



Thailand's progressive developments of registration inclusiveness

By Bureau of Registration Administration (BORA),
Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA),
Ministry of Interior of Thailand

Southeast Asia Civil Registration Professionals Network Meeting
Bureau of Registration Administration (BORA)
15 January 2025, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

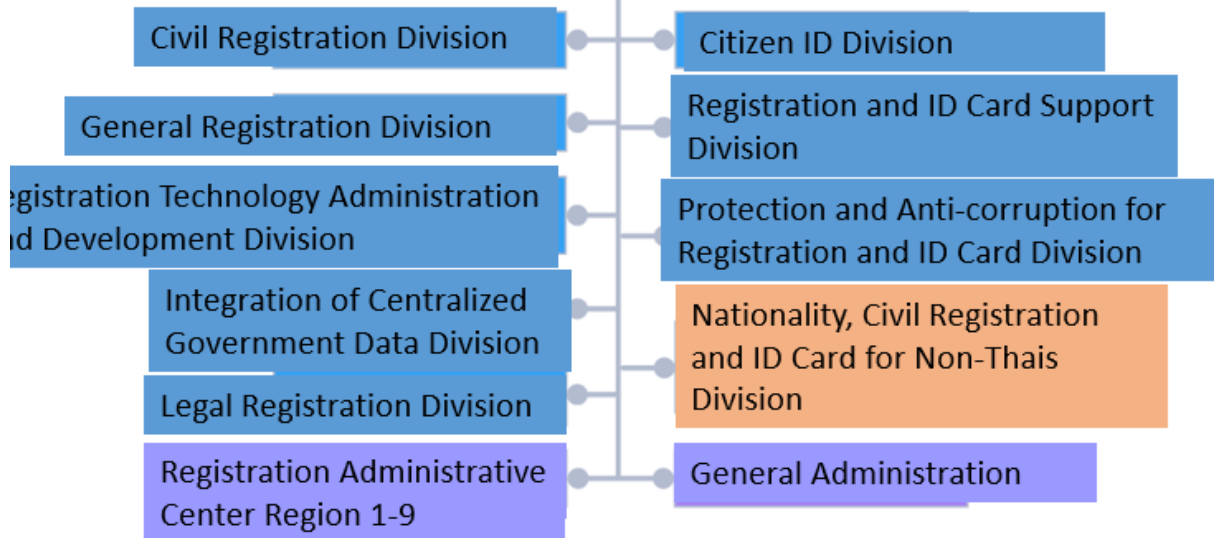


Outline

1. Bureau of Registration Administration (BORA) and related work
2. Statistics of Thai and non-Thai citizen
3. Types of civil registration services for Thai and non-Thai citizen
4. The Bali Process Civil Registration Assessment Toolkit and the Pilot Project in Thailand

1. Bureau of Registration Administration (BORA)

Source: <https://www.bora.dopa.go.th/snbt>



BORA and its civil registration services for non-Thai citizen

Nationality, Civil Registration and ID Card for Non-Thais Division

- A newly upgraded division
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Study, analyze and assess the enforcement of laws and regulations concerning the civil registration of non-Thai nationals, and nationality law.
 - Set guidelines for individual history registration and issues ID cards for all types of non-Thais who are listed in the civil registration database or in the profile registration records.
- **Structure:**
 - (1) Nationality Section
 - (2) Civil Registration Standards and Regulations for non-Thais and persons with undetermined nationality
 - (3) Civil Registration Facilitation for non-Thais



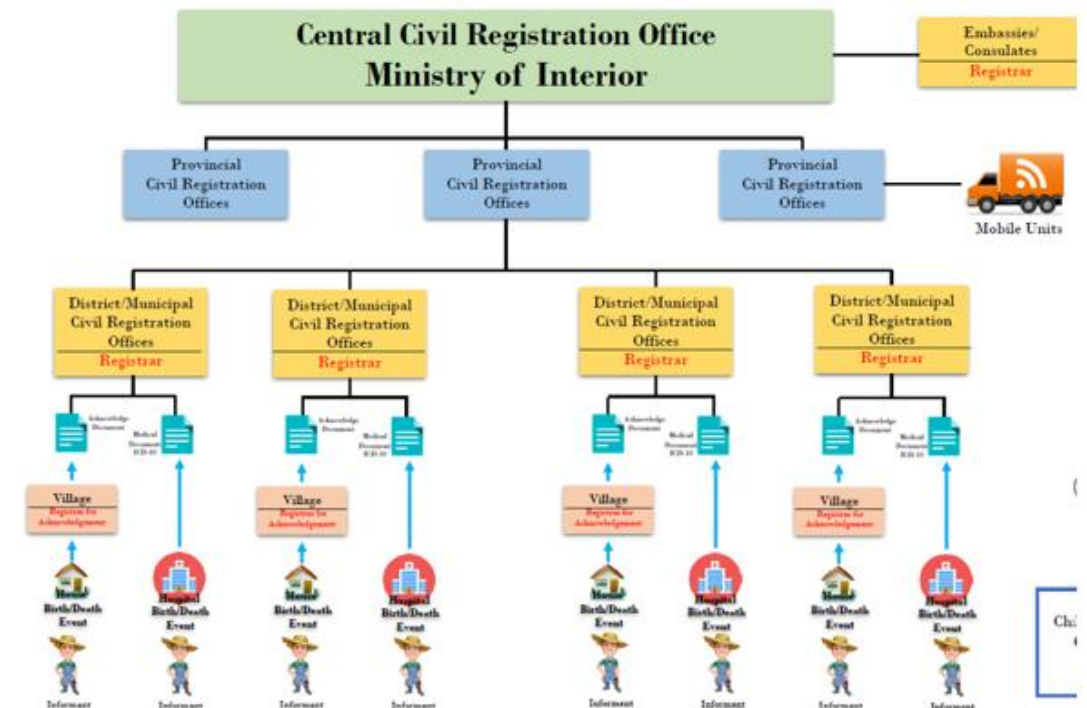
Non-Thais = Foreigners, stateless ethnic minorities, migrant workers, former Thais who have lost their nationality, and foreigners who claim to be Thai and request for verification.

Source: <https://www.bora.dopa.go.th/menu-ssb/>
<https://www.unhcr.org/th/en/56329-unhcr-commends-thai-cabinets-landmark-resolution-to-end-statelessness.html>

Structure of Civil Registration Work



- **Local registration services:**
 - **Regional: 9 Regional Registration Administration Centers** across the country which support the work of the BORA and provincial/local registration offices. These Centers facilitate information sharing and enhance services provided at the local level.
 - **Provincial: 76 provincial Registration Offices**
 - **District: 878 District Offices**



2. Statistics of Thai and non-Thai citizen

(as of 31 December 2023)

THAI

- **65,061,190** individuals
- Male 31,703,501
- Female 33,357,689



NON-THAI

- **991,425** individuals
- Male 520,507
- Female 470,918

Statistics of non-Thai citizen Subcategory – minority/ethnic groups



สำนักบริหารการทะเบียน
กรมการปกครอง
The Bureau Of Registration Administration

ระบบสถิติชนกลุ่มน้อย กลุ่มชาติพันธุ์
ตรวจสอบสถิติชนกลุ่มน้อย กลุ่มชาติพันธุ์

วันที่ 9 มกราคม 2568 เวลา 17:23:36 น.

สถิติชนกลุ่มน้อย กลุ่มชาติพันธุ์ แยกตามประเภท

ที่	จังหวัด/อำเภอ				เลข 7 บุตร 6 (ชนกลุ่มน้อย)	เลข 0 (มาจากลงทะเบียน)					0 ใบเกิด (ST=13, 16)			รวมทั้งหมด
		71	72	รวม		1(89)	2(89)	3(89)	4(89)	รวม	89	00	รวม	
	รวม	20,478	50,453	121,765	27,717	136,055	69,187	7,100	14	212,356	677	128,074	128,751	490,589

<https://stat.bora.dopa.go.th/stat/statnew/statMONTH/statnthai/#/stattypetable>

3. Types of civil registration services

• Thai

- Birth registration
 - Marriage/divorce registration
 - Death registration
 - Household/relocation registration
 - ID card issuance
 - Inter-agency linkage management
 - Child Adoption Registration
- Etc.

• Non-Thai

- Birth registration
 - Marriage/divorce registration
 - Death registration
 - Household/relocation registration
 - ID card issuance
 - Inter-agency linkage management
 - Record of personal information, establishment of profile registration
- Etc.

Civil registration documents for Thai citizen

Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Documents for Thai citizen



Household document



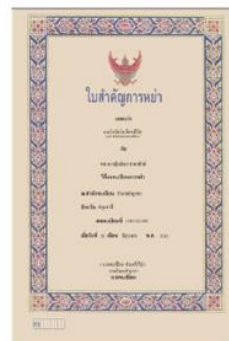
Birth Certificate



Death Certificate



Marriage Certificate



Divorce Certificate



Thai National Smart IDCard

Civil registration documents for non-Thai citizen

Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Documents for NonThai citizen



Stateless Biography



Household document



Birth Certificate



Death Certificate



Marriage Certificate



Divorce Certificate



Non-Thai
Citizen
(Stateless)



Registered Migrant
Workers



Refugee

Types of civil registration services for non-Thai citizen

Birth Certificate

- **The Civil Registration Act 1991**, amended in 2008 and 2019 ensures universal birth registration for *every person born in the Thai territory, regardless of their nationality or immigration status*.
 - In the case of **abandoned children**, even their birth and nationality are undetermined, but if they were born in Thailand, the birth registration can be made.
 - In case of **child born to refugees in the temporary shelters** along the Thailand-Myanmar border, the registration of birth will be facilitated by the camp commander who will register birth at the civil registration office on their behalf.



Stateless Biography



Birth Certificate

Types of civil registration services for non-Thai citizen

Record of Personal Information, Establishment of Profile Registration and Issuance of Identification Papers

- The rules and procedures to record and establish the profile registration for non-Thai persons are determined in **the Civil Registration Act 1994, amended in 2008 and 2019**.
 - **Abandoned child with unidentified birth and nationality** and hence cannot register their birth through the normal process, the BORA will record their information in the profile registration, generate a 13-digit number (starting with '0'), and provide an identification document to the child as evidence. An ID card will be issued when the child reaches 5 years old.
 - **Non-Thai persons who are not eligible for household registration** because of the lack of residence permit (i.e. undocumented/unregistered stateless ethnic minorities who missed previous registration schemes), can receive profile registration and be provided with an ID card with a 13-digit number.

The law stipulates that all eligible non-Thais have a duty to report themselves to district or local civil registrars to request for registration in civil registration.



Non-Thai
Citizen
(Stateless)



Registered Migrant
Workers



Refugee

Types of civil registration services for non-Thai citizen

Marriage & Divorce Registration

- Rules and procedures for marriage and divorce registration do not make any distinction between a Thai or non-Thai spouse.
- Despite that the lack of proper ID documents from non-Thais who are stateless persons and migrants, the DOPA/BORA allows them to *present existing documents, reliable witnesses, and DNA* for verifying the qualifications and conditions for registering marriage.



Marriage Certificate



Divorce Certificate

Types of civil registration services for non-Thai citizen

Death Registration

- Death registration is compulsory regardless of nationality or legal status.
- **Deaths in health facility:** the physician will issue the death notification as evidence to register death at the civil registration office.
- **Deaths outside health facility,** the informants who find the dead body or those assigned by these persons shall report the death to the registrar in the area of the death within the required timeframe for receiving death certificate.
- Procedures for death registration and issuance of the death certificate for hard-to-reach populations, including refugees in the temporary shelters and non-Thais, are similar to one for birth registration.



Death Certificate

4. The Bali Process Civil Registration Assessment Toolkit and its Pilot Project in Thailand

Background:

Led by the UNHCR (Three pilot countries: Thailand, Pakistan, and Viet Nam)

Pilot project in Thailand in February 2019-July 2021: Chiang Mai, Nonthaburi, Trad Province

Objectives:

- Assist Thailand to assess and improve the civil registration system in order to record all of the births, deaths and marriages that occur in the territory among refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and persons of undetermined nationality.
- Provide *a practical guideline for Thailand to minimize gaps and challenges in access to civil registration of the hard-to-reach populations* by developing a strategic plan to solve the problems and identify measures to improve the civil registration system.

Identified audiences:

- **Students with 'G' ID numbers** (a temporary ID number provided by schools, in addition to the student ID number) who are not yet registered in the civil registration system or whose legal status and nationality is still undetermined.
- **Abandoned children (foundlings) and homeless/destitute persons**
- **Stateless ethnic minorities living in border areas**, including those who have already been registered in the civil registration system, but are pending status determination, and groups that are still unregistered



Findings from the Pilot Project in Thailand



Good Practices at Policy Level - Regular Policy Improvement and Law Amendment in Response to Changing Situations

- Thailand has improved its policies and laws relating to civil registration regularly and in accordance with the changing contexts and situations, such as **the Civil Registration Act in 1991, amended in 2008 and 2019** has made civil registration more inclusive for stateless persons and people without legal status.

This inclusiveness and openness of Thai civil registration law covers:

- Certification and registration of **birth**, including the issuance of birth certificates for all children born in Thailand, regardless of the legal status and documentation of their parents;
- Creation of **records for stateless persons**;
- Issuance of **identity cards for non-Thai nationals** and those who were not previously registered in the civil registration system.



สำนักบริหารการทะเบียน

The Bureau of Registration Administration (BORA)



Thank you