



The Administrative Court of Thailand

Newsletter

Vol. 3/2026 (June - September 2026)

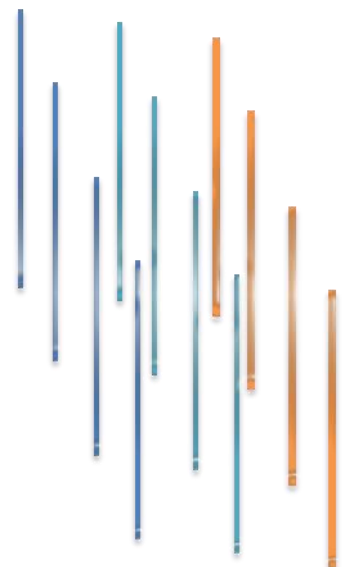




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The Administrative Court of Thailand

Interesting Administrative Case

ARBITRATION

AI-generated image from ChatGPT

H. T. Municipality (the Claimant) lodged an appeal against the judgment rendered by the Administrative Court of First Instance, which ordered the enforcement of an arbitral award requiring the Municipality to pay compensation for the construction works carried out in two phases to N. T. S. Limited Partnership and its associates (the Respondents).

The arbitral award required the Municipality to pay THB 5,383,000, together with interest at the rate of 7.5% per annum, calculated from 18 February 2015 until the date of full payment. The interest rate of 7.5% was the applicable statutory default interest rate prior to the amendments to the Civil and Commercial Code that came into force in 2021.

However, the Administrative Court of First Instance ruled that the Municipality was required to pay compensation in the amount of THB 5,383,000, together with default interest at the rate of 5% per annum in accordance with the law currently in force. The Supreme Administrative Court affirmed the judgment of the Administrative Court of First Instance.

Arbitral awards are generally enforceable as long as they do not violate public order or good morals. However, since the Emergency Decree Amending the Civil and Commercial Code introduced new default interest rate, the Administrative Court of First Instance has the authority to set aside any part of an award that still applies the old interest rates.

Additionally, awarding a payment amount that exceeds what was requested in a counterclaim is considered a ruling 'beyond the request' (ultra petita) under Section 37 of the Arbitration Act B.E. 2545 (2002). Given that the ultra petita issue concerns public order or good morals, the Supreme Administrative Court may raise the issue to set aside the portion of the damages that exceeds the original claims of the Respondents.

(The Supreme Administrative Court Judgment No. A. 206/2567, dated 28 February 2024)



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Interesting Administrative Case



AI-generated image from Gemini

The Supreme Administrative Court ruled that the Mass Rapid Transit Authority (the Defendant) shall provide accessible maps of the rapid transit routes for visually impaired passengers at all 16 stations along the Chalong Ratchatham Line (Tao Poon - Bang Yai), as well as other relevant facilities in accordance with the applicable ministerial regulations, in order to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. The Defendant was required to comply with the judgment within 120 days from the date on which the final judgment was rendered.

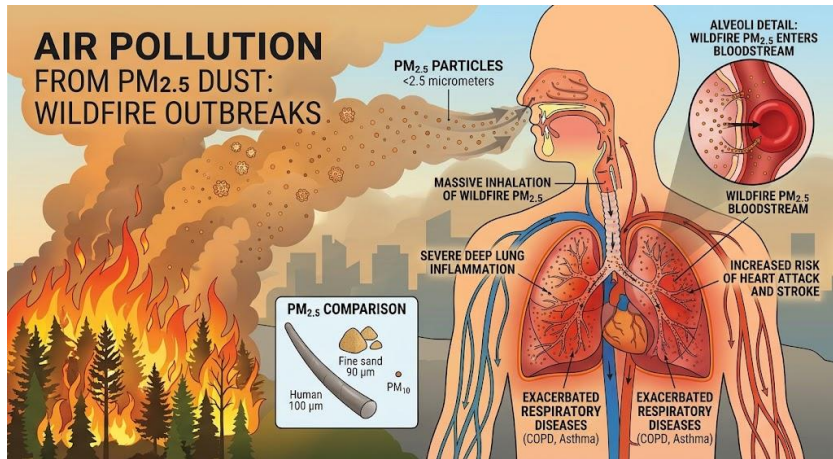
Even though the Ministerial Regulation Prescribing Characteristics or the Provision of Equipment, Facilities, or Services in Buildings, Premises, Vehicles, and Transportation Services for Accessibility and Utilization by Persons with Disabilities, B.E. 2556 (2013), does not expressly require the Defendant to provide all types of accessibility equipment listed in the said Regulation, tactile maps for wayfinding in public transport infrastructure for visually impaired people remain fundamentally important. The Supreme Administrative Court ruled that installing them falls within the Defendant's capacity across all 16 MRT stations; therefore, the Defendant's failure to provide these maps constitutes negligence to perform duties required by law.

