

TO ACQUIRE A THAI NATIONALITY

According to the Thai Nationality Act (2535 B.E.), it has opened a possibility for a person, born of a father or a mother of Thai nationality, whether within or outside the Thai Kingdom, to acquire Thai nationality.

1. Born within the Territory of the Kingdom of Thailand

Case	Nationality of Father	Nationality of Mother	Matrimony Status	Nationality of the Child
1	Thai	Thai	Register	Thai
2	Thai	Thai	No	Thai
3	Thai	Legal Alien	Register	Thai
4	Thai	Legal Alien	No	Thai
5	Thai	Illegal Alien	Register	Thai
6	Thai	Illegal Alien	No	Thai
7	Legal Alien	Thai	Register	Thai
8	Legal Alien	Thai	No	Thai
9	Illegal Alien	Thai	Register	Thai
10	Illegal Alien	Thai	No	Thai
11	Legal Alien	Legal Alien	Register	Thai
12	Legal Alien	Legal Alien	No	Thai
13	Legal Alien	Illegal Alien	Register	Cannot acquire Thai Nationality
14	Legal Alien	Illegal Alien	No	Cannot acquire Thai Nationality
15	Illegal Alien	Legal Alien	Register	Cannot acquire Thai Nationality
16	Illegal Alien	Legal Alien	No	Cannot acquire Thai Nationality
17	Illegal Alien	Illegal Alien	Register	Cannot acquire Thai Nationality
18	Illegal Alien	Illegal Alien	No	Cannot acquire Thai Nationality

2. Born outside the Territory of the Kingdom of Thailand

Case	Nationality of Father	Nationality of Mother	Matrimony Status	Nationality of the Child
1	Thai	Thai	Register	Thai
2	Thai	Thai	No	Thai
3	Thai	Other Nationality	Register	Thai
4	Thai	Other Nationality	No	Thai
5	Other Nationality	Thai	Register	Thai
6	Other Nationality	Thai	No	Thai

MOST ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THAI CITIZENSHIP ISSUES

1. **Whether a person of Thai nationality who has married an alien and has acquired the nationality of his/her spouse, will the Thai spouse lose his/her Thai nationality?**

The person is still considered a Thai national unless:- He/She desires to renounce Thai nationality by declaring his/her intention to the competent authority. -His/Her Thai nationality is revoked by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand.

2. **If a person of Thai nationality desires to renounce his/her Thai nationality, what is the process?**

-He/She may file an application stating his/her intention to the Consul. -The Consul will conduct an investigation of the person and his/her witnesses, then file a report in the application.

3. **Whether a person of Thai nationality who has renounced his/her nationality can re-apply for Thai citizenship?**

A person is entitled to apply for recovery of Thai citizenship by filing an application to the Consul.

4. **Whether an alien spouse of a person of Thai nationality can apply for Thai nationality?**

Even though a spouse of a person of Thai nationality is a citizen of a foreign country, his/her can file an application to the Consul.

Application for any of the above requests is to be attached with relevant documents which are to be done as follows:-

- o *Any Document attached to the application is to be certified by designated authorities.*
- o *Document issued by the Government of a foreign country concerned is to be examined and certified by designated authorities.*
- o *If the document is in a foreign language other than English, it is to be translated in Thai, then to be examined and certified by designated authorities*
- o *If attached document is a copy, it is to be certified as true copy by designated authorities.*

APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCY PERMIT

<p>Aliens who wish to reside in Thailand permanently are eligible to apply for the residence permit and should adopt the following procedures as follows:</p>	
<p><u>WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE ?</u></p>	
1.	A foreign national qualifies to apply for a residence permit if he or she has been permitted to stay in the Kingdom for a total of at least 3 years up until the date of application.
2.	A foreign whose purpose of stay in Thailand is for business or employment purpose ; investment purpose ; experts or academicians purpose ; supporting a family who are Thai citizens ; being dependent of a husband or father who is a Thai citizen ; being accompanied a husband, father, or son/daughter who already has a residence permit ; and retirement (aged 60 years old or over and net monthly income no less than 30,000 baht)
3.	Foreign investors, who invest in a private/public company, purchase condominium, buy government bonds or state enterprise bonds, deposit in one or more Thai banks, and other investments in accordance with the specification of the Immigration Commission <u>for the sum of not less than 10 million baht.</u>
4.	Foreign Investors who made direct investment (over 10 million baht) or indirect investment (government bonds, State Enterprise bonds, condominium for the amount of 8 million baht for investor, 6 million baht for a spouse and 2 million baht for per unmarried child under the age of 20).
5.	Foreign Experts who have annual income of not less than US\$ 10,000.
6.	Thai Nationals who have changed their citizenship.
<p><u>HOW TO OBTAIN THE PERMANENT RESIDENCE'S PERMIT?</u></p>	
1.	<u>PERMANENT RESIDENCE BY YEARLY QUOTA / NATIONALITY THROUGH IMMIGRATION BUREAU</u>
1.	A foreign national qualifies to apply for a residence permit if he or she has been permitted to stay in the Kingdom for a total of at least 3 years up until the date of application.
2.	The opening date for applications in each year varies, depending on an announcement by the Minister of Interior. Once the announcement has been issued, applications may be submitted up to and including the last working day of the year.
3.	For details concerning the opening date for applications contact either Section 1, Immigration Division 1, Sub-Division 1, Immigration Bureau (room 301), Soi Suan Plu, Bangkok, Tel. 662 287-3117 or the Immigration Office of each region , depending on the location of you domicile in Thailand.
4.	An application should contain a detailed explanation of the true and exact reasons of why the applicant is requesting a residence permit. This is for the applicant's own benefit; as such information will assist the relevant officials to make a more rapid decision. In

			addition, a number of documents need to be included with each application, in accordance with the category under which the application is submitted :
		a)	Business or employment purposes;
		b)	Investment purposes;
		c)	Experts or academics;
		d)	To support a family (wife and children) who are Thai citizens;
		e)	As a dependent of a husband or father who is a Thai citizen;
		f)	Accompanying a husband, father or son/daughter who already has a residence permit;
		g)	Retirement.
		5.	Once the opening date for applications has been announced, applications can be submitted, together with the necessary documents, at Section 1, Sub-Division 1, Immigration Division 1, Immigration Bureau (Room 301), Soi Suan Plu, off South Sathorn road, Sathorn District, Bangkok , or at the Immigration Office for the region of Thailand in which the applicant is residing.
		6.	The application fee is Baht 2,000 per person.
		7.	The applicant must apply in person as the Immigration Bureau will require a set of fingerprints for the purpose of checking for criminal record.
			DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT IN THE CASE OF <u>WORKING / BUSINESS CATEGORY</u>
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form (TM. 9) 2. Personal information sheet 3. Health certificate from a hospital (issued within the previous 3 months). 4. Certification that the applicant has no criminal record in his or her overseas domicile. This must be certified officially, e.g., by the applicant's embassy in Bangkok. 5. Official marriage and birth certificates (in case of accompanying family members who are also applying) 6. Copy of education certificate(s) or work experience certificate (if applicable). 7. Letter of certification by place of employment (signed by executive director) 8. Copy of work permit. 9. Copies of annual personal income tax forms with receipts for previous 3 years. 10. Copy of each month's personal income tax forms with receipts (por ngor dor 1) from January of year of application until the month before applying. Company registration certificate or juristic person certificate. 11. Power of attorney valid for at least 1 year (if applicable). 12. Copy of Value Added Tax (VAT) registration of the company. 13. List of company shareholders. 14. Company balance sheets and income tax with receipts (por

