

# Thai Tax 2015 Booklet

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# *FOREWORD*

This booklet has been prepared to provide general information on Thailand's tax system and primary assistance to those investing in Thailand and it should not be regarded as a basis for ascertaining a liability to tax in specific circumstances. The information is based on taxation laws and practices as at 15 August 2015. Further professional advice should always be obtained from our Tax and Legal Services Practice before acting on any matters contained in this publication.

The information contained in this Booklet is also available online and can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.pwc.com/th>

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# ***PERSONAL INCOME TAX***

## **Resident status**

An individual is regarded as a tax resident if he/she resides in Thailand at one or more times for an aggregate period of 180 days or more in any tax year.

## **Taxable persons**

- (a) Natural persons;
- (b) Unregistered ordinary partnerships;
- (c) Non-juristic body of persons;
- (d) Deceased, for all assessable income of the deceased and the estate throughout the year in which death occurred; and
- (e) Estate of the deceased which remains undistributed.

## **Assessable income**

Residents and non-residents are taxed on their assessable income derived from employment or business carried on in Thailand, regardless of whether such income is paid in or outside Thailand. Residents who derive income from outside Thailand will be subject to tax only where the income is remitted into Thailand in the year in which it is derived.

Assessable income is classified into eight categories:

1. Salaries and wages (including income from stock options, other equity compensation and other fringe benefits);
2. Hire of work, office of employment or service rendered;
3. Goodwill, copyright, franchise, patent, other rights, annuity, etc.;
4. Interest, dividend, bonus for investors, gain on amalgamation, acquisition or dissolution of a company or partnership, gain on transfer of shares, etc.;
5. Lease of property, breach of hire-purchase and instalment sale contract;

6. Income from liberal professions, such as law, medicine, engineering, architecture, accountancy and fine arts;
7. Income from a contract of work whereby the contractor provides essential materials other than tools; and
8. Income from business, commerce, industry and income other than as specified in (1) – (7).

## **Capital gains**

Most types of capital gains are taxable as ordinary income, except for the following which are exempt from tax:

1. Capital gains on the sale of shares in a company listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, provided that the sale is made on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, and on the sale of investment units in a mutual fund.
2. Gains on the sale of non-interest bearing debentures, bills or debt instruments issued by a corporate entity, except in the case where the bonds or debt instruments were sold for the first time at the price lower than their redemption price to an individual.
3. Gains on the sale of securities listed on stock exchanges in the ASEAN member countries and traded through the ASEAN Link, excluding securities in the form of treasury bills, bonds, bills or debentures.

Capital losses cannot be offset against capital gains. An individual may elect to bear only withholding tax at a flat rate of 15% on the gains derived from the sale of bonds, debentures, bills or debt instruments issued by a company or other juristic entities and to exclude the gains from assessable income in his/her annual personal income tax return.

## **Gift tax**

The Revenue Code Amendment Act (gift tax) became law on 5 August 2015 and will be enforced from 1 February 2016 onwards.

This Act introduces a tax on gifts which will be levied when a gift is given by a person who is still alive whereby the gift will be subject to personal income tax under the Revenue Code. The tax will be collected on the assets or the amount given to parents, ascendants, descendants, spouse or others based on the value of a gift that exceeds the prescribed threshold, which will depend on the type of gifts and donor. The assets or amounts given that do not exceed the threshold will be exempt from personal income tax.

Gifts exempt from personal income tax will be as follows:

1. Income derived by a parent from the transfer of ownership or possessory right in an immovable property without any consideration to a legitimate child, excluding an adopted child, but only the portion of income not exceeding Baht 20 million throughout a tax year.
2. Maintenance income or gifts from ascendants, descendants or spouse, but only the portion of income not exceeding Baht 20 million throughout a tax year.
3. Maintenance income derived under a moral obligation or gifts made in a ceremony or on occasions in accordance with established custom from persons that are not ascendants, descendants or spouse, but only the portion of income not exceeding Baht 10 million throughout a tax year.
4. Income from gifts whereby the persons who receive the gifts will use them for religious, educational or public benefit purposes according to the intention of the donors under the criteria and conditions mentioned in the Ministerial Regulations.

Income in excess of the above thresholds will be subject to personal income tax at the rate of 5%.

## **Exemptions**

Certain types of income are exempt from personal income tax. In respect of income from employment, money derived in the form of per diem, travelling expenses and certain fringe benefits such as medical treatment are tax exempt. The exemptions also include maintenance income derived under moral obligation (subject to a threshold - see gift tax above), corpus of a legacy or inheritance (see section on inheritance tax) and income of a mutual fund or from the sale of investment units in a mutual fund.

## **Computation**

The taxable income of an individual is arrived at after all deductions and allowances have been applied to the assessable income. The income tax thereon will then be calculated at the progressive tax rates noted below.

In the case of an individual having assessable income other than from employment, amounting to Baht 60,000 or more, the tax payable must be not less than 0.5% of the assessable income.

## **Deductible expenses**

The amount of personal expenses that may be deducted depends on the category of assessable income, as follows:

1. Income under the categories of assessable income (1), (2) and for copyright under (3), a deduction of 40% is allowed subject to a maximum of Baht 60,000.
2. Income under (3), other than for copyright, and (4) no deductions are allowed.
3. Income under (5), the rates of deduction vary from 10% to 30% depending on the type of rented property.
4. Income under (6), (7) and (8), the rates of deduction vary from 30% to 85% depending on the type of income or type of business.

The deduction of expenses in relation to assessable income under (5) – (8) may be made on an actual basis if satisfactory evidence of the expenditure can be provided to the tax authority.

## **Allowances**

There are two categories of allowances after the deduction of expenses:

1. <i>Personal allowances</i>	<i>Baht</i>
• Taxpayer:	30,000
• Spouse (if spouse has no income):	30,000
• Taxpayer's children (maximum 3), each:	15,000
• Additional education allowance for each child:	2,000
• Parental care, each:	30,000
• Care of disabled or incapacitated family members, each:	60,000
• Care of a disabled or an incapacitated person other than a family member:	60,000

In addition, a Thai resident who is 65 years of age or older is entitled to personal income tax exemption on income up to an amount not exceeding Baht 190,000.

### 2. *Specific allowances*

- Life insurance premiums in an amount not exceeding Baht 100,000 paid by a taxpayer on his/her own life are allowed as a deduction provided that the insurance policies are for a minimum period of 10 years and the insurer is carrying on a life insurance business in Thailand. The amount of any embedded health or accident premium will not be deductible. Moreover, if the policy includes a savings plan which provides an annual return to the policy holder exceeding 20% of the annual premium, the entire premium will be non-deductible.

Qualified pension life insurance premiums paid to a Thai insurer are available as a deduction in an amount not exceeding 15% of total assessable income with a maximum of Baht 200,000. However, this allowance together with the contribution to a registered provident fund, the civil servant pension fund, the welfare fund and the investment in a retirement mutual fund may not exceed Baht 500,000 in the same tax year.

In addition, the amount paid, up to a maximum of Baht 10,000, for a life insurance premium for the taxpayer's spouse who does not earn income is also allowed providing their marital status exists throughout the tax year.

- Health insurance up to Baht 15,000 paid to a life or non-life insurance business in Thailand for the taxpayer's parents or the parents of the spouse of the taxpayer is allowable as a deduction.
- Mortgage interest incurred for the purpose of purchase or construction of a residential building in Thailand may be deducted up to maximum of Baht 100,000.
- A contribution to a retirement mutual fund (RMF) is deductible in an amount not exceeding 15% of assessable income received which is subject to income tax, with a maximum of Baht 500,000 in any tax year. However, if the taxpayer also has any of the contributions noted above under qualified pension life insurance, they must be included in the Baht 500,000 limit.
- A contribution to a long term equity fund (LTF) is also deductible in an amount not exceeding 15% of assessable income received which is subject to income tax, with a maximum of Baht 500,000 in any tax year, provided that the investment units are held for at least five calendar years,

except in the case of incapacity or death.

- A contribution to the government's Social Security Fund may also be deducted.
- Donations to support education, e.g. buildings, computers, books, teachers etc., under projects approved by the Ministry of Education are entitled to a 200% deduction. In addition, donations to educational institutions made between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2015 are also allowed the 200% deduction. However, these donations combined must not exceed 10% of net income (assessable income after allowances and other deductions).
- Donations to educational institutions in either the public or private sector for providing books or electronic devices to promote reading are entitled to a 200% deduction. In addition, donations to sports entities between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2015 are also entitled to the 200% deduction. However, these donations together with the donations for educational support projects must not exceed 10% of net income (assessable income after allowances and other deductions).
- Donations to specified charities in the amount actually donated but not exceeding 10% of net income after allowances and deductions, including donations to support education, educational institutions, reading and sports organisations.
- Domestic travelling and hotel expenses up to a maximum of Baht 15,000 per tax year incurred during the period from 16 December 2014 to 31 December 2015.

## Tax credits

Taxpayers are entitled to credits against their annual tax liability for tax withheld at source.

Persons domiciled and residing in Thailand can elect to take income tax withheld at source from dividends received from companies incorporated in Thailand as a credit against their tax liability. In this case, a credit to take into account the underlying corporate income tax paid on the profit being distributed is added to the dividend income, which is then aggregated with other types of income. Tax at the personal income tax rates is calculated on the total taxable income; the value of the tax credit is then deducted from the tax so calculated.

Foreign tax cannot be taken as credit against Thai tax unless permitted under a double tax treaty.

## Tax rates

The following personal income tax rates are effective for the tax years 2013 to 2015.

Net income (Baht)	PIT rates (%)
0 – 150,000	Exempt
150,001 – 300,000	5
300,001 – 500,000	10
500,001 – 750,000	15
750,001 – 1,000,000	20
1,000,001 – 2,000,000	25
2,000,001 – 4,000,000	30
Over 4,000,000	35



## Withholding tax

All persons paying assessable income are required to deduct income tax at source on each occasion of payment in accordance with the following rules:

- (a) In the case of assessable income under categories (1) or (2), the payer must deduct tax by:
  - i) multiplying the amount paid by the number of times of payment so that the result will represent the total amount which would be payable in a year; and
  - ii) after deducting expenses and allowances, if any, computing the tax on such an amount in accordance with the personal income tax rates; and
  - iii) dividing the amount of tax so computed by the number of times of payment;
- (b) In the case of income under categories (3) and (4), the payer must deduct tax at the prevailing income tax rates. There are exceptions to this rule, notably interest and dividends, which are subject to withholding at flat rates of 15% and 10%, respectively; and
- (c) The tax withheld is required to be remitted to the respective amphur (district) office within seven days from the last day of the month in which the taxable income was paid.