(The Supreme Administrative Court Judgment No. A. 309/2568, dated 18 April 2025)



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Interesting Administrative Case



AI-generated image (from Gemini)

The Plaintiffs in this case were residents of Ban Pong Sub-District, Hang Dong District, Chiang Mai Province. They had been severely affected by extensive wildfire outbreaks in many areas of northern Thailand, which had caused severe particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) pollution.

Since the National Environment Board had not shown concrete results in reducing air pollution in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lamphun, and Mae Hong Son—even though from February to May in 2018–2021 the PM 2.5 dust levels were still above safety standards and harmful to public health—the situation met the legal conditions for declaring these areas as pollution control areas under the Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act, B.E. 2535 (1992). The Supreme Administrative Court therefore ordered the Board to exercise its authority under Section 59 of the Act to declare the four provinces as pollution-control areas every year from February to May so that pollution can be controlled, reduced, and eliminated more effectively.

(The Supreme Administrative Court Judgment No. A.E. 28/2568, dated 26 May 2025)



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AC News Update

The Administrative Court Youth Camp 2026



Office of the Administrative Courts and Kasem Bundit University jointly organised a seminar programme under the theme “The Administrative Court Youth Camp 2026” from 24 to 26 June 2026. The programme was attended by 50 law students from various universities. The Administrative Court Youth Camp 2026 was intended to equip young participants with knowledge of the administrative justice system, the roles and responsibilities of the Administrative Courts in resolving administrative disputes, and the exercise of their right to seek justice when public administration infringes upon their rights and liberties. More importantly, the programme aimed to raise awareness of the principles of good governance among the younger generation.

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On 26 June 2026, Mr. Prasitsak Meelarp, President of the Supreme Administrative Court, delivered welcome and congratulatory remarks and presented certificates of completion to all 50 participants. The certificate presentation ceremony was held at the Reception Hall of the Administrative Court Premises on Chaeng Watthana Road, Bangkok. On this occasion, Dr. Jait Satawornseelporn, Secretary-General of the Office of the Administrative Courts; Dr. Vallop Suwandee, President of Kasem Bundit University; Mr. Trahngan Kietsiroj, President of the Central Administrative Court; and other executives of the Office of the Administrative Courts joined in welcoming and congratulating the participants on their successful completion of the programme.



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AC News Update

Training on the Use of the e-AdminCourt System for Prospective Trainers



From 26–28 August 2026, Office of the Administrative Courts organised training on “The e-AdminCourt System for Prospective Trainers” at the Supreme Administrative Court (Building C), Chaeng Watthana, Bangkok. The training was intended to prepare prospective trainers to effectively disseminate knowledge of the e-AdminCourt system and integrated services to the public and state agencies.

The training was supported by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. Throughout the three-day training, all 31 participants had the opportunity to learn about the adoption of modern technology in the Administrative Courts’ judicial proceedings, the legal principles and procedures governing the e-AdminCourt system, and techniques for delivering training. The participants were also encouraged to share their experiences and exchange views on addressing issues arising from the use of the e-AdminCourt system, as well as related obstacles.



The Administrative Court of Thailand

Notable Visit

Study Visit to the US Judicial Institutions



Mr. Vishnu Varunyou, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court of Thailand, together with Mr. Wutthichai Thaicharoen, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court, Mr. Charnwit Chaikan, Judge of the Rayong Administrative Court, and Mr. Kavin Bhuwadolsiri, Administrative Case Official, participated in judicial consultations and knowledge-sharing activities on arbitration, including the enforcement and setting aside of arbitral awards, in the United States of America from 23 - 31 May 2026.

