



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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National Policy on Foreign Affairs

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2550.

Article 77 The State shall protect and uphold the institution of monarchy, the independence, sovereignty and integrity of the territorial jurisdiction of the State and shall provide an armed forces, weapons and modern technology as deemed necessary and sufficient for protecting and upholding the independence, sovereignty, national security, institution of monarchy, national interests and the democratic regime of government with the King as Head of the State; and for developing the country.

Article 82 The State shall promote relations and cooperation with other countries, shall adhere to the principle of non – discrimination, and shall observe the treaties on human rights that Thailand has become party to, as well as other commitments made with other countries and international organisations.

The State shall promote trade, investment and tourism with other countries and accord protection to Thai nationals and look after their interests in foreign countries.

Foreign Policy drawn from the Policy Statement
of the Council of Ministers Delivered
by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra
to the National Assembly,
Tuesday 23 August B.E. 2554 (2011)

Urgent Policies to be implemented in the First Year

Policy 1.6 : Expediently restore relations and enhance cooperation with neighboring countries and other foreign countries so as to boost economic growth in the region, in particular expediently address border issues via diplomatic procedures based on relevant treaties and laws, pursue the obligation to integrate into an ASEAN Community in 2015 in the economic, social and security aspects, as well as link intra – regional and inter – regional transportation.

Policy 7 : Foreign Policy
and International Economics

1. Expedite the promotion and development of relations with neighboring countries by enhancing cooperation between the public sector, private sector, people and the mass media in order to cultivate mutual understanding and instill closeness among all sectors which will lead to expanded cooperation in the areas of economics, trade, investment, tourism promotion, transportation and others under sub – regional frameworks so as to promote good neighborly relations.

2. Create unity and promote cooperation among ASEAN countries in order to realize the goal of creating an ASEAN Community, as well as promote cooperation with other countries in Asia through various cooperative frameworks, and prepare all sectors for the move towards becoming an ASEAN Community by 2015 in the economic, socio – cultural and security areas.

3. Take on a creative role and promote the national interest in international organizations, specifically at the United Nations and regional organizations in order to preserve peace and security, promote the democratic process, human rights, humanitarianism, the environment and sustainable development, as well as cooperate to address all transnational issues that affect human security.

4. Strengthen cooperation and strategic partnership with countries, groups of countries and international organizations that play important roles in global affairs in order to boost confidence in Thailand, as well as build capacity and immunity for the Thai economy.

5. Encourage people – to – people contacts with foreign countries, as well as promote a positive image and technical assistance with developing countries so that people, governments and the international community will have positive attitudes toward the Thai people and Thailand.

6. Promote public awareness and understanding of border issues and global changes that affect Thailand so as to forge consensus in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy.

7. Support ‘People Diplomacy’ to safeguard the interests of Thai nationals, as well as protect Thai nationals and Thai workers abroad, specifically those employed and living overseas, in addition to strengthening and promoting the role of Thai communities in preserving their Thai identity.

8. Utilize regional connectivity within the ASEAN region and sub – regions in order to expand the economic base in terms of production and investment, prioritizing the development of provinces and groups of provinces situated along the economic corridors and border areas.

9. Coordinate the work of government agencies overseas in accordance with the ‘Team Thailand’ policy in order to carry out foreign affairs efficiently, effectively and with high quality.

10. Promote close cooperation with Muslim countries and international Islamic organizations to create a correct understanding that Thailand is working on resolving the issue of the Southern Border Provinces, as an important internal issue, by following His Majesty the King's advice to 'Understand, Reach Out and Develop'.

Vision

To serve, with honour and integrity, as the leading organisation for the promotion and protection of Thailand's interests, status, and role in the international community, particularly in the fields of political stability, economic progress and social development; and ensure that Thai society can best benefit from globalization.

Mission

1. Protect, maintain, and promote Thailand's national interests in international relations
2. Represent the Thai Government in international negotiations
3. Offer advice and strategic recommendations relating to policy and actions in foreign affairs and international law
4. Develop Thai diplomats with a sense of conscience, a good understanding of Thai society, and comprehensive skills and knowledge so as to well represent Thailand and to promote Thai interests abroad
5. Protect and promote rights and interests of Thai nationals living abroad and to provide them with consular services
6. Provide accurate information to domestic and international audiences about Thailand's foreign policy as well as create a good international understanding about Thailand
7. Undertake relevant protocol functions that serve foreign policies and strategies
8. Integrate and coordinate the work in international affairs with all stakeholders
9. Undertake development cooperation both at bilateral and multilateral levels

Values

1. Committed to and having the courage to do what is right and fair.

Performance of official duties with honesty, fairness, transparency, accountability, without adherence to any influence, while firm in logic and in substantive reasoning. True to the morality and ethics of being a government officer and able to preserve the integrity of the agency to which one belongs.

2. Devoted to completing the mission and obtaining the objective.

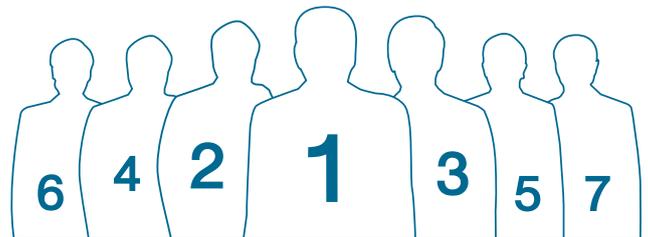
Performance of duties with responsibility, sacrifice, and patience, so that the mission is completed effectively and efficiently in accordance with its purposes, based on the interests of the nation and the Thai peoples and not personal interests.

3. Respect for the value and dignity of the human person.

Consider important the value and dignity of the human person, especially for fellow professionals who are to be treated with equality and compassion.



The Minister and Executives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



1 DR. SURAPONG TOVICHAKCHAIKUL
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Foreign Affairs

2 MR. JULLAPONG
NONSRICHAI
Vice Minister
for Foreign Affairs

3 MR. SIHASAK
PHUANGKETKEOW
Permanent Secretary

4 MR. NOPADOL
GUNAVIBOOL
Deputy Permanent
Secretary

5 MR. VIJAVAT
ISARABHAKDI
Deputy Permanent
Secretary

6 MR. KIATTIKHUN
CHARTPRASERT
Deputy Permanent
Secretary

7 MR. NUTTAVUDH
PHOTISARO
Deputy Permanent
Secretary

Organization Chart

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Office of the Minister

Permanent Secretary

Deputy Permanent Secretary overseeing Administration

Office of Permanent Secretary

- (1) General Affairs Division
- (2) Human Capital Management Bureau
- (3) Finance Management Bureau
- (4) Asset Procurement and Management Bureau
- (5) Archives and Library Division
- (6) Information and Communications Technology Centre
- (7) Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs
- (8) Office of Policy and Planning - International Security Unit
- (9) Thailand's Missions Abroad

Deputy Permanent Secretary overseeing Bilateral Relations

Department of East Asian Affairs

- (1) Dept. Secretariat
- (2) Division 1
- (3) Division 2
- (4) Division 3
- (5) Division 4

Department South Asian, Middle-East and African Affairs

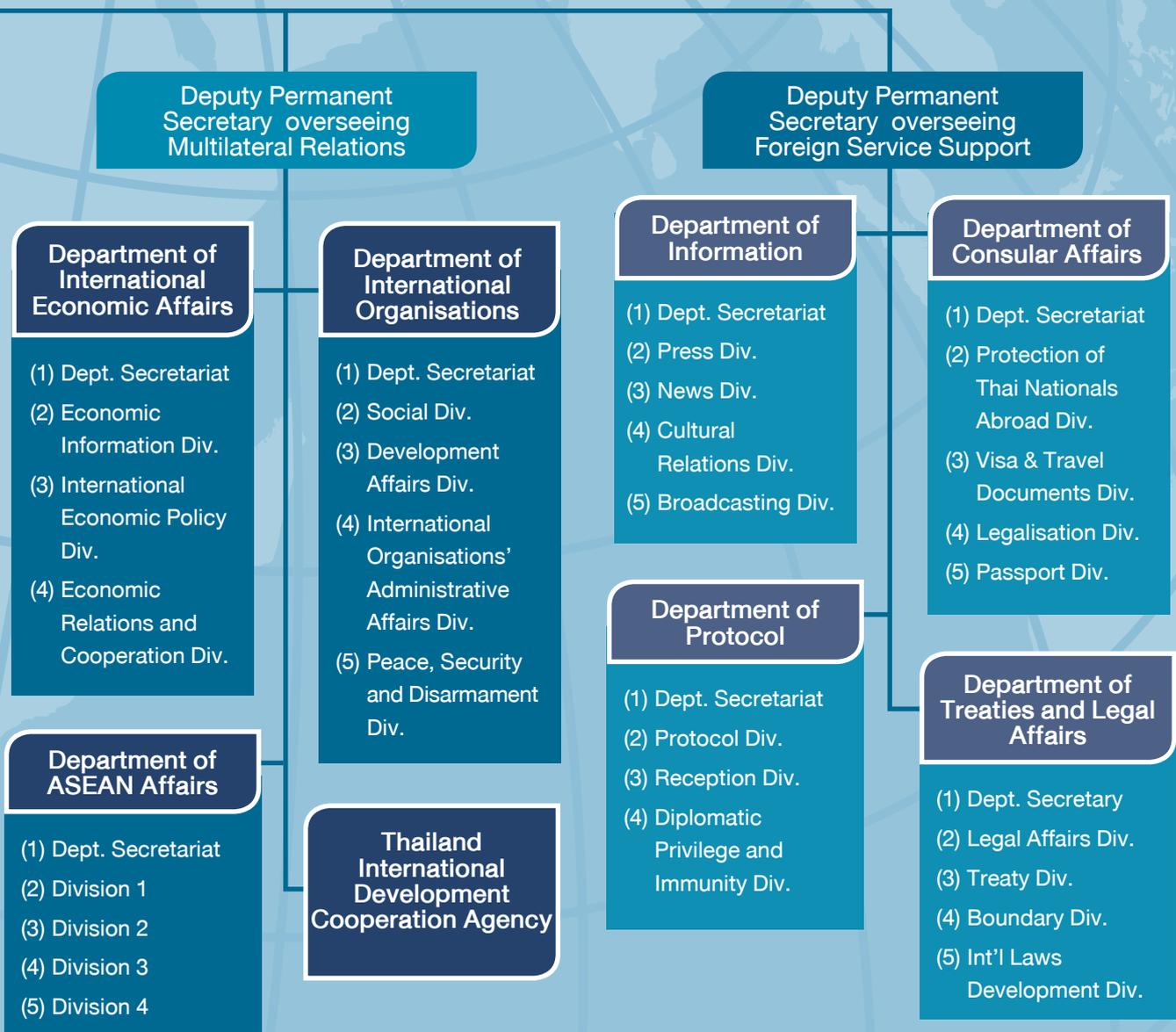
- (1) Dept. Secretariat
- (2) South Asian Div.
- (3) Middle East Div.
- (4) Africa Div.
- (5) Central Asia Group

Department of American and South Pacific Affairs

- (1) Dept. Secretariat
- (2) North America Div.
- (3) Latin America Div.
- (4) South Pacific Div.

Department of European Affairs

- (1) Dept. Secretariat
- (2) Division 1
(EC & Western Europe)
- (3) Division 2 (Northern & Southern Europe)
- (4) Division 3 (Central & Eastern Europe)



Forward

The Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs includes activities throughout the 2012 calendar year. As a key feature of international affairs this year has been the augmentation of a strong and confident Asia, Thailand has taken the opportunity to contribute to peace, stability and progress in the region while actively seeking more effective ways to contribute to the international community. Correspondingly Thailand's foreign policy has focused on enhancing comprehensive relations with our neighbouring countries in mainland Southeast Asia, our friends in ASEAN, and regional community building. Preparations for the entering into the ASEAN Community in 2015 have advanced and been more integrated as Thai society's awareness of the ASEAN Community has also heightened. A more stable domestic political situation in Thailand has also been a positive influence in guiding the direction and ensuring continuity of Thailand's foreign policy. With this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also put emphasis on working closer with the Thai people, so as to become more "dependable and accessible" for all Thais.

While the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has consistently published a report annually in Thai, this is the first time that an English version is published, with target audiences to include the diplomatic community, international organisations, and visiting delegations. The English version is a more concise version than the Thai version.

The Annual Report aims to inform the public about the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and serves as a vehicle for assessing and evaluating the work of the organisation. This Annual Report can be accessed from the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at: www.mfa.go.th.

