboration with gangs from Iran.ⁱ The Taiwan-Chinese Haw gang is involved in drug trafficking.ⁱⁱ Bangkok has become a clearing house for the shipment of girls from China to third countries, and from south Asia into Malaysia. In the drug trade, prostitution, and illegal trafficking in humans, Thailand has become a centre of international significance.

3.2 Economic impact The illegal economy has both positive and negative impacts. On the positive side, illegal businesses are relatively labour-intensive and help to generate employment. The underground lottery, for example, employs some four million people on a part-time basis of 4-6 days a month. Casinos provide employment to many people in the dens and in associated services such as preparing food, selling of garlands, and parking cars. The rise in football gambling in recent years has been a major factor in developing a new sports-oriented press. Prostitution employs an estimated 200,000 directly, plus a number possibly several times larger in associated services. Oil smuggling has generated employment among former fishermen.

On the negative side, the illegal economy has several distorting effects. Illegal activities often generate super-profits which are then redeployed in the mainstream economy. Honest businessmen are often discouraged when faced by competitors who have access to large reserves of cheap funds. Illegal funds are often laundered through legitimate markets such as real estate, stocks, and entertainment businesses. Generally they are channelled through the more speculative parts of these markets, and tend to magnify the tendency towards boom and slump.

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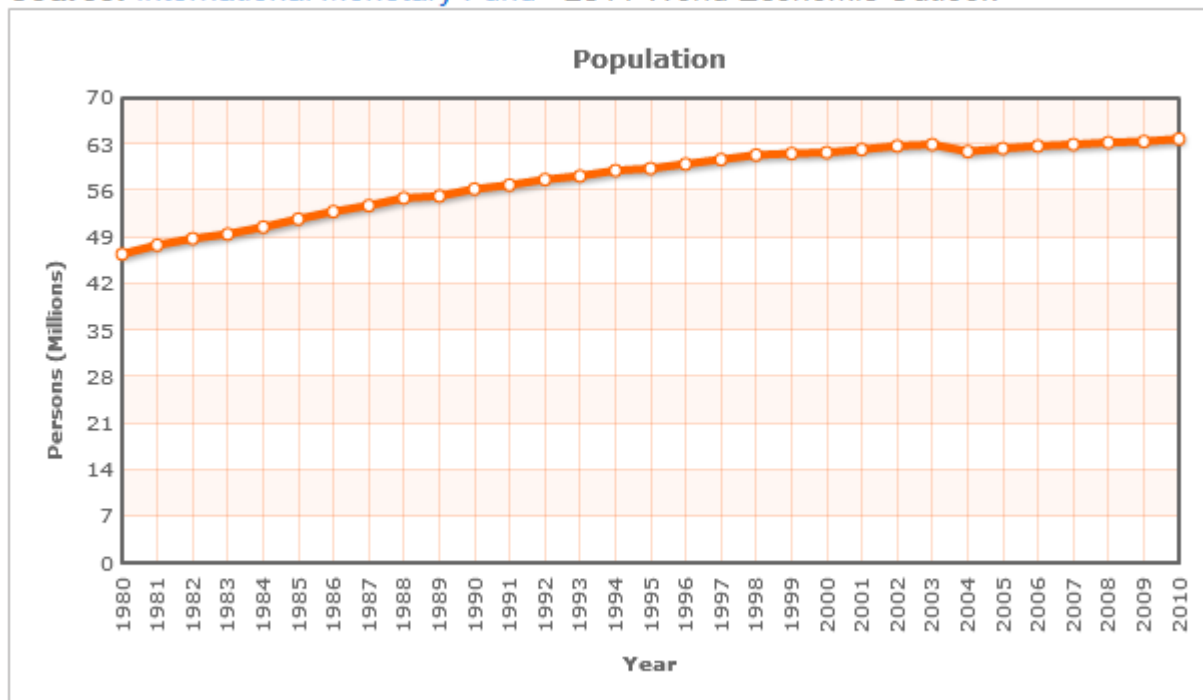


4. General Recommendations :

4.1 Impact on the population in Thailand.

4.2 Related Data From the International Monetary Fund¹

Source: International Monetary Fund - 2011 World Economic Outlook



¹ **Note:** For census purposes, the total population of the country consists of all persons falling within the scope of the census. In the broadest sense, the total may comprise either all usual residents of the country or all persons present in the country at the time of the census. [Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1, paragraph 2.42]

This entry gives an estimate from the US Bureau of the Census based on statistics from population censuses, vital statistics registration systems, or sample surveys pertaining to the recent past and on assumptions about future trends. The total population presents one overall measure of the potential impact of the country on the world and within its region. Note: Starting with the 1993 Factbook, demographic estimates for some countries (mostly African) have explicitly taken into account the effects of the growing impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. These countries are currently: The Bahamas, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

5.Actualization :

5.1 Getting Crime in Proportion Thai people are remarkably relaxed and easy going. Buddhist philosophy discourages 'hot bloodedness'. Politeness is ingrained from birth and most Thai people are both scrupulously honest and very unwilling to be intrusive. Even so, Europeans and Americans are universally viewed as wealthy and this leads to temptation. Some Thai's have learnt to prey upon travellers and expats and in Thailand, crime can be a threat as much as it can in any other country. In matters of honour, business and love, Thai people can be transformed. 'Hot bloodedness' so frowned upon in Buddhist teaching can overwhelm individuals with fatal consequences.