A company, registered partnership or other juristic person paying assessable income to any person who is subject to income tax, must withhold:

- (a) 5% from payments for lease of assets under category (5);
- (b) 3% from payments for professional fees under category (6);
- (c) 3% from payments for hire of work under categories (7) and (8);
- (d) 2% from payments for advertising fees under category (8);
- (e) 3% from payments which constitute the rebates or benefits from sales promotion except where goods/services are used for private consumption (not for sale) by the buyer under category (8);

- (f) 3% from payments which constitute service fees other than fees for hire of work, fares for public transportation, services by hotel and restaurant and life insurance premiums under category (8);
- (g) 1% from payments for transportation excluding public transportation;
- (h) 5% from payments which constitute prizes won in contests, competitions, lucky draws or other like activities under category (8); and
- (i) 15% from income under categories (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) paid to a non-resident, except for dividends which are 10%.

Where income under categories (5), (6), (7) or (8) in excess of Baht 10,000 is paid by the central or local government, the payer is required to deduct income tax at the rate of 1% at each time of payment.

A taxpayer whose income tax has been withheld may pay, or request a refund of, the amount of tax that has been under- or over-withheld, as the case may be. A claim for a refund must be submitted to the tax authority within three years from the last day of the time limit prescribed by law for filing the tax return (or from 31 March of the year following that in which the tax was withheld.)

## **Tax administration**

Thailand applies a self-assessment system in collecting taxes. Taxpayers are required to declare their tax liabilities in the prescribed tax returns and pay the tax due at the time of filing.

The following individuals are required to file income tax returns for income earned in the preceding tax year irrespective of whether there is any tax due:

- (a) a person who has no spouse and earns income of more than Baht 30,000;
- (b) a person who has no spouse and earns income under category (1) (salaries and wages) of more than Baht 50,000;

- (c) a person who has a spouse and earns income of more than Baht 60,000;
- (d) a person who has a spouse and earns income under category (1) (salaries and wages) of more than Baht 100,000.

Each husband or wife earning income can choose to file his/her income tax return either separately or jointly with their spouse, whichever they prefer.

The tax year is the calendar year. All persons liable to taxation are required to file a return no later than 31 March of the following year. In addition, those taxpayers who derive income from the lease of property, liberal professions (medicine, law, engineering, architecture, accountancy and fine arts), contractual work and other businesses, commerce or industries must file a mid-year tax return by 30 September in respect of income derived during the first half of the tax year to 30 June. Tax paid at the time of the mid-year filing is creditable against the annual tax liability.

## **Penalties and surcharge**

A taxpayer who is assessed additional tax by an assessment officer on the grounds that an inaccurate return was filed, or who failed to file a return, is subject to a penalty. The rate of penalty is 100% in the case of an inaccurate return and 200% for failure to file a return. Penalties may be reduced by 50% if the taxpayer submits a request in writing and the assessment officer is of the opinion that the taxpayer did not intend to evade tax and cooperated with the officer during the tax audit.

Any person who fails to pay or remit tax within the specified time is liable to pay a surcharge of 1.5% per month, or fraction thereof, of the amount of tax to be paid or remitted subject to a maximum equal to the amount of tax to be paid or remitted.

## **Tax investigation and assessment**

The Revenue Department is empowered to demand documents and records for inspection for a period of two years. The period will be extended to five years if it is found, or there is a reason to believe, that there was tax evasion, or where a tax audit is conducted for the purpose of paying a tax refund.

Nevertheless, under the Civil and Commercial Code, the Revenue Department can assess tax for up to ten years.

### **Appeal**

If a taxpayer disagrees with the assessment of the tax authorities, he may appeal to the Board of Appeals within 30 days from the date of receiving the assessment notice. If the taxpayer does not agree with the ruling of the Board of Appeals, he may then appeal to the Tax Court within 30 days from the date of receiving the ruling. An appeal does not defer payment of tax. If tax is not paid within the time prescribed by the law, it will be deemed to be in arrears unless the appellant has been authorized by the Director-General to wait for a decision of the appeal or judgment, in which case payment must be made within 30 days from the date of receiving the decision of the appeal or judgment.

# ***CORPORATE INCOME TAX***

## **Resident status**

Company residence is determined by the place of incorporation. A company incorporated under the laws of Thailand is a resident company. Place of management and control is not statutorily defined. Thailand taxes its residents on a worldwide income basis.

## **Taxable entities**

- Juristic companies and partnerships;
- Joint ventures, foundations, associations;
- Juristic companies incorporated under foreign laws:
  - carrying on business in Thailand (e.g. branch); and
  - not carrying on business in Thailand but deriving specified income in Thailand;
- Foreign government agencies or other juristic persons organized under foreign laws carrying on business in Thailand; and
- Other juristic entities as announced by the Director-General of the Revenue Department with the approval of the Minister of Finance.

## **Taxable income**

- A juristic company or partnership incorporated in Thailand is subject to corporate income tax on all profits derived from domestic and foreign sources.
- A company incorporated under a foreign law and carrying on business in Thailand (e.g. a branch) is subject to tax on the profit arising from the business carried on in Thailand. In addition, if the after-tax profit is repatriated to the head office, tax at the rate of 10% is imposed on the amount remitted.

The term “carrying on business in Thailand” is broad and includes the presence of an employee, representative or go-between that results in the foreign company deriving income or gains in Thailand.

- A company incorporated under a foreign law and not carrying on business in Thailand but which derives certain categories of income in Thailand is subject to a final withholding tax (unless otherwise exempt under a double tax treaty). The following is an example of such categories of income:
  - brokerage
  - service fees
  - royalties
  - interest, dividends, capital gains
  - rent of property

## **Tax on gross income**

Foundations and associations as well as foreign companies carrying on the business of international transportation services are subject to tax on gross income.

The gross receipts, other than registration fees, membership fees or donations of a foundation or association are subject to tax at the rate of 10%. The rate is reduced to 2% if the gross receipts are income under category (8) of the schedule of assessable income.

Foreign airlines and shipping companies carrying on business in Thailand in the category of carriage of passengers are subject to income tax at the rate of 3% of the fares, fees or any other benefits collectible in Thailand, prior to the deduction of any expenses. In the case of carriage of goods, the rate is 3% of the freight, fees and any other benefits collectible in Thailand or elsewhere in respect of transport of goods from Thailand, prior to the deduction of any expenses.

## **Capital gains**

There is no specific legislation governing capital gains. All capital gains earned by a company are treated as ordinary revenue for tax

purposes. Capital gains on the sale of investments derived from or in Thailand by a foreign company not carrying on business in Thailand are subject to a tax of 15%, withheld at source by the purchaser, unless otherwise exempt under a double tax treaty.

Gains on the sale of government bonds earned by a non-resident are also subject to 15% withholding tax, unless otherwise reduced or exempt under a double tax treaty.

## **Exemptions**

- The following categories of income are exempt from corporate income tax:
  - Interest on government bonds paid to a foreign company not carrying on business in Thailand;
  - Interest on foreign loans paid to financial institutions organised under a specific law and wholly-owned by a foreign government;
  - Dividends or share of profits paid by an unincorporated joint venture to a Thai company or foreign company carrying on business in Thailand;
  - Dividends received from a Thai company by a company listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. Dividends received by a non-listed company from another Thai company are also exempt from tax, provided that the company receiving the dividends holds at least 25% of the total shares with voting rights without any direct or indirect cross-shareholding. In other cases where one Thai company receives a dividend from another Thai company, one-half of the dividend is exempt from tax. However, in all cases, the listed or non-listed company receiving a dividend must have held the shares in the company paying the dividend for at least three months before and three months after the dividend was received. In the case of an amalgamation (merger) or entire business transfer (EBT), the new or surviving company can include the period of ownership of any predecessor company that was part of the

- amalgamation or EBT when counting the three-month period;
  - Dividends received from foreign investments are exempt from tax provided that the Thai company receiving the dividends has held at least 25% of the shares with voting rights of the company paying the dividends for a period of not less than six months before the date on which the dividends were received and the dividends were derived from net profits in the foreign country taxed at a rate of not lower than 15%. In the event that a “special law” in a particular foreign country provides a reduced tax rate or exemption for the net profits, the limited company which receives the dividends is still eligible for the tax exemption;
  - Interest on foreign currency deposits received from a commercial bank used for lending to non-Thai nationals domiciled or residing abroad, foreign companies not carrying on business in Thailand and foreign banks, including those with a branch or representative office in Thailand.
- The following categories of taxpayers are exempt from corporate income tax:
    - Companies granted exemption from tax for a period of time by the Board of Investment under the Investment Promotion Act (1977);
    - Specified foundations or organizations; and
    - Foreign organizations under mutual agreements or diplomatic organizations.
  - A special purposes vehicle (“SPV”) for securitisation is granted tax exemption on income derived from a securitisation project approved by the Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). Nevertheless, the operation and allocation of cash inflow for the settlement of debts and expenses must follow the plan approved by the SEC. Moreover, no dividends may be paid to the shareholders of an SPV until all remaining assets and benefits have been transferred by the SPV back to the originator of the securitisation project and the SPV ceases to exist.



## Tax rates

- The corporate income tax rate is 20% for accounting periods beginning between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2015.
- The corporate income tax rates for small and medium enterprises (SME) are as follows:

For accounting periods beginning between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2014:

Net profit (Baht)	CIT rates (%)
0 – 300,000	Nil
300,001 – 1,000,000	15%
Over 1,000,000	20%

For accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015:

Net profit (Baht)	CIT rates (%)
0 – 300,000	Nil
300,001 – 3,000,000	15%
Over 3,000,000	20%

To be eligible for the reduced rates of tax, the SME must meet the following conditions:

- (1) Paid-up capital on the last day of any accounting period must not exceed Baht 5 million, and
- (2) Income from the “sale of goods and provision of services” must not

exceed Baht 30 million in any accounting period.

- Banks are subject to corporate income tax at the rate of 10% in respect of the profit derived from lending to non-Thai residents from foreign currency funds obtained from non-Thai sources (so called “out-out business”).

## **Branch income**

Branches of foreign companies pay income tax at the normal tax rate on locally earned profits only. Branch profits remitted to the foreign head office are subject to an additional tax of 10%.

Branches of foreign commercial banks are exempt from this tax in respect of their profits derived from the “out-out business”.

## **Computation of net profit**

Net profit must be computed on the accrual basis which, with certain exceptions, generally follows accounting practice.