			<p>ngor dor 50) for the previous 3 years.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Map of residence and place of work. 16. Export certificates for bank covering the previous 3 years (only for export business). 17. Certificate authorizing involvement in the tourism business during the previous 3 years (only for tour business) 18. Copy of passport (must show a total of 3 years' travelling history to Thailand)
			<p>DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT IN THE CASE OF <u>INVESTMENT</u></p>
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form (TM. 9) 2. Personal information sheet 3. Health certificate from a hospital (issued within the previous 3 months). 4. Certification that the applicant has no criminal record in his or her overseas domicile. This must be certified officially, e.g., by the applicant's embassy in Bangkok. 5. Official marriage and birth certificates (in case of accompanying family members who are also applying) 6. Money transfer certificate from abroad issued by any bank in Thailand (if applicable). 7. Company registration certificate or juristic person certificate. 8. List of company shareholders. 9. Copy of Value Added Tax (VAT) registration of the company 10. Company balance sheet and income tax with receipt (por ngor dor 50) for the previous 1 year. 11. Copy of passport
			<p>DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMISSION IN THE CASE OF <u>EXPERTS OR ACADEMICS</u></p>
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form (TM. 9) 2. Personal information sheet 3. Health certificate from a hospital (issued within the previous 3 months). 4. Certification that the applicant has no criminal record in his or her overseas domicile. This must be certified officially, e.g., by the applicant's embassy in Bangkok. 5. Official marriage and birth certificates (in the case of accompanying family members who are also applying). 6. Copy of educational certificate(s) or work experience certificate (if applicable). 7. Copy of work permit. 8. Copy of annual personal income tax form with receipt for the pervious years. 9. Letter certifying place of employment.
			<p>DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT <u>TO SUPPORT A FAMILY (WIFE AND CHILDREN) WHO ARE THAI CITIZENS</u></p>
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form (TM. 9) 2. Personal information sheet 3. Health certificate from a hospital (issued within the previous 3 months). 4. Certification that the applicant has no criminal record in his or her overseas domicile. This must be certified officially, e.g.,

			<p>by the applicant's embassy in Bangkok.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Official marriage and birth certificates (in the case of accompanying family members who are also applying). 6. Copy of identity card and house registration of wife and/or children. 7. Letter certifying place of employment. 8. Copy of work permit. 9. Copy of annual personal income tax forms with receipts for the previous 3 years. 10. Copy of each month's personal income tax forms (por ngor dor 1) with receipts from January of year of application until the month before applying (only for applicant earning a salary). 11. Company registration certificate or juristic person certificate. 12. Copy of Value Added Tax (VAT) registration of the company. 13. List of company shareholders (only for applicant, who is a shareholder). 14. Company balance sheet and income tax with receipt (por ngor dor 50) for the previous 1 year (with the exception of a state agency or state enterprise). 15. Map of residence and place of work. 16. Copy of passport (must show a total of 3 years' travelling history to Thailand).
			<p><u>DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT AS A DEPENDENT OF A HUSBAND OR FATHER WHO IS A THAI CITIZEN</u></p>
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form (TM. 9) 2. Personal information sheet 3. Health certificate from a hospital (issued within the previous 3 months). 4. Certification that the applicant has no criminal record in his or her overseas domicile. This must be certified officially, e.g., by the applicant's embassy in Bangkok. 5. Official marriage and birth certificates (see certification requirement in No. 4 Above). 6. Copy of identity card and house registration of husband and/or father (in cases where the husband or father has become a naturalized Thai citizen, a copy of the naturalization certificate must also be provided). 7. Work and income certificates of husband and/or father. 8. Map of residence and place of work. 9. Copy of passport (must show a total of 3 years' travelling history to Thailand).
			<p><u>DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT IN THE CASE OF ACCOMPANYING A HUSBAND, FATHER, OR SON/DAUGHTER WHO ALREADY HAS A RESIDENCE PERMIT</u></p>
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form (TM. 9) 2. Personal information sheet 3. Health certificate from a hospital (issued within the previous 3 months). 4. Certification that the applicant has no criminal record in his or her overseas domicile. This must be certified officially, e.g., by the applicant's embassy in Bangkok. 5. Official marriage and birth certificates (see certification

			<p>requirement in No. 4 Above).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Copy of residence book and alien registration book held by relative.7. Copy of work permit. (if applicable)
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			DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT IN THE CASE OF <u>RETIREMENT</u>
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form (TM. 9) 2. Personal information sheet 3. Health certificate from a hospital (issued within the previous 3 months). 4. Certification that the applicant has no criminal record in his or her overseas domicile. This must be certified officially, e.g., by the applicant's embassy in Bangkok. 5. Official marriage and birth certificates (in case of accompanying family members who are also applying). 6. Certification of income (e.g., pension). 7. Map of residence. 8. Copy of passport (must show a total of 3 years' travelling history to Thailand).
	2.	<u>PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS THROUGH IMMIGRATION BUREAU</u>	
		2.1	QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED BY AN APPLICANT
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A foreign national of any country who has legally entered Thailand by passing through an immigration checkpoint ; • Free of disease and not prohibited from entering Thailand under the Immigration Act; • Able to submit a money certificate for funds transferred from abroad through one or more banks in Thailand in the name of the applicant, amounting to not less than 10 million baht
			Applications may be submitted under one of the five categories of investments listed below;
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in a private company or public company; • The purchase of a condominium from the owner of the condominium project; • The purchase of government bonds or state enterprise bonds; • Deposit(s) totaling not less than 10 million baht in one or more Thai banks; • Other investments in accordance with the specification of the Immigration Commission.
			Note : Investors must hold their investments continuously for a minimum of three years after being granted permanent residence in Thailand, and must submit evidence of their investment holding to the Immigration Bureau before the end of September in each of the three years.
		2.2	PLACE, PERIOD OF TIME AND DOCUMENTATION FOR SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE
			2.1 Advisory note for preparation of documents of each category are available now (address below).
			2.2 Applications may be submitted from 1 July 1997 until 30 June 2000.
			2.3 Applications should be submitted to Section 1, Sub-Division 1, Immigration Division 1, Immigration Bureau

