

COUNTRY REPORT OF THAILAND
The Third General Assembly of International Parliamentarians'
Association for Information Technology (IPAIT)
BY
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Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour to present Thailand report reviewing the latest development of information technology following the 2nd IPAIT General Assembly in Bangkok last year.

First, we in Thailand have seen quite a great progress in what we call the smart card project starting in 2004 as a joint effort of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and the Ministry of Interior. All Thai citizens will obtain their smart cards under the project, enabling them to rely on only one electronic card for their citizen ID, health insurance, social security and etc. including e- voting in the near future and the digital lingual translation tool presently in operation.

Secondly, we have set up the Cyber Inspector to monitor and prevent abuse of the internet services, focusing on crime and social vices on the internet such as the download of pornographic materials and the wasteful use of SMS services and the over involvement in the online games among the youths. Last but not least, we have been successful in offering a high-speed internet throughout the country at a low rate of monthly fees. We also move forward with the ICT City Project, enjoying a broadband e-learning program. All reflect our commitment in Bangkok Declaration issued at the 2nd IPAIT General Assembly.

Concerning the e-university, as mentioned in Bangkok Declaration last year, CAT Telecom, the former state-own enterprise, is giving an integrated communications service to

support leading universities in Thailand to have wireless Wi-Fi access to high-speed Internet for students, and academic staff.

In the Bangkok Declaration, we agreed to establish a joint effort for reasonable pricing of software, and the promotion of open source software. Please be informed that Thailand has set up a National Open Source Committee to handle the task of further reducing the cost of open source software.

Thailand has also embarked on international cooperative projects with neighboring countries such as Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar in developing low-cost software for local use of respective countries.

In regard to e- government IT Technology, it has brought sweeping changes to the Thai bureaucratic system which has been accelerating the pace of reform.

Excellencies,
Honorable Members of Parliament,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On the part of e-parliament, we in Thailand have also moved further with wireless lan program enabling members of parliament and senators to have access to the Internet Services within the compound of parliament without having to connect any lines. The program proves very popular, enabling the members of the House of Representatives and senators to communicate more with their constituents via e-mail and even to apply e-parliament for their parliamentary debates.

However, on international e-parliament among us, parliamentarians, much has still to be done to strengthen our coordination to achieve more concrete outcomes in terms of working together via IT. It should, therefore, be of great benefits if we can cooperate more efficiently through digital channels during one IPAIT General Assembly and the next. At the

beginning, we may rely on the team of coordinators and electronic experts within a secretariat of each member country, having the Central Secretariat of each host country to act as a mechanism to facilitate such international exchange among member parliaments.

Honorable Members of Parliament,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Joint Communiqué of IPAIT 2 recommended an establishment of the Board of Directors that shall have the responsibilities of assisting host country of the IPAIT general assembly to organize general assembly and to follow-up and implement the action plans of IPAIT among member countries. It shall function as a troika comprising former, current and future host countries of the General Assemblies of IPAIT and member of the Board shall represent member countries on a regional basis.

Additionally, IPAIT 2 agreed that each parliament shall designate an official national chapter which will bring more participation and continuity in the activities of IPAIT. We consider the idea worth discussion but it depends on us, IPAIT members to decide weather they should be created in the near future or the recommendations should be implemented later.

To end my report, I would like to emphasize that Thailand is very much willing to continue coordination and exchanges with all IPAIT member parliaments so as to achieve the most concrete outcome for both parliamentarians and the general public.

Thank you.