## **Deductions**

- Deductions are allowed for all expenses exclusively incurred for the purpose of acquiring profit or for the purpose of the business unless there is a specific direction in the Revenue Code to the contrary.
- Deductions for royalties, management fees and interest expenses may be claimed provided they are exclusively incurred for the purpose of acquiring profit or for the purpose of the business in Thailand and do not exceed a reasonable amount.
- A double deduction is allowed in respect of the costs incurred in sending employees for training at certain educational or skill development institutions as well as for in-house training.

- A double deduction is allowed from 31 December 2014 to 31 December 2015 for expenses paid for seminar rooms, accommodation, transportation or other expenses relating to domestic seminars/training that are arranged for employees, or expenses paid to tourism operators under the law governing travel agency business and guides for such seminars/training.
- A double deduction is granted for expenses paid to support educational programs under projects approved by the Ministry of Education, e.g. buildings, computers, books, teachers etc., but not exceeding 10% of net profit before deduction of donations for charity, public benefit and for education or sport.
- A double deduction is granted for expenses paid in support of learning and amusement activities, e.g. to construct and maintain children's playgrounds, parks or privately owned sports fields which are open to the public free of charge. However, these expenses together with the expenses in support of educational programs under projects approved by the Ministry of Education cannot exceed 10% of net profit before the deduction of donations for charity, public benefit and for education or sport.
- A double deduction is granted for expenses in the form of either cash or assets paid to educational institutions in either the public or private sector for providing books or electronic devices to promote reading. However, these expenses together with the expenses in support of educational programs under projects approved by the Ministry of Education and the expenses in support of learning and amusement activities cannot exceed 10% of net profit before the deduction of donations for charity, public benefit and for education or sport. In addition, a double deduction, but not exceeding Baht 50,000, is allowed for the cost of books or electronic devices purchased for an in-house library.
- A double deduction is granted for donations made between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2015 in the form of either cash or assets to educational institutions in either the public or private sector and to

sports entities. However, these donations together with the expenses in support of educational programs under projects approved by the Ministry of Education and the expenses in support of learning and amusement activities cannot exceed 10% of net profit before the deduction of donations for charity, public benefit and for education or sport.

- Donations to specified charities or for public benefit in the amount actually paid but not exceeding 2% of net profit, and donations for education or sport in the amount actually paid but not exceeding 2% of net profit. Net profit is after all deductions including those to support educational programs, learning and amusement activities, the promotion of reading and donations to educational institutes and sports entities.
- The following are some examples of expenses that are not deductible:
  - Additions to provisions or reserves;
  - Contributions to any fund (except a registered provident fund);
  - Private expenses and gifts;
  - Income tax, tax fines and penalties under the Revenue Code;
  - The portion of salary paid to a shareholder which exceeds a reasonable amount;
  - Artificial or fictitious expenses;
  - Interest on capital, reserves or funds of the company;
  - Any disbursement where the identity of the recipient cannot be proved by the payer;
  - Any expenditure determined on and payable out of the profit after the end of an accounting period;
  - Bad debt written off from a debtor's account which is not consistent with the rules, procedures and conditions prescribed by Ministerial Regulations;
  - Any damages recoverable under an insurance or contract of indemnity.

## Depreciation

Deductions for depreciation are allowed as a percentage of cost. If the rate of deduction adopted by a company under its own accounting method is lower than the maximum percentage of cost permitted, a deduction will be allowed only at the rate adopted by the company. The straight-line basis is the method most commonly used by companies, but any generally accepted basis, such as sum-of-the-years-digits or double declining method is permitted. The maximum permitted rates are as follows:

	%
Buildings:	
Durable buildings.....	5
Temporary buildings.....	100
Cost of acquisition of depletable natural resources.....	5
Cost of acquisition of lease rights:	
If there is no written lease agreement or if there is a written lease agreement containing a renewal clause whereby continual renewals are permitted.....	10
If there is a written lease agreement containing no renewal clause or containing a renewal clause which restricts renewable periods to a definitely limited duration.....	(Note 1)
Cost of acquisition of the right in a process, formula, goodwill, trademark, business license, patent, copyright, or any other right:	
If the period of use is not limited.....	10
If the period of use is limited.....	(Note 2)
Other assets not above mentioned, excluding land and inventory.....	20

### Notes:

1. Percentage equals 100 divided by the sum of years of the original and renewable lease periods.
2. Percentage equals 100 divided by the number of years of use.

### ***Special depreciation methods for certain assets***

1. Machinery and equipment for research and development may initially be depreciated at 40% of cost with the remaining balance being depreciated at the above rate of not exceeding 20% per annum.
2. Computer hardware and software may be depreciated within three accounting periods.

### ***Special depreciation methods for small and medium enterprises***

Companies or juristic partnerships with fixed assets, excluding land, with a value of no more than Baht 200 million and with no more than 200 employees, are entitled to the following special depreciation methods:

1. Machinery and equipment may initially be depreciated at 40% of cost and the remaining balance at the maximum rate of 20%.
2. Computer hardware and software may initially be depreciated at 40% and the remaining balance within three accounting periods.
3. Factory buildings may initially be depreciated at 25% and the remaining balance at a maximum rate of 5%.

### **Losses**

Net losses may be carried forward for five accounting periods for offset against future profits from all sources. There is no provision for loss carry-back.

Each company's losses are dealt with separately. There is no form of group relief or relief by consolidation. A change in the shareholding of a company does not affect its tax losses.

## **Withholding tax on domestic payments**

A company, registered partnership or other juristic person, which pays assessable income to another Thai registered company, registered partnership or other juristic person or a foreign company carrying on business in Thailand (through a branch or permanent establishment) must withhold tax from payments of the following types of income:

- (a) 3% on royalties for use of intangible assets such as patents, copyrights or any other rights;
- (b) 1% on interest paid to all resident corporations (other than a bank or a finance company) and on interest on bonds and debentures paid to a bank or a finance company;
- (c) 10% on dividends and share of profits of registered partnerships;
- (d) 5% on rent of assets, but excluding leasing agreements which contain the option that, at the end of the lease contract, the lessee can elect to buy the property leased or otherwise return it to the lessor, provided that the following conditions exist:
  - The lessor is a juristic company or partnership whose registered and paid-up capital is not less than Baht 60 million and is a VAT registrant;
  - The lessee is a juristic person; and
  - The lease period is for not less than three years except where the leased property is one repossessed from another lessee, in which case the lease period may be shorter than three years.
- (e) 1% on rent of a ship, under the law governing the promotion of merchant navy, used for international carriage of goods;
- (f) 3% on professional income;
- (g) 3% on fees for hire of work;
- (h) 5% on remuneration for hire of work paid to a foreign company without a permanent branch office (see note);
- (i) 5% on prizes won in contests, competitions, lucky draws or other like activities;
- (j) 2% on advertising fees under assessable income category (8);

- (k) 3% on rebates or benefits from sales promotion except where goods/services are used for private consumption (not for sale) by the buyer;
- (l) 3% on service fees other than fees for hire of work, fares for public transportation, services by hotel and restaurant and life insurance premiums;
- (m) 1% on transportation fees;
- (n) 1% on non-life insurance premiums.

*Note:* A permanent branch office is not the same as a “permanent establishment”. A permanent branch office in this case is one that meets the following criteria:

- Has ownership of an office in Thailand;
- Carries on other business in Thailand besides engaging in contract work, e.g. purchase and sale of goods;
- Has a registered provident fund set up for the benefit of employees in Thailand.

## **Tax credits**

Thai companies can use foreign tax paid on business income or dividends received as a credit against the corporate income tax liability. The credit cannot exceed the amount of Thai tax on the income.

Credit is also given for any Thai withholding tax that has been deducted at source (as mentioned above) and for the half-year tax paid.

## **Withholding tax on foreign payments**

A final withholding tax is imposed on the remittance of income to foreign companies not carrying on business in Thailand in the form of:

- |                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| - brokerage, fees for services | 15% |
| - royalties                    | 15% |
| - interest                     | 15% |
| - dividends                    | 10% |



- capital gains	15%
- rental of property	15%
- liberal professions	15%

The above taxes may be reduced or exempt under double tax treaties.

## Double tax treaties

Countries that have concluded double tax treaties with Thailand and the applicable rates of withholding taxes are as follows:

Country of recipient	Dividends %	Interest %	Royalties* %
Armenia	10	10/15 (1)	15
Australia	10	10/15 (1)	15
Austria	10	10/15 (1)	15
Bahrain	10	10/15 (1)	15
Bangladesh	10	10/15 (1)	15
Belarus	10	10/15 (2)	15
Belgium	10	10/15 (1)	5/15 (3)
Bulgaria	10	10/15 (1)	5/15 (4)
Canada	10	10/15 (1)	5/15 (5)
Chile	10	10/15(1)	10/15(6)
China	10	10/15 (1)	15
Cyprus	10	10/15 (7)	5/10/15 (8)
Czech Republic	10	10/15 (1)	5/10/15 (9)
Denmark	10	10/15(1)	5/15 (3)
Estonia	10	10	8/10(10)

Country of recipient	Dividends %	Interest %	Royalties* %
Finland	10	10/15 (1)	15
France	10	3/10/15 (11)	0/5/15 (12)
Germany	10	0/10/15 (13)	5/15 (3)
Hong Kong	10	10/15 (14)	5/10/15 (15)
Hungary	10	10/15 (1)	15
India	10	10/15 (1)	15
Indonesia	10	10/15 (1)	15
Ireland	10	10/15 (16)	5/10/15 (17)
Israel	10	10/15 (1)	5/15 (18)
Italy	10	0/10/15 (19)	5/15 (3)
Japan	10	0/10/15 (20)	15
Korea, Republic of	10	10/15 (14)	5/10/15 (21)
Kuwait	10	10/15 (1)	15
Laos	10	10/15 (1)	15
Luxembourg	10	10/15 (1)	15
Malaysia	10	10/15 (1)	15
Mauritius	10	10/15 (1)	5/15 (4)
Myanmar	10	10	5/10/15 (22)
Nepal	10	10/15 (1)	15
Netherlands	10	10/15 (1)	5/15 (3)
New Zealand	10	10/15 (14)	10/15 (23)
Norway	10	10/15 (1)	5/10/15 (24)

Country of recipient	Dividends %	Interest %	Royalties* %
Oman	10	10/15 (25)	15
Pakistan	10	10/15 (1)	0/10/15 (26)
Philippines	10	10/15 (27)	15
Poland	10	10/15 (1)	0/5/15 (28)
Romania	10	10/15 (1)	15
Russia	10	10/15 (29)	15
Seychelles	10	10/15 (1)	15
Singapore	10	10/15 (1)	15
Slovenia	10	10/15(1)	10/15 (30)
South Africa	10	10/15 (1)	15
Spain	10	10/15 (1)	5/8/15 (31)
Sri Lanka	10	10/15 (1)	15
Sweden	10	10/15 (1)	15
Switzerland	10	10/15 (1)	5/10/15 (32)
Taiwan	5/10 (33)	10/15 (1)	10
Turkey	10	10/15 (1)	15
Ukraine	10	0/10/15 (34)	15
United Arab Emirates	10	10/15 (1)	15
United Kingdom	10	10/15 (1)	5/15 (3)
United States	10	10/15 (14)	5/8/15 (35)
Uzbekistan	10	10/15 (1)	15
Vietnam	10	10/15 (1)	15

\* Royalties as defined in many Thai double tax treaties include the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment (which would not therefore be treated as business profits taxable only if there is a permanent establishment). In addition, certain consultancy and technical services which transfer “know-how” may be treated as royalties and not business profits.