			(Room 301, old building), Soi Suan Plu, South Sathorn Road, Sathorn District, Bangkok 10120. Tel. 662 237-3117, 285-5582 (direct lines), or 287-3101-10 ext. 2234 or 2235
		2.3	PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Immigration Bureau will submit the application to the Immigration Commission for consideration within 60 days after receiving the completed documentation; • After approval is granted by the Immigration Commission, applications will be forwarded to the Ministry of Interior
		2.4	FEES
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fee of 2,000 baht will be charged for each application; • A fee of 50,000 baht will be charged at the time of issuing the residence Book.
		DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT IN THE CASE OF SPECIAL INVESTMENT (<u>COMPANY SHAREHOLDER</u>)	
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form (TM. 9) 2. Personal information sheet 3. Health certificate from a hospital (issued within the previous 3 months). 4. Certification that the applicant has no criminal record in his or her overseas domicile. This must be certified officially, e.g., by the applicant's embassy in Bangkok. 5. Money transfer certificate issued by any bank in Thailand for no less than 10 million baht. 6. Company registration certificate. 7. List of company shareholders. 8. Copy of Value Added Tax (VAT) registration of the company. 9. Copy of passport. 	

		<p>DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT IN THE CASE OF SPECIAL INVESTMENT (<u>PURCHASE OF A CONDOMINIUM</u>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form (TM. 9) 2. Personal information sheet 3. Health certificate from a hospital (issued within the previous 3 months). 4. Certification that the applicant has no criminal record in his or her overseas domicile. This must be certified officially, e.g., by the applicant's embassy in Bangkok. 5. Money transfer certificate issued by any bank in Thailand for no less than 10 million baht. 6. Evidence of the purchase of a condominium from the owner of a condominium project. 7. Copy of passport.
		<p>DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT IN THE CASE OF SPECIAL INVESTMENT (<u>PURCHASE OF GOVERNMENT BONDS OR STATE ENTERPRISE BONDS</u>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form (TM. 9) 2. Personal information sheet 3. Health certificate from a hospital (issued within the previous 3 months). 4. Certification that the applicant has no criminal record in his or her overseas domicile. This must be certified officially, e.g., by the applicant's embassy in Bangkok. 5. Money transfer certificate issued by any bank in Thailand for no less than 10 million baht. 6. Copy of the bonds and a letter of certification from the seller. 7. Copy of passport.
		<p>DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT IN THE CASE OF SPECIAL INVESTMENT (<u>MONEY DEPOSITS</u>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application form (TM. 9) 2. Personal information sheet 3. Health certificate from a hospital (issued within the previous 3 months). 4. Certification that the applicant has no criminal record in his or her overseas domicile. This must be certified officially, e.g., by the applicant's embassy in Bangkok. 5. Money transfer certificate issued by any bank in Thailand for no less than 10 million baht. 6. Letter from the bank certifying the deposit of money. 7. Copy of passport.