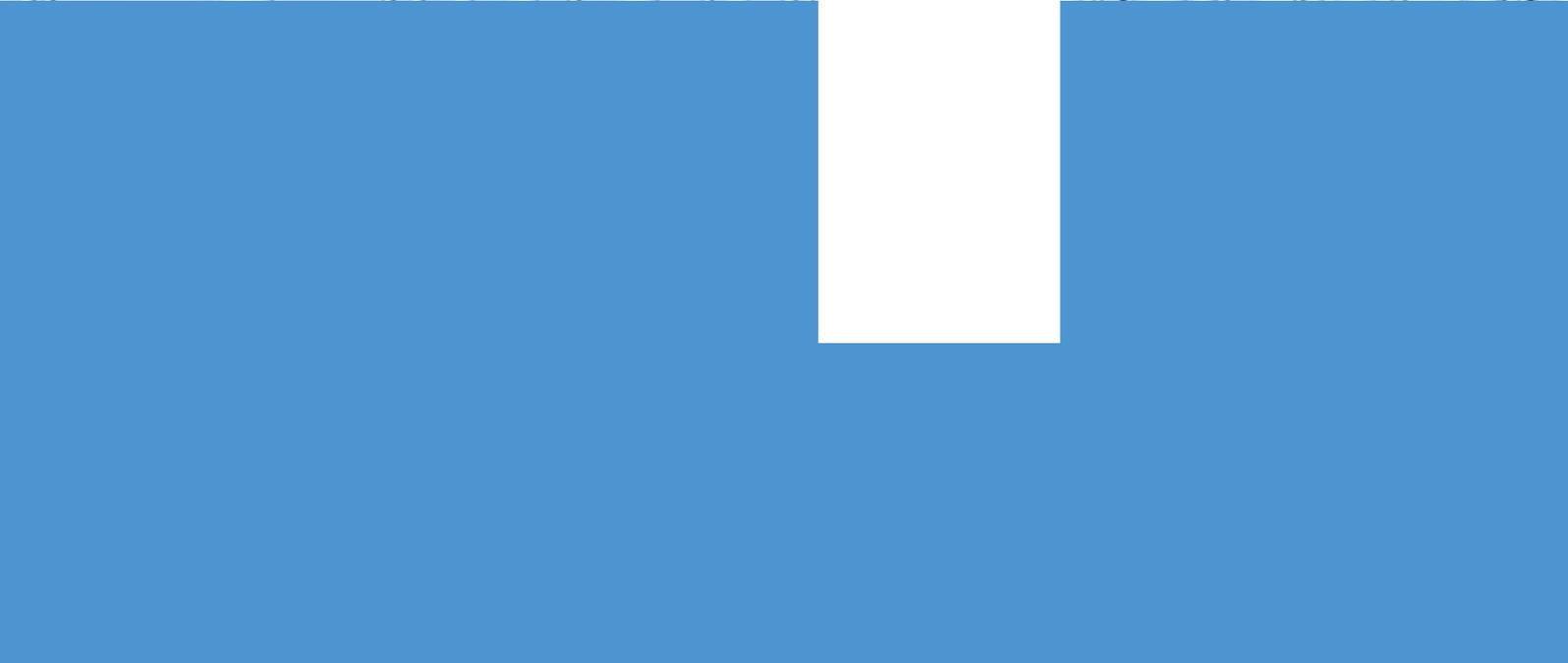
The Editorial Committee

Table of Contents

o National Policy on Foreign Affairs	2
Chapter 1 Enhancing Closer Relations with Friends Near and Far	14
Chapter 2 Preparing the Thai Public for the ASEAN Community	28
Chapter 3 Contributing to the International Community	34
Chapter 4 Soft Power Diplomacy : Providing Development Assistance and Promoting Cultural Diplomacy	50
Chapter 5 Enhancing Thailand’s National Competitiveness	62
Chapter 6 Addressing the Situation in the Southern Border Provinces of Thailand	68
Chapter 7 People–Centered Diplomacy	76
Chapter 8 Reform and Development of the Organisation	86
o Appendix	95
• Foreign Visits and International Meetings attended	96
• Address and contact telephone numbers	101
- Thai Missions Abroad	101
- Permanent Missions	119



Enhancing Closer Relations
with Friends Near and Far

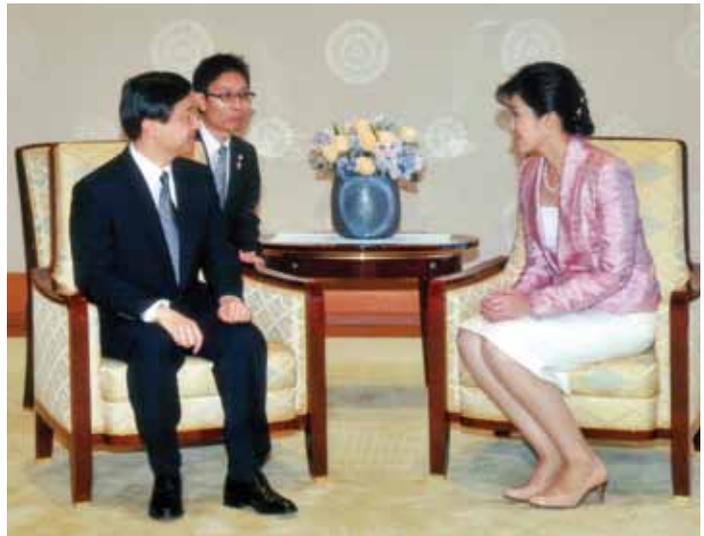


Enhancing Closer Relations with Friends Near and Far

In 2012 Thailand was honoured to welcome a number of visiting foreign dignitaries such as HRH Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan, the Duke of York, the Presidents of Myanmar, the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, Guinea, Uganda, and the European Commission; and the Prime Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Vietnam, Laos, Canada, and Japan.

Correspondingly the Prime Minister of Thailand and the Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister of Thailand were warmly welcomed on their many visits to countries in the Asia – Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. Thailand regards such exchanges of high – level visits to be important catalysts for multi – faceted and substantial cooperation, not to mention the reaffirmation of mutual understanding and trust between friends.

HRH Prince Naruhito, Crown Prince of Japan, paid his first official visit to Thailand during 25 – 27 June 2012.



HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York, paid his official visit to Thailand during 28 February – 3 March 2012.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mrs. Cornelia Pieper, Minister of State of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, at the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Germany on 15 February 2012.

Thailand is proud to have a long and prolific history in diplomatic relations. For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2012 was a special year as Thailand commemorated the establishment of diplomatic relations with many friends. These included diplomatic relations between: Thailand and Portugal (500 years), Thailand and Germany (150 years), Thailand and Japan (125 years), Thailand and Australia (60 years), Thailand and Canada (50), Thailand and Uzbekistan (20 years), Thailand – Timor-Leste (10 years).

To further enhance interaction between Thai government agencies and their foreign counterparts, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also took the opportunity to organise special meetings throughout the year. These have included: the Thailand – Vietnam Joint Cabinet Meeting, the Thai – US Strategic Dialogue, and several other Joint Commission Meetings such as those between Thailand – Laos, Thailand – Cambodia, Thailand – Bahrain, Thailand – Kazakhstan, and Thailand – New Zealand.

1. Developing Special Relations with Thailand's Neighbours

Sharing a border with 4 other countries gives Thailand the opportunity to cooperate with its neighbors on a number of issues for the mutual benefit of the citizens of mainland Southeast Asia. Sharing common borders has come with a long history of common concerns and responsibilities and in this sense, Thailand and our neighbouring countries have been working well together on such activities such as natural resources sustainability and management, border



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Mr. Alexander Mariyasov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Thailand at the celebrations of the 115th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Thailand and the Russian Federation on 21 June 2012.

security cooperation and migration, and development cooperation in the border communities. As part of a rising and confident Asia, Thailand has been committed to intensifying these diplomatic initiatives to enhance stability, growth and development.

Thus in 2012 Thailand maintained its close relationship with Laos PDR through enhancing cooperation in existing areas while participating in the Joint Cabinet meeting in Vientiane. Then in June Thailand was honoured to welcome the Prime Minister of Laos PDR for an official visit. The governments of Thailand and Cambodia have maintained constructive and close relations in 2012 by moving forward with a comprehensive framework of cooperation. This has allowed for developments in several key areas such as the Regional Border Committee Meeting in March, the 4th Joint – Governors Meeting in April, and the Joint Committee Meeting in December where the Foreign Ministers of both countries were able to agree and make progress on opening up more border checkpoints, measures to combat illegal logging, and on the ACMECS Single Visa. As well relations with Myanmar constructively progressed this year and saw the exchange of several high level visits, such as the visit of the President of Myanmar to Thailand in July (where MOUs were signed on the development of a special economic zone in the Dawei area and on development cooperation), and then the visit of the Vice President of Myanmar in November. The Prime Minister of Thailand, along with a delegate of Thai businesspersons also paid a visit to Dawei Port in December to assess progress made. Discussions on Thai – Myanmar cooperation covered key issues such as labour cooperation, narcotics suppression, and agricultural cooperation along the border areas,



as well as the Myanmar presidency of ASEAN in 2014. Towards the south, cordial relations with Malaysia have evolved throughout the year through high – level visits and continuous meetings between Thai and Malaysian counterparts. This has included the visit to Malaysia of the Prime Minister of Thailand in February. Foreign Ministers of both countries also had the opportunity to meet on several occasions throughout the year, such as during the visit of the Thai Foreign Minister to Malaysia in October, the 12th Joint Committee Meeting, and the 3rd Joint Development Strategy to enhance bilateral cooperation on development and connectivity.

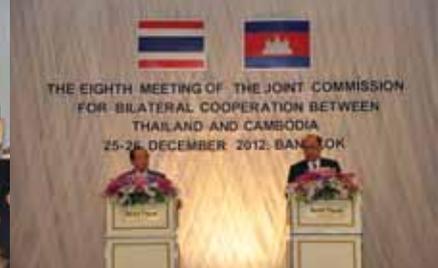
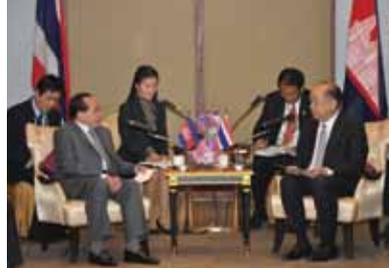
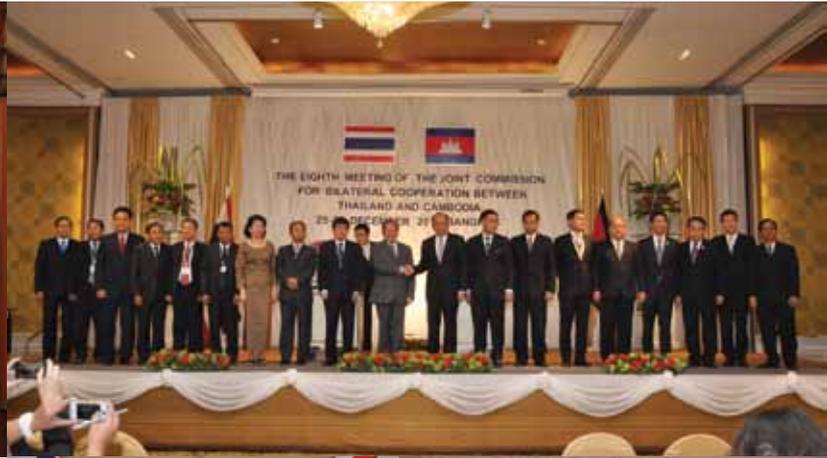
As Thailand has a unique relationship with each neighboring country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has served as the focal point for each border – country Friendship Associations (FA), namely: the Malaysia – Thai FA, the Laos – Thai FA, the Cambodia – Thai FA, and the Myanmar – Thai FA. To complement these relationships the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a range of activities through the Friendship Associations, including the Mekong Friends Project and informal seminars on the theme of “Getting to Knowing thy Neighbours”.

Mr. Surapong Tovichachaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Mr. Thonglun Sisulid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of LAOS PDR, at the Final Casting Ceremony of the 4th Friendship Bridge (Chiang Khong – Huay Sai) in Chiang Rai on 12 December 2012 at 12.00 hrs.





H.E. Mr. Hor Namhong Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia made an official visit to Thailand as head of the Cambodian delegation for the 8th Meeting of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia during 25 – 26 December 2012.



H.E. Mr. Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar made an official visit to Thailand as guest of the government during 22 – 24 July 2012

2. Cooperating with other ASEAN Friends

As the member states of ASEAN race towards forming a community in 2015, intra – ASEAN cooperation intensified in every dimension. With connectivity and thriving market of over 500 million consumers being a vital aspect of ASEAN aspirations, 2012 was another year which saw Thailand building more cooperative links with our ASEAN partners beyond the mainland. For instance In 2012 Indonesia and Thailand exchanged several high – level visits and expressed commitment to work closely together on a number of essential issues such as energy security, food security (including Halal food), as well as transnational crime. The Prime Minister of Thailand attended the 5th Bali Democracy Forum in November in Indonesia. As well, Thailand and Vietnam held the 2nd Joint Cabinet Meeting in Hanoi with both countries agreeing to enhance their respective roles in a strategic partnership, while considering the establishment of a Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation. Other areas of

BALI DEMOCRACY FORUM V

NUSA DUA - BALI, INDONESIA, 8-9 NOVEMBER 2012



The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister/
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
attended the 5th Bali Democracy Forum, Indonesia, during
8 – 9 November 2012.



cooperation that Thailand and Vietnam agreed to consider included cooperation on rice and rubber, and an MOU on the establishment of a Vietnam – Thai and a Thai – Vietnam Business Council. Cooperation based on mutual interests has also been the cornerstone of Thai – Singapore relations as there are now approximately 40,000 Thai workers in Singapore who form a significant part of the industrial workforce in construction, ship building and other petroleum related industries. In 2012 both countries agreed to cooperate in the exchange of best practices in good governance and counter – corruption within an ongoing Civil Service Exchange Programme. For 2012 Thailand and the Philippines focused cooperation on the exchanges of visits to advance cooperation on energy, trade and investment, and in agro – industry. Similarly Brunei Darussalam and Thailand worked together to highlight potential areas of cooperation such as agriculture, Halal food production, labour workforce (there are approximately 5000 Thai workers currently in Brunei), and public health sector development. .

3. Thailand and East Asia

One of the key characteristics of the Asian Century, is the dynamic performance of the economic powerhouses of East Asia, namely China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Now considered to be the world's most prolific engines of growth, the countries of East Asia have long played a crucial role in the prosperity, security and development of Southeast Asia. Together we form a dynamic part of the Asia – Pacific prosperity sphere – where countries with different systems of government are able to share the common goal of growth and work together as regional partners, where regional cooperation on issues such as environmental sustainability and maritime security is burgeoning, and where regional cooperation can be positively enhanced by promoting the common goals of energy security, food security, and sustainable development.