*Notes:*

The numbers in parentheses above refer to the notes below:

1. The 10% rate applies to interest paid to a recipient that is a bank or financial institution (including an insurance company).
2. The 10% rate applies to interest paid (a) to a recipient that is a bank or financial institution (including an insurance company); or (b) with respect to indebtedness arising as a consequence of a sale on credit of any equipment, merchandise or services.
3. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work.
4. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work excluding cinematograph films and films, tapes or discs for radio or television broadcasting.
5. The 5% rate applies to copyright royalties and other like payments in respect of the production or reproduction of any literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work excluding royalties with respect to motion picture films and works on film or videotape for use in connection with television.
6. The 10% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment.
7. The 10% rate applies to interest paid (a) to a recipient that is a bank or financial institution (including an insurance company); (b) in connection with the sale on credit of any industrial,

commercial or scientific equipment; or (c) in connection with the sale on credit of any merchandise by one enterprise to another enterprise.

8. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, dramatic, musical, artistic or scientific work including software, cinematograph films or films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting; and the 10% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.
9. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the alienation or the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work excluding cinematograph films or films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting, and the 10% rate for the alienation of any patent, trademark, design, or model, plan, secret formula, or process.
10. The 8% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment and the 10% rate applies to royalties paid in all other cases.
11. The 3% rate applies to interest paid on loans or credits granted for four years or more with the participation of a financing public institution to a statutory body or to an enterprise in relation to the sale of any equipment or to the survey, the installation or the supply of industrial, commercial or scientific premises and of public works. The 10% rate applies to interest paid to any financial institution.
12. The zero rate applies to royalties paid to a contracting state or state-owned company with respect to films or tapes, and the 5% rate to royalties for the alienation or the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work.
13. The zero rate applies to interest paid to any financial institution wholly owned by the other contracting state, a 'land', a political subdivision, a local authority, or a local administration thereof, and in particular, in the case of the Federal Republic, by the Deutsche Bundesbank or the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, and in the case of Thailand, by the Bank of Thailand. The 10% rate applies to interest paid to a recipient that is a bank or financial

- institution (including an insurance company).
14. The 10% rate applies to (a) interest paid to a bank or financial institution (including an insurance company) and (b) interest paid with respect to indebtedness arising as a consequence of a sale on credit of any equipment, merchandise or services, except where the sale was between persons not dealing with each other at arm's length.
  15. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the use or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work and the 10% rate for the use or the right to use any patent, trademark, design, or model, plan, secret formula, or process.
  16. The 10% rate applies to (a) interest paid to any financial institution (including an insurance company) and (b) interest paid with respect to indebtedness arising as a consequence of a sale on credit of any equipment, merchandise, or services, except where the sale was between persons not dealing with each other at arm's length.
  17. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic, or scientific work, including software, and motion pictures and works on film, tape or other means of reproduction for use in connection with radio or television broadcasting, and the 10% rate for the use of or the right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment or any patent.
  18. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work excluding cinematograph films or films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting.
  19. The zero rate applies to interest paid to any financial institution wholly owned by the other contracting state, an administrative subdivision, or a local authority thereof. The 10% rate applies to interest paid to a recipient that is a bank or financial institution (including an insurance company).
  20. The zero rate applies to interest paid to any financial institution wholly owned by the government. The 10% rate applies to interest paid to a recipient that is a bank or financial institution (including

- an insurance company).
21. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including software, and motion pictures and works on film, tape or other means of reproduction for use in connection with radio or television broadcasting and the 10% rate for the use of or the right to use any patent, trademark, design, or model, plan, secret formula or process.
  22. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of, or the right to use, any copyrights of literary, artistic, or scientific work, while the 10% rate applies to royalties for the consideration for any services of a managerial or consultancy nature, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.
  23. The 10% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use any copyright; or the use of, or the right to use, any industrial, scientific or commercial equipment; or the use of, or the right to use, any motion picture film, or film or videotape or any other recording for use in connection with television, or tape or any other recording for use in connection with radio broadcasting; or the reception of, or the right to receive, visual images or sounds, or both, transmitted to the public by satellite or, cable, optic fibre or similar technology; or the use in connection with television or radio broadcasting, or the right to use in connection with television or radio broadcasting, visual images or sounds, or both, transmitted by satellite or cable, optic fibre or similar technology.
  24. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work and the 10% rate applies to royalties paid for the use or the right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment.
  25. The 10% rate applies to (a) interest paid to a bank or financial institution (including an insurance company) and (b) interest from a loan or debt claim that is guaranteed by the government.
  26. The zero rate applies to royalties paid to a contracting state or a state-owned company with respect to films or tapes, and the 10% rate applies to royalties paid for the alienation or the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work.

27. In case of interest arising in Thailand, the 10% rate applies to interest paid to a Philippines financial institution (including an insurance company). In the case of interest arising in the Philippines, the 10% rate applies in respect of public issues of bonds, debentures or similar obligations.
28. The zero rate applies to royalties paid to a contracting state or a state owned company with respect to films or tapes. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the alienation or the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic, or scientific work, excluding cinematograph films or tapes used for television or broadcasting.
29. The 10% rate applies to interest paid to the following recipients (a) in the case of a resident of Russia, any institution having a license to carry on banking operations; and (b) in the case of a resident of Thailand, any financial institution (including an insurance company).
30. The 10% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary or artistic work including motion pictures, live broadcasting, film, tape or other means of the use or reproduction in connection with radio and television broadcasting, and for the use of, or the right to use industrial, commercial, or scientific equipment.
31. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, dramatic, musical, artistic or scientific work excluding cinematograph films or films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting. The 8% rate applies to royalties in consideration of financial leasing for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment.
32. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the alienation or the use of, or the right to use, any copyright, artistic or scientific work, excluding cinematograph films or films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting, and the 10% rate for the alienation of any patent, trademark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process.
33. The 5% rate applies if the recipient holds at least 25% of the capital of the company paying the dividend.



34. The zero rate applies to interest paid to any other financial institution established and owned by the government to promote trade and investment. The 10% rate applies to interest paid to a recipient that is a bank or financial institution (including an insurance company).
35. The 5% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including software, motion pictures and works on film, tape or other means of reproduction for use in connection with radio or television broadcasting. The 8% rate applies to royalties paid for the use of or the right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment.

## **Group taxation**

There is no group taxation in Thailand.

## **Holding companies**

There is no specific legislation regarding holding companies.

## **Thin capitalisation**

Under the tax law, there are currently no thin capitalisation or prescribed debt to equity rules in Thailand.

## **Transfer pricing rules**

There is currently no specific transfer pricing provision under the Thai tax law, but there are general provisions requiring companies to transact on an arm's length basis.

Nevertheless, the Revenue Department has issued transfer pricing guidelines for related company transactions. The transfer pricing guidelines include a definition of the term "market price", details of the acceptable transfer pricing methods, transfer pricing documentation requirements and advance pricing agreements program.

## ***Thailand's transfer pricing guidelines***

### ***Legal framework***

The transfer pricing guidelines do not have the status of legislation but are internal directives that Thai Revenue officers must adhere to when conducting transfer pricing reviews.

### ***Definition of market price***

A key element of the guidelines relates to the definition of “market price”, which is referred to but not defined in the Income Tax law under the Revenue Code.

Market price is defined by the guidelines to mean compensation for goods, services or interest that independent contracting parties would determine in good faith (the comparable transaction). In addition, the comparable transaction must be of the same type as the related parties' transaction and take place on the same date.

### ***Definition of related party***

The guidelines also define the term “related party” as a company that has a relationship in the aspect of management, control or share capital with the other party, directly or indirectly.

### ***Acceptable transfer pricing methods***

The guidelines endorse the use of both transactional transfer pricing methods (e.g. the comparable uncontrolled price, the resale price and the cost plus methods) as well as profit based methods, in order to determine the market price of a transaction.

## *Transfer pricing documentation requirements*

Under the guidelines, taxpayers are expected to maintain transfer pricing documentation, which include:

1. Structure and relationship of group companies, including operating nature of each business;
2. Budget, business plan and financial projections;
3. Documentation setting out the company's business strategies and the reasons for their adoption;
4. Sales, operating results and the nature of the company's dealings with associated enterprises;
5. Reasons for entering into international dealing with associated enterprises;
6. Pricing policies, profitability of each product and market information, profit contribution of each business taking into account the functions performed, assets used and risks assumed;
7. Reasons for selecting a particular pricing methodology;
8. Where other methodologies have been considered and rejected, details of those methodologies, including reasons for their rejection should be documented contemporaneously with the selection of the methodology in (7);
9. Documents evidencing the company's position in its negotiations over transactions carried out among group companies; and
10. Other documents relating to the setting of the transfer price (if any).

## *Advance pricing agreement (APA) program*

The guidelines also allow for taxpayers to apply for an APA in respect of any intended related party transaction.

With the increasing popularity of APA applications in Thailand, APA guidelines were issued to address the APA application process.

## ***APA application process***

Prior to the submission of the APA application, which must be submitted within the first covered accounting period, series of pre-filing meetings with the Revenue Department are required in order for the Revenue officers to understand the objectives and the terms of the agreement. A taxpayer wishing to apply for an APA must first submit a written document of intent for a pre-filing meeting at least six months prior to the last day of the first accounting period in which the APA aims to have effect. Certain documents relating to the covered transactions and the functional profiles are required to be submitted at least 15 working days prior to the first pre-filing meeting. Once the pre-filing meetings process has been successfully accomplished and the Revenue officers have agreed that the application may be submitted, the applicant may then submit the APA application.

*Note:* Thailand is currently in the process of introducing specific transfer pricing provisions into the Income Tax Law under the Revenue Code, and making transfer pricing disclosure mandatory.

## **Tax administration**

The system is one of self-assessment. A company prepares and files its tax returns by the due dates and at the same time pays the taxes calculated to be due.