		<p>Remarks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copies of documents must be certified by applicant. 2. Documents in foreign languages must be translated into the Thai language (specifying name and residence of translator). 3. Submission of false documents or the provision of false statements is criminal offences.
	3.	<p><u>PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS THROUGH BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF THAILAND</u> (Based on OBOI Announcement No. Por 9/1997)</p>
		<p>Over the years, many foreign investors and businessmen have sought permanent residence in the Kingdom of Thailand. To accommodate these requests, the Board of Investment (BOI) established criteria for granting permanent residence in 1989, and amended the guidelines in 1997.</p> <p>Applicants must submit all necessary documents to Investment Promotion Division 7 of the BOI, no later than May 12, 2000.</p> <p>There are four categories under which foreigners or expatriated Thai nationals can apply for permanent residence in Thailand. In each case, the applicant and family member must not possess traits that, under Thai immigration law, would disqualify them from permanent residency such as having been imprisoned for any offense except for petty offenses, having has a residence permit withdrawn, or having behaved on a manner which is regarded as dangerous to society of threatening to the public. The four categories are as follows:</p>
	3.1	DIRECT INVESTMENT
	3.1.1	<p>Applicants must invest a minimum of 10 million baht in a new project that either is eligible for investment promotion under the Investment Promotion Act or which meets the criteria set forth by the Committee for Granting Permanent Residence.</p>
		<p>If the project is not eligible for investment promotion by the BOI, the project must benefit the country in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce for export Increase employment Utilize indigenous raw materials Locate in provincial areas Encourage technology transfer to Thai nationals <p>Projects in the following categories will not be taken into consideration :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those which are restricted under Proclamation No. 281 of the Revolutionary Council. Those which compete in such a way as to destroy existing domestic businesses Those which hinder the growth of existing domestic businesses or domestic businesses which have not yet been developed. <p>For projects eligible for investment promotion, which have already submitted an application for promotional status or have already been granted promotion status, the applicant must bring in funds to invest in a new project that has not started operations.</p> <p>Such investment must be in the form of a joint-venture in a newly or already established company. This joint-venture must economically benefit the project (for example, by assisting in export marketing or by bringing in appropriate technology).</p>

		<p>3.1.2 Remitted funds must be invested in ordinary shares of the limited company that is set up to implement the approved project. The applicant must hold more than 25 percent of the registered capital unless the size of the project exceeds 100 million baht, excluding the cost of land and working capital. In that case, the shareholding criteria may be relaxed.</p>
		<p>3.1.3 The applicant must maintain the qualifications under 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 for at least three years from the date permanent residence is granted.</p>
		<p>3.1.4 Applicants may apply for permanent residence for himself and the following family members :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spouse Parents <p>Not more than three children who are unmarried and under 20 years old.</p>
		<p>3.2 INDIRECT INVESTMENT IN SECURITIES AND BUYING CONDOMINIUM</p>
		<p>Foreign investors must invest in either special government bonds designated by the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Thailand, State Enterprise bonds, or condominiums. The amount of the required investment is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 million baht for the investor 6 million baht for a spouse 2 million baht per unmarried child under the age of 20 <p>For purchases of either governmental state enterprise bonds, the bonds may not be transferred or redeemed for a period of 5 years. In the case of purchase of a condominium whose project has been registered with the BOI, the condominium must not be sold for a minimum of 5 years, and may not be used as collateral for a loan.</p> <p>For approval, the Committee will take into consideration the documentation on the purchase of the bonds or condominiums and the qualifications of the investor.</p>

		3.3	EXPERTS
			<p>Applicants must possess technical know-how or expertise that is in demand and will benefit the country. Educational or employment references, certified by the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate, must be submitted. In countries where there is neither a Royal Thai Embassy nor a Consulate, the document must be certified by a Notary Public.</p> <p>Applicants must submit documentation indicating that he/she has an annual income of not less than US\$ 10,000.</p> <p>The applicant must not be less than 25 years of age. Family members who may also be granted permanent residence in the Kingdom include spouse, parents, and not more than three unmarried children under 20 years of age.</p>
		3.4	THAI NATIONALS WHO HAVE CHANGED THEIR CITIZENSHIP
		3.4.1	Applicants must possess technical know-how or expertise that is in demand and will benefit the country. Educational or employment background must be submitted.
		3.4.2	Applicants must not be less than 20 years of age family members who may also be granted permanent residence in the Kingdom include spouse, parents, and not more than three unmarried children under 20 years of age.
	For further information, please contact Board of Investment of Thailand, and Overseas Office.		
III.	<u>TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR ONE-YEAR (Non-Immigrant Visa for One-Year)</u>		
	To motivate more foreigners to stay in Thailand, Thai authorities is in the process of revising the regulation for easing foreigner to temporarily longer stay in Thailand as follows ;		
	1.	<u>Alien who bring in currency into Thailand for more than 3 million baht will be granted temporary certificate of residence for one year</u>	
		<p>On the 30th September B.E. 2541 (A.D. 1998), the Office of Immigration Bureau has issued its announcement to facilitate foreigners who bring in foreign currencies amounting to three million baht to stay in the Kingdom of Thailand for the period of one year at the time. This announcement is aimed at promoting the government's policy to attract foreign investors to enter the Kingdom.</p> <p><i>How to qualify for this type of visa?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The applicant must have evidence showing that three million baht has been transferred in his/her name to any bank in Thailand. 2. The transfer of money in (1) must have the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o fixed deposit in any government bank o purchase of Government bonds or State Enterprise bonds o purchase of a condominium from the owner of a condominium project which is registered with the Land Department. o other investments which the Office of Immigration Bureau considers beneficial to the country. Applicants who are advised to invest in one of the said investment can also invest their capital in one or other objectives but the total 	

