

DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES IN THAILAND

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Introduction

“The purpose of such privileges and immunities is not to benefit individuals but to ensure the efficient performance of the function of diplomatic missions as representing states” - Preamble to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961.

In accordance with international practice, the privileges and immunities accorded to the staff members of diplomatic missions, consular posts and international organisations in Thailand, based on the principles of non-discrimination and reciprocity, are governed by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 and by the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act B.E. 2527 (1984), the Consular Privileges and Immunities Act B.E. 2541 (1998), which implement the legislation of the said Convention, as well as the agreements concerning privileges and immunities of the United Nations’ specialized agencies and certain other international organisations to which Thailand is party. It is important to note that the said Vienna Conventions cover only expatriate staff and not locally recruited staff.

This booklet is compiled from legal documents, rules and regulations and practices of the Kingdom of Thailand. However, it should be considered as a reference tool and a set of general guidelines for staff members of diplomatic missions, consular posts and international organisations as well as their households stationed in the Kingdom, rather than a legally binding document. Should disputes arise, reference should be made to the said Vienna Conventions, the relevant agreements and/or Thai legislation.

Diplomatic Privilege and Immunity Division,
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1. Staff Members of Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts and International Organizations and Their Households

1.1 Classification of Staff Members

All staff members of Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts and International Organizations (abbreviated henceforth as DCIO) are classified into two main groups in accordance with Article 15 and Article 35 of the Immigration Act B.E. 2522 (1979) :

Article 15 refers to the following categories :

- diplomats and members of their immediate families (spouses and children)
- members of administrative and technical staff and members of service staff and members of their immediate families
- officials of the UN specialized agencies and members of their immediate families
- officials of the Asian Institute of Technology and members of their immediate families
- private servants of diplomats, of members of administrative and technical staff, and of members of service staff

Article 35 refers to the following categories :

- officials of the non UN international organizations and members of their immediate families
- locally employed staff and members of their immediate families
- private servants of officials of UN specialized agencies and the Asian Institute of Technology
- relatives forming part of the household of diplomats, administrative and technical staff and service staff, officials of the UN specialized agencies, non UN international organizations and the Asian Institute of Technology
- students of the Asian Institute of Technology and members of their immediate families

1.2 Visas

It is advisable for all foreign nationals who will stay in the Kingdom of Thailand for a long period that appropriate visas should be obtained from Thai Embassies and Consulates abroad prior to their arrival in the Kingdom, since visas will facilitate entry into the Kingdom; Identity Cards and Re-entry Visas as well as Permits to Stay will be issued upon arrival in Thailand.

1.2.1 Countries With Visa Waiver Agreements : foreign nationals holding diplomatic and official passports and whose countries have Visa Waiver Agreements with Thailand (a list of these countries and details can be consulted at the Department of Protocol), subject to the conditions contained in the pertinent agreements or specified by the pertinent Thai law, may enter the Kingdom without visas and stay therein no longer than the period enumerated in the agreements or specified by the law.

1.2.2 Countries Without Visa Waiver Agreements : foreign nationals whose countries have no Visa Waiver Agreements with Thailand must apply for appropriate visas from Thai Embassies and Consulates abroad prior to their entry into the Kingdom.

1.2.3 Assumption of duties in the Kingdom : foreign nationals who are required to stay in the Kingdom longer than the period specified in the relevant Visa Waiver Agreements, in the visas obtained upon the arrival at the port of entry or by the relevant Thai law, as members of the DCIO or their household members, have to apply for appropriate Permits to Stay through the Department of Protocol.

1.2.4 Holders of ordinary passports : In the case of foreign nationals holding ordinary passports, it is necessary for all of those who will be assuming their duties in their respective DCIO in the Kingdom to apply beforehand at Thai Embassies and Consulates abroad for appropriate visas for themselves as well as for all members of their household accompanying them to stay in Thailand. Those who fail to do so cannot request Permits to Stay whilst remaining in the Kingdom and will be invited to leave the Kingdom so that they can request appropriate visas from Thai Embassies or Consulates abroad before re-entering the Kingdom.

1.2.5 In the case that Thai Embassies or Consulates are not available in the country of residence, foreign nationals who will assume their duties in the Kingdom and who need an entry visa to enter the Kingdom must apply for an appropriate visa from Thai Embassies or Consulates accredited to that country or those located in the nearest country.

