

Requirements for the Establishment of Honorary Consulates and the Appointment of Honorary Consular Officers in the Kingdom of Thailand

In accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963, the Royal Thai Government, as the receiving State, sets the requirements for the establishment of honorary consulates and the appointment of honorary consular officers in the Kingdom of Thailand.

The request for the establishment of honorary consulates and the appointment of honorary consular officers in the Kingdom of Thailand shall be considered on the basis that the Royal Thai Government has the authority to grant the request made by the sending State for such establishment and appointment.

1. Establishment of an Honorary Consulate

Honorary consulates in the Kingdom of Thailand may be established only with prior consent of the Royal Thai Government. The following requirements shall apply:

1.1 A Note Verbale requesting for the establishment of an honorary consulate shall be submitted to the Royal Thai Government through diplomatic channels (via the Royal Thai Embassies or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The following information shall be submitted together with the request:

1.1.1) purposes and justifications for the establishment of an honorary consulate as well as its consular district, scope of work/responsibilities and expected volume of consular services;

1.1.2) physical address, photographs and descriptions of the premises to be used as the honorary consulate;

1.1.3) details of the person to be nominated as the honorary consul.

1.2 The consular district of an honorary consulate shall be as follows:

1.2.1) the consular district of an honorary consulate may cover two or more provinces located in the same region as, or within geographical proximity of, the honorary consulate;

1.2.2) the consular district of an honorary consulate must cover the entire province(s). It is not permitted to cover only certain cities, districts, sub-districts or areas in such province(s). Consequently, the name of the honorary consulate shall correspond to the name of the province where the honorary consulate is located;

1.2.3) the establishment of an honorary consulate in Bangkok shall not be permitted if the sending State has an existing diplomatic mission or a consular post, (headed by a diplomat or a career consular officer). It is also not permitted for the sending State to retain an honorary consulate in Bangkok if the sending State wishes to establish a diplomatic mission in the Kingdom;

1.2.4) if the sending State has already established both a diplomatic mission and an honorary consulate-general/honorary consulate in Bangkok prior to the issuance of these Requirements, the honorary consulate-general/honorary consulate shall continue to operate until the termination of the functions of the honorary consular officer; or until the sending State terminates the operation of the honorary consulate-general/honorary consulate. In such cases, the honorary consulate-general/honorary consulate in Bangkok shall be deemed permanently closed and shall not be permitted to re-open, and the honorary consular officer shall not be permitted to be reinstated;

1.2.5) it is not permitted for the sending State to retain an honorary consulate-general/honorary consulate in Bangkok or other provinces if the sending State wishes to establish a consular post (headed by a career consular officer) in Bangkok or in the same province.

1.3 The sending State may request for the change of classification of an honorary consulate to an honorary consulate-general on the condition that the honorary consul has exercised his/her functions for no less than 10 years.

2. Appointment of an Honorary Consular Officer

Honorary consular officers shall be admitted to the exercise of their functions in the Kingdom of Thailand only with prior consent of the Royal Thai Government. The following requirements shall apply:

2.1 A Note Verbale requesting consent for the appointment of any honorary consular officer shall be submitted to the Royal Thai Government through diplomatic channels (via the Royal Thai Embassies or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The request must include the full name of the nominated person, as well as an up-to-date detailed curriculum vitae with photograph(s), and qualifications and required documents in accordance with 2.4.1 - 2.4.6 below, as well as his/her term of duty.

2.2 The sending State may request for the change of classification of an honorary consul to an honorary consul-general on the condition that the honorary consul has exercised his/her functions for no less than 10 years.

2.3 Where an honorary consul-general has already been admitted to the exercise of his/her functions in Thailand, the sending State may nominate a suitable person as an honorary consul or honorary vice-consul to support his/her functions in accordance with the following guidelines:

2.3.1) the sending State may appoint an honorary consul to support the work of the honorary consul-general at the honorary consulate-general. The functions of the honorary consul shall be terminated upon the completion of the honorary consul-general's term; or the termination of the functions of the honorary consul-general due to any other reason;

2.3.2) the sending State may appoint an honorary vice-consul to support the work of the honorary consul-general or honorary consul at the honorary consulate-general or honorary consulate. However, the functions of an honorary vice-consul shall be terminated upon the completion of the honorary consul-general's or

honorary consul's term; or the termination of the functions of the honorary consul-general or honorary consul due to any other reason.

2.4 The Royal Thai Government will consider a request for the appointment of an honorary consular officer in accordance with the following qualifications and requirements:

2.4.1) hold Thai nationality or the nationality of the sending State;
2.4.2) reside in the province where the honorary consulate-general or honorary consulate is located, or where the sending State proposes to establish an honorary consulate;

In case where the honorary consular officer holds the nationality of the sending State, he/she must have a permanent residence in Thailand or hold a long-stay visa in Thailand;

2.4.3) provide proof of his/her current employment;
2.4.4) provide a confirmation from the sending State that he/she does not have a criminal record and has never been sentenced to imprisonment by a judgment in a criminal case, except for an offence committed by negligence or a petty offence;

2.4.5) must not hold a political office (this requirement also applies to the nominated person's spouse);

2.4.6) must not be appointed as an honorary consular officer of another State; and/or must not apply for such positions of another state.

2.5 The Royal Thai Government will consider a request for the appointment of an honorary consular officer on the basis of reciprocity.

2.6 Honorary consular officers who were appointed prior to the issuance of these Requirements shall not be affected by the abovementioned provisions of these Requirements and shall continue to perform their functions until the termination of their functions.

3. Termination of Functions of the Honorary Consular Officers

3.1 The term of an honorary consular officer shall come to an end under the following conditions:

3.1.1) completion of the term of office without renewal;
3.1.2) retirement without renewal;
3.1.3) resignation;
3.1.4) being sentenced to imprisonment by a judgment in a criminal case, except for an offence committed by negligence or a petty offence;
3.1.5) addiction to narcotics under the laws of Thailand;
3.1.6) being declared a bankrupt person;
3.1.7) being of unsound mind or of mental infirmity;
3.1.8) notification by the sending State to the Ministry that the sending State has ceased to consider him or her as the honorary consular officer;
3.1.9) inability to perform the functions, or death;
3.1.10) being discharged from the position.

3.2 The sending State shall inform the Royal Thai Government by a Note Verbale through diplomatic channels on the termination of functions of the honorary consular officer.

3.3 The Royal Thai Government may revoke the consent for the appointment or the Exequatur, or suspend or terminate the performance of functions, of an honorary consular officer at any time, on the grounds of his/her improper conduct or any other reasonable grounds.

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