amount of investment should not be less than three million baht.

3. Prior to entering the country, applicants must have an appropriate kind of visa from a Thai Consulate abroad.
4. Office of Immigration Bureau reserves the right to terminate the duration to stay in the Kingdom of the foreign investors in the program if they fail to inform the Office of Immigration Bureau in advance of the change of their investment activities.

2. **Foreign retired persons whose age are over 55 years old and bring in foreign currencies into Thailand for more than 800,000 baht may apply for non-immigrant visas for the period of one year stay in Thailand.**

On 8th September 1998 the Cabinet has passed its resolution granting the authorities concerned to facilitate the issuance of visas to foreigners aged 55 years old or above wishing to take retreat in the Kingdom at least for the period of one year.

To set standard of the operating procedure on the issuance of this category of visa, the Consulate missions will pay attention to comply with the following conditions and procedure.

2.1 Qualification of an applicant

- A foreign national whose age is 55 years or above.
- Not being prohibited from entering the Kingdom under the Immigration Act B.E. 2522 (A.D 1979)
- Having in possession of money amounting **not less than 800,000 Baht or monthly income of 65,000 Baht** or saving and annual income totalling not less than 800,000 Baht. The said amount must eventually be transferred to any bank in Thailand.

2.2 Required documents for visa application

A copy of visa application form completely filled out.

Two passport-sized photos of the applicant taken within the past six months.

Photocopy of the applicant's travel document with validity not less than 18 months.

Financial documents (copy) as stated in 2.1.

2.3 Channels to submit visa application

Applicants can submit their applications both at the Thai consular missions abroad and at the Office of the Immigration Bureau in Thailand.

2.4 Procedure for consideration and issuance of visa

1. **2.4.1 Consular missions aboard**

- Once the application form together with required documents submitted, the Consular officials are required to examine such documents to see that they are in good order and completed as stated in 2.2, then they must be mailed through the pouch to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok.
- The Consular mission will be notified to issue visa to the individual applicant when the Office of the Immigration Bureau has given approval.
- The Consular official must request for financial certifications that the applicant has already complied with financial obligations stated in 2.1. before granting the visa.

2.4.2 The Office of the Immigration Bureau (Address: Section 1, Sub-Division 1, Immigration 1, Immigration Bureau, Soi Suan Plu, off South Sathorn Road, Sathorn District, Bangkok 10120. Tel. (662) 287-4948 (direct line) or (662) 287-3101-10 ext. 2236)

2. The following applicants may apply for the type of visa in the country:

- Applicants undergoing Health Rehabilitation Program in hospitals or Health Centers. These organizations will apply on behalf of the individual applicant.
- Applicants who are spouses/parents/children of applicants above.
- Applicants to whom the agencies or organizations approved by the Office of the Immigration Bureau have applied for visa on their behalf. The above mentioned applicants must have qualifications stated in 2.1.

2.5 Duration of stay and extension

Permission to stay in the Kingdom will be granted for one year upon arrival in the Kingdom. Upon expiry date of such period, extension for one year at a time will be granted to this group of people as long as they meet the requirements as earlier stated.

(For more information, please contact the office of the Immigration Bureau Address: Section 1, Sub-Division 1, Immigration 1, Immigration Bureau, Soi Suan Plu, off South Sathorn Road, Sathorn District, Bangkok 10120. Tel. 662 287-4948 (direct line) or 287-3101-10 ext. 2236)