1.3 Permits to Stay

All foreign nationals who are classified under the Articles 15 and 35 of the Immigration Act B.E. 2522 (1979) and reside in Thailand for a long period of time as staff members of the DCIO and their household have to apply for Permits to Stay through the Department of Protocol.

The Immigration Bureau of the Royal Thai Police is responsible for the issuance of the Permits to Stay.

1.4 Re-entry Visas

A Re-entry Visa is an authorization entered in the passport by the Visa Division, Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to all members of the DCIO and their household.

- With Visa Waiver Agreement : foreign nationals holding diplomatic or official passports and whose countries have concluded Visa Waiver Agreements with Thailand who have already been granted Permits to Stay in the Kingdom need not apply for the Re-entry Visa when leaving or re-entering the Kingdom. Upon their re-entry at the port of entry into the Kingdom, they shall be granted permission to stay in the Kingdom for a period equal to that stated in their Permit to Stay.

- Without Visa Waiver Agreement : foreign nationals whose countries have not concluded Visa Waiver Agreements with Thailand who have already been granted Permits to Stay in Thailand and wish to depart and re-enter the country are required to obtain Re-entry Visas **before** leaving the country and **must** re-enter Thailand before the expiry date of the Re-entry Visas. The Visa Division is responsible for the issuance of Re-entry Visas. In case of departure from the country without Re-entry Visas, the Permits to Stay shall thus be considered void. All foreign nationals who are long-term visitors and fail to obtain Re-entry Visas before departure or those whose Re-entry Visas expire while being abroad are required to re-apply for appropriate visas at Thai Embassies or Consulates abroad.

2. Identity Cards and Licences

2.1 Identity Cards The Department of Protocol will issue 3 types of Identity Cards to staff members of the DCIO and their household, as follows :

The Blue Card will be issued to diplomatic agents, consular officers and members of the Delegation of the European Commission who enjoy privileges and immunities as well as to members of their immediate families.

The Green Card will be issued to members of the administrative and technical staff of diplomatic missions, and officials of international organizations who enjoy privileges and immunities in respect of official acts as well as to members of their immediate families.

The White Card will be issued to persons other than those enjoying privileges and immunities e.g. officials of the Asian Institute of Technology, members of the service staff of diplomatic missions as well as members of their immediate families, honorary consuls and private servants.

ID-Card holders are advised to carry their ID-Cards with them in order to prove their identities and their registration with the Department of Protocol.

2.2 Driving Licenses The Department of Protocol will facilitate, through the Department of Land Transport, Ministry of Transport and Communications, the issuance of driving licenses for members of the DCIO and their respective spouses and children not under 18 years of age. Other members of their household can apply for driving licenses directly to the Department of Land Transport.

2.3 Firearms: Registration and Licenses The DCIO shall submit a request to the Department of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the importation, exportation, registration and licensing of firearms in Thailand. Each Note Verbale submitted to the Ministry requesting such importation, exportation, registration and licensing of firearms shall comprise the following information :

- Name of consignee and his/her assignment
- Details of firearms (make, model, caliber and serial no.)
- Copy of bill of lading
- Date of arrival or departure
- Name of port of arrival or of departure
- Firearms depositary document issued by a captain of the aircraft to whom such firearms are entrusted.

The Ministry will assist the DCIO in obtaining firearms licenses from the Thai authorities concerned.

3. Immunities

Immunities accorded to the staff members of diplomatic missions, consular posts and international organisations in Thailand, are based on the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 and the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act B.E. 2527 (1984), the Consular

Privileges and Immunities Act B.E. 2541 (1998), which implement the legislation of the said Convention, as well as the agreements concerning privileges and immunities of the United Nations specialized agencies and certain other international organisations to which Thailand is party.

In case any question concerning immunities arises, diplomatic missions, consular posts and international organisations are advised to contact the Diplomatic Privilege and Immunity Division, Department of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in order to find appropriate solutions which will be beneficial to all parties concerned.