The tax year for a company is its accounting period, which must be of 12 months' duration. However, it may be less than 12 months in the case of the first accounting period after incorporation, the accounting period of dissolution or after approval for a change in the accounting period has been received from the Revenue Department and the Business Development Department.

Corporate income tax is paid twice in each year. A half-year return must be filed within two months after the end of the first six months of an accounting period. The tax to be paid is computed on one-half of

the estimated profit for the full accounting period except for listed companies, banks, certain other financial institutions and other companies under prescribed conditions, where the tax is based on the actual net profit for the first six months. The annual tax return must be filed within 150 days from the closing date of an accounting period and credit is given for the amount of tax paid at the half-year.

### **Penalties, surcharge and appeal**

Taxpayers who fail to comply with tax administration requirements (e.g. tax filing requirements) are subject to the same penalties and surcharges as stated in the personal income tax section and to the same appeal procedures.

# VALUE ADDED TAX

## **Basis of taxation**

Value added tax (“VAT”) is a non-cumulative broad-based consumption tax levied on the supply of goods or provision of services in Thailand by VAT operators. VAT is calculated on the total price of the goods delivered or services provided. A provision of services is deemed to have been made in Thailand if the service is performed in Thailand regardless of where the service is used, or if the service is performed abroad but is used in Thailand. In principle, the input VAT on purchases of goods or services related to the business of a registered VAT operator may be credited against output VAT.

## **Taxpayers**

Generally, unless specifically exempt, every person who conducts business in Thailand is liable to pay VAT, regardless of whether the business is conducted by an ordinary person, group of persons, partnership, company or any other juristic person, including:

- Manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, retailers and any other persons who sell goods in the course of their business or professional activities;
- Persons providing services; and
- Agents in Thailand of foreign suppliers who sell goods and provide services in the ordinary course of business.

## **Registration**

Persons who have an annual turnover in excess of Baht 1,800,000 are required to register as VAT operators. Only registered VAT operators are entitled to the credit or refund of input VAT.

## Exemptions

Persons and business activities exempt from VAT include:

- (a) - Taxpayers with total sales of less than Baht 1,800,000
  - Sale of unprocessed agricultural products
  - Sale of goods or products related to agriculture, e.g. fertilisers, animal feed and pesticides
  - Sale of newspapers, magazines and textbooks
  - Sale of animals whether dead or alive(All above – See note 1 below)
- (b) Educational services including government and private schools
- (c) Artistic and cultural services
- (d) Medical, auditing and court practice services
- (e) Healthcare services including government and private hospitals and clinics
- (f) Research and technical services
- (g) Libraries, museums, zoos and amateur sports
- (h) Public performers
- (i) Domestic transportation (See note 2 below)
- (j) International transportation by land
- (k) Rental of immovable property
- (l) Services of government agencies and local government which send all revenue before expenses to the government
- (m) Religious activities and public charities
- (n) Imported goods brought into a duty free zone that are exempt from import duties under the law governing such
- (o) Goods exempt from import duties pursuant to Chapter 4 of the Customs Tariff Code
- (p) Imported goods processed by the Customs Department and returned abroad

### *Notes:*

1. Operators of these activities are eligible to be registered as VAT operators.

2. Operators of local transportation by aircraft or ship as well as transportation of fuel oil through pipes in Thailand are eligible to be registered as VAT operators. Local transportation by ship includes transportation between sea and rivers within Thailand.

## **Tax rates**

- The standard rate of VAT is 10% but the government has the power to reduce the rate. The current reduced rate of 7% has been in effect for many years and is subject to annual renewal. At the time of writing, it is effective until 30 September 2015 and a further extension to 30 September 2016 has been approved by the Thai Cabinet although not yet officially announced.
- A zero percent rate is applied to the following particular items:
  - Exported goods
  - Services provided in Thailand but used, either partly or entirely, in a foreign country
  - International transportation by aircraft or ship
  - Sale of goods or services to government agencies or state enterprises under foreign aid programs
  - Sale of goods or services to the United Nations or its specialised agencies as well as embassies and consulates general
  - Sale of goods and services between bonded warehouses or between enterprises located in a duty free zone or between bonded warehouses and enterprises located in a duty free zone.

## **Computation**

VAT operators must charge VAT on the sale of goods or the provision of services which is regarded as output tax. The tax paid by VAT operators upon the purchase of goods or services is regarded as input tax. Input tax is creditable against output tax to yield the amount of tax due:



$$\text{Tax due} = \text{Output tax} - \text{Input tax}$$

The excess of output tax over input tax must be remitted to the Revenue Department while taxpayers are entitled to a refund or credit for the excess of input tax over output tax.

## **Tax invoices**

VAT operators are required to issue tax invoices indicating the amount of goods or services provided together with the VAT charged. All significant particulars in tax invoices must be completed as prescribed by the law. Incomplete or incorrect information in tax invoices may result in a VAT operator being unable to claim the input tax.

## **Tax administration**

### ***Returns***

VAT operators are required to file monthly tax returns no later than the 15th day of the following month.

### ***Documents and records***

Tax invoices received and copies of tax invoices issued must be maintained as well as relevant documents and records. For instance, bookkeeping and goods and raw materials records must be properly maintained at the place of business of VAT operators at all times.

## **Penalties and surcharge**

- Failure to register for VAT or businesses continuing after their VAT registration has been revoked, the penalty is 200% of the tax due (but not less than Baht 1,000 per month).
- Failure to file monthly VAT returns within the time limit, the penalty is 200% of the tax due.
- Miscalculation of the amount of tax in tax return filing, the penalty is 100% of the tax underpaid.

- Misstatement of the amount of output tax or input tax, the penalty is 100% of the deficient output tax or the excess input tax.
- Failure to issue a tax invoice to a purchaser, the penalty is 200% of the tax due.
- Failure to prepare the required reports, the penalty is 200% of the tax due.
- An additional surcharge of 1.5% per month of the tax underpaid is levied subject to a maximum equal to the amount of the tax due.

## ***SPECIFIC BUSINESS TAX***

Due to the difficulty in determining the value added of certain businesses for the purpose of assessing VAT, an alternative tax levy on services, especially in the financial services sectors, was introduced in tandem with the VAT regime. Specific business tax (“SBT”) is collected on gross revenue at fixed rates.

### **Taxpayers**

The following persons who are conducting transactions subject to SBT in the regular course of their business are required to register as specific business tax operators:

- Natural persons including a non-juristic body of persons;
- Juristic persons;
- Government agencies or cooperatives; and
- Any other juristic persons.

### **Businesses subject to SBT and applicable rates**

	%
(a) Commercial banking, financial and credit foncier business	3.0
(b) Life insurance	2.5
(c) Pawnshop brokerage	2.5
(d) Sale of immovable property, real estate	3.0
(e) Sale of securities in the stock exchange	0.1*
(f) Business with regular transactions similar to commercial banking	3.0

*\* Currently exempt from SBT*

An additional 10% of the SBT is levied as municipality tax.

The sale of futures contracts in accordance with the laws governing agricultural futures trading on the Agricultural Futures Exchange of Thailand (“AFET”) and the sale of derivatives in accordance with the laws governing derivatives on the Thailand Futures Exchange (“TFEX”) are exempt from SBT.

The rate of SBT has been reduced from 3% to 0.01% in respect of certain banking income.

## **Tax administration**

Businesses subject to SBT are required to file monthly tax returns no later than the 15th day of the following month.

## **Penalties and surcharge**

- Failure to register for SBT, the penalty is 200% of the tax due.
- Failure to file monthly SBT returns, the penalty is 200% of the tax due.
- Incorrect or underpayment of tax on monthly tax filing, the penalty is 100% of the tax underpaid.
- An additional surcharge of 1.5% per month of the tax underpaid is levied subject to a maximum equal to the amount of the tax due.

# ***STAMP DUTY***

## **Basis of taxation**

Stamp duty is levied on the execution of 28 different items of documents or instruments specified in the stamp duty schedule in the Revenue Code.

## **Rates**

The rates vary according to the nature of the documents or instruments. The rates range from Baht 1 per Baht 1,000 on most contracts and agreements to a fixed amount per instrument on most commercial and other documents. Stamp duty must be duly stamped at the rate specified in the stamp duty schedule.

## **Documents and instruments subject to stamp duty**

- Contracts/Agreements
  - Lease of land or buildings
  - Hire purchase
  - Hire of work
  - Loan
  - Partnership contract
- Financial/Commercial documents
  - Transfer of shares/debentures
  - Bill of exchange
  - Promissory note
  - Bill of lading
  - Share or debenture certificate
  - Cheque/Traveller's cheque
  - Letter of credit
  - Receipt for interest bearing bank deposit
  - Carrier's receipt
  - Suretyship
  - Pledge
  - Warehouse receipt
  - Delivery order

- Agency/Power of attorney
- Duplicate of original document
- Memorandum/Articles of Association of a limited company
- Proxy for voting
- Policy of insurance
- Receipt in connection with transfer of right in immovable property which gives rise to its registration
- Receipt in connection with sale, transfer of ownership or hire purchase of a vehicle

### **Payment of stamp duty and surcharge**

In most cases it is the recipient of the consideration under the instrument who is liable to pay the stamp duty and affix the stamps. Unstamped documents or instruments are not admissible as evidence in a civil lawsuit.

Failure to pay the stamp duty and affix the stamps on a timely basis is subject to a surcharge ranging from 200% to 600% of the duty payable.

# ***CUSTOMS DUTIES***

## **Basis of taxation**

Customs duties are imposed under the Customs Act and the Customs Tariff Decree and are collected on both imports and a very limited number of exports. Classification of imports is based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (the so-called “Harmonized System”). Thailand has adopted the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (“AHTN”) 2012, which is based on the Harmonized System 2012, as its latest import tariff nomenclature.

Duties are levied on a specific or an ad valorem basis, whichever is the higher, and the applied ad valorem duties range between 0% and 80%. Exemptions from import duties are available on particular items of goods as prescribed in the Customs Tariff Decree. Preferential duty rates are available on imported goods from countries that have a preferential free trade agreement (FTA) with Thailand.

Currently, Thailand has FTAs with the following countries:

- ASEAN member states (Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Brunei)
- Peru
- New Zealand
- Australia
- India
- Japan
- Chile (signed but not yet entered into force)

Also, as a member of ASEAN, Thailand is included in preferential trade agreements with the following countries:

- China
- Korea
- Japan

- Australia and New Zealand
- India

Generally, the value of imports is based on their CIF (cost, insurance and freight) whereas exported goods are based on their FOB (free on board).

