



# International Thai Foundation

## **Introduction**

The International Thai Foundation ("ITF") is a global charity registered<sup>1</sup> in Thailand England and America.

## **Objectives**

1. Promote education, protect human rights and relieve poverty for the people in Thailand; and
2. Help Thai people, their families & businesses integrate into foreign communities outside of the Kingdom.

## **Projects**

The ITF Hub Chiang Mai is being established as a prototype and Hubs in other Thai major cities will follow.

1. The establishment of a Community Legal Centre ("CLC") to provide legal representation to the poor, disadvantaged, disabled, distressed foreign nationals and vulnerable people.

For an operational ITF CLC in UK see: <http://www.communitylegalcentre.org/>

At present in Thailand there are a number of legal centres based in academic institutions<sup>2</sup> and a range of NGOs and Non-profit organisations offer legal advice related to their specific interests<sup>3</sup>.

The Chiang Mai CLC will compliment the work of existing organisations and will:

- be located in the centre of Chiang Mai
- be open at hours convenient for working people to access
- provide email, skype, telephone consultancy and 1-to-1 advisory services to
  - i. the general public
  - ii. other third-sector groups
  - iii. professional organisations
- cooperate with relevant academic, non government and non profit organisations and refer clients where appropriate
- Offer volunteer and internship opportunities.

2. The development of a Network between Asian and Western universities to provide legal training in preparation for ASEAN 2015.

---

<sup>1</sup> The International Thai Foundation ("ITF") is a global charity registered in Thailand [Ministry of Interior Kor. Tor. 2266], England [UK Charity Commission no. 1147481] and America [Not-for-Profit corporation no. 5194157, s501(c) status in progress].

<sup>2</sup> E.g. the Legal Consultation Center in Chiang Mai University.

<sup>3</sup> E.g. Anti-Trafficking Coordination Unit Northern Thailand (TRAFCORD) [www.trafcord.org](http://www.trafcord.org) assisting the victims of Human Trafficking in particular women and children from Thailand, neighbouring and nearby countries (Burma, Laos, China).

The Chiang Mai Hub will liaise with organisations in Thailand and overseas such as BABSEA CLE<sup>4</sup>, Community Legal and Law Centres and the Legal Clinics in Schools of Law.

3. The provision of face-to-face English teaching by volunteers and an E-learning portal with online tutorials and resources for Thai lawyers and lay people in three major areas:
  - A Life Skills programme integrating basic English, Thinking skills and the skills you need to deal with everyday life which are not always covered effectively in school such as:
    - i. financial literacy, effective use of the internet and the skills needed for successful independent living.
    - ii. creative and critical thinking skills.
  - A Legal English programme for students and practising lawyers.
  - A local base for distance learning programmes in English and Law.

### ***Trustees***

Some of Trustees of the International Thai Foundation:

Patron: M.L Laksasubha Kridakon: great grand daughter of HRH Prince Krisda Bhiniharn Krom Phra Naresra Varariddhi. Vice President, Australian Chamber of Commerce.

Chair: Khun Pornrat Kaewmunee - Managing Director of an International Law Company & Women's / Civil liberties' advocate.

Vice Chair: Mr. Christopher Thatcher - Educationalist & Director of the British Chambers of Commerce, Thailand.

Dr Pongpat Riangkruar: Chief Knowledge Officer, Ministry of Justice.

Khun Yuthana Promsin: Managing Director of Jus Laws & Human Rights Advocate.

Khun Phramaha Wattana Yasawattano of Wat Buddhapadipa, Scotland.

Khun Kriangsak Sirisambhand: Thai entrepreneur & President of the Thai Culture Forum UK.

Mr. Clarence Shettlesworth: Chair, International Thai Foundation UK; Practice Manager, ITF Hub Chiang Mai.

---

<sup>4</sup> Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative (BABSEA CLE)  
<http://www.babseacle.org/>