4. Access to Restricted Areas of Bangkok International Airport

The Ministry will help facilitate the issuance and the renewal of airport passes, through the Airports Authority of Thailand (AAT), for the official use of all DCIO staff members to gain access to restricted areas of Bangkok International Airport. Three different types of Airport passes without photograph will be issued to the DCIO by the AAT, as follows :

- Pass Number 7 : permits entrance to and exit from all areas of the Arrival Hall, Departure Hall and the Apron of commercial aircrafts for the purpose of delivering and receiving diplomatic pouches;
- Pass Number 3-4 : permits entrance to and exit from the Arrival Hall up to the area in front of Passport Control, and the Departure Hall up to the area in front of the AAT security check-points;
- Pass Number 2-4 : permits entrance to and exit from the Arrival Hall up to the area behind the passport control counters, and the Departure Hall up to the area in front of the AAT security check-points.

Embassies and consulates shall each possess one pass number 7, one pass number 3-4 and one pass number 2-4, and honorary consulates, UN specialized agencies and international organisations shall each possess one pass number 2-4.

In case the DCIO wish to request a special service on the occasion of, for example, the visit of Heads of State or high-ranking officials or others or wish to request special permission for receiving and delivering special diplomatic pouches, the AAT will be pleased to issue temporary airport passes valid for 24 hours subject to a written request by Note Verbale prior to the issuance of the passes. This Note, detailing the need, occasions and list of persons to enter the restricted areas of the Airport, shall be sent directly to the Security Sub-Division of the AAT at the Airport.

Since the above-mentioned passes need not require photographs of the holders, the carriers of all types of pass are requested to carry their respective identity cards in order to prove their identity to the AAT's security personnel before going in or out of the restricted areas of the Airport and whilst inside these restricted areas.

In this regard, all DCIO members are invited to pay attention to the security procedures being taken at the Airports in Thailand to ensure the general safety of all passengers travelling by air.

Due to the threat of unforeseeable international air piracy or other acts of terrorism directed against civil aviation, all DCIO members are requested to fully comply with the security measures of the Airports Authority of Thailand (AAT), which require that security officers of the airports have the right to search, at the time of boarding, the personal belongings of each and every out-bound passenger regardless of whether they are travelling under diplomatic passports or not. Exceptions will be granted only to those who obtain an official note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand requesting exemption from the security examining procedures on a case-by-case basis. As for diplomatic pouches or diplomatic packages that carry the official note and are properly marked (sealed) by the Embassy or authorized officials, these are exempted from this treatment. In case of an eventual search, the officials of the airport authorities will exercise due courtesy and respect during the examination.

With regard to the travel plans of high dignitaries, it is requested that their schedules of arrivals and departures are communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in advance so that the Ministry can coordinate with the office of the airport security in extending due facilities.

5. Acquisition and Use of Motor Vehicles The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has drawn up the "Regulation on Motor Vehicles in Relation to Persons Entitled to Privileges, B.E. 2532 (1989)" in order that the acquisition and use by the DCIO of motor vehicles exempted from customs duties, taxes and related charges are destined for the performance of the functions of the DCIO and not for the benefit of individuals. Details of the Regulation are as follows:

5.1 The acquisition of motor vehicles which are exempted from customs duties, taxes and related charges for the official use of the DCIO and their staff members' personal use, as well as members of their family forming part of the household, shall be carried out only with the prior written approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5.2 The number of motor vehicles which may be acquired by the DCIO for their official use shall be determined in relation to the performance of their functions, which will be considered by the Ministry on a case-by-case basis.

5.3 The number of motor vehicles for the personal use of the staff members of the DCIO and their family members forming part of the household is prescribed as follows :

- two motor vehicles for a head of diplomatic mission of ambassadorial rank
- one motor vehicle for a diplomatic agent of lower rank and career consular officer
- one motor vehicle for a member of the administrative and technical staff of a diplomatic mission who is neither a Thai national nor a permanent resident of Thailand, provided that it shall be acquired within six months from the day he/she assumes office.

For international organizations, the number of motor vehicles acquired under the Regulation shall be compatible with the agreements concluded between each international organization and the Government of Thailand. In general, a head of an international organisation and its officials of level and rank equal to members of diplomatic missions with an annual contract of at least one year with the international organization shall each be entitled to one motor vehicle. Nevertheless, a head of an international organization with ambassadorial rank shall be entitled to two motor vehicles.