Thailand has implemented the World Trade Organization (WTO) Valuation Agreement. The primary basis for the customs value is the transaction value, i.e. the price actually paid or payable for the goods when sold for export subject to adjustments for certain elements that are either considered to form a part of the value for customs purposes or that can be deducted from the value of the imported goods (e.g. cost of transportation after the importation and duties and taxes associated with the import). Elements that may need to be added include: royalties and licence fees that are related to the goods and paid as a condition of sale, proceeds from subsequent resale in the importing country, value of goods or services supplied by the buyer, such as design or development fee related to imported goods, etc. If the declared price is evidently low or is unlikely to be the true value of such goods, Thai Customs would likely dispute the declared price.

## **Customs controls and procedures**

Customs procedures for goods arriving in Thailand in any manner are similar to those existing in most other countries. An importer is required to file an entry form together with other requisite documents, including a bill of lading, invoice and packing list via the e-Customs system.

Customs duties are due upon the arrival of the vessel carrying the imported goods and goods may be stored in a customs bonded warehouse for not exceeding 60 days. Landing and storage charges must be paid before the goods are released.



## **Customs incentive schemes**

Various customs incentive schemes, each with its own specific conditions and duty privileges, are available in Thailand, including the following:

- Duty and tax compensation (“Tax coupons”)
- Duty drawback under Section 19 bis for imported raw materials used in export production
- Duty drawback for re-export in the same state under Section 19
- Free zones (Customs or Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand Free Zones)
- Manufacturing bonded warehouses
- General bonded warehouses
- Board of Investment (BOI) promotion
- Preferential import duties under Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

## **Offences and penalties**

Although, technically, an offence against the customs law is a criminal offence, in practice legal procedures are usually concerned with the recovery of tax arrears and fines. Offences include non-compliance with customs procedures, false declarations and the most serious offence of smuggling and evasion of customs duties. Statutory penalties are as prescribed by relevant provisions of the Customs Act. In case of Customs post-audit or post-investigation, where Customs and the offender agree to settle the case at the Customs level (i.e. waiver of prosecution), the penalties of duty evasion cases would be in accordance with the settlement criteria as prescribed by the Director-General of the Customs Department. This is typically two times the duty and one time the VAT shortfall. For import licensing errors and smuggling, the penalties are based on a multiple of the value of the goods.

# EXCISE TAX

## Basis of taxation

Excise tax is imposed on the sale of a selected range of commodities, whether manufactured locally or imported. Tax liabilities arise on locally manufactured goods when leaving the factory and at the time of importation for imported goods.

## Taxable goods and services

Commodities	Excise tax rate (% except where stated)
Petroleum and petroleum products	0 to 36
Certain non-alcoholic beverages	0 to 25
Certain electrical appliances	0 to 15
Crystal glassware	0 to 15
Motor vehicles	0 to 50
Boats	0
Perfume products and cosmetics	0 to 15
Entertaining services, turf courses, race courses and golf courses	0 to 20
Telecommunications business	0
Alcoholic beverages	0 to 48
Cigarettes containing tobacco	10 to 87

<b>Commodities</b>	<b>Excise tax rate (% except where stated)</b>
Woollen carpets	0 to 20
Motorcycles	0 to 20
Batteries	0 to 10
Playing cards	Baht 2/100 cards or Baht 30/100 cards
Ozone depleting substances / CFCs	0 to 30

In addition to the excise tax, an interior tax is also levied by the Excise Department at a rate of 10% of excise tax payable except for cigarettes and playing cards. Other taxes such as Health Tax and Thai Public Broadcasting Service (TPBS tax or TV tax) may apply to limited specified products in the categories of cigarettes and alcohol.

The manufacturer of the products must file a return and remit the tax due prior to taking the goods from the factory or bonded warehouse. If a VAT liability arises before the goods are taken out of such location, the manufacturer must file a return and remit the excise tax to the Excise Department within 15 days from the end of the month.

# ***PETROLEUM INCOME TAX***

## **Basis of taxation**

Taxation on income from petroleum operations is imposed on petroleum concessionaire companies by the Petroleum Income Tax Acts (“PITA”). Companies taxed under the PITA are exempt from taxes and duties on income imposed under the Revenue Code and under any other laws. The exemption applies so long as the company pays taxes and duties on income subject to the PITA or on dividends paid out of income subject to the PITA.

## **Taxable income**

Petroleum companies are taxed at the rate of 50% of their annual net profit from petroleum operations, including profit from the transfer of their concession interests and other activities incidental to petroleum operations. Deductions are allowed for “ordinary and necessary” business expenses, as well as depreciation on capital expenditure, petroleum royalties and other charges. Certain types of expenses are specifically disallowed for deduction, including interest.

## **Tax administration**

Taxpayers must file an annual tax return at the local Revenue office within five months after the closing date of each accounting period.

## **Penalties and surcharge**

Failure to file accurate or timely returns results in the imposition of penalties and a surcharge. However, penalties and surcharge can be waived or reduced at the discretion of the tax authorities where there is no wilful evasion.

# LOCAL TAXES

## Basis of taxation

Thailand is divided into 77 provinces which are each administered by a local autonomous authority, the municipality. The municipalities, including the City of Pattaya and City of Bangkok Metropolis, impose three major local taxes, namely signboard tax, local development tax and house and land tax.

## Signboard tax

An annual signboard tax is imposed on signs or billboards, which display a name, trademark or product for the purpose of advertising or providing information about a business.

Owners of signboards are subject to the tax, and the rate of tax varies according to the size of the board and the language written on the board. Currently, reduced rates are in force. Signboards that display Thai words are levied at the rate of Baht 3 per 500 sq. cm. whilst signboards displaying both Thai and foreign words are taxed at Baht 20 per 500 sq. cm. and, for foreign words alone or Thai words below foreign words, the rate is Baht 40 per 500 sq. cm.

The following categories of signboard are tax exempt:

- (a) in public places or organizations owned by the government
- (b) in private schools within the compound of the schools
- (c) for religious bodies or charitable organizations and associations
- (d) erected within the area of occasional fairs
- (e) displayed in theatres or movie houses which publicize shows
- (f) on products or containers
- (g) that are confined to the internal place of a business
- (h) farmers' produce signs
- (i) attached to a vehicle, man or animal

Owners of signboards are required to file tax returns in March of each year and the tax must be paid within 15 days after notification of the tax assessment.

In the case of failure to file a tax return, a surcharge at the rate of 10% of the signboard tax payable will be imposed.

In the case of failure to pay signboard tax, a surcharge at the rate of 2% per month of the tax payable would also be charged. Furthermore, a failure to pay tax may result in the seizure and sale of the property by the local authorities in order to collect the arrears.

### **Local development tax**

Local development tax is based on the value of the land, excluding improvements, and ranges between 0.25% and 0.95% annually. Assessments are calculated on the area of the land and on the median value of the land as assessed by the district authority. Taxable property includes land, mountains and water basins.

Land used for the personal residence of the owner is exempt from the local development tax unless a specified area of a large plot is otherwise subject to the tax.

Cultivated land in excess of the exempt area is subject to one-half of the statutory rate. Idle land is subject to twice the statutory rate.

The following categories of land are exempt from the local development tax:

- (a) land owned by government agencies
- (b) land on which royal palaces are located
- (c) land on which public hospitals, public educational institutions or other structures for public use are located
- (d) land owned by religious bodies or for religious use
- (e) land of non-profit cemeteries

- (f) land subject to house and land tax
- (g) land which is privately owned but used by the government for public purposes
- (h) land on which embassies, consulates or offices of international agencies are located

Landowners are required to file tax returns at the district office if the land is located outside a municipality or at the municipal office of the Land Department if the land is located within a municipality. Generally, a landowner is required to file a tax return within the month of January of the first year in which the land value is appraised. Such tax return is valid until the land value is reappraised which is every four years, the land is transferred or changes are made to the size of the land. The landowner (taxpayer) is required to pay tax within April of each year or within 30 days after receiving the assessment in case the appraisal value is announced after the end of March.

In the case of failure to file a tax return, a surcharge of 10% of the local development tax payable will be imposed.

In the case of failure to pay local development tax, a surcharge at the rate of 24% per annum of the tax payable would also be imposed. Furthermore, failure to pay tax may result in the seizure and sale of the property by the authorities in order to collect the arrears.

## **House and land tax**

The rate of tax is 12.5% of the actual or imputed annual rental value of the property of owners of land or buildings, used for any purpose, with the exception of owner-occupied residences.

If buildings on the land are owned by a person other than the owner of the land, the owner of the buildings is liable for the tax.

Damaged buildings are subject to a reduced valuation in proportion to the extent of the damage. Reductions are also made pro rata where buildings have become unoccupied during the year.

Exceptions to the house and land tax are as follows:

- (a) royal palaces owned by the Crown
- (b) buildings owned by the government and which are utilised for public purposes
- (c) public hospitals and educational institutions not operated for profit
- (d) religious buildings
- (e) buildings unoccupied for a period of 12 months or more
- (f) buildings used as the personal residence of the owner

The taxpayer is required to file a tax return within February of each year at the municipal or district office where the land and buildings are located. Tax must be paid within 30 days after notification of the tax assessment.

Failure to file a tax return would result in a fine of Baht 200.

Furthermore, a penalty of 2.5% of the tax liability will be imposed if the tax is paid during the first month following the due date for payment, rising to 5% for the second month, 7.5% for the third month and 10% for the fourth month. After the fourth month, the authorities have the right to seize and sell the property in order to collect the arrears.



## *INHERITANCE TAX*

The Inheritance Tax Act became law on 5 August 2015 and will be enforced from 1 February 2016 onwards.

A legacy received by individuals or juristic entities, regardless of nationality, from a testator who has died will be exempt from personal income tax under the Revenue Code but will be subject to inheritance tax. Heirs will be subject to the inheritance tax only on the value of a legacy that exceeds Baht 100 million obtained from each testator together either once or on several occasions. (It is noted that this statement in the legislation is unclear. However, according to the current interpretation of the tax authority, a legacy that exceeds Baht 100 million will refer only to a legacy from one testator.)

The inheritance tax rate will be 10% except in the case of heirs who are ascendants or descendants of the testator in which case the rate will be 5%. Legacies received by the spouse of a testator will be exempt from the tax.

Property subject to the inheritance tax will be immovable property, securities according to the Securities and Exchange law, bank deposit accounts or other money of a similar nature which the testators have the right to call back or claim from financial institutions or persons who hold such money, vehicles with registration and financial assets to be prescribed in Royal Decrees.

## **The Board of Investment (BOI)**

Under the Investment Promotion Act of 1977, the Board of Investment is authorised to grant incentives and privileges to qualified investments. An investor entitled to investment incentives from the BOI must be a limited company, foundation or cooperative organised under Thai law.