In 2012 bilateral cooperation between Thailand and China expanded in many fields, while a plan of 5 – year plan of action was signed to outline 17 areas of strategic cooperation. There was also the signing of an MOU for sustainable development cooperation in Thailand. Further to this 2012 saw the exchange of high level visits such as the Thai Prime Minister's visit to China in April 2012, and the visit of China's Prime Minister to Thailand in November 2012, the latter being the first visit in a decade. At the same time, Thailand and Japan also exchanged a number of high level visits in 2012 such as the visit of HRH The Crown Prince of Japan to Thailand in June. At the governmental level, the Prime Minister of Thailand and the Minister of Foreign



The Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs officially visited the People's Republic of China during 17 – 19 April 2012.



The Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs officially visited Japan during 6 – 8 March 2012.

Affairs visited Japan in March and discussed a range of issues, particularly the development of flood protection systems in Thailand, cooperation on disaster management, the promotion of trade and investment, as well as tourism and energy cooperation. Cooperation between Thailand and Japan also expanded in the areas of combatting human trafficking, infrastructure development and the possibility of jointly developing the deep sea port in Dawei. In 2012 Thailand and the Republic of Korea saw enhanced cooperation in several fields such as water management, trade, investment and tourism. Thailand and the Republic of Korea also exchanged high – level visits this year, including the visits by the Prime Minister to the Republic of Korea in September 2012. Correspondingly the President of the Republic of Korea visited Thailand in November 2012, which marked the first time a South Korean Head of Government visited Thailand in 31 years. The two countries also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance a strategic partnership covering four areas: (1) politics (2) economics (3) science and technology, and (4) and socio – cultural cooperation.

4. Promotion of Relations with Europe

Changes to the economic environment and the Eurozone in 2012 have meant that Thailand has had to engage with our European friends even more intensely to adapt and find solutions to new challenges in trade and investment. Thailand has full confidence in the ability of our European friends to recover and already has stressed the enormous economic opportunities in Thailand and Southeast Asia that still await our European friends in light of the upcoming AEC. Thus for 2012 Thailand has focused on advancing comprehensive relations with the European Union based on an equal partnership and on being a responsible member of the international community. As well Thailand and the European Union

The Prime Minister with Chancellor Angela Merkel during a visit to Germany between 17 – 19 July 2012 and then with President Francois Hollande during a visit to France between 19 – 21 July 2012.



The Prime Minister with Prime Minister David Cameron during an official visit to the United Kingdom between 13 – 14 November 2012



discussed about completing the Framework of the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation (Partnership and Cooperation Agreement – PCA) as well as seeking for ways to move ahead with negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Thailand and the EU.

In 2012 Thailand and Europe also exchanged a number of high level visits. The Prime Minister of Thailand visited Germany and France in July and the United Kingdom in November, while the Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Portugal in February, and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Denmark in June. Meanwhile, visitors from Europe to Thailand in 2012 included: the Duke of York, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Germany, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom, and the President of the European Commission.

5. Promotion of Relations in the Americas and the Pacific region

Throughout the year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has promoted meetings between Thai groups and key persons from Canada, USA and Australia in the areas of management, lawmaking, academia and the private media. This cooperation has contributed to the enhancement of comprehensive relations between Thailand and the abovementioned countries, not to mention the achievement of tangible results in diplomacy, such as the visit of the Prime Minister of Canada to Thailand in March to mark the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Canada, and the signing of a MOU between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Canada and the National Police Agency of Thailand to expand

The Prime Minister with the President of the United States during an official visit to Thailand during 18 – 19 November 2012

The Minister of Foreign Affairs with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during a visit to the United States between 11 – 16 June 2012.



cooperation in counter terrorism. Cooperation with the United States continued to advance and covered both bilateral issues and the exchange of ideas on policy guidelines on regional and global issues. The Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the United States in June 2012 to participate in a Strategic Dialogue with the Secretary of State of the United States and the Prime Minister of Thailand went to the United States to attend the UN General Assembly in September 2012. In addition the President of the United States visited Thailand in November 2012, which marked the first foreign visit for the President after a second term election victory.

Thai – Australia relations have progressed fruitfully in 2012 with the Prime Minister of Thailand paying an official visit to Australia in May and meeting with Australian leaders to enhance cooperation on economic security among other issues. Along with this there had been the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Education and Training between Thailand – Australia, and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Exchange of Parliamentarians between Thailand – Australia. As well, 500 Thailand – Australia Work and Holiday Visa scholarships were granted by the Australian government this year.

As well, relations with New Zealand this year progressed in the area of trade, as a Thailand and New Zealand completed an agreement on a Closer Economic Partnership. The New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade visited Thailand in July to attend the 2nd Thai – New Zealand Joint Commission, and 100 Thai – New Zealand Work – Visa scholarships were also granted this year.

Thailand considers Latin America as an important emerging market with potential to expand bilateral trade and investment opportunities. Thus



The Prime Minister with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard during a visit to Australia during 25 – 26 May 2012.

The Prime Minister with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during a visit India during 24–26 January 2012.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs met with H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Relations of India during the 4th Delhi Dialogue, in New Delhi on 13 February 2012.

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has organized several 'Road Shows' in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Panama, Peru, and Mexico to encourage trade and investment with Thailand. The Minister of Foreign Affairs also visited Chile and Brazil in August 2012 where the enhancement of such ties served to promote the image of Thailand in Latin America. This was reinforced by other collaborative projects such as the project to send Thai academics to Latin American educational institutions to lecture about Thai Studies.

6. Promotion of Relations with South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa

Thailand seeks to enhance comprehensive relationships with our friends in South Asia, the Middle East and Africa. In 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expanded Thailand's role as an emerging donor country and moved forward with a number of cooperative frameworks. Thailand promoted cooperation in various fields for Thailand's friends in the African region including cooperation in sustainable development, in agriculture and fisheries, public health, income generation, and education. A number of high level visits took place in 2012 such as the visits of the President of the Republic of Guinea in June and the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso in November. Thailand is also preparing to establish diplomatic relations with South Sudan.

As well, relations between Thailand and South Asia were highlighted by the exchange of visits, especially at the Head of Government level such as the visit to India by the Thai Prime Minister in January, where both countries agreed to form a strategic partnership covering

a wide range of issues, including acting as hubs for sub – regional connectivity. As for cooperation with other South Asian countries, Thailand and Sri – Lanka had a Political Consultation along with a seminar on bilateral cooperation; Pakistan and Thailand celebrated to mark 6 decades of the establishment of diplomatic relations (end of 2011 and beginning of 2012); while the Thai Prime Minister visited Bangladesh in December.

2012 also marked a year in which Thailand strengthened relations with Central Asia. In June Thailand and Kazakhstan held a Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation in Bangkok, and Thailand opened an Embassy in Astana in September of 2012. In addition, Thailand has continued with an active role in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). As for the Middle East, Thailand has also sought to promote cooperation on trade and investment, medical tourism, as well as energy cooperation. The Prime Minister of Thailand visited Bahrain and Qatar in May, which in turn paved the way for the Thai private sector to further engage with their Middle Eastern counterparts in the fields of construction, agro – industry, and hospital management. Thailand's relationship with other countries in the Middle East such as Egypt, Tunisia, Israel and Kuwait progressed accordingly during 2012 thanks to the exchange of a number of high level visits and bilateral meetings such as the 2nd Joint Commission of Senior Officials between Thailand – Bahrain in Bangkok. 2012 also marked the establishment of diplomatic relations between Thailand and the State of Palestine.



The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs with H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain at the 2nd Joint Committee Meeting between Thailand and Bahrain on 30 November 2012.



Preparing the Thai Public
for the ASEAN Community



Preparing the Thai Public for the ASEAN Community

1. Thailand's preparations for the ASEAN Community

The Royal Thai Government has a priority objective to direct the country towards the ASEAN Community by the year 2015. This has involved taking the necessary preparations to create a robust economy, a thriving socio – cultural scene, and a stable political and security environment. Given this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has had a substantive role in preparing other government agencies, the private sector, and other sectors of Thai society for the ASEAN Community.

So far the Ministry has established core working groups or departments directly responsible for issues relating to ASEAN in other government agencies, and has continuously coordinated with the Office of the Civil Service Commission in the development of programs to enhance knowledge and understanding about ASEAN. For the private sector the Foreign Ministry has supported the work of the Ministry of Commerce in promoting understanding about the ASEAN Community among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as in the dissemination of information on how to be prepared for the AEC. To prepare the Thai public for enhanced social and cultural connectivity with other ASEAN countries the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also collaborated with other relevant agencies in organizing a number of ASEAN awareness activities across the country.

On 30 April 2012, Mr.Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, opened the 'MFA: Beyond English' English camp for grade 9 –12 students. One hundred students from schools in the Bangkok area and near by provinces attended this camp in order to develop experience to build up confidence for English conversations.





On 8 Aug 2012, Mr.Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, presided over the opening ceremony of the 45th anniversary of ASEAN (ASEAN DAY) on behalf of the Prime Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



On 13 Dec 2012, Mr.Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, held a press conference on the outcome of National ASEAN board at Vitesamosorn Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2012 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised an “ASEAN Awareness” tour to 13 provinces in Thailand, and on ASEAN Day (8 August) organised an ASEAN Day Event for students and teachers from across the country at the Ministry’s headquarters in Bangkok. The Ministry organized 2 more seminars on ASEAN, one in July for Bangkok – based teachers, and one in August for teachers from other remaining provinces. Throughout the year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was involved with the production of various forms of media about ASEAN in order to distribute to the public, and had completed the website: www.mfa.go.th/asean which includes information on latest ASEAN Meetings, ASEAN sports events, ASEAN shows on the radio, and other ASEAN activities on social media pages.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised the Mekong Friendship Project during 11–19 July 2012 by inviting representatives from the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries including Laos PDR, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam, together with Thai PBS reporters and 33 guides on a trip to enhance relations between youths of the 5 Greater Mekong Sub-region countries.

2. Connectivity with Thailand's Neighbours.

In 2012 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook a number of activities and programmes to enhance connectivity in mainland Southeast Asian, including:

1) A project for training on ASEAN Integration through a workshop on: "Cross – Border Management: A key to Efficient ASEAN Connectivity", with participants from ASEAN member countries and representatives of the various sectors of Thai society of more than 150 people.

2) A project inviting the press from neighboring countries to visit Thailand in order to promote networking, which saw the visits of 2 delegations, one from Cambodia, and another from Malaysia.

3) The Thailand Visitors' Programme Phase 2: In June the Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited a new generation of ASEAN leaders from the public and private sectors, and media (Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines)

On 10 Jul 2012, Mr.Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 13th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Phnom Penh.

On 11 Jul 2012, Mr.Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting with dialogue partners countries, including Australia, Canada, China, the United States of America and the European Union, in Phnom Penh.



Asian Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Phnom Penh.

On 12 Jul 2012, Mr.Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the 2nd East On 17 Nov 2012, Mr.Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Phnom Penh.

to visit Thailand and learn about political developments, economic potential, social conditions and Thai culture. An evaluation of the project later found that 96.6 % of the participants were satisfied with the project as a whole and had increased knowledge about Thailand.

4) The Thailand Visitors' Programme Phase 3: In September the Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited a second group of new generation ASEAN leaders from the ASEAN + 3 countries to visit Thailand and in this evaluation, 100 % of the participants were satisfied with the project as a whole and had increased knowledge about Thailand.

5) Project to invite journalists from ASEAN countries to Thailand. The project included an invitation to key media personalities in Singapore to visit Thailand in November to interview senior government officials and high – level private sector personalities, including visits to the rural areas of Thailand, and meetings with leading academic leaders.



Contributing to the International Community



Contributing to the International Community

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has both participated and organized key regional meetings while promoting Thailand's pro – active role on key global issues. Thailand has implemented a foreign policy that looks beyond the country's immediate interests. This foreign policy direction has been based on cooperation with other countries in addressing new security challenges such as global warming, terrorism, disasters, human trafficking and organized transnational crime; and the promotion of global goods, such as human rights and democracy.

1. Sub – regional and Regional Dimensions

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has promoted Thailand's role in sub – regional and regional frameworks of cooperation to enhance Thailand's interests in a number of dimensions.

1.1 Cooperation in ACMECS (Ayeyawady – Chao Phraya – Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy: ACMECS)

ACMECS is a framework for cooperation that Thailand has supported since 2003 for the purpose of lowering the economic development gap between Thailand and its neighbouring countries. Currently cooperation under ACMECS is divided into 8 segments, including: 1. Facilitating Trade and Investment, 2. Agriculture 3. Energy Industry 4. Transportation Links and Connectivity 5. Tourism 6. Human Resources Development 7. Public Health, and 8. Environmental Issues

In 2012 Thailand hosted a meeting with concerned agencies to put into place a framework of cooperation on Contract Farming between Thailand and Cambodia and between Thai – Laos PDR; as well as updates to websites concerning ACMECS. In addition the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has implemented a number of ACMECS – related projects such as the establishment

of special economic zones and industrial zones along borders, technical training for ACMECS officials, programmes for human resource development and an agreement on the ACMECS single visa.

1.2 Initiation of Cooperation under the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi – Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation : BIMSTEC)

BIMSTEC is grouping of 7 countries that share the Bay of Bengal area and includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. BIMSTECs is a framework of cooperation that links South Asia to Southeast Asia and includes 15 areas of cooperation, with each member country having been delegated Chairmanship of a specific area of cooperation, such as trade & investment (Bangladesh); tourism (India); Fisheries (Thailand); agriculture (Myanmar); and culture (Bhutan).

In 2012 Thailand attended the 2nd BIMSTEC ministerial meeting on poverty reduction and advocated an approach to development based on the philosophy of sufficiency economy, people – centered rural development, and disaster prevention and mitigation. Thailand also participated in several sub – working – groups such as on the BIMSTEC FTA, enhanced cooperation on transportation and connectivity, on cooperation on counter – terrorism, and the working group on the establishment of a permanent BIMSTEC Secretariat.