5.4 All motor vehicles acquired under this regulation by the DCIO shall be used only to ensure the performance of their functions and shall not be used by any other person for whatever purpose, nor used prior to being registered and its registration plates being obtained from the competent authorities. In case a staff member uses any motor vehicle acquired under this regulation for any purpose other than that specified above without any justifiable reason, the Ministry shall consider the revocation of its registration and shall proceed to have the customs duties, taxes and related charges imposed for that motor vehicle or take any measure it deems appropriate.

5.5 When the motor vehicle acquired under this regulation is disposed of or exported, the DCIO member may acquire a new motor vehicle in its place only in the case that the motor vehicle which is replaced has been registered under the name of the owner for not less than two years, and in the event that the service of the DCIO member in Thailand is expected to continue at least one year beyond the date of the acquisition of a new motor vehicle. Members of the administrative and technical staff of diplomatic missions are not entitled to acquire any new motor vehicle to replace the previous acquisition.

The above shall not apply to motor vehicles which are irreparably damaged or stolen provided that the DCIO concerned submit comprehensive evidence to that effect to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5.6 In all cases, prior written approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be obtained before any transfer or sale of motor vehicles under this Regulation. When the owner loses their privileges, the process of transfer, sale or exportation shall be undertaken and the registration document as well as the registration plates shall be returned to the competent authority before the day of the completion of their tour of duty.

It is important to note that all diplomatic privileges shall cease at the moment when the owner leaves the Kingdom, or on expiry of a reasonable period in which to do so.

In case the owner of the motor vehicle has completed the tour of duty and has left the Kingdom without completing the formalities on disposal (sale or transfer of ownership) of the motor vehicle, a problem relating to taxes will arise from this motor vehicle and it will not be transferable to a third party. Therefore, it is advisable for the potential purchaser of a motor vehicle belonging to a member of the DCIO, prior to the purchasing process, to consult with the Diplomatic Privilege and Immunity Division, Department of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5.7 The sale or transfer of ownership of motor vehicles to a person not entitled to privileges, or export of motor vehicles, is subject to the laws and regulations in force concerning payment of customs duty and taxes and other related matters, and the owner shall be responsible for the payment of import duty and taxes which will be determined by the authorities concerned. However, according to the announcement of the Ministry of Finance No. Èi 9/2537 Subject : Exemption From the Provision of Section 10 of the Customs Tariff Decree B.E. 2530, such a motor vehicle will be exempted from customs duty and taxes after the expiry of a period of five years from the date on which it was imported.

The delivery of a motor vehicle to the transferee or the buyer can be made only after the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has notified the Land and Transport Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications, of the transfer or sale of the motor vehicle.

6. Formalities for Customs Clearance of Imported Goods

6.1 Any request for customs facilities shall be made in duplicate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by means of a Note Verbale affixed with the seal of the DCIO and signed by the Head of the DCIO concerned, or a designated member of the DCIO.

6.2 It should state clearly in the Note whether the goods are imported for official use or for personal use. In case of personal use, the name and the rank of the consignee must be specified, together with the date of assuming duty.

6.3 All documents relating to Customs Clearance (except Import Entry Forms and Export Forms) such as Delivery Orders, Airway Bills or Bills of Lading and Invoices or Packing Lists shall accompany the said Note and shall be certified by a member of the DCIO specifically designated for this purpose. The name of the member of the DCIO so designated at any given time shall be communicated to the Ministry, together with 14 specimens of his/her signature.

6.4 In the case of personal or household effects, the Note shall be accompanied with a packing list certified by the consignee or by a senior member of the DCIO.

6.5 In case of the exportation of personal and household effects or the disposal of the motor vehicle of the DCIO, the date of the termination of consignee's tour of duty, the name of a shipping company and the destination must be specified in the Note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

6.6 In case of sale of a motor vehicle, a copy of the vehicle registration booklet shall be attached.

6.7 While no precise quantitative restriction is placed upon the importation of dutiable goods exempt from customs duties on the grounds of diplomatic privileges, it is expected that only reasonable quantities of such goods will be imported and that the privileges so accorded will not be the object of any abuse.

6.8 Goods imported on a duty-free basis under customs privileges must be destined for the exclusive use of persons as stated in the Note(s). They must not be transferred to any other persons or places.