On 25 November 2014, the BOI approved a new investment policy that brought fundamental changes in the concept of investment promotion. The new criteria for investment promotion were announced in December 2014 and became effective on 1 January 2015. However, the status of existing promotional privileges already granted to companies will not change.

To relax the limitation of foreign shareholding and to facilitate investors on their investment, the following criteria are used by the BOI:

1. For a project in agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, mineral exploration and mining and service businesses under Schedule 1 of the Foreign Business Act of 1999, Thai nationals must hold not less than 51% of the registered capital.
2. For manufacturing projects, foreign investors may hold a majority or all of the shares in promoted projects.
3. The BOI may fix the shareholding of foreign investors in promoted projects when it is deemed appropriate.

The BOI provides tax and non-tax incentives as well as various guarantees and protection measures, which vary with the activities, the importance of the activities, project locations, priority activities and other criteria.

The following tax incentives may be granted to investors:

1. Exemption from or reduction of import duties on imported machinery.
2. A reduction of up to 90% of import duties on raw or essential materials imported for manufacturing for domestic sale.
3. Exemption from corporate income tax with or without a cap equal to the amount of the investment, excluding the cost of land and working capital, for up to eight years depending on the promoted activity and the location.
4. Dividends derived by a shareholder from promoted enterprises are exempt from tax including withholding tax on dividends, during the period of corporate income tax exemption.
5. Exemption from import duties on raw or essential materials imported for manufacturing for export.

The BOI also grants the additional decentralisation merit for businesses that are located in “Investment Promotion Zones” which includes the following incentives:

1. Further three years’ tax exemption period from the standard incentives and activities that already have eight years’ tax incentives will receive a 50% of corporate income tax reduction on net profits derived from promoted activity for five years after the termination of a normal income tax holiday or from the date of earning income if no tax holiday is granted;
2. Double deduction from taxable income of the cost of transportation, electricity and water supply for ten years from the date when revenue was first derived from the promoted activity; and
3. 25% deduction from net profit of the project's infrastructure installation or construction costs in addition to normal depreciation; such deduction can be made from the net profit of one or several years within ten years from the date when revenue was first derived from the promoted activity.

The BOI has designated 15 activities as priority activities of special importance and benefit to the country that are entitled to the maximum benefit of eight years corporate income tax exemption without cap. These are:

- Economic plantations (except eucalyptus),
- Creativity design services and product development,
- Manufacture of aircraft frames, parts of frames and other important parts, e.g. engines, propellers, and electronic equipment,
- Electronic design specifically micro electronic design and embedded system design,
- Software, specifically embedded software development,
- Refuse derived fuel,
- Energy service company: ESCO,
- Industrial estate or technology industrial zone specifically science and technology park, software park and data centre,
- Cloud service,
- Research and development,
- Biotechnology,
- Engineering design,
- Scientific laboratories,
- Calibration services and
- Training centres according to the approval of the Board of Investment

Apart from the tax incentives, other incentives granted to a promoted enterprise include permission to bring in foreigners to engage in investment feasibility studies, to bring in foreign technicians and experts to work on promoted projects, to own land to undertake the promoted activities and to remit foreign currency.

The BOI provides guarantees against nationalisation, competition from new state enterprises, state monopolization of the sale of products similar to those produced by the promoted project, price controls and tax exempt imports by government agencies or state enterprises.

Protection measures include the imposition of a surcharge on imports, import bans on competing products and the authority of the Chairman of the BOI to order any action or tax relief measures for the benefit of promoted projects.

### **IEAT free zone**

Under the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) law, the free zone is designated for the operation of industrial activities, commercial activities or other businesses relating thereto, for the purpose of economics, national security, public well-being, environmental management or other necessities as prescribed by the Board of the IEAT, whereby goods taken into the area will be entitled to additional rights and privileges on tax and duty as well as special fees as provided in the law.

Industrial operators in an IEAT free zone will be granted additional privileges as follows:

1. Exemption from import duties, VAT and excise tax on machinery, equipment, tools and supplies (including components) which are essential for the production of goods or for commercial purposes and on materials to be used in the construction, assembly or installation of factories or buildings in the IEAT free zone. Consumer products or vehicles are not exempt.
2. Exemption from import duties, VAT and excise tax on raw materials imported and taken into an IEAT free zone for use in the production of goods or for commercial purposes. Exempt imported materials taken into an IEAT free zone for use in production include items from another IEAT free zone, promoted persons under BOI for export, bonded warehouse, items imported under bank guarantee for re-export of finished goods and items exempt under other laws.
3. Importation of goods into an IEAT free zone for producing, mixing, assembling, packing or processing of the goods for export out of Thailand are not subject to the law in relation to the control of importation or exportation, the control of standards or quality,

affixing of mark or any sign to those goods other than those required under the Customs law in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Board of Directors of the IEAT.

4. Goods manufactured in an IEAT free zone and sold in Thailand will be deemed as imported goods and subject to import duties and VAT. Sales between operators located in the IEAT free zones could be subject to VAT at the normal rate or at the zero rates.
5. The goods manufactured in an IEAT free zone which qualify under the rules of origin may be entitled to preferential duty rates on their removal to the Thai domestic market.

## **Customs free zone**

In order to support and promote the country's exports, a Customs free zone (CFZ) is an area designated for industrial or commercial operations or other businesses that are beneficial to the economy of the country, whereby the goods imported into or manufactured in this zone will be exempted from import duty, VAT and excise tax.

To qualify as a CFZ, an application to establish such zone must be submitted for the approval of the Director-General of the Customs Department. A company permitted to establish or operate in the CFZ must conclude a guarantee agreement with the Customs Department and conform strictly to all customs regulations and is required to pay an annual fee as fixed by the law.

An operator in a CFZ will be granted rights and privileges as follows:

1. Exemption from payment of import duties, VAT and excise tax on the acquisition (including the transfer from another free zone) of machinery, equipment, tools and supplies (including components) which are essential for use in industrial and commercial operations or any other businesses that are beneficial to the economy of the country.
2. Exemption from import duties, VAT and excise tax on raw materials imported and taken into a CFZ for use in the production

of goods or for commercial purposes. Exempt imported materials taken into a CFZ for use in production include items from another CFZ, promoted persons under BOI for export, bonded warehouse, items imported under bank guarantee for re-export of finished goods and items exempt under other laws.

3. Importation of goods into a CFZ for producing, mixing, assembling, packing or processing of the goods for export out of Thailand will be exempted from the enforcement of the law in the part relating to the control of standards or quality, affixing of mark or any sign according to the rules prescribed by the Director-General.
4. Goods manufactured in a CFZ and sold in Thailand will be deemed to be imported products and subject to duties and VAT. Sales between operators located in the free zones could be subject to VAT at the normal rate or at the zero rates.
5. The goods manufactured in a CFZ which qualify under the rules of origin may be entitled to preferential duty rates on their removal to the Thai domestic market.

## **Headquarters**

For many years, Thailand has had two regional operating headquarters (ROH) regimes. Tax privileges were granted to attract multinational companies (both domestic and foreign) to set up regional headquarters operations in Thailand. These presented opportunities for establishing an ROH to act as a holding, services, financing and licensing company.

The first ROH regime with criteria and benefits was launched in 2002.

In 2010, the second ROH regime came into existence modifying some of the criteria and benefits. An ROH in existence at that time was able to elect to keep the first regime or move to the second regime while a new ROH could choose either. However, registration under the second ROH model must be made no later than 14 November 2015, while registration under the first regime have no time limit.

With effect from 2 May 2015, regulations regarding an international headquarters (IHQ) regime have been issued to grant tax incentives to attract firms to establish IHQ in Thailand. These new IHQ rules are intended to make Thailand an attractive investment centre for multinational companies. IHQ may be called the ROH third regime since the qualifying services to be provided are the same as those of the two earlier ROH regimes (except for financial management and services relating to international trade which are separately stipulated). However, the criteria of IHQ are more relaxed and the benefits more attractive.

An existing ROH will be able submit an application to be an IHQ and the ROH can be dissolved without having any impact on the tax privileges already obtained.

### ***The first ROH regime***

The criteria for ROH are:

- Company formed under Thai law with a minimum paid-up capital of Baht 10 million;
- Provision of qualified services to qualified affiliates (companies with at least 25% common group ownership) in at least three countries other than Thailand;
- Income from services provided to, or royalties received from, overseas affiliates must be at least 50% of the total income of the ROH company (reduced to one-third for the first three years).

The tax concessions are:

- 10% corporate income tax on the net profit from ROH services provided to foreign and domestic affiliates;
- 10% corporate income tax on the net profit from qualified royalties and interest income from lending borrowed funds to domestic and foreign affiliates;



- Corporate income tax and domestic withholding tax on exemptions for dividends received from affiliates;
- Withholding tax exemption on dividends paid out of the net profit arising from ROH qualified income to foreign corporate shareholders; and
- Expatriates employed by the ROH can choose to be taxed at a flat rate of 15% for four consecutive years.

### ***The second ROH regime***

Modifications and additional criteria to those above are:

- The number of foreign affiliates to which services must be provided:
  - at least 1 foreign country in the first 2 years;
  - at least 2 foreign countries in years 3 and 4;
  - at least 3 foreign countries in year 5 and onward;
- Operating expenses related to ROH activities of at least Baht 15 million per year or investment spending in Thailand of Baht 30 million per year;
- Maintain skilled staff of at least 75% of total employees by the end of the third year (staff who graduated from at least secondary school or primary vocational institute or equivalent);
- Average compensation of Baht 2.5 million per person per annum for at least five employees by the end of the third year;
- The foreign affiliate must have actual business operations.

Modifications to the tax concessions listed above:

- Full corporate income tax exemption on net profit from ROH services provided to foreign affiliates for ten years (this can be extended to 15 years if cumulative “operating expenses” for ten fiscal periods exceed Baht 150 million at the end of the 10th fiscal year);
- 10% corporate income tax for ten years on the net profit from ROH services provided to domestic affiliates including qualified

- royalties and qualified interest income (with an extension to 15 years on the same conditions noted above);
- The exemption from corporate income tax and domestic withholding tax on dividends received from affiliates is also limited to ten years (with an extension to 15 years on the same conditions noted above);
  - Withholding tax exemption on dividends paid out of the net profit arising from ROH qualified income to foreign corporate shareholders;
  - The expatriate flat rate of tax of 15% is for eight consecutive years.

An ROH that meets all the criteria except the test of 50% or more of its income being derived from ROH services and royalties from overseas affiliates will be entitled only to the corporate income tax exemption on foreign profit and the 10% rate on domestic profit and none of the other concessions.

If an ROH gives notice of dissolution within five accounting periods after the date of its registration, its right to the tax benefits will be withdrawn with effect from the first accounting period.