The Statistics Thailand ranks low for most reported crimes²

The Statistics Thailand ranks low for most reported crimes when compared with Western countries- with one big exception. Thailand is

² <http://www.nationmaster.com/country/th-thailand/crime>

near the top of any list of countries for murder with firearms. Gun crime is most often related to gang wars. There is a serious problem of organized drug crime in the border areas with Burma, Cambodia and Laos. Guns are also often used to settle business disputes and jealous lovers- both men and women- use guns to settle scores depressingly often. A few foreigners each year are caught in the cross fire. An unknown number of foreigners (a few dozen, maybe) are murdered deliberately mainly as a result of business disputes but sometimes by jealous or abandoned lovers. There are occasional reports of foreign men being murdered by their Thai wives for money or property,

Thailand's kids are some of the best behaved and likable kids in the world. Unfortunately, the number of murders committed by teenagers is frighteningly high- more than 1,400 in the last recorded year. Again, guns were the favorite weapon. Often the reasons for the murders are trivial matters of perceived disrespect

5.2 Perception of Crime in Thailand

Crime Statistics: Thailand and selected Western Countries

Assaults (per thousand people)		Burglaries (per thousand people)	
US	7.6	Australia	21.7
UK	7.5	UK	13.8
Australia	7.0	Canada	8.9
Canada	7.1	US	7.1
France	1.8	France	6.1
Germany	1.4	Japan	2.3
Thailand	0.3	Thailand	0.2
Japan	0.3	Germany	N/A

Rapes (per hundred thousand people)		Gun Murders (per hundred thousand people)	
Australia	79	Thailand	31
Canada	73	US	2.8
US	30	Canada	0.5
UK	14	Germany	0.5
France	14	Australia	0.2
Germany	9	UK	0.1
Thailand	6	Japan	N/A
Japan	2	France	N/A

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There is a widespread perception that crime is a serious problem amongst both Thais and expatriates. The local government in Phuket recently identified crime as being the biggest brake on the development of the tourist industry. Many expatriates believe crime levels in Thailand are as bad or worse than in their home countries,

despite the statistics and in major tourist areas like Pattaya, Phuket and Ko Samui, this may be true. Crime Statistics for Thailand

5.3 Crimes against Foreigners Scams What might lead to international relations. A political issue, which will affect the economy directly. Investment decisions of multinational companies. Crime may affect the number of international visitors decreased. Important too. Problems may spread to the southern border of international relations in Asia.

Scams are common in Bangkok. In fact, scammers are the first Thais you are likely to have contact with on arrival at the airport. The touts will offer tours which are overpriced and hotels which are dingy and expensive. The best option is to queue for one of the official taxis that, for 600 bt, will take you into central Bangkok to a hotel of your choice. Away from the airport, taxi drivers and tuk tuk drivers are most often the scammers in Bangkok. If you need a taxi, hail one of the thousands of brightly painted cabs with a Taxi-Meter sign on its roof. If the driver switches on the meter, all is well. The legal fares are not expensive. If the taxi driver doesn't switch on the meter it is best to get out at the first opportunity. The fare will be exorbitant and he will try any line to keep you in the back of his taxi. Most especially, beware of taxi drivers offering tours. These will include visits to grossly expensive shops and restaurants from whom the taxi driver will get commission. Taxi drivers sometimes pick up their victims outside famous monuments claiming falsely that the monument is closed. They then offer their own alternative tour. Most ordinary taxi drivers don't speak English and don't know Bangkok well (truly). Offering the driver a map- tourist maps are easy to find- is the best way to get to a destination. Hotel staff will write directions in Thai if you ask them. Avoid touts offering to take you to a gemstone shop. They will sell at hugely inflated prices. The gem scam is famous enough to have it's own wikipedia entry.

6. Discussions :

Political Impact Profits from the illegal economy have contributed to the rise of itthiphon meut (dark influences) or jao pho (godfathers) in Thai society and politics. Not all of the local businessmen who are sometimes described by these terms are engaged in illegal businesses. But many of them undoubtedly are. They also conduct legal businesses as a front and as additional sources of profit. In many cases they use their influence to gain lucrative concessions and contracts from the government. They enhance their social position in society by helping build local infrastructure, donating to temples and welfare services, entertaining important local and national politicians.

The illegal economy has contributed to the growth of "money politics". Candidates use money to buy votes. Party and faction leaders use money to attract and retain MPs' support. Politicians use their power and position to recoup the money needed for these investments.

Money politics are not new in Thailand. Vote-buying can be traced back to the 2010 elections. A bye-election in Roi-et in 2000 is often cited as a landmark in the development of elaborate systems for buying votes through professional vote-banks.ⁱⁱⁱ In this one constituency the competing parties sunk some 57 million baht.

7. Conclusion: A new perspective

- i. Prachachat thurakit, 9-12 May 2000.
- ii. Prachachat thurakit, 6-8 May 2012.
- iii. "Roi-et 1981] was one of the early elections where candidates planned systematically at every level to win the elections.

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