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International Conference / Seminar

Global Rule of Law Commission



As a member of the Global Rule of Law Commission of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO), Mr. Vishnu Varunyou, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court, participated in the 9th Session of the Commission during 1 - 4 September 2026, in Maputo, Republic of Mozambique. The session was co-hosted by the Constitutional Council of Mozambique and the European Public Law Organization (EPLO). The program included a public seminar and the 9th Session of the Commission.



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International Conference / Seminar

IASAJ Board Meeting



Mr. Vishnu Varunyou, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court, as a member of the Board of the International Association of Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions (IASAJ), attended the IASAJ Board Meeting and a seminar entitled “The Rule of Law: Concept and Perspectives” on 17-18 September 2026, hosted by the Administrative Court of Luxembourg in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



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International Conference / Seminar

The ASEAN Law Association General Assembly and Related Activities



The delegation of the Administrative Court of Thailand, comprising Mr. Jirasawat Surariddhidhamrong, Judge of the Chiang Mai Administrative Court, in his capacity as a Member and Standing Committee Member of the Thai National Committee of the ASEAN Law Association (ALA); Mrs. Nathauma Banjongmanee, Judge of the Central Administrative Court; and Mr. Chanwit Chaikan, Judge of the Rayong Administrative Court, together with Mr. Phanupong Punsue, Administrative Court Official, Professional Level, participated in the 15th ASEAN Law Association General Assembly, the 47th ASEAN Law Association Governing Council Meeting, and other related activities held from 21–23 July 2026 at the InterContinental Bangkok.

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During the event, the delegation attended the ASEAN Law Conference, where distinguished legal practitioners and academics exchanged knowledge and experiences on six key legal challenges: (1) ASEAN Arbitration; (2) Law and Gender Equality; (3) Law and the Environment; (4) Law and Business; (5) Law and Technology; and (6) Law and Education. The participation of the Administrative Court of Thailand marked an important milestone in strengthening its presence on the international stage, promoting academic cooperation, and fostering closer relationships with leading legal institutions across the ASEAN region.

The event was organized by the Office of the Judiciary, serving as the Secretariat of the Thai National Committee of the ASEAN Law Association, under the theme "People. Planet. Partnership." It provided a platform for judges, legal practitioners, and scholars from across ASEAN to exchange perspectives, address emerging legal challenges, and advance legal development in support of sustainable regional cooperation.

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The Administrative Court of Thailand

International Conference / Seminar

The Standing Committee Meeting on Women in Law



Ms. Saitip Sukatipan, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court, representing the ASEAN Law Association National Committee of Thailand on the ASEAN Law Association Standing Committee on Women in Law, attended the Standing Committee Meeting on Women in Law and the Signing Ceremony of the Women in Law Pledge on 22 July 2026 at 16:00 hrs. at the InterContinental Bangkok Hotel, Ratchaprasong.

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The Meeting and the Signing Ceremony were organized to promote cooperation among ASEAN member states in advancing the role of women in the legal profession, exchange views and experiences on promoting gender equality, and strengthen collaborative networks among legal institutions across the ASEAN region. On this occasion, representatives from ASEAN member states jointly signed the Women in Law Pledge to demonstrate a shared commitment to promoting gender equality and women's participation in the legal profession. The pledge also aims to support capacity building for women in playing a vital role in the administration of justice and the strengthening of the rule of law, leading to the sustainable development of the ASEAN region's legal framework. Participation in this meeting and signing ceremony highlights Thailand's proactive role in driving legal cooperation within the ASEAN Law Association framework. It further reflects a firm commitment to promoting gender equality, empowering women in the legal sector, and strengthening an efficient, transparent, and fair justice system for the mutual benefit of the ASEAN Community.