6.9 The DCIO are requested to notify the Ministry in advance of any transportation or movement of a large quantity of products already imported into the Kingdom on a duty-free basis. Details of products, dates and time of transportation as well as their destination are also requested. Exemption from customs inspection is granted in conformity with the generally accepted international practices. The customs authorities have the right to inspect packages in any circumstance after consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs if they consider that the inspection should take place. In such cases the Ministry shall inform the Head of the DCIO concerned so that he/she or his/her representative may be present when the packages are opened.

6.10 If the goods so imported are subject to special regulations in force at any given time, compliance with such regulations is also required.

7. Export of Objects of Thai Cultural Heritage and Import of Buddha Images into the Kingdom of Thailand

7.1 Export Buddha images, Bodhisattva or fragments thereof are forbidden to be taken out of the Kingdom, with the exception only for worship by Buddhists or as being part of a cultural exchange or for educational purposes. A license for exportation must be obtained from the Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Education.

Such a license is a legal document to allow export out of the Kingdom of antiquities and objects of arts, whether they are originals or reproductions

Items to present to apply for a license

- Two postcard-sized photographs of the object's front view (maximum 5 objects on each photograph)
- Application form, obtained directly from the Department of Fine Arts, duly filled in and signed by the applicant
- Passport of the applicant with a copy certified true by the DCIO concerned

Procedure

Object(s) to be exported, photograph(s), passport of the applicant and copy and application form(s) have to be submitted to the Department of Fine Arts, at least eight days before the shipment of goods or departure of the applicant, for verification before the issuance of license(s).

7.2 Import If the DCIO member would like to import Buddha images into the Kingdom, a license for importation must be also obtained from the Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Education.

Items to present to apply for a license

- Photograph of the Buddha's front view (maximum 5 objects on each photograph), together with a description of the details of the Buddha images.
- Application form, duly filled in and signed by the applicant.
- Passport of the applicant with a copy which has to be certified true by the DCIO member concerned.

The Officer of the Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Education, has the right to inspect imported objects for verification at the Customs House or at the Bangkok International Airport Customs House.

After the issuance of a license from the Department of Fine Arts, the applicant is requested to submit a Note Verbale affixed with the seal of the DCIO concerned together with DP 1 form and the copy of a license to the Department of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the process of customs clearance.

8. Importation of and Authorization to use Radio Communication Equipment The DCIO shall submit a request to the Department of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the importation and authorization to use all types of radio communication equipment in Thailand. Each Note Verbale submitted to the Ministry requesting such importation, exportation, registration and authorization to use radio communication equipment shall comprise the following information :

- Details of radio communication equipment to be imported into Thailand (make, model, frequencies etc.)
- Copy of bill of lading
- Date of arrival
- Name of port of arrival

The Ministry will assist the DCIO in obtaining authorization to use such radio communication equipment with the Thai authorities concerned (the Post and Telegraph Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications).

9. Exemption from Value Added Tax (VAT)

The Notification of the Director-General of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, on Value Added Tax (VAT) has come into effect as of 1 January B.E. 2535 (1992). The rules, procedures and conditions on the sale of goods and provision of services made to the DCIO according to the Notification of the Director- General on Value Added Tax (No.27), issued on 19 February B.E. 2535, are as follows :

9.1 The DCIO shall be accorded zero-percent value added tax only if the value of goods and services sold or provided by a supplier to the DCIO, excluding VAT, amounts on each occasion to 5,000 Baht or more. The goods and services are only for the official use of the DCIO.

In the case of electricity, tap-water and telephone charges, any amount can be the object of VAT exemption.

9.2 On each occasion of purchasing goods and acquiring services, the DCIO shall request one zero-percent tax certificate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Such certificate shall be produced to the supplier on each occasion of buying goods and acquiring services.

In the case of electricity, tap-water and telephone charges, only one certificate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is required when the DCIO apply for such VAT exemption for the first time.

9.3 Except in the case of a governmental agency or a state enterprise, every supplier entitled to zero-percent VAT shall deliver a copy of a tax invoice to the Revenue Department when filing a tax form.

9.4 The supplier is required to attach the certificate of the Ministry and the tax invoice and to submit a copy together with the application for VAT return form (Å¾. 30) to the Revenue Department.

9.5 The DCIO as purchasers are requested to forward copies of the relevant sales or long-term service contracts, together with copies of tax invoices to the Revenue Department, Ministry of Finance, once every two months.

9.6 The Ministry will issue a certificate for VAT exemption which is valid for one month from the date of issuance. For long-term service contracts, the one-month period of validity runs from the date of their conclusion.