1.3 Mekong – Japan Cooperation

Japan initiated the Mekong – Japan Cooperation in 2008 which includes 6 member states: Japan, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam. The Mekong – Japan Cooperation's purpose is to promote development and Japan's role as a development – partner/stakeholder in the Mekong region, so as to reduce economic and development disparities between Thailand and its then new ASEAN neighbouring countries, and to enhance prosperity for the peoples of ASEAN and East Asia. In 2012 the Prime Minister of Thailand participated in the 5th Mekong – Japan Region Leader's Meeting in Tokyo, in which the Tokyo Strategy for Mekong – Japan Cooperation was adopted based on three key pillars, including: (1) the promotion of connectivity in the Mekong river area, (2) development with investments, and (3) creating confidence through human security and environmental sustainability. Thailand also participated in the Ministerial Meeting on Mekong – Japan Cooperation and played a role in developing a plan of action for 2013 while also allocating

a special budget of \$US 77 million for infrastructure and technical cooperation in the Mekong countries.



On 10 Jul 2012, Mr. Sihanak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs attended the 5th Mekong – Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Phnom Penh on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

1.4 Mekong – Korea Cooperation

The Mekong – Korea Cooperation was a result of the 2010 ASEAN – Korea Summit in Hanoi, in which the Republic of Korea had proposed a ministerial meeting with the Mekong countries (Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam) to promote cordial ties and political, economic and socio – cultural cooperation, with special emphasis on development.

In 2012 Thailand participated in the Senior Officials Meeting of the Mekong – Korea Cooperation in Luang Prabang, Laos PDR, and proposed to be the coordinating country in the area of agriculture and rural development. In addition, the Permanent Secretary, as representative of the Foreign Minister, attended the 2nd Mekong – Korea Ministerial Meeting in July, in which it was agreed that Thailand host the Mekong – ROK Business Forum and that the Mekong Institute, organise a pilot project after the approval of The Han – River Declaration of Establishing the Mekong – ROK Comprehensive Partnership for Mutual Prosperity.

1.5 Lower Mekong Initiative – LMI

The LMI comprises 5 member states, including: Cambodia, Laos PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, and the United States of America. An initiative by the United States, who sought to have role in the development of the Mekong area, the LMI is currently operating under the 2011 – 2015 Plan of Action which sets 4 main areas of regional cooperation, including education, public health, environment and water, and infrastructure connectivity.

In 2012 Thailand participated in the 5th LMI Ministerial Meeting in Phnom Penh which acknowledged the Thai proposal that Energy Security be a new area of cooperation under the LMI. Thailand also hosted the regional meeting of the LMI Working Group in Phuket, at which a Joint Communiqué was released outlining

On 13 Jul 2012, Mr. Arthayudh Srisamoot,
Director – General of the ASEAN Affairs Department
attended the 2nd Friends of Lower Mekong (FLM)
Ministerial Meeting in Phnom Penh



progress made in the 4 main areas of cooperation and approval was given to a draft of a Concept Paper, proposing 2 other main areas of cooperation, namely: energy (in which Thailand proposed, and the US has become co – sponsor), and agricultural and food security.

1.6 Thailand's Role in the Mekong – Ganga Cooperation (MGC)

The MGC aims to promote economic cooperation while enhancing connectivity among the member states, particularly in the areas of tourism, education, culture, and transportation. The main objective of the MGC is to maximize the economic benefits from cooperation in the context of greater regional connectivity from the Mekong region towards India. Thailand's role is in the tourism sector, with a portfolio to handle public relations for regional tourism, promoting investment in tourism and investment in human resources development in the hospitality sector, and the promotion of eco – tourism. In 2012 Thailand participated in the Senior Officials Meeting and the Ministerial Meeting of the MGC in New Delhi, with discussions covering tourism, education, culture, and transportation; and with new proposals on public health and small to medium enterprises.

1.7 The Asia Cooperation Dialogue: ACD)

Thailand established the ACD in 2002 for the purpose of creating region – wide policy coordination forum to enhance understanding trust and confidence in Asia, as well as to share the benefits from the strengths and diversity among the member states. The ACD has expanded in membership from 18 to 31 members since then and has identified several scopes of cooperation, in accordance with the proposing member states who also act as Prime/Co – Prime Movers, including: energy, agriculture, poverty eradication, fiscal and monetary cooperation, tourism, transportation system connectivity, bio – technology, and science and technology in general.



The Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 1st Asian Cooperation Dialogue Summit (ACD) during 11 – 19 Oct 2012

In 2012 the Prime Minister of Thailand attended the ACD Summit in October in Kuwait where it was agreed that the ACD shall promote further areas of cooperation such as information technology/communications, education, energy, public health, environmentally friendly technology transfer, climate change, disaster relief, investment protection, and connectivity. The Summit also saw the initiation of several Thai proposals such as the Coordinating Group, the establishment of the ACD Working Group, and that Thailand host the 2nd ACD Summit in 2015.

1.8 The Asia – Pacific Economic Cooperation: APEC

Established in 1992 APEC comprises of 21 economies which look to advance economic development based on free trade and investment in the Asia Pacific region, particularly through transferring best practices of advanced economies to developing economies.

In 2012 Thailand participated in a number of Senior Officials Meetings in Russia to follow up on Russia's proposals for APEC, with the Thai delegation

The Prime Minister attended the 20th APEC 2012 Summit in Vladivostok, Russia during 8 – 9 Sep 2012





On 27 Feb 2012, the Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 19th Human Rights Council in Geneva

remarking on 4 main areas including: freer trade and investments, promoting food security, creating a new Network to support and enhancing innovative growth. The Prime Minister of Thailand attended the 20th APEC Summit in Vladivostok in September 2012.

2. Global Dimension/United Nations

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has undertaken a number of initiatives at the multilateral and United Nations level to promote Thailand's role in key global issues.

2.1 The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Thailand was elected onto the United Nations Human Rights Council between 2009 – 2012. In 2012 Thailand participated in the 20th session of the Human Rights Council meeting between 15 June – 8 July in Geneva and co – sponsored 7 resolutions.

On 18 Dec 2012, Mr. Sihasak Phuanketkeow, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs hosted a reception in honour of Senator Monthian Buntan, elected to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the term 2013 – 2016 at Vitesamosorn Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



2.2 Human Security

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has promoted Thailand's role in the international community through membership in the Human Security Network and the Group of Friends of Human Security, in which Thailand has advocated the importance of balance between the notions of "Freedom from Fear" and Freedom from Want". In 2012 Thailand participated in the Human Security Network meeting in New York, during the 67th UNGA.

2.3 The Promotion and Protection of Women's Rights

Thailand is a signatory to the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and in 2012 participated in the Regional Conference on Human Rights Instruments, International Labour Standards and Women Migrant Workers' Rights in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

2.4 Promoting Thailand's Role and Standing in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development or Rio+20 Meeting

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the Rio +20 meeting from 20 – 22 June 2012 in Brazil and played a supporting role in the establishment of the agenda for development. On this occasion Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand represented the country as Head of Delegation.

HRH Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand attended the RIO PLUS 10, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development between 20 – 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



2.5 Preventing and Solving the Problem of Drugs and Narcotics

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has continuously monitored developments within the United Nations framework regarding the issue of narcotics control, in particular the dissemination of information on Alternative Development as viable substitute for the cultivation of narcotic crops.

In 2012 Thailand participated in the Senior Officials Meeting under the MOU on the 7 Divisions on the Suppression of Narcotics in Siam Riep, Cambodia, to follow up on key developments, in particular the issue of the narcotics situation at the sub – regional level and the promotion of cooperation between stakeholders. Thailand also participated in the International High Level Conference on Alternative Development, between 11 – 19 November in Lima, Peru, at which the International Practices on Alternative Development (which Thailand had a major hand in advocating) was endorsed.

In December 2012 Thailand participated in the Reconvened Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs – CND (of which Thailand is a member) and considered a number of reports and decisions in preparation for the 56th Session of the CND in 2013. The Thai government also initiated the ‘Thai Youth Initiative against Drugs’ programme in October 2012 by supporting youths and their teachers in their development of drug prevention programmes, and study programmes to Malaysia to exchange best practices on drugs prevention.

2.6 Reaching the Objective of the Millennium Development Goals

Thailand has already obtained most of its MDGs and has set new goals, called MDG – Plus, in relation to newer and more complex challenges to development. In addition to pushing for achieving MDG Goals in the country, Thailand has had an important role in assisting other countries obtaining their MDGs, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs having the main role as coordinator of assistance for other developing countries, especially neighbouring countries in the areas of agriculture, public health, and education.

2.7 Diplomacy and Public Health

Thailand is a member of the Foreign Policy and Global Health Initiative (FPGH) – which advocates public health to be the top agenda on foreign affairs meetings. In June 2012 Thailand attended the FPGH Experts Meeting in

Paris in which the agenda considered the matter of Universal Health Coverage (a topic in which Thailand was a main advocate) and the linkage between foreign policies and international public health. The FPGH meeting proposed a draft resolution for consideration at the 67th UNGA on the topic "Moving Towards Universal Health Coverage" with the Thai representative proposing the statement. The Resolution was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

2.8 Disaster Mitigation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sought to promote Thailand's role in disaster relief and mitigation, and had arranged for a meeting with Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary – General for Disaster Risk Reduction, in October 2012, who took the opportunity to present an award to the Prime Minister of Thailand for work in the field of regional disaster relief. In addition to this Thailand participated in the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2012, considered to be the most important regional disaster management meeting, and announced to be the host of the next AMCDDR at the end of 2014.

Additionally Thailand will co – host, with the Republic of Korea, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) 2013 Final Planning Conference (FPC) in April 2013, and then the real ARF DiREx in May 2013 with participation of over 25 other countries.

2.9 Global Migration

In November 2012 Thailand participated in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in the Mauritius, and joined with the international community in determining the direction of discussions on development policy and migration. As well Thailand attended the International Organization for Migration(IOM) meeting in November, Geneva, in which the Thai representative made a statement verifying Thailand's readiness to support the IOM at all levels.

2.10 Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

In 2012 Thailand participated in the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) in Vienna, in October and in the Reconvened Session of the Commission on Crime

Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in December 2012, in Vienna, with Ambassador Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha of Thailand as Chairperson of the CCPCJ.

2.11 International Environment

In October 2012 Thailand participated in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC COP18, the Climate Change Conference, as well as the Conference of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

Along with this the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has supported the formulation of Thailand's policy positions on a number of issues such as on conservation and research measures, on the benefits of biodiversity, on the ASEAN position on global biological diversity, Thailand's own position at the UNFCCC, and the coordination of ASEAN's standpoint on global climate change. The Ministry also promoted knowledge and understanding about international environmental standards in Thailand through activities related to environmental diplomacy and green diplomacy.

2.12 Cooperation with the United Nations

In May 2012 Thailand played host to the annual UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) meeting. Thailand also developed a plan of action or UN Partnership Framework 2012 – 2016 so as to link with Thailand's own 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan, with the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Acting United Nations Resident Coordinator signing said framework (UNPAF Action Plan) covering areas of cooperation in: social security, human rights and access to the justice system, strategic information, climate change and economic creativity.

2.13 Water Management

Throughout 2012 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook preparations for Thailand to host the 2nd Asia – Pacific Water Summit in Chiang Mai (May 2013). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also promoted Thailand's role in water management in the Mekong Area under the Mekong River Commission (MRC) framework by participating an informal meeting of development partners in Vientiane with discussions covering the Saiyaburi Dam, Myanmar's accession to the Agreement, and follow up to previous water management projects.



Thailand hosted the 68th Annual Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) during 17 – 23 May 2012 under the theme of 'Enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific : Towards a comprehensive framework'

2.14 Promoting Peace Security and Cooperation in the International System

In August 2012 the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister, attended the NAM Summit in Tehran. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also hosted the 2012 OSCE – Thailand Conference on Strengthening Security through Regional Co – operation: the OSCE Comprehensive Approach and Experiences of Asian Partners for Co – operation in Chiang Mai.

In addition Thailand attended the 19th OSCE Ministerial Meeting in December 2012, Dublin and took the opportunity to re – affirm Thailand's willingness to further cooperate with the OSCE in dealing with increasingly complex security challenges such as narcotics, drugs, human trafficking and transnational crime.

2.15 Thailand's Candidacy for Non – permanent Membership of the UNSC

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the chief organization responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security and Thailand has declared its candidacy for the non – permanent seat for 2017 – 2018, with elections to take place in October 2016.



On 28 August 2012, the Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 16th Non – Aligned Movement Summit (NAM summit) in Tehran, Iran



On 6 December 2012, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr.Surapong Tovichakchaikul attended the 19th Organization for Security and Co – operation in Europe (OSCE) in Dublin, Ireland and met with H.E Mr. Eamon Gilmore, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland

On 5 Dec 2012, Thai Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr.Surapong Tovichakchaikul visited North Ireland and met with the Right Honourable William Hay, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly and Peter Robinson, First Minister of Northern Ireland, and Right Honourable Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland



3. Disaster Management and Providing Humanitarian Assistance to Country's in Disaster Situations

3.1 Disaster Management

In 2012 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook a number of measures in supporting national efforts in disaster management. These have included:

(1) organising a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Special Representative of the Secretary – General for Disaster Risk Reduction;

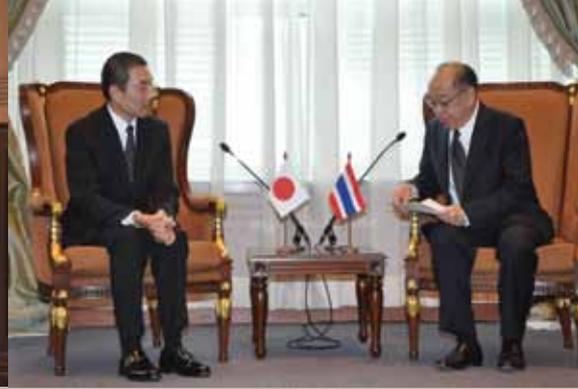
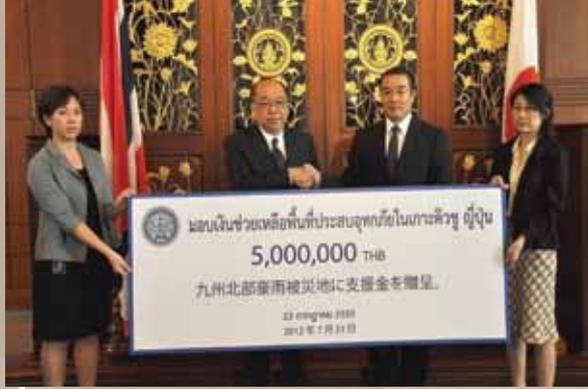


On 12 Oct 2012, the United Nations present a plaque to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra in recognition of her role in encouraging more women to get involved in disaster – reduction efforts in Asia.

(2) sending of representatives to attend the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) In Indonesia, which is the prominent forum in the Asia Pacific for discussions on disaster prevention and mitigation, and at which Thailand handed over the Chairmanship while also announcing to be the host of the next AMCDRR in 2014;

(3) accepted the Chairmanship of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) from March 2012 – November 2013, and in August 2012 hosted the Senior Officials Meeting of the ACDM, while pushing for progress on the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMR) and the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Center).

(4) accepted to be the host of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DIREX) in Thailand in May 2013, and with Cabinet support has allocated 20 million baht budget for the organization and hosting of this conference.



On 22 Jul 2012, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Thai Government, offered 5 million Bath to Japan to help the country with its disaster relief efforts in the southwestern region hit by flooding and mudslides.

3.2 Providing Humanitarian Assistance to countries in Disaster Situations

Thailand has consistently provided humanitarian assistance to countries that have encountered national disasters, both in the form of cash or kind donations, as well as the regular exchange of experiences and expertise with other countries. Between 2006 – 2012, Thailand has donated financial assistance to countries affected by natural disasters in various regions, with 12 donations to countries such as Madagascar, Japan, the Philippines, Senegal, China, Myanmar, the Maldives, Nigeria, Palau. Thailand has also sent donations for the Syrian refugee crisis, to the Jordanian government and the Turkish government.



On 14 Sep 2012, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr.Surapong Tovchichchaikul on behalf of the Thai Government offered 2 million baht to support Myanmar's flood relief and rehabilitation efforts and on 30 Nov 2012, offered 3 million baht for humanitarian assistance in Myanmar.

On 27 Nov 2012, H.E. Mrs Busaya Mathelin, Ambassador of Thailand to Senegal together with Mrs. Ingeborg Maria Breuer, Representative and Country Director of the World Food Programme in Senegal, visited the WFP's "Food for Assets" activities in Bicol, Fatick, which is part of a trilateral cooperation programme between Thailand, Senegal, and the WFP involving rice farming and mixed – cropped agriculture.





Soft Power Diplomacy: Providing Development Assistance and Promoting Cultural Diplomacy



Soft Power Diplomacy: Providing Development Assistance and Promoting Cultural Diplomacy

In 2012 Thailand engaged in a more proactive foreign policy in order to advance cordial relations with our neighbouring countries, with special emphasis on providing development assistance and technical cooperation in key areas. This is in line with Thailand's aspirations as an emerging donor country and a more active role as a responsible member of the international community. A number of cultural diplomacy projects were also initiated to enhance people-to-people relations, such as cultural exchange programmes, religious ceremonies, sports events, and culinary festivals – all with the aim to promoting confidence and thus supporting cooperative border communities.

1. Providing Development Assistance

Thailand has had a strong role in cooperating with other developing countries at the bilateral, sub-regional, regional levels, and also within the triangular partnership framework. This has been implemented through the provision of scholarships, training programs, and the sending of volunteers and experts to other countries. In 2012 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Thailand International Cooperation Agency, coordinated with several Thai and foreign agencies in providing development cooperation, in particular to target countries in various regions.

1.1 Promoting Capacity Building in Mainland Southeast Asia

In 2012 Thailand focused development cooperation with our neighbouring countries on capacity building and human resources development. In total Thailand provided 84 scholarships at the university level, 84 technical training programmes, and 372 short-course training programmes for our

neighbours from mainland Southeast Asia. The programmes reflected the ASEAN priorities of sustainable development, border cooperation and connectivity and included areas of study in agriculture, public health, and natural resources management.



On 28 Sep 2012, Mr. Russ Jalichandra of the Royal Thai Consulate in Savannakhet offered basic medical equipments to the local department of health in Suvannakhet, Laos PDR.

1.2 Promoting Capacity Building for Economic Development at Sub-Regional and Regional Level

• The Ayeyawady – Chao Phraya – Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy : ACMECS

Thailand provided masters and doctoral level scholarships to ACMECS member countries and has also undertaken activities in 6 areas of cooperation, namely: agriculture, industry and energy, human resources development, environment, public health, and transportation connectivity. The Ministry has also provided training scholarships in the following fields: Mining Industry Management, Fundamental Research Methods in Agricultural Sciences, Enhancement of Industrial Policy Development for ACMECS, Sustainable Road Development and Management for ACMECS, Oilseed Crops and Energy Renewable Crop Production Technology, and Identification and Inspection of Pests and Pathogens for plant Quarantine.

• **Greater Mekong Sub-region** : For the GMS Thailand established 2-year human resource development programmes in 4 fields of cooperation, namely labour, public health, education and social development. In 2012 there were also seminars and workshops in the above mentioned fields as well as an International Training Course on Programme Management of Prevention of Mother to Child HIV Transmission.

- **Initiative for ASEAN Integration (ASEAN-IAI)** : Thailand gave financial support for the implementation of expert-level cooperation projects in 2012, with such workshops/seminars in the areas of: promoting ethic and values among civil servants, support and development for leadership training, management of professional human resources.

- **Cooperation for Development in other Regions**

Southeast Asia – The Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam are considered as important partners in development. Development cooperation with these Southeast Asian neighbours has been directed towards strengthening economic vitality in the region, so as to reduce development and growth gaps and to promote cooperation on development issues. For this Thailand has regularly sent guest speakers to lecture on select topics such as Sustainable Development and Environment Management, while also hosting similar seminars/workshops in Thailand such as on Health and Geographic Information Systems and Leadership Enhancement for Asian Food Safety Leaders

East Asia and the Pacific – Cooperation with countries in East Asia and the Pacific regions has been extensive with activities focusing on human resources development, in particular annual international training courses on topics such as agriculture, public health, environment, irrigation, and tourism. Thailand has also provided technical cooperation to Mongolia by developing a 2 year implementation plan in the areas of SME Development, Anti-Human Trafficking, Health, ICT Development and Human Resource Development.

South Asia – Thailand has implemented development cooperation projects with South Asian countries mainly in the area of human resources development, specializing in agriculture, public health, rural development, as well as sustainable tourism.

Bhutan – Thailand has initiated 2 projects with Bhutan, one in Capacity Development for the College of Natural Resources and another project in Development Cooperation. There has also been cooperation on drugs prevention, which has involved sending experts to Bhutan to establish training courses for high ranking officials from Bhutan. Thailand also has a special cooperative project with Bhutan in accordance with the instructions by Her Royal Princes Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, in the area of quality life improvement for children and youths.

Nepal and India – For Nepal and India Thailand has financially supported a number of e-learning programmes for distance learning,

particularly the establishment of satellite communication systems for a distance-learning centre based at the Thai-Lumpini temple in Nepal, and at 4 other locations in India (at Thai temples). Thailand also donated medical supplies to the Care and Fair organization in Nepal.



On 18 Dec 2012, H.E. Mrs. Kanthong Unakul, Ambassador of Thailand to Nepal presented medical supplies to the President of Care & Fair Nepal to support the welfare for the people of Nepal

Middle East – Thailand has recently begun to consider development cooperation projects with countries in the Middle East, with a plan of action developed for cooperation in the fields of agriculture, public health, tourism, and rural development. In 2012 Thailand provided training courses on Designing and Implementation of Bridge and Tunnel Projects and on Road Construction and Maintenance for the State of Palestine and a study program for fisheries officials from Iran to Thailand.

Commonwealth of Independent States – Development cooperation with the CIS countries has involved an exchange of experts, education programmes, and training in fields that the CIS countries have an expertise in. In this dimension Thailand highly regards cooperating with our CIS partners in keys areas such as energy efficiency, cultural diversity, and tourism under partnership cooperation schemes.

Latin America and Caribbean – Thailand has promoted relations and cooperation with our Latin American and Caribbean friends, with the exchange of know-how and experiences in fields that Thailand has an expertise in. In 2012 Thailand engaged cooperation with Brazil, Argentina and Peru in a number of areas. With Brazil, Thailand has considered developing a plan of action for bilateral and trilateral cooperation, including a MOU. Thailand also sent a group of experts to Brazil for a study programme on tropical fruit flies and another team of experts to study sugar cane crops and their use in biofuel. For Argentina Thailand participated in the 3rd Bilateral Economic Consultation and the seminar on South – South and International Cooperation Administration.

With Peru, Thailand participated in the 2nd Thai – Peru Technical Cooperation Meeting in Lima and had sent experts to implement a project entitled Integrated Rice Plague Management in Rice Farming in Peru’s Tropical Zone

Africa – In 2012 Thailand increased Development Cooperation with Africa in line with the governments “Look West” policy, in light of the long-standing cordial ties between Thailand and many African countries. For example in Senegal, Thailand established an artificial limb production unit at the War Veterans hospital in Senegal. In 2012 this unit was able to produce 130 artificial legs for Senegalese patients. In the same year, the Royal Thai Embassy in Dakar organized for specialist doctors to travel to Diourbel, Tambacounda and Kaolack to treat Senegalese patients (a programme first activated in 2006), and implemented another project in marine fisheries. University scholarships at all levels were also provided, as well as faculty exchange programmes with Thai Universities in the fields of tropical diseases, and malaria control (in cooperation with Senegal’s Empowerment Centre for Sustainable Development).



On 8 Oct 2012, H.E.Mrs.Busya Mathlin Ambassador of Thailand to Senegal visited a prostheses factory in Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka. Thailand also helped to establish an artificial limb production unit at the War Veterans hospital in Senegal in 2012

Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) sent a delegation of experts from the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, in collaboration with the Office of Malaria Control, Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Senegal, for training at the Empowerment Centre for Sustainable Development in Thies during 16–18 October 2012.

1.3 Expanding Cooperation for Stakeholders and through Tri-lateral Cooperation

Trilateral cooperation involves a donor country or international organisation cooperating with Thailand in providing assistance to another developing country, the donor and Thailand agreeing to share costs on certain development project. Currently Thailand has developed Tri-lateral Cooperation partnerships with a number of countries such as Japan, Germany, Singapore and the United Nations Developments Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). These consist of the following.

Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation

In 2008 Thailand and Germany signed an agreement to be partners in Tri-lateral Development Cooperation in 3 areas: education and vocation training, rural development, and in public health. In 2012, Thailand and Germany cooperation in the implementation of the Advance Technical Service for SME in Selected Industrial Sectors of Vietnam project and the Nam Xong Sub River Basin Management project in Vietnam; and the Paper Mulberry Supply Chain project in the LAOS PDR.

Thai-Japan Trilateral Cooperation

Thailand and Japan signed an agreement for the Japan-Thailand Partnership Programme – (JTPP) to support the transfer of best development practices to Thailand's neighboring countries and other developing countries, in particular those in the Mekong region. Currently there are 7 courses including: public health, forestry, electrical systems development, preventing human trafficking, environmental management, food production, and post-harvest technology. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also supported several Thai-Japan Tri-lateral Cooperation Projects for Myanmar.

Thai-France Trilateral Cooperation

In 2012 Thailand and France cooperated in providing 8 scholarships at the doctoral level and training programmes in Orthopedic Surgery for Myanmar.

Trilateral Cooperation between Thailand and other countries

Thailand has attempted to develop Tri-lateral partnerships with several other countries such as Denmark, Hungary, and South Korea as well as the Asia Development Bank, for training course in logistics and capital markets intended for developing countries in the Mekong region.

1.4 Technical Cooperation and Joint Research Projects on Development

In 2012 Thailand implemented a number of projects in this field with China. These have included Research and Development on Vegetable Heterosis Application; Development of Achangyizhi Pill for Vascular Dementia with the Traditional Thai and Chinese Medicine Plants ; Collaboration Projects of Camella Oil Tea Development in Thailand and China; Immunostimulants Selected from Chinese and Thai Medicinal Herbs and Their Functional Mechanisms in Grouper; Immunostimulants Selected from Chinese and Thai Medicinal Herbs and Their Functional Mechanisms in Grouper; Ethanol Production from Palm Oil Mill Residues, and Development of Health Products from Potential Thai and Chinese Medicinal Plants.

2. Cultural Diplomacy

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has embarked on a number of Cultural Diplomacy activities so that foreign governments and the international community can become more familiar with Thailand. These have included the following.

2.1 Religious Events

These have included supporting Thai contestants in Koran reading competitions, and Royal sponsored Kratin Ceremonies to other countries with Buddhist temples such as Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, LAOS PDR,



On 12 July 2012, Mr. Aroon Boonmalert, Vice-president of Academic Affairs of the Quran Reading Association of Thailand, led a delegation to visit the Foreign Ministry and was presented with special grant of 200,000 baht by Mr. Chalermpol Thanchitt, Deputy Permanent Secretary, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

On 10 November 2012, the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs presided over the ceremony of offering Royal Kathina robes to monks at a temple in Kathmandu, Democratic Republic of Nepal.



On 31 October 2012, Mr. Nopadol Gunavibool, Deputy Permanent Secretary, presided over the ceremony offering Royal Kathina robes to monks at a temple in Xishuangbanna prefecture in Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China.



On 22 Nov 2012, the Tourism Authority of Thailand together with Thai Consulate-General in Shanghai hosted "Amazing Thailand: Always Amazes You" fair in the Super Brand Mall, Shanghai

Malaysia, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, China, Cambodia, Switzerland, Australia, and the United States. Such events have been particularly useful for encouraging people-to-people contacts, strengthening Thai communities abroad, and enhancing bilateral relations with countries that have substantive Thai populations.

2.2 Cinema

Thai film and television dramas have become increasingly popular world-wide, thus leading to the government and the private sectors taking the opportunity to promote them (and Thai performers) in a number of international film and television festivals. This has led to further networking among producers and performers, with Thai films increasingly being filmed abroad as well as foreign films being shot on location in Thailand.



2.3 Sports

Muay Thai has become a popular sport internationally and the Thai Government is currently advocating its inclusion as an Olympic sport. As such the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has organized a number of activities abroad to promote Muay Thai and in 2012, implemented several projects to bring exhibitions and training camps to countries such as Italy, Vietnam, and Switzerland (there are now 30 Muay Thai schools in Switzerland).



20 Aug 2012, H.E. Mr. Chalernpol Thanchitt, Ambassador of Thailand to the Swiss Confederation presided over the Muay Thai Tournament in honour of the Celebrations of the 60th Birthday Anniversary of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.



On 21 August 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs celebrated Her Majesty the Queen's 80th Birthday Anniversary by presenting a special Khon, or Thai masked drama performance, episode "Battle of Nagabas" at Vithes Samosorn Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



On 23 September 2012, Royal Thai Embassy and Team Thailand in Canberra held the 10th Thai Festival at the embassy. The festival demonstrated Thai food and culture, including OTOP products, Thai massage, Thai sports, cultural performances, Thai music and martial arts.

2.4 Performances

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has consistently organised activities to promote Thai culture abroad, with emphasis on cultural performances that are comprehensive in essence and can be performed in a variety of countries consecutively. This has often come in the form of a cultural performance troop travelling to coincide with a Thai festival that includes Thai fruit carving shows, traditional massage, and food tasting for example. In 2012 Royal Thai Embassies and Consulates-General world-wide organised a number of Thai festivals, with live shows by visiting Thai performers. This has included festivals in Japan, Jordan, Romania, Denmark, China, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, India, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, and the Nordic countries to name but a few.



On 8 June 2012, Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged the Traditional Thai Puppet Theatre (Joe Louis) for the Diplomatic Corps and International Organisations in Thailand.



Enhancing Thailand's National Competitiveness



Enhancing Thailand's National Competitiveness

Throughout 2012 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has carried out a proactive foreign economic policy to encourage foreign trade and investment, to enhance Thailand's national competitiveness, to prepare Thailand for the ASEAN Economic Community, as well as to strengthen confidence in the Thai economy especially in light of the 2010 national flood crisis. This involved the following approaches.

1. Promoting the gathering and dissemination of economic intelligence and information that will be useful for the Thai private sector, including 'pointing the direction', 'creating opportunities', and also 'warning of risks' for the Thai private sector. This has been done through a variety of methods such as websites by the Department of International Economic Affairs, business information centres and or websites run by Royal Thai Embassies abroad, and special websites providing business opportunities and regulations such as www.thaieurope.net www.thaibizchina.com and www.thaiindia.net

2. Promoting confidence in the Thai economy for the international community by such measures as: hosting the World Economic Forum in East Asia between May – June 2012 which was attended by many world

Thailand hosted the 21st World Economic Forum on East Asia during 31 May – 1 Jun 2012 under the theme of "Shaping the Region's Future through Connectivity".



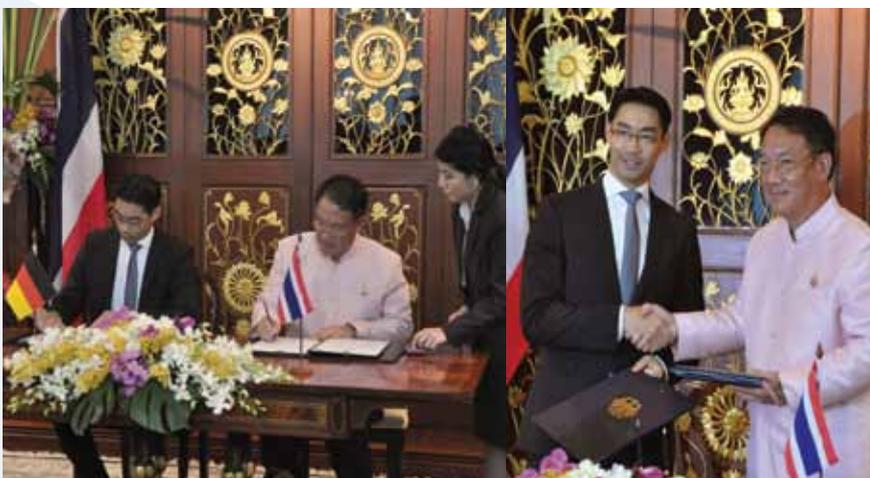
leaders, world economic business leaders, and international civil society who were able to gain a direct insight into Thailand's economic potential as a center for trade and investment in Southeast Asia and a vital component for the ASEAN Economic Community

3. Royal Thai Embassies and Consulates world-wide have consistently organized activities to promote investment in Thailand as well as to enhance the potential of the Thai private sector, in particular for sectors considered to be strengths of the Thai economy. These activities have included: Thai products exhibition and Thai food festivals, inviting foreign business delegations to Thailand, organization of seminars on trade and investment in Thailand.



On 27 May 2012, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra presided over the launch of "Thailand : Kitchen to the world" programme at Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney and prepared a dish with an Australian Thai food Chef.

4. Enhancing economic cooperation at the bilateral level with key economies, such as by organizing Joint Economic Commissions (JECs) such as the Thai-German Economic Officials in September 2012, by pushing for a conclusion to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (- PCA) with the EU, and by pushing for negotiations on the Thai-Chilean FTA.



On 20 September 2012, Mr. Kittiratt Na Ranong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and Dr. Philipp Rösler, Deputy Federal Chancellor and Federal Minister for Economics and Technology of the Federal Republic of Germany, co - chaired the 3rd Meeting of the Thai-German Joint Economic Committee (JEC) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On this occasion both Ministers signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on a Strategic Partnership in the Field of Disaster Management between Thailand and Germany.



On 20 September 2012 the Foreign Minister and Dr. Rösler, jointly opened the seminar on Technology Dialogue “Solution on Sustainable Water Management and Flood Prevention” at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The seminar served as a forum for cooperation in disaster management in which the participants from public and private sectors exchanged expertise and technology on sustainable water management and flood prevention.

The Prime Minister and Foreign Minister attended the 1st Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit held in Kuwait City during 15 – 17 October 2012.

Participation in key meetings to emphasize Thailand’s potential and active role in the international economy and regional economic framework, such as 1) The Prime Minister attending the 20th APEC forum in Vladivostok and highlighting Thailand as a major world food producer and thus a contributing factor to food security, as a center for regional connectivity and logistics for mainland Southeast Asia; 2) at the first Asia Cooperation Dialogue – ACD Summit in Kuwait, Thailand as a main coordinator of the ACD, invited participating countries to work together to sustain growth in Asia by coming up with a Blueprint on Enhanced Infrastructure Connectivity and cooperate more in energy security and food security.

5. Promoting knowledge and understanding on the approaches to economic development so as to enhance Thailand’s competitiveness in a number of areas, through the continuous exchange of ideas and information between officials of the Ministry, officials of other agencies and members of the private sector. In addition the ministry has attached great importance to bringing the latest advancements in science and technology to support research and development in various areas in accordance to Thailand’s Country Strategy on enhancing national competitiveness.



On 6 August 2012 during the Global Ambassadors and Consulates – General Meeting, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister presided over the opening ceremony of the exhibition, jointly held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior, to promote Thai premium OTOP products in the international market,

6. Promotion of Thai products internationally such as the “Ambassador’s OTOP to the world marketing” programme in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, so as to promote Thai premium OTOP products. In addition to this the Minister of Foreign Affairs had initiated the “one Ambassador 3 products” which calls on Thai Ambassadors and Consuls-General to designate 3 Thai products (with one being agriculture) targeted for strategic export.

7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has had a role in promoting cooperation and network creation between the Thai private sector and their foreign counterparts, by organizing business delegations to travel abroad with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister to explore opportunities and strengthen commercial and investment networks, while also promoting tourism to Thailand. In 2012 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged for the Thai private sector to accompany the Prime Minister to 14 countries.

From this it is clear that economic diplomacy is another important dimension of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in promoting the well-being of the Thai people, in raising the potential and creating opportunities for the Thai private sector, and in increasing Thailand’s competitiveness in the global economy, thus representing a crucial element of national security and development in the long run.



Addressing the Situation
in the Southern Border Provinces of Thailand



Addressing the Situation in the Southern Border Provinces of Thailand

The issue of instability in the Southern Border Provinces (SBPs) of Thailand is a national priority for the government as announced by the Prime Minister to Parliament in August of 2011. The government considers it important to integrate the work carried out by the concerned government agencies in trying to solve the problems associated with this situation. In this context the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has had a leading role in promoting understanding of the situation by providing factual information about the situation to the international community.

In 2012 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook a number of missions and activities, in accordance with government policy, so as to gain support and cooperation from the international community.

1. Enhancing Better Understanding in the International Community

The Ministry has closely monitored international reaction to the situation in the SBPs, and consistently provided accurate and up-to-date information about the situation's developments through diplomatic channels. The Ministry has networked with civil society and has also organized many cultural projects to enhance a better understanding of the situation. This has included measures such as arranging a familiarization trip to Thailand for Muslim media, making an Islamic Calendar by using award winning photos about the livelihoods of Muslims in Thailand, and organizing a study tour and a concert of Yala City Municipality Youth Orchestra in Singapore.

On 3 Dec 2012, H.E. Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs presided over the awarding ceremony of the "Thai Muslim Way of Life" photography contest at Bua Kaew Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As well, the Foreign Ministry has published an Islamic table calendar in Arabic and English (for the second consecutive year) with the aim of promoting a better understanding of Thai society and Thai Muslims in general. The photographs in the calendar 2012 (Hijrah 1433-1434) were selected from 263 photographs submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of a photography contest organized under the theme "Thai Muslim Way of Life". Through the participation of the general public, a total of 3,875 votes were cast to pick the 12 winning photos that appear in the calendar. The Ministry of Affairs has distributed this calendar to Muslim countries around the world through Royal Thai Embassies and Consulates-General as well as through other channels. The 12 award-winning photographs can be viewed on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.



During 6-10 September 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs led a group 53 talented young musicians of different cultural backgrounds from schools in Yala, together with their teachers, to Singapore for a study tour and a show of concert at the National University of Singapore.

2. Cooperation with the United Nations

Throughout 2012 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continuously worked with the United Nations to provide accurate information about the situation in the SBPs for UN reports, such as for the Report by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict 2012, as well as for other reports related to the SBPs. In addition the Ministry regularly organized training courses and lectures on human rights laws and practices for field officers who work in the SBPs. Moreover, the Ministry gave priority to interacting with the civil societies both domestically and



A high-level delegation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) led by H.E. Ambassador Sayed Kassem El-Masry, Adviser and Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary-General, paid an official visit to Thailand at the invitation of His Excellency Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Minister of Foreign Affairs during 7 – 13 May 2012.

internationally, especially since such organizations have played a vital role in transmitting information about the situation in the SBPs to the world.

3. Interaction with Malaysia to Solve the Issues in the SBPs

Cooperation from Malaysia in tackling the situation in the SBPs has been crucial as the northern part of Malaysia directly borders the SBPs and approximately 200,000 Thai workers (mostly from the SBPs) work in Thai restaurants in Malaysia. Throughout 2012, the Ministry fostered closer relationship with Malaysia in every aspect including politics, economics and security, focusing on the joint development projects along the Thailand–Malaysia border through mechanisms such as the Joint Commission (JC) and the Joint Development Strategy (JDS).

4. Interaction with the Muslim world and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

In 2012, the Ministry continued to foster close cooperation with the Secretariat of the OIC and its member states by participating in various OIC activities and meetings. As Thailand is an observer state to the OIC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs consistently informed the OIC about the Thai Government's measures and progress for conflict resolution in the SBPs. Last year, Mr. Jullapong Nonsrichai, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, led a Thai delegation to attend the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit of the OIC in Saudi Arabia between 12 – 15 August 2012 and the 39th OIC Ministerial



On 20 Sep 2012, the Minister of Foreign Affairs attended a gala dinner with Abdullah Al-Turki, Secretary-General of the Muslim World League (MWL).

Meeting in Djibouti between 14–19 November 2012. The Ministry also organized several visits to the SBPs for representatives of the OIC General Secretariat and for OIC Ambassadors to witness the situation in the area and to meet with local authorities and people.

As a result of close contact between Thailand and the OIC members, Thailand has continuously received good support from the OIC regarding the SBPs issues. The OIC members have been encouraged by the Thai Government's efforts in implementing constructive measures in dialogue and development for dealing with the issues in the SBPs.

5. Supporting the Hajj Pilgrimage

Given that the majority of Hajj pilgrims live in the SBPs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established special Consulate offices in Medina and Mecca in Saudi Arabia to support Thai Muslims traveling to perform the Hajj. In 2012, as in previous years, the Ministry sent liaison officers to facilitate and support Thai citizens that joined the pilgrimage in Mecca and Medina during Hajj season (between 2 October – 3 November 2012), and has also taken part in the Hajj Committee of Thailand.

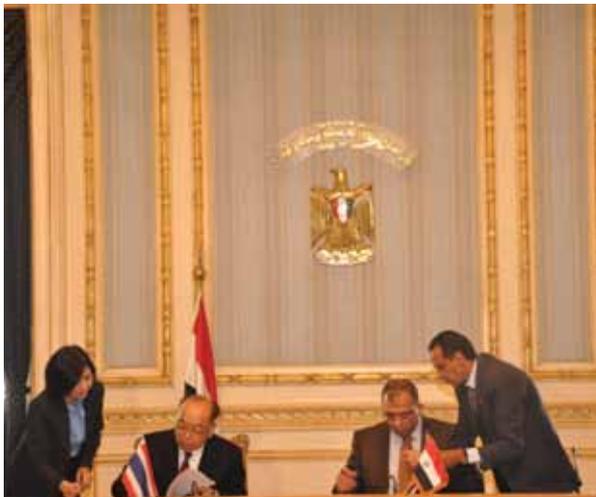
6. Supporting Education for Thai Muslim Students Abroad

Since 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has continuously played an important role in supporting more than 6,000 Thai Muslim students (mostly from the SBPs) living abroad. For this the Ministry has allocated a special budget for Royal Thai Embassy and Consulates-General to support the education of Thai Muslim students and oversee their well-being while living in a foreign country.



On 23 Apr 2012, the Minister of Foreign Affairs met with 20 students from the Southern Border Provinces of who were on work–study programmes and training courses at the Ministry.

In 2012, the Ministry in collaboration with the Thai Students Association in Egypt, requested the Royal Thai Government to allocate a special budget for building a student dormitory for Thai students in Cairo. Moreover, the Ministry has sought closer cooperation with a number of institutions world–wide for the purpose of developing human resources and improving educational institutions in the SBPs (such as the cooperation with Muhammadiyah, a moderate Indonesian Islamic organization, in offering scholarships to students from the SBPs). Furthermore, the Ministry has helped to connect Thai Muslim students with educational institutions in a number of countries, such as the Royal Thai Embassy in Delhi organizing a roadshow of Aligarh Muslim University (a renowned university in India) to teachers, parents and students in the SBPs.



On 21 Oct 2012, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand had bilateral discussions with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr and co-signed an Agreement on Technical and Development Cooperation between the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. The Foreign Minister also visited Thai Muslim students and the international ladies' dormitories at Al-Azhar University.



On 22 October 2012, during his official visit to Egypt from 20 – 22 October 2012, the Foreign Minister paid a courtesy call on Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed Al-Tayeb, Grand Sheik of Al-Azhar. On the same day, the Foreign Minister, together with Sheik Tawfig Abdul Aziz Abdul Salam, Vice Grand Sheik of Al-Azhar, jointly presided at the Graduation Ceremony of eighty Thai Muslim students from Al-Azhar University, who graduated in fields such as arts and religion.

7. Coordinating with the Concerned Authorities

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continuously coordinates with other competent authorities in dealing with the peace process in the SBPs, in particular with the the National Security Council (NSC), Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC), and the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center (SBPAC). During an annual meeting of Thai Ambassadors and Consuls–General in Bangkok in August 2012, the Ministry invited Secretary–General of the NSC, Secretary–General of the SBPAC, and a senior officer from the ISOC to provide briefings and an up–to–date situation report on Government policy progress in the SBPs. This information has enabled Thai Ambassadors and Consuls–General to convey and explain an accurate picture of the situation to the international community. Moreover, the Ministry had sent two officers to work and liaise at the SBPAC offices for facilitating visits abroad, and had attended various meetings under the Steering Committee in Charge of Strategies and Policies for the SBPs frameworks.



People-Centered Diplomacy



People–Centered Diplomacy

1. Safeguarding the interests of Thai nationals abroad

One important mission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to protect and take care of Thai nationals residing or travelling overseas, which has included assisting Thai nationals in difficult situations especially victims of human trafficking.

In 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs handled a total of 2,071 cases of assisting Thai citizens overseas. Of these there were 1,392 cases concerning Thai nationals in difficult situations, 53 cases concerning Thai workers, 73 cases concerning detained fishermen, 103 cases concerning victims of human trafficking, 173 deaths of Thai nationals overseas, 161 cases concerning the follow–up of remuneration and other benefits, and 60 cases concerning missing relatives etc.

The underlying causes of such problems stem from Thai citizens having a lack of adequate information about destination countries such as cultures, ways of living and local laws, as well as a lack of good preparation before travelling abroad. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has therefore undertaken several preventive measures to better prepare and forewarn Thai citizens that intend to travel abroad for work. These efforts include preparing Thai workers before travelling abroad by sharing information and warnings through different media channels (magazines, newspapers, TV and radio), giving lectures and organising seminars, and establishing the Multi–Welfare Agency Consultancy Team¹. In addition, Royal Thai Embassies and Consulates–General overseas have

¹ The Multi–Welfare Agency Consultancy Team is the project jointly implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security as well as the private sector and academic institutions. The purpose of this project is to protect Thai citizens by providing necessary information and consultancy for their living standards. It has been implemented both in Thailand and abroad.

taken extraordinary efforts to protect the interests of Thai citizens and strengthen the unity of Thai communities. Examples are the provision of emergency shelters by the Royal Thai Embassy in Brussels, the “Multi-Welfare Agency Consultancy Team” project by Royal Thai Embassies in Oslo and Tel Aviv and the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Hong Kong, and the hiring of legal consultants for Thai workers and Thai communities abroad at Royal Thai Embassies in Manama and Hanoi and the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Ho Chi Minh City.



On 6 June 2012, the Foreign Minister visited Chiang Khong District in Chiang Rai to preside over the ‘BuaKaew Sanjorn Chiang Rai’ project that involved sharing information for Thai workers before traveling abroad, providing mobile passport services to facilitate people living in remote areas, and educating the public on foreign policy matters.

2. Rescue efforts and providing protection for Thai nationals in countries facing natural disasters or political instability

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has promptly responded with rescue efforts for Thai citizens caught up in conflict situations in their foreign countries of residence. These efforts have included, for example, facilitating the return of Thai citizens from Syria by the Royal Thai Embassy in Riyadh and Honorary Consul of Thailand at Damascus, providing protection for Thai workers in Egypt by the Royal Thai Embassy in Cairo during times of political instability, and assisting 3 Thai workers injured by rockets fired from Gaza strip by the Royal Thai Embassy in Tel Aviv.

3. Facilitating Thai religious pilgrims

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has supported and facilitated Thai Muslims travelling to the Hajj in Saudi Arabia by establishing special consular units on Hajj affairs in Mecca and Medina, in addition to the one at the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Jeddah, to specifically facilitate the Hajj services for Thai Muslims.

Moreover, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had provided medical services to facilitate Thai pilgrims travelling to Thai Buddhist temples in Kushinagar, India and Lumbini, Nepal.

4. Publicizing the work of the Ministry, educating on foreign policy, as well as providing consular services

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made many significant improvements with its passport services to meet increasing public demands, such as introducing e-passport system phase II, opening a new Temporary Passport Office in Chiang Rai while upgrading current Temporary Passport Offices, providing mobile passport services to facilitate people living in remote areas as



On 7 Feb 2012, the Foreign Minister held a press conference on the results of the Ambassadorsin Neighbouring Countries Meeting, and on relations between Thailand and Cambodia, where a book on Preah Vihear Temple Dispute published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was handed out to create understanding of the situation among Thai citizens.

well as planning to launch weekend passport services in 3 offices namely: the Department of Consular Affairs on Chaeng Wattana Road, and two Temporary Passport Offices in Bang Na and Pinklao starting in January 2013.

The Ministry, through Royal Thai Embassies and Consulates-General, has regularly provided mobile passport services to facilitate Thai citizens living abroad, and has organised community visits and events to strengthen Thai communities overseas.

Moreover, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, has launched a pilot-project to renew national identification cards for Thai citizens living abroad in 6 overseas offices, namely: Royal Thai Consulates-General in Los Angeles, New York and Sydney; and Royal Thai Embassies in Berlin and Singapore and the Thailand Trade and Economic Office in Taipei. The Ministry has also planned to expand this service to 16 more offices in 2013 – 2014.

Regarding public diplomacy activities, the Ministry has regularly organised the Roving Bua Kaew Project to provide information on foreign affairs and exchange views with local administrations and communities. In 2012, the project was carried out in Chiang Mai, Phuket and Ayutthaya. There were also a number of other initiatives aiming at publicising the



Royal Thai Embassies and Royal Thai Consulates-General worldwide held 'Consul Sanjorn' projects (Mobile Consular Services) to provide mobile passport services for Thai citizens abroad and to hold activities to strengthen Thais communities.

ministry's work and knowledge on foreign affairs such as a Seminar with Muslim Communities and Media in Ayutthaya Province, the "MFA Camp: Beyond English" project for 100 secondary-level students, the Roving ASEAN project, and publicising information on foreign affairs through various media channels.

5. Overseas election

Although there were no overseas elections in 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has maintained a readiness to conduct overseas elections whenever necessary by improving and updating the database of Thai citizens abroad, and enhancing the capacity of foreign affairs officials from the Election Commission in the facilitation of overseas election monitoring. In addition, the Ministry has regularly updated basic information on General Elections as well as Thai politics through the Overseas Election Coordination Centre Facebook page.

There were also a number of other preparatory activities in 2012, such as a study visit to the United States of America and Canada to learn about the development of political parties, and study visits to Australia and New Zealand to learn about people's participation, and a project to improve overseas election laws, among others.



On 6 June 2012, the Foreign Minister led a delegation of MFA officials to Chiang Rai, under another 'BuaKaew Sanjorn project' to enhance better understanding about foreign and regional affairs for public and private sectors and local people in Chiang Rai.

6. Distributing financial donations from the 2011 floods

In 2011, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs distributed financial donations received from foreign governments and communities to the Thai Red Cross Society, the Rajaprajanugroh Foundation under the Royal Patronage, Thai TV3, and to other organisations to support their flood relief efforts and sustainable flood prevention initiatives. The distribution was based on three criteria; transparency, adherence to the stated purpose of donation money, and special considerations to organisations that had not previously received financial support.

In 2012, the Ministry further distributed financial donations to more than 120 agencies and organisations. Examples of some flood relief supports are: refurbishments and book donations for 67 schools totaling the amount of 33,948,714.30 Baht, and refurbishments of 60 Mosques in Ayutthaya Province totaling 600,000 Baht. For the year 2013, the Ministry, through the Temporary Passport Offices, will continue to distribute financial donations to temples, schools, foundations and organisations in need of help. Moreover, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Office of Vocational Education Commission, Ministry of Education, has launched an initiative to support vocational college students in their community flood relief projects.



On 15 June 2012, the Foreign Minister pre-launched a project on 'Identity Card Service for Thai Citizens in Oversea' in Los Angeles.



On 12 March 2012, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs presented the donation from the Royal Thai Embassy in Tokyo to the Thai Red Cross Society to assist flood victims in Thailand to M.R. Priyangsri Watanakun, Assistant Secretary-General, Fund Raising Bureau of the Thai Red Cross, with the amount of 100,081,507.31 baht. The said donation came from the Thai and Japanese people residing in Japan, as well as from the Japanese agencies in Japan who had contributed through the Royal Thai Embassy in Tokyo to assist flood victims in Thailand.

On 16 July 2012, Mr. Chalernpol Thanchitt, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of Foreign Minister, presided over the presentation ceremony of the donation from foreign friends and Thai communities abroad, of 23,415,800 bath to 58 schools under the Young Ambassador of Virtue School Program, including schools outside the program but also effected by the floods in 2012.



Through co-operation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and the Young Ambassador of Virtue Project, on 30 Oct 2012, Mr. Sihasak Phungketkeow, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs presented the donation of 2,500,000 baht from foreign friends and Thai communities abroad to Wat Nong Khun Chad Kindergarten in Uthai thani, which was hit by floods in 2011.



On 20 Dec 2012, Dr. Pichet Wangtepanukhor, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented a donation from foreign friends and Thai communities abroad of 600,000 baht for the restoration of 60 mosques in Phra Nakhon Sri Ayutthaya.



Reform and Development of the Organisation



Reform and Development of the Organisation

Now in its 138th year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs consistently strives for excellence and continues with reform and development. For 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has implemented several organisational reform initiatives in the area of manpower, operating systems, and budgeting to enhance its capabilities for meeting the challenges of an increasingly complex international environment.

Personnel

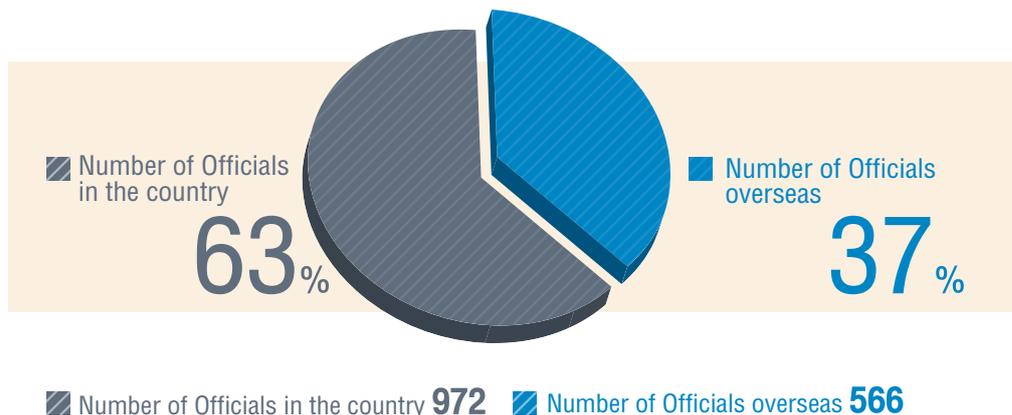
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a comparatively small organization, with 1538 officials in total, and of which 972 are based at Ministry headquarters in Bangkok (as of January 2012). Increasing Ministry personnel will be necessary in the years ahead. For this the Ministry undertook the following actions in 2012:

1. officially proposed for an increase in personnel, both in diplomat staff and support staff, to the Office of the Public Sector Development Commission for consideration;
2. arranged specific Training Courses, including one in the topic of Diplomatic Administration for capacity building within the Ministry, provided English testing for other government agencies, as well as 86 other training courses – which saw the participation of over 900 government officials;
3. organised research staff for special projects within the Ministry, such as US Watch (<http://uswatch.mfa.go.th>) and EastAsia Watch (www.eastasiawatch.in.th);
4. adjusted the pay rate for temporary employees abroad as well as improved welfare programmes for local staff members in Thai Missions abroad;

5. reformed terms and conditions for home-based diplomats, such as administrative experts and legal experts, and;

6. established a policy of career-path building for officials who prefer to remain home based.

Number of Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (as of 1 January 2012)



Structural Organisation

In the past year the Ministry of Foreign Affairs committed itself to a number of structural reforms. These have included the following:

1. Developments to enhance proficiency

1.1 Improvements to the operating system for the Website and for the desktop template for all the Ministry's computers, both at HQ and at 41 Thai missions abroad;

1.2 Developed the MFA Portal (mobile version) for IPAD, SmartPhone, PC and and Notebooks, and;

1.3 Improved Portal / e-Submission system by including new and relevant features

2. Improving and Development of ICT Technicians and Support Units

2.1 Updating Databanks and their systems for easier input;

2.2 Developing the Databank systems at the Thailand International Cooperation Agency

2.3 Improved the database for Thai citizens living abroad so as to better facilitate Thai Consular services abroad.

2.4 Developed a network between the Office of Policy and Planning with Foreign Affairs–related units of other government agencies (56 in total)

3. Connecting with Other Government Agencies

3.1 MOC – PMOC The ICT Centre has established a direct database link between the Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry (PMOC –MOC) on foreign affairs issues.

4. Reforms to Improve Hardware & Network

4.1 Wi-Fi has now been provided to all areas of the Ministry at high speed.

4.2 The use of Virtualized Machine (VM) involves using new technology in creating other server capabilities for the Portal System

4.3 Internet Telephones (VoIP) were established in 500 locations around the world linking the Ministry to external Thai government offices.

5. Procurement of additional notebooks and Tablets with MFA Portal Capability

6. Proposal of a strategic plan for reform of the Ministry that focuses on structural reform and the development of the Department of International Cooperation from the Thailand International Cooperation Agency to go with Thailand’s status as an emerging donor country.

7. For the 2012 Annual Budget the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was able to construct Embassies and/or Ambassadorial Residence in 8 locations worldwide. They include: the Royal Thai Embassy in Beijing; the Royal Thai Embassy and Ambassador’s residence in Islamabad; the Royal Thai Embassy and Ambassador’s Residence in Singapore; the Royal Thai Embassy in Tokyo; the Royal Thai Embassy in New Delhi; the Royal Thai Consulate–General and Residence in Guang Zhou; the Royal Thai Consulate–General and Residence in Shanghai; and the Royal Thai Consulate–General and Residence in Suwannaket, LAOS PDR.

Construction project of the Royal Thai Embassy and Ambassador's Residence in Islamabad, September 2012.

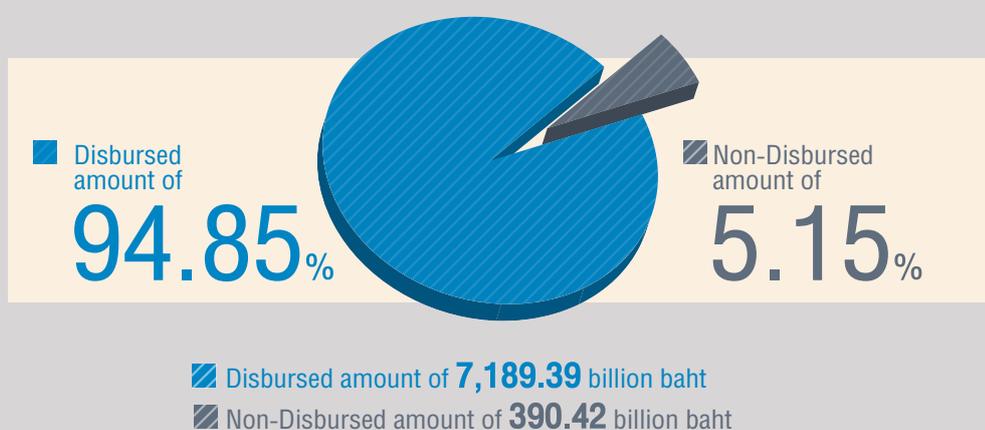


Construction project of the Royal Thai Embassy in Tokyo, in November 2012, Now under phrase II construction (Interior decoration).

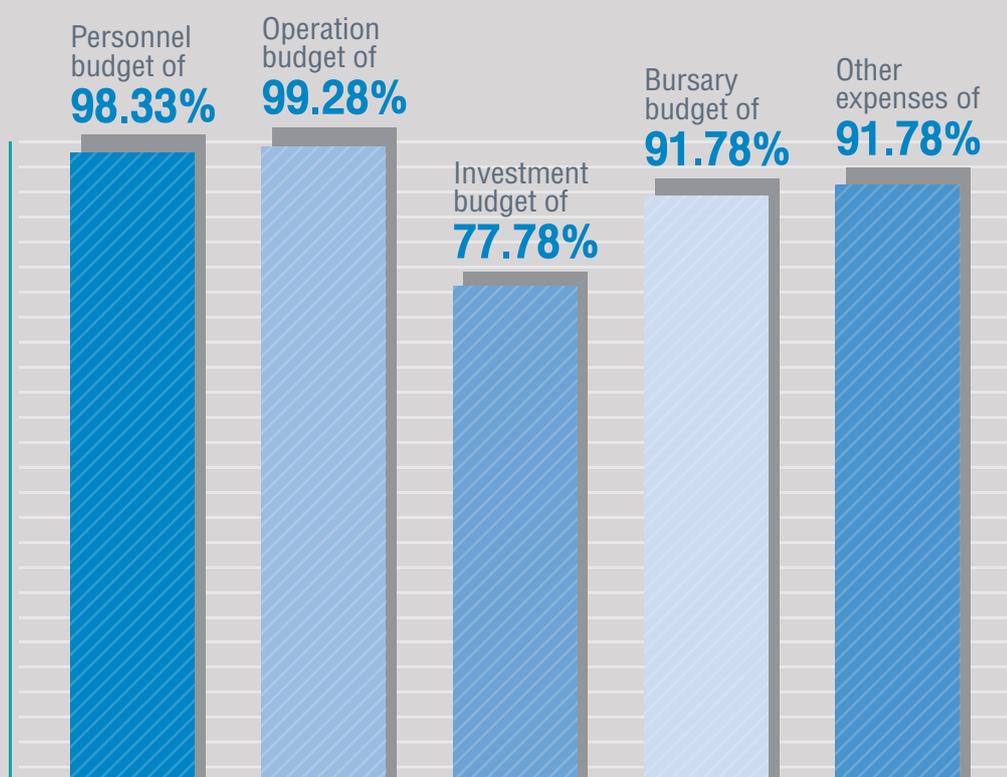
8. Budget

For the annual budget of 2012 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received the amount of 7.57 billion baht or 0.32 of the national budget. By 30 September 2012 (last day of the fiscal calendar year), the Ministry had spent 7.18 billion baht or 94.85 per cent of the total budget allocated, which is slightly higher than the intended target of 93 percent.

Ratio of disbursement in fiscal year 2012



Ratio of disbursement in fiscal year 2012



Global Ambassadors Meeting 2012

In 2012 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a meeting for all Thai Ambassadors and Consulates– General during August. This was the first time in 4 years since the last global ambassadors–level meeting and the Ministry took the opportunity to invite as guest speakers various experts from the public and private sectors, and civil society to share ideas and experiences on a host of issues. Discussions were held in 2 dimensions including: a retreat, and a formal meeting.

1. At the retreat, the Minister, Ambassadors, and high–level Ministry officials met during regional groupings and then together to discuss foreign policy trends.



On 6 August 2012, the Prime Minister delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the Meeting of Thai Ambassadors and Consuls–General, and gave policy guidelines to the Thai envoys.

2. At the plenary meeting in Bangkok, with Ambassador Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha in attendance, several key issues were discussed including: key global developments (such as the rise of Asia, the rise of China, the US re–pivot towards Asia, the EU in decline); restoring confidence in Thailand; restoring relations with Thailand’s neighbouring countries; enhancing Thailand’s role in ASEAN and ASEAN’s role in the region; a more proactive foreign policy with more frequent high level visits by other countries .

3. At the opening session the Prime Minister of Thailand delegated the Ambassadors and Consulates–General to:

- Identify Thailand’s strengths and maintain Thailand’s interests in the current international environment ;
- Have a more contributing role in ASEAN, such as in the development of Thailand’s neighbouring countries;

- Have a role in the international community on global issues of priority such as transnational crime, terrorism, narcotics, and environmental control;
- Promote international commerce with Thailand and Thai products globally; and,
- Integrate organisation work through the Team Thailand concept and the creed of diplomacy for the people;

4. The Foreign Minister also took the opportunity to inform the Ambassadors about:

- Carrying out foreign policy according to policy direction of the government, and that the Ministry shall be 'dependable and accessible' for the people;
- The importance of a proactive foreign economic policy for each Embassy/Consulate;
- The "Ambassadors OTOP to the World Marketing" policy which should be pursued by every Thai mission abroad , especially to emerging markets such as Latin America Africa and the Middle East;



On 6 Aug 2012 during the Meeting of Thai Ambassadors and Consuls-General, the Prime Minister presided over the opening ceremony of the exhibition jointly held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior to promote Thai premium OTOP products in the international market, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5. A special meeting among the Thai Ambassadors to neighbouring countries was also held in which a variety of thematic discussions were held on: poverty eradication along border communities, commercial regulations and market trends, educational assistance, development cooperation and border management issues;

6. In addition, the ambassadors and consulates general were also able to discuss “new” issues in diplomacy such as science diplomacy and energy diplomacy, as well as attend briefings on modern economic diplomacy, the 11th National Economic and Social Development plan, and the situation in the Southern Border Provinces.

Global Consular Officials Meeting 2012

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a global consular officers meeting in August of 2012 in which the Foreign Minister took the opportunity to advocate the “go beyond routine” approach, which emphasized the importance of ‘thinking out of the box’ for modern consular officials.

The meeting gave the opportunity for all consular officials across the world to meet and share experiences and best practices, as well as to fine-tune certain aspects of consular services to better serve the Thai public at home and abroad.

On 21 Aug 2012, the Foreign Minister presided over the opening ceremony of the Annual Consular Officials Meeting 2012 during 21–24 Aug 2012.







Appendix

Foreign Visits and International Meetings attended by Her Excellency Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, and His Excellency Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the year 2012

January

19 Jan 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Philippines.
24-26 Jan 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Republic of India.
27-28 Jan 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Swiss Confederation.

February

3-4 Feb 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Myanmar.
13-14 Feb 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Fourth Delhi Dialogue, Republic of India.
20 Feb 2012	Prime Minister visited Malaysia.
23-24 Feb 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Republic of Portugal.
27-29 Feb 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Human Rights Council, Geneva, Swiss Confederation.



March

6-8 Mar 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Japan.
21-23 Mar 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Joint Commission - Thailand, Laos, Laos PDR.
24-27 Mar 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Republic of Korea, and attended the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, ROK.

April

1-4 Apr 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended 20 th ASEAN Summit in Kingdom of Cambodia.
17-19 Apr 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the People's Republic of China.
20-21 Apr 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended Mekong Cooperation Summit in Tokyo, Japan.

May

13-15 May 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Kingdom of Bahrain.
15-17 May 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the State of Qatar.
25-26 May 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Australia.

June

8 Jun 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Myanmar
11-16 Jun 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the USA for Strategic Dialogue.
19 Jun 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs attended funeral of Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
27-28 Jun 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs attends high-level meeting between government and the private sector on the fight against piracy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

July

1-5 Jul 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the People's Republic of China.
8-11 Jul 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs attends the 45 th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.
17-19 Jul 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Germany.
19-22 Jul 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the French Republic.

August

12-15 Aug 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Republic of Chile.
16-20 Aug 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Brazil.
28-31 Aug 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the NAM Summit Islamic Republic of Iran.



September

5-6 Sep 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 24 th APEC Meeting. Vladivostok, Russia.
23-29 Sep 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the General Assembly of the United Nations

October

7-8 Oct 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Malaysia.
14-15 Oct 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Ministerial Meeting in Kuwait.
15-17 Oct 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit and had an official visit to Kuwait.
19 Oct 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Kingdom of Cambodia to pay homage to the late King Norodom Sihanouk.
20-22 Oct 2012	Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Arab Republic of Egypt.
27 Oct 2012	Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended Joint Cabinet meeting in Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

November

5-6 Nov 2012	Prime Minister and DPM/ Minister of Foreign Affairs attends the Asia - Europe Meeting (ASEM), Laos PDR.
8 Nov 2012	Prime Minister and DPM/ Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Bali Democracy Forum in Indonesia.
13-14 Nov 2012	Prime Minister and DPM/ Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the United Kingdom.
18-20 Nov 2012	Prime Minister and DPM/ Minister of Foreign Affairs attended 21 st ASEAN Summit and other related meetings in Kingdom of Cambodia.

December

5-6 Dec 2012	DPM/ Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Republic of Ireland and participated in Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) meetings.
17 Dec 2012	Prime Minister visited Dawei Port in Myanmar.
20-21 Dec 2012	Prime Minister and DPM/ Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited India for ASEAN - India Summit in New Delhi.
22-23 Dec 2012	Prime Minister and DPM/ Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Bangladesh.

On 28 October 2012, Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul was also appointed as Deputy Prime Minister.

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