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Knowledge Exchange

Academic Discussion in Collaboration with the French Embassy



On 10 June 2026, the Office of the Administrative Courts (OAC), in collaboration with the French Embassy, organized an academic discussion as part of the 3rd Edition of French-Thai Week of Law and Justice on the topic of “Public procurement” (La Commande publique). The discussion was conducted by Conseiller d’état Laure Bédier, French Council of State, and Prof. Grégory Kalflèche from Université Toulouse Capitole, French Republic. On this occasion, the President of the Supreme Administrative Court delivered opening remarks and Mr. Jean-Claude Boimboeuf, Ambassador of France to Thailand, opened the French-Thai Week of Law and Justice. The event was attended by Dr. Vishnu Varunyou, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court, Judges of the Supreme Administrative Court, judges of Administrative Courts of First Instance, Dr. Jait Satawornseelporn, Secretary-General, executives, and personnel from the OAC, as well as external organizations at the Seminar Room No.2, B1 floor, Administrative Court Premises, Bangkok.



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Knowledge Exchange

Seminar on the Principles of Drafting Administrative Procedure Law, Law on Official Information and Personal Data Protection, and Law on Tort Liability of Public Officials



Mr. Prasitsak Meelarp, President of the Supreme Administrative Court, and his delegation—comprising Mr. Suchat Mongkollertlop, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Somchai Wattanagaroon, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Prasat Pongsuwan, President of the Personnel Administration Division of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Anucha Hunswadikul, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Kom Buranaworasin, President of the Nakhon Ratchasima Administrative Court; Mr. Jait Satawornseelporn, Secretary-General of the Office of the Administrative Courts; the Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau; and officials from the Foreign Affairs Bureau co-organized a seminar on the Principles of Drafting Administrative Procedure Law, Law on Official Information and Personal Data Protection, and Law on Tort Liability of Public Officials. The seminar was held from 21 to 24 June 2026, at the Souphattra Hotel in Vientiane, Lao PDR, with budgetary support from the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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The seminar's opening ceremony featured opening remarks by Mr. Prasitsak Meelarp, President of the Supreme Administrative Court. Mr. Khoun Phasouk, Vice-President of the People's Supreme Court of the Lao PDR, delivered the welcome address and Mr. Chulvat Narinthrangura, Director-General of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), gave a speech. Mrs. Krongkanit Rakcharoen, Ambassador of Thailand to the Lao PDR, also attended the ceremony. The seminar featured a distinguished panel of speakers, including Mr. Suchat Mongkollertlop, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Somchai Wattanagaroon, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Prasat Pongsuwan, President of the Personnel Administration Division of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Anucha Hunswadikul, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Kom Buranaworasin, President of the Nakhon Ratchasima Administrative Court; Mr. Sakkouna Yapichit, Acting Head of the Administrative Chamber of the People's Supreme Court of the Lao PDR; and Mr. Souloth Phanthavong, Head of the Administrative Case Procedure Supervision Division, the Supreme People's Procuracy of the Lao PDR.

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On this occasion, Mr. Prasitsak Meelarp, President of the Supreme Administrative Court, and his delegation held a meeting with Mr. Phayvy Syboualypha, President of the Supreme People's Court of the Lao PDR, to discuss future academic cooperation activities under the Project on Strengthening Academic Cooperation in Administrative Justice between the Office of the Administrative Courts of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Supreme People's Court of the Lao PDR for fiscal years 2026–2028. Furthermore, the delegation also met and held discussions with Mrs. Krongkanit Rakcharoen, Ambassador of Thailand to Vientiane, at the Ambassador's Residence in Vientiane.