10. Acquisition of Land and Building by Diplomatic Missions

According to Section 86 of the Land Code of Thailand B.E. 2497 (1954), aliens may acquire land in Thailand only by virtue of the provisions of a treaty. Therefore, when a diplomatic mission or a consular post wishes to acquire the ownership of land and building in the Kingdom of Thailand to be used as a residence of the head of the mission or a chancery, it is established as practice that an agreement shall be concluded between Thailand and that particular country normally by an Exchange of Notes which will enable both parties, on the condition of reciprocity, to acquire ownership of such land and building. Taxes, dues and fees for such transfer of ownership of land and building will be exempted, if such exemption is so specified in the Exchange of Notes.

11. Exemption from Excise Tax for Gasoline

According to the B.E. 2534(1991) Regulation of the Excise Department, Ministry of Finance, benzine, gasoline and diesel consumed by the official and private-use motor vehicles of the diplomatic missions, consular posts, by the official motor vehicles of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and by the other international organizations to which the Royal Thai Government is obliged under agreements to accord the same treatments as accorded to the diplomatic missions, the United Nations and its specialized agencies (DCIO), can be exempted from Excise tax, in the form of a refund, as follows :-

- The DCIO shall submit the Note Verbale requesting refund of excise tax for gasoline to the Department of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, every four months in a year, or within six months, at the latest, from the last consumption of each period of four months, accompanied with the following documents :

Claim for refund on Excise Tax Form (ÀÉ. 01/35/i), duly filled in by the supplier, affixed with the seal and certified by the assigned and authorized officer of the DCIO. Any claim has to be made within six months of the last consumption.

Original receipts, indicating the amount in litres, price of gasoline, the name of the DCIO and the license plate number of the corresponding motor vehicle, affixed with the seal and certified by the assigned and authorized officer of the DCIO. In this regard, the Department of Protocol shall be notified of the name of the above-mentioned assigned and authorized officer of each DCIO with six specimen signatures. Any change thereof shall be notified to the Ministry together with specimen signatures.

- After the procedures have been completed by the Excise Department, the refund will be made by the Oil Company directly to the DCIO.

12. GLOSSARY AAT : Airports Authority of Thailand

DCIO : Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts and International Organisations

Identity Card : issued by the Department of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to members of the DCIO and their household. Photographs to be used for this purpose have to be full-faced and without hat or sun glasses.

Members of Immediate Family : comprises spouses and unmarried dependent children between 15 and 21 years of age and unmarried daughters above 21 years of age.

Permit to Stay : Upon the arrival of members of the DCIO and their household, the Department of Protocol will facilitate through the Immigration Bureau, the Royal Thai Police Department, the issuance of the Permits to Stay so as to allow them to stay in Thailand.

Private Servant : person who is in the domestic service of a member of the DCIO and who is not an employee of the sending State.

Re-entry Visa : After having been granted Permits to Stay, all members of DCIO and their household are advised to request a Re-entry Visa before leaving Thailand, except foreign nationals whose countries have concluded Visa Waiver Agreements with Thailand. (A list of such countries and details can be consulted at the Diplomatic Immunity Section, Diplomatic Privilege and Immunity Division, Department of Protocol). This Re-entry Visa will enable them to re-enter Thailand until the expiry date of the Permit to Stay. In case of leaving Thailand without a Re-entry Visa, the Permit to Stay which has already been granted shall thus be considered void.

VAT : Value Added Tax.

Visa : All members of the DCIO and their household are advised to obtain the appropriate visas from Thai Embassies and Consulates abroad prior to their arrival in Thailand so as to facilitate the issuance of the Permits to Stay, except foreign nationals whose countries have concluded Visa Waiver Agreements with Thailand.(A list of such countries and details can be consulted at the Diplomatic Immunity Section, Diplomatic Privilege and Immunity Division, Department of Protocol).

Visa Waiver Agreement : Holders of diplomatic and official passports of countries that have concluded Visa Waiver Agreements with Thailand can enter the Kingdom without obtaining any appropriate visa and they do not need to apply for the Re-entry Visa to leave or to re-enter the Kingdom. (A list of such countries and details can be consulted at the Diplomatic Immunity Section, Diplomatic Privilege and Immunity Division, Department of Protocol)