### ***International Headquarters (IHQ)***

The criteria for IHQ are:

- Company formed under Thai law with minimum paid-up capital of Baht 10 million;
- Managerial, technical or supporting services (and financial management in the case of treasury centre as stated below) must be provided to foreign affiliates (companies with at least 25% common group ownership, directly or indirectly); and
- Operating expenses related to IHQ activities of at least Baht 15 million per year.

The tax concessions are:

- 10% corporate income tax on net profit from qualified services provided to domestic affiliates and royalties derived from domestic affiliates;
- Full corporate income tax exemption on net profit from qualified services provided to foreign affiliates, royalties and dividends derived from foreign affiliates and capital gains from the transfer of shares in foreign affiliates (under conditions);
- Withholding tax exemption on dividends paid to foreign corporate shareholders from the income exempt from tax;
- Expatriates employed by the IHQ can choose to be taxed at a flat rate of 15% from the date on which the IHQ becomes qualified until the date on which the IHQ is no longer qualified or the employment is terminated.

*Notes:*

1. A qualified IHQ will be granted tax privileges for 15 accounting periods.
2. The total income subject to tax at the 10% rate must not exceed the total income from qualified services and royalties which are both exempt from tax.
3. If an IHQ lacks any of the qualifications in any accounting period, the right to the tax privileges will be suspended only for that accounting period.

### ***Registration and reporting requirements***

In order to register as an ROH, a company must submit an application to the Large Business Tax Administration Office at the Revenue Department or to an Area Revenue Office or Provincial Revenue Office where the ROH will be located. To obtain approval as an IHQ, a company must register using the internet through the Revenue Department's website and print out the documents to be filed with the Large Business Tax Administration Office at the Revenue Department.

Under the second ROH regime, the application must be submitted no later than 14 November 2015. There is no time limit for either the first ROH regime or an IHQ.

A company operating both an ROH/IHQ and another business is required to calculate the profit or loss of each business separately and to submit a separate tax return for each of them. In calculating the profit or loss of each business, expenses must be allocated directly to each business, while common expenses must be allocated pro rata to the income generated by each business.

Any loss generated by an ROH/IHQ must be maintained within the ROH/IHQ. It cannot be offset against the profit of any other business. Furthermore, any loss generated by the ROH/IHQ business which is subject to exemption cannot be offset against the portion subject to the reduced rate of tax.

### ***Qualifying services***

Income from the following categories of services is entitled to the tax incentives available to both the ROH and IHQ:

- Procurement of raw materials and parts
- Technical assistance
- Research and development
- Marketing and sales promotion
- Financial advisory services
- Human resource management and training
- General administration, business planning and co-ordination
- Credit management and control
- Analysing and researching economics and investment
- Other services as prescribed by the Director-General of the Revenue Department

An IHQ is also entitled to carry on the activities of treasury centre and international trade centre as described below.

## Treasury Centre (TC)

With effect from 2 May 2015, an IHQ that has obtained a TC license from the Bank of Thailand can request approval from the Revenue Department for the tax concessions available when carrying on the business of financial management for its associated enterprises or branches situated in Thailand or abroad.

Financial management includes:

1. Financial management of a treasury centre permitted under the law governing exchange control;
2. Borrowing and lending of Thai currency (“Baht”) in the following cases:
  - (a) Funds borrowed from Thai financial institutions or affiliates in Thailand; and
  - (b) Lending of funds obtained from operations under 1 or 2(a) in Thai currency to affiliates in Thailand.

The tax concessions are:

- Withholding tax exemption on interest paid to foreign companies not carrying on business in Thailand on loans borrowed for re-lending to affiliates;
- Exemption from specific business tax on interest received from loans to affiliates;
- Other tax concessions available for the TC activities are the same as for IHQ noted above.

A qualified IHQ will be granted tax privileges for 15 accounting periods.

The criteria, registration and reporting requirements are the same as noted above for an IHQ.

If a TC lacks any of the qualifications in any accounting period, the right to the tax privileges will be suspended only for that accounting period.

## **International Trading Centre (ITC)**

With effect from 2 May 2015, regulations regarding an ITC regime have been issued to grant tax incentives to attract firms to establish ITCs in Thailand.

An ITC is defined as a company established under the law of Thailand engaged in the business of buying and selling goods, raw materials and parts, including providing services relating to international trade to foreign juristic entities. Services relating to international trade include procuring goods, maintaining goods awaiting delivery, packaging, transporting goods, providing insurance for goods and providing advice, including technical services and training relating to goods, and providing other services as prescribed by the Director-General of the Revenue Department.

An IHQ is entitled to obtain approval to carry on a business as an ITC and enjoy the same tax concessions.

The criteria for ITC are:

- Company formed under Thai law with a minimum paid-up capital of Baht 10 million;
- Operating expenses related to ITC activities of at least Baht 15 million per year.

The tax concessions are:

- Exemption from corporate income tax on income from buying and selling goods abroad without importing such goods into Thailand (out-out), including income from services relating to

international trade provided to foreign juristic entities and received in or from a foreign country;

- Withholding tax exemption on dividends paid to foreign corporate shareholders from the net profit derived from the income exempt from tax;
- Expatriates employed by the ITC can choose to be taxed at a flat rate of 15% from the date on which the ITC becomes qualified until the date on which the ITC is no longer qualified or the employment is terminated.

A qualified ITC will be granted tax privileges for 15 accounting periods.

The registration and reporting requirements are the same as noted above for an IHQ.

If an ITC lacks any of the qualifications in any accounting period, the right to the tax privileges will be suspended only for that accounting period.

# **PricewaterhouseCoopers Legal & Tax Consultants Limited**

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## **Services include:**

### **Tax Mergers and Acquisitions**

- Tax due diligence
- Deal structuring
- Tax-efficient group reorganisation
- Post deal services/project implementation and management

### **Tax Structuring**

- International tax services
- Value chain transformation - alignment of tax and operational models
- Group tax planning/tax optimisation programmes
- Finance and treasury

### **Tax Reporting & Strategy**

- Tax compliance services:
  - Corporate income tax return review/assistance with the return preparation
  - Tax compliance review/tax health check
- Tax strategy & operations:
  - Effectiveness and efficiency of tax operations
  - Tax risk management services
- Tax accounting services:
  - Tax provision outsourcing & support
  - Deferred tax accounting services
  - Accounting for uncertainty in income tax (FIN 48) services
  - Tax accounting consulting
  - Tax accounting training & advice

## **Indirect Tax Services**

- Motor industry
- Retail industry
- Supply chain management
- Business promotions management
- Efficient eBusiness, etc.

## **Business Process Outsourcing Services**

- The HR outsourcing and payroll services include the followings:
  - Monthly payroll administration and withholding tax services
  - Annual personal income tax return and withholding tax services
  - Other HR and payroll related services
- The accounting and tax outsourcing services include the followings:
  - Statutory financial statements services
  - Bookkeeping services
  - Tax compliance outsourcing services
  - Accounting staff secondment services
  - Other finance functions e.g. processing of customers' billings, processing of vendors' invoices, etc.

## **Transfer Pricing**

- Transfer Pricing Health Check
- Transfer Pricing Advisory
- Transfer Pricing Compliance Review and Documentation
- Transfer Pricing Benchmarking
- Transfer Pricing Dispute Resolution
- Advance Pricing Agreement

## **Tax Dispute Resolution**

- Tax dispute prevention technique
- Tax audit management
- Tax dispute resolution alternatives
- Strategic planning of tax audit and disputes
- Tax risk management

## **Financial Services**

- Tax services for financial services industry - bank, capital market, insurance, funds, real estate
  - Tax compliance services e.g. tax return review and preparation, tax risk identification, tax investigation assistance, etc.
  - Tax advisory on new and existing financial products/transactions
- Tax planning through financial functions to achieve group tax effectiveness.

## **Legal Services/ BOI Services**

### ***Legal Services***

- Corporate services & business establishment
- Commercial contracts
- Employment
- Real estate
- Legal due diligence
- Investment incentives
- Dispute & resolution

## ***BOI Services***

- Legal compliance and planning:
  - Determine best strategy for seeking investment promotion for new and existing investment projects, as well as project relocation
  - Negotiate with officials to find the optimum solution
  - Ensure that various aspects of environmental, labour and technology requirements of BOI are satisfied
  - Post implementation support to ensure conditions imposed by BOI are maintained for every type of incentive received
- Tax compliance and planning:
  - Cost of capital, capacity, raw materials and scrap planning
  - Segregation of BOI and non BOI activities
  - Segregation of future projects
  - Transfer pricing during and after BOI
- Accounting Analysis and Financial Modelling:
  - Choice of depreciation methods
  - Inventory valuation methods
  - Types of forward contracts used to cover FX risks
  - Leasing alternatives
  - Debt vs. equity evaluation from tax and financing perspective

## **Japanese Business Desk**

Our professionals work closely with the PwC Japanese Business Network (JBN) to offer practical tax and legal advice to Japanese clients operating in Thailand. Our team has extensive experience in advising on foreign investment regulations and all tax and legal aspects of projects in Thailand. In particular, the group can support Japanese clients by communicating with Thai and foreign business partners and by dealing with government departments. The group also acts as a channel that Japanese clients can go through to contact the PwC professionals in each line of service.

## **U.S. Tax Desk**

- M&A and structuring advice on investment in U.S.
- Assistance to Thai subsidiaries of U.S. companies in understanding U.S. tax and reporting requirements
- U.S. tax compliance including tax return preparation and withholding tax refund claims

## **International Assignment Services**

- International assignment structuring and administration services
- Global visa and work permit solutions
- Individual income tax advisory
- Stock-based incentive program design and administration services
- Human resource tax and legal due diligence and compliance review services
- Payroll outsourcing service for executive expatriates

## **Customs & Trade**

- Competitiveness improvement through strategic customs and trade planning
  - Free Trade Agreements
  - Duty savings through unbundling of transaction value
  - Customs supply-chain business modelling
  - Tariff engineering (reviewing the optimum way to import)
  - Optimising use of customs incentives schemes (e.g. Free Zones, Bonded Warehouses, Board of Investment (BOI) promotion, Duty Drawback for Re-Exported Goods, Duty & Tax Reimbursement for Exports etc.)
- Customs compliance and risk management
  - Customs compliance review
  - Customs audit and investigation support

- Managing customs valuation and transfer pricing documentation
- Classification of imported goods
- Assisting in applying for advance and post-importation customs rulings
- Voluntary disclosure
- Review compliance and managing import & export of controlled goods (e.g. hazardous substances, dual-use goods) and non-core importations (e.g. business and technical documents and computer software)
- On-site customs training









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