

FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION ON THE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND

1. In this Framework for Cooperation, the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of New Zealand are hereinafter referred to as **“both sides”**.

2. Both sides recognise the long-standing cooperation in education between their two countries and endeavour to continue to work together to further strengthen this relationship and partnership. Both sides note and recognise the foundation of this partnership as the *Arrangement between The Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Thailand and The Ministry of Education of New Zealand* on Education Cooperation signed in 2007 (“The 2007 Arrangement”).

Both sides agree that their collaboration in education is significant and that there is potential for further and more specialised types of collaboration. It is also acknowledged that both sides wish to identify important opportunities for new and innovative collaborative activities in education, especially in technical and applied education.

3. Operation of this Partnership

Both sides recognise that successful implementation of this partnership rests on the engagement of a range of public and private education and training institutions which will determine their level of involvement on the basis of mutual benefit and the availability of time and resources. Hence, the role played by both sides to this agreement shall be one of facilitating and encouraging this engagement.

Both sides agree:

I. The Education Partnership Objectives

1. The objectives of the Education Partnership reflect the shared challenges faced by both countries in an increasingly competitive global environment and the role education can play in addressing issues including:

- Supporting people to develop and nurture their skills and talents in education and the workplace and at all skill levels, with a focus on extending and acquiring technical skills and abilities;
 - Enhancing quality and excellence in learning and teaching;
 - Encouraging and facilitating technological innovation;
 - Developing globally aware citizens of all ages.
2. The Education Partnership will continue to deepen collaboration in education between both sides by reflecting mutual interests and skill or training requirements and delivering mutual benefits for both countries.

Aims of this Education Partnership:

- Consolidate and extend the reach of the existing Education Agreement;
- Encourage sustainable and mutually beneficial collaborations and partnerships between educational institutions on both sides;
- Encourage the development of technical and applied training courses and programmes between Thailand and New Zealand.

II. Basic Education

3. Both sides accept that a significant understanding of each other's country, its people, language and culture underpins any meaningful bilateral relationship.
4. Both sides consent to extend and broaden their existing collaboration under the Education Partnership in the following areas:

- Encourage staff and student exchanges between Thailand and New Zealand;
- Encourage the development and awareness of experiential English language programmes or courses appropriate for Thai secondary school students;
- Supporting official work towards the recognition of NCEA Levels 1-3 by Thailand's higher education Institutions.

III. Tertiary Education

5. Tertiary education partnerships and collaborations are recognised by both sides as a priority area for long-term engagement. The 2007 Arrangement acknowledges that there is further potential to extend and facilitate tertiary education cooperation and programmes.
6. Both sides accept to extend and broaden the existing collaboration under the Education Partnership in the following area:
 - Encourage Thailand - New Zealand tertiary educational collaborations and partnerships.

IV. The Importance of Vocational and Technical Education and Training

7. Both sides acknowledge that up-skilling and training the workforce is one of the most important challenges in developing a strong and competitive national economy. For economic development, a highly skilled workforce is essential for higher productivity, competitiveness and profitability. Better skills contribute to sustained employment, career progression and the sustainable development of the economy and nation as a whole.

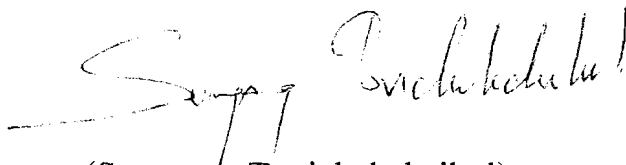
8. Both sides acknowledge that sharing experiences and knowledge and increasing partnerships between vocational, technical and applied educational and training institutions would be mutually beneficial.
9. Both sides accept to extend and further collaboration and information sharing between vocational education institutions in the following ways:
 - Encourage efforts around sharing training methods and the development of technical and applied courses and programmes;
 - Encourage the development of technical programmes and courses delivered in Thailand to meet educational, commercial and industrial requirements;
 - Encourage the establishment of specialised training programmes in Thailand utilising different types of delivery methods.

V. Operation of the Education Partnership

10. Both sides acknowledge that the Education Partnership should continue to encompass the full spectrum of current and future education and technical collaborations, linked to jointly determined strategic objectives. Such an approach will continue to give strength, purpose and direction to our efforts; allow links to be made across sectorial and training boundaries and identify new and innovative opportunities for mutual benefit.
11. On the New Zealand side, Education New Zealand will act as the Government's agency to encourage the aims and operations of this partnership. The intended outcomes of this partnership are dependent upon the disposition, resources and time of each country's educational or training institutions to pursue in line with their objectives and strategies for internationalisation.

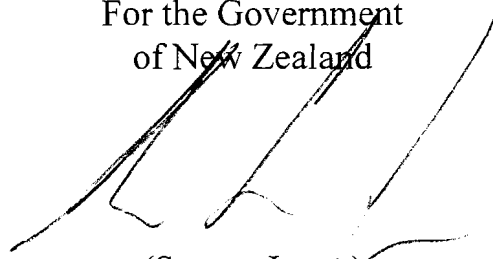
Signed in duplicate in Auckland on the 22 March 2013 in the English language.

For the Government
of the Kingdom of Thailand

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Surapong Tovichakchaikul', written in a cursive style.

(Surapong Tovichakchaikul)
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Kingdom of Thailand

For the Government
of New Zealand

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Joyce', written in a cursive style.

(Steven Joyce)
Minister for Tertiary Education,
Skills, and Employment