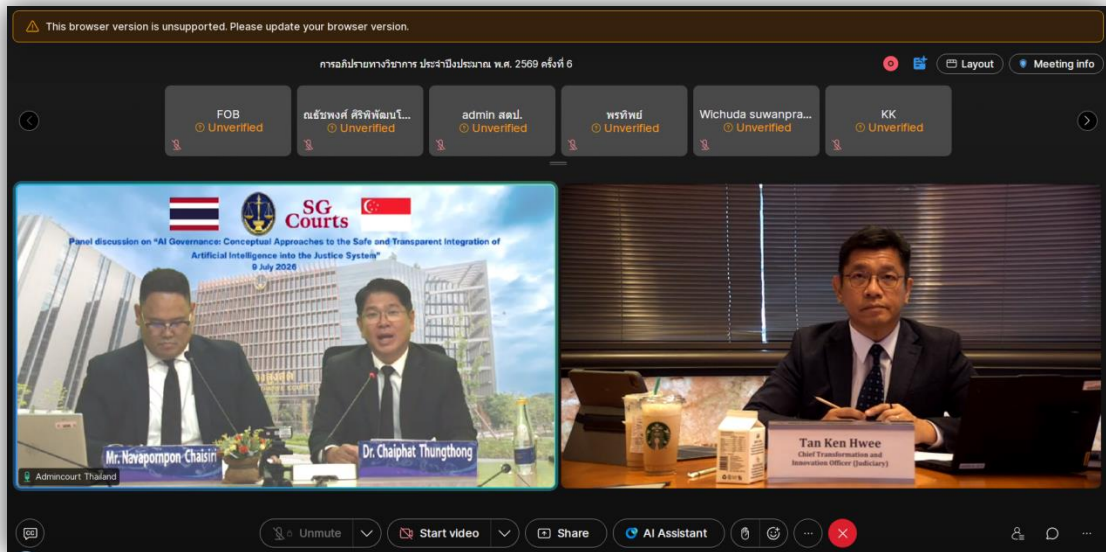
This seminar is deemed a significant milestone in relations among the Administrative Court of the Kingdom of Thailand, the People's Supreme Court of the Lao PDR, and the Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor of the Lao PDR. It reflects concrete success in judicial cooperation between Thailand and the Lao PDR and is expected to lead to a closer and more sustainable partnership between the two nations in the future.



The Administrative Court of Thailand

Knowledge Exchange

Panel Discussion Organized in Collaboration with the Judiciary of Singapore



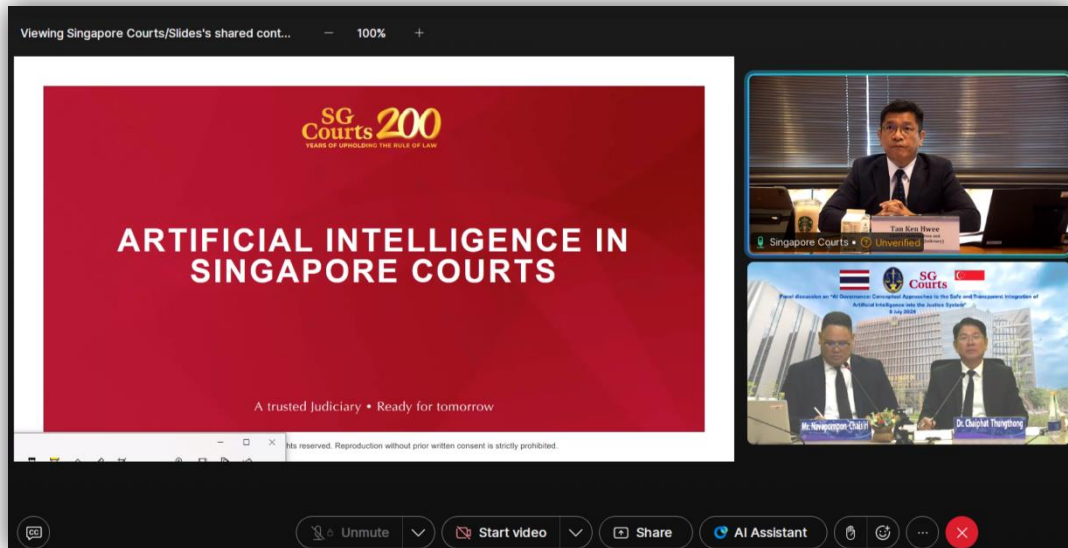
On Thursday, 9 July 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Office of the Administrative Courts of Thailand, in collaboration with the Judiciary of Singapore, organized a Panel Discussion entitled “AI Governance: Conceptual Approaches to the Safe and Transparent Integration of Artificial Intelligence into the Justice System”. The seminar was conducted via Cisco Webex Meetings/Web Live Streaming and broadcast to all Administrative Courts throughout Thailand, covering the central office and 14 Regional Administrative Courts.

The Panel Discussion was organized under the framework of the Thailand–Singapore Civil Service Exchange Programme (CSEP) to promote knowledge exchange and strengthen cooperation between the two judiciaries in the field of artificial intelligence governance and judicial innovation. The distinguished speakers from the Thai side were Dr. Chaiphath Thungthong, Judge of the Rayong Administrative Court, and Mr. Navapornpon Chaisiri, Administrative Case Official (Professional Level) of the Office of the President of the Supreme Administrative Court, who also served as the interpreter. The Singapore side was represented by Mr. Tan Ken Hwee, Chief Transformation and Innovation Officer of the Singapore Judiciary.

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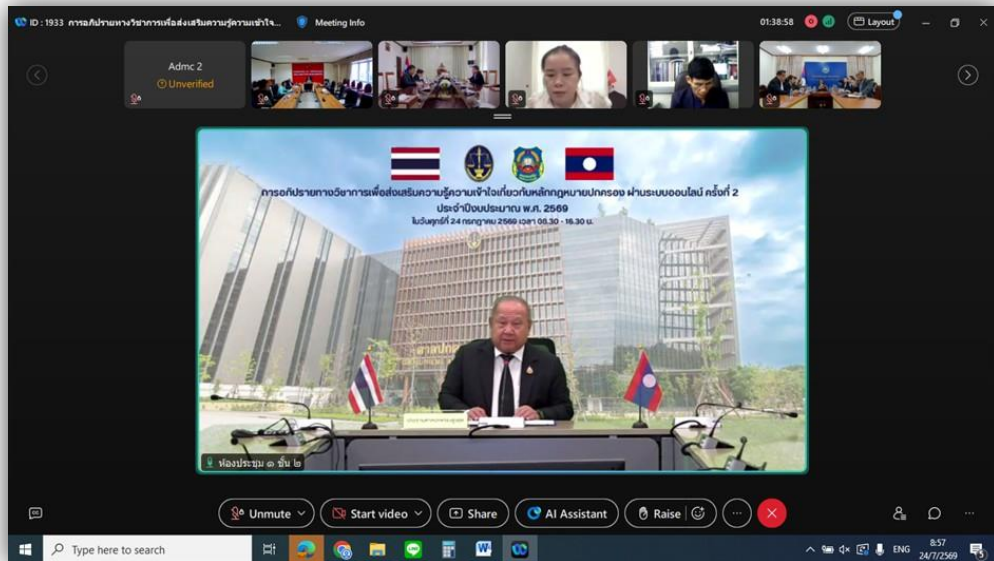
During the Panel Discussion, the speakers exchanged perspectives on developing practical and effective AI governance frameworks that are consistent with the rule of law. Discussions focused on key issues including organizational AI governance, AI literacy for judges and court personnel, centralized AI governance models, and the governance of proof-of-concept (POC) projects. The Singapore Judiciary also shared its practical experience in implementing AI initiatives within judicial workflows, providing valuable insights and best practices that may support the future development of AI systems and governance frameworks within the Administrative Courts of Thailand.



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Knowledge Exchange

A Distance-Based Academic Discussion with the Lao PDR



On Friday, 24 July 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Office of the Administrative Courts organized the second academic discussion to promote knowledge and understanding of administrative law principles for personnel of the People's Supreme Court of the Lao PDR via Cisco Webex Meetings. On this occasion, Mr. Prasitsak Meelarp, President of the Supreme Administrative Court, delivered the opening remarks for the academic discussion.

During the morning session, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, an academic discussion was held on the topic “Important Theories and Principles of Administrative Law and Administrative Court Procedures.” The speakers were Mr. Suchat Mongkollertlop, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Prasat Pongsuwan, President of the Personnel Administration Division of the Supreme Administrative Court; and Mr. Anucha Hunswasdikul, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court. In the afternoon session, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., an academic discussion was conducted on the topic “Key Administrative Court Procedures.” The speakers were Mr. Somchai Wattanagaroon, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Prasat Pongsuwan, President of the Personnel Administration Division of the Supreme Administrative Court; and Mr. Anucha Hunswasdikul, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court.



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Participants included personnel from the People's Supreme Court of the Lao PDR, the People's Prosecutor Organization of the Lao PDR, and other justice-sector agencies of the Lao PDR, namely the Law and Justice Committee of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR, the Ministry of Justice of the Lao PDR, the National Academy of Politics and Public Administration, and the National University of Laos, with a total of 40 participants. The academic discussion was conducted under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Legal, Judicial, and Administrative Judicial Management Cooperation between the Office of the Administrative Courts of Thailand and the People's Supreme Court of the Lao PDR. In fiscal year 2026, two academic discussion sessions were scheduled. The first session was held on 12 March 2026 on the topics "The Roles of Prosecutors and Judge Rapporteurs in Administrative Litigation: A Comparison between Lao PDR and Thailand" and "Principles and Practices for Writing Statements in Administrative Cases."



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Knowledge Exchange

A Technical Lecture for Judicial Personnel from the Lao PDR



Mr. Prasitsak Meelarp, President of the Supreme Administrative Court, together with an accompanying delegation comprising Mr. Suchat Mongkollertlop, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Somchai Wattanagaroon, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Prasart Phongsuwan, President of Personnel Administration Division of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Anucha Hunswasdikul, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Kom Buranavorasin, President of the Nakhon Ratchasima Administrative Court; the Director of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs; and officials of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs; organized an academic to promote knowledge and understanding of administrative law among personnel of the Supreme People's Court of Lao PDR. The delegation from the Supreme People's Court of Lao PDR was warmly welcomed by Mr. Yongyuth Chiewchankij, President of the Udon Thani Administrative Court, and the executives of the Udon Thani Administrative Court. The seminar was held from 17 to 20 August 2026 at the Udon Thani Administrative Court. Financial support was provided by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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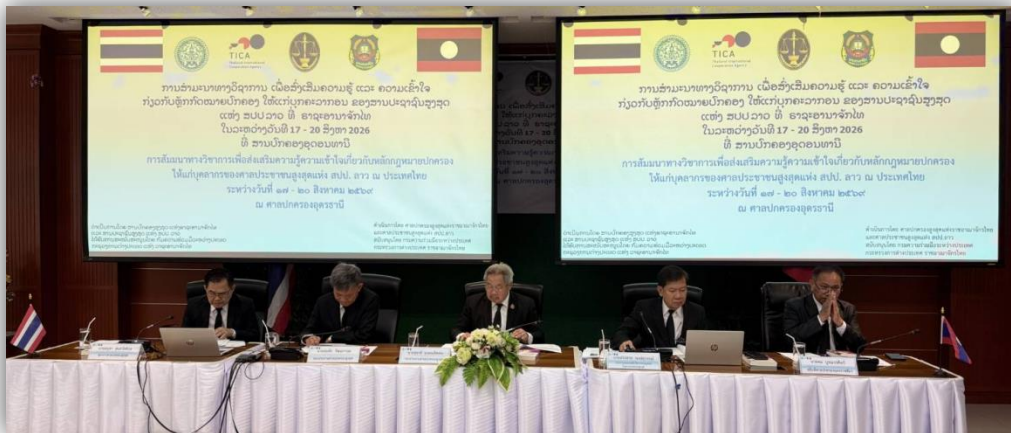


The seminar was officially opened by Mr. Prasitsak Meelarp, President of the Supreme Administrative Court. Mr. Phounthong Sayyasing, Deputy Head of the Department of International Cooperation of the Supreme People's Court of Lao PDR, introduced the participants from the Supreme People's Court of Lao PDR and the Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor of Lao PDR, comprising a total of 20 participants. During the seminar, the participants attended a lecture on "Procedures and Processes for the Adjudication of Administrative Cases" and participated in practical sessions on examining complaints, fact-finding and summarizing facts, as well as reading and enforcing judgments. The sessions were delivered by Mr. Suchat Mongkollertlop, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Somchai Wattanagaroon, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Prasart Phongsuwan, President of Personnel Administration Division of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Anucha Hunswasdikul, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Kom Buranavorasin, President of the Nakhon Ratchasima Administrative Court; Mr. Thoedpong Kongchan, President of a Chamber of the Udon Thani Administrative Court; Mr. Siri Meesangsakul, President of a Chamber of the Udon Thani Administrative Court; and Mr. Anucha Wongbundit, Judge of the Udon Thani Administrative Court.

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This seminar contributed to strengthening the cordial relations among the Supreme Administrative Court of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Supreme People's Court of Lao PDR, and the Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor of Lao PDR. It also demonstrated a tangible achievement of judicial cooperation between Thailand and Lao PDR and contributed to further strengthening the close and enduring relations between the two countