

27April 2550

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THAILAND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY;
THE THAILAND RESEARCH FUND;
AND
THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN THAILAND
ON
JOINT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS
UNDER THE ROYAL GOLDEN JUBILEE PROGRAMME**

On the basis of the Agreement on Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the French Republic dated 16 September 1977;

Considering the Joint Action Plan between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the French Republic (2004-2008) signed in Paris on 25 May 2004;

Considering the Memorandum of Understanding, signed between the Thailand Research Fund and the French Embassy in Thailand on 7 April 1999, and renewed on 19 June 2002, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding between the Thailand Research Fund and the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (now Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency) regarding the cooperation under the Royal Golden Jubilee Programme (2004-2005);

Wishing to pursue joint development cooperation to provide technical assistance to third countries in the areas of mutual interests under the Thai-French Trilateral Development Cooperation;

Desiring to cooperate in the fellowship programme to support doctoral students under the Royal Golden Jubilee Programme and under the trilateral arrangement;

In order to strengthen the scientific and technical cooperation between Thailand and France for the benefit of students from countries such as the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (CLMV).

The Thailand Research Fund (TRF)

14th floor, SM Tower
979 Phaholyothin Road, Samsennai, Phyathai
Bangkok, 10400

Represented by the Director of the Thailand Research Fund;

Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA)

962 Krung Kasem Road
Pomprab District
Bangkok, 10100

Represented by the Director-General of the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency;

The Embassy of France in Thailand

Regional Delegation (DREG)
29 Sathorn Tai Road
Bangkok 10120, Thailand

Represented by the Ambassador of France to Thailand;

Have agreed on the following, within the budgetary limits of each party and according to the rule of expenditure described hereafter.

1. TICA, TRF, and the French Embassy in Thailand, are committed to providing up to 4 fellowships each year for postgraduate students from CLMV to pursue their PhD studies in Thailand and France. TRF will be the Executing Agency of this trilateral cooperation programme.

The fellowship will be awarded when a successful applicant has been accepted as a doctoral student in a Thai University's doctoral programme recognized by TRF.

2. The fellowship will be for the duration of 3 consecutive academic years (considered as the normal duration for Ph.D. studies). TICA and TRF will sponsor the doctorate students for 2 academic years in Thailand. The French Embassy in Thailand will sponsor the doctoral students for 1 academic year in France. Upon satisfying the two periods of fellowship in 3 years, shall the student wish to extend his/her research, his/her major thesis advisor(s) will submit a request to TRF. This request will then be submitted to both TICA and the French Embassy in Thailand for formal approval. Should the request for extension apply to the study undertaken in Thailand, TICA and TRF shall be jointly responsible for the expenditures allocated in individual granting contract to cover the prolonged period of the study undertaken in Thailand for no more than 1 year. If necessary, the prolonged period of the study undertaken in Thailand may be further extended for 1-12 months, based on recommendation of his/her major thesis advisor(s). TICA and TRF shall be jointly responsible for the costs incurred in Thailand during this further extended period within the funding budget of each student. Should the request for extension apply to study undertaken in France, the French Embassy in Thailand shall be responsible for the expenditures incurred in France during the prolonged period for no more than 1 year. In case of a request for further extension (up to 12 months based on recommendation of major thesis advisor), coverage of extension cost by the Embassy of France will be considered on a case by case basis. If a student cannot complete his/her doctoral study within the allocated funding budget, he/she will still be able to pursue his/her doctoral study within the timeframe set by his/her university in Thailand or France at his/her own expenses.

3. The cost sharing agreement for the programme appears in Annex 1 to this Memorandum of Understanding.
4. The management and implementation procedures of the Joint Fellowship Programme for doctoral students under the Royal Golden Jubilee Programme appear in Annex 2 to this Memorandum of Understanding.
5. The programme will be opened to any academic discipline contributing to the development objectives of the following 7 sectors and related sub-sectors under the ACMECS framework: trade and investment, agriculture, industrial development and energy, transportation, tourism, health, and human resources development.
6. The prospective major thesis advisor of the applicant in a Thai University's doctoral programme must qualify as a Royal Golden Jubilee Ph.D. advisor under the regulations stipulated by TRF.
7. TICA, the French Embassy in Thailand and TRF are determined, within the budgetary limit, to consider increasing gradually the number of beneficiary students to 10 per academic year, in case the programme will prove successful.
8. TICA, the French Embassy in Thailand and TRF will meet once a year to report on the progress of this trilateral cooperation programme.
9. This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into force on the date of signatures of the three parties. It shall have the duration of 5 years and can be terminated at any time, by either party, with a 6-month advance notice. In case of the expiration or the termination, it will be considered null and void after the accomplishment of all the activities and commitments made in the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding.
10. After 5 years, an evaluation shall be undertaken to assess the performance of this Joint Fellowship Programme. The evaluation shall be the joint responsibility of the three parties. If proven successful, the programme may be extended with the joint agreement of the three parties.

Done in six original copies, three in French and three in English, both texts being equally authentic.

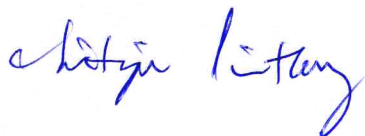
Signed at Bangkok, on 11 May 2007.

Signatories of the Agreement

Mrs. Chitriya Pinthong

Director-General

Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA)



Professor Dr. Piyawat Boon-Long

Director

Thailand Research Fund (TRF)



His Excellency Mr. Laurent Aublin

The Ambassador of France in Thailand

Embassy of France in Thailand, Regional Delegation

ANNEX 1

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COST SHARING AGREEMENT

- a) During the **two** academic years spent at a Thai higher education institution, the Thai side will cover expenditures incurred in Thailand, including travel between Thailand and the students' home countries, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Royal Thai Government. The selected students will be entitled to the following benefits:
- monthly allowance
 - accommodation
 - travel expenses (air fare, airport transfer, and visa fee)
 - health insurance
 - educational and research expenses e.g. books, field survey and data collection including tuition fees

The above benefits will be jointly funded by TICA and TRF. The details of the cost sharing appear in Annex 3. Cost sharing arrangements between TICA and TRF during the extended period of study remain the same as the normal period of study.

- b) During the academic year spent at a French higher education institution, the French side will cover expenditures incurred in France, including travel between France and Thailand, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Government of France. The selected students will be entitled to the following benefits:
- monthly allowance
 - accommodation
 - health insurance
 - exemption of tuition fees
 - exemption of duties on visa
 - travel expenses (airport tax and transfer not included)
 - educational expenses
 - trips from France for data collection in a student' home country or other countries, if necessary, should be covered by the French Embassy on a case by case basis
 - fee/expenses for participation in the academic seminars and workshops abroad which are not part of the course but are supportive of the study and research (to be discussed on a case by case basis)
 - travel expenses of French co-advisor(s) including per diem and accommodation (applicable for all academic years)

- c) At the end of the French fiscal year (September/October), TRF will communicate a budget proposal (which will include the number of students who will continue their studies in France in the following year

and the planned duration of their stay), to the French Embassy in Thailand.

- d) The French Embassy in Thailand, will transfer to TRF in March of the following year the amount needed to support the students during their stay in France.
- e) Cost of health insurance, exemption of tuition fees, and exemption of duties on visa will be directly processed and borne by the French Embassy in Thailand. (The students will be considered as French Government scholars.)

ANNEX 2

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MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

The selection of students will be jointly decided by TRF, TICA and the French Embassy in Thailand, through the following process:

- a) Official invitation will be issued by TICA to the focal points in the third countries through the respective Royal Thai Embassies. The Governments of CLMV will invite interested students to apply and will submit their application forms to TICA through the respective Royal Thai Embassies. Official communication between the Royal Golden Jubilee Ph.D. Programme and the applicants will be channelled through TICA and the respective focal points of the home countries of interested applicants. TICA, the French Embassy in Thailand, the TRF, the embassies of France and Thailand in the countries concerned, will also post on their websites a call for proposals inviting interested students to apply, with the application form accessible on the websites.
- b) TICA may also invite the interested CLMV students currently studying at the Master level in Thailand under the TICA's scholarship programmes to apply.
- c) TICA and the French Embassy in Thailand will meet in order to operate a first screening of the candidates on the basis of the information provided in the application form. TRF will then proceed to an academic screening. Depending on the quality of the application, 10 to 15 students will be jointly pre-selected by TRF, TICA and the French Embassy.
- d) As appropriate, the pre-selected students may be interviewed in their countries of residence by a joint commission whose members will comprise a representative of TRF, TICA and the French Embassy in the participating country. TRF may recommend expert(s) in related fields to be member(s) of the joint commission, as appropriate and agreed upon by the three parties. The selection procedure may be adjusted as deemed necessary.
- e) According to the outcome of the interviews, TRF, TICA and the French Embassy in Thailand will make a final decision.

ANNEX 3

COST SHARING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN TICA AND TRF

	<i>items</i>	<i>rates</i>	<i>TICA</i>	<i>TRF</i>
Personal expenditure of each student				
1	Per diem/monthly allowance	7,000 Baht	✓	
2	Accommodation	paid as actually incurred within the budget limit of 7,000 Baht per month	✓	
3	International travel (to and from the country of residence of the student and Thailand)	economy class air fares	✓	
4	Airport transfer	up to 2,000 Baht per trip for 2 trips (first arrival in Thailand and final departure to the country of residence of the study)	✓	
5	Airport tax	paid as actually incurred	✓	
6	Visa fee	paid as actually incurred	✓	
7	Insurance	paid as actually incurred (within the insurance policy of 100,000 Baht)	✓	
8	Settle down payment	6,000 Baht (paid upon first arrival)	✓	
9	Moving expenses (upon the completion of the study)	2,000 Baht (lump sum payment)	✓	
Educational expenditure of each student				
10	Educational fee and research expenses. Fee/expenses for participation in the academic seminars and workshops in Thailand (if any) which are not part of the course but are supportive of the study and research.	paid not more than 80,000 Baht/year		✓
11	Books and educational materials	10,000 Baht/year (lump sum payment)	✓	
12	Expenses related to research and data collection	paid as actually incurred within the budget limit of 20,000 Baht as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - travel expenses as actually incurred no more than the rate for a civil service official level 6; - can be reimbursed once for the data collection in the country of permanent residence of the student; or - can be reimbursed twice for the data collection within Thailand, for which the accommodation costs are included in the budget limit of 20,000 Baht. 	✓	
13	Expenses for thesis preparation	12,000 Baht (lump sum payment)	✓	

14	Accommodation for study visits in other provinces (if it is part of the course)	paid as actually incurred within the budget limit of 1,000 Baht per night	✓	
15	Uniforms (if it is the requirement of the course)	paid as actually incurred at the maximum of 3 uniforms costing no more than 1,500 Baht each	✓	
16	Remuneration to thesis advisor	30,000 Baht/year (3 years) and 50,000 Baht after the student satisfies a condition for graduation.		✓
17	Travel expenses of Thai thesis advisor	Not more than 100,000 Baht		✓
18	Contingency budget for the student who cannot complete his/her thesis within the specified period (4 th year) - expenses for thesis preparation, educational fees and other related expenses - per diem and accommodation	rate as no. 10 rate as no. 1 and 2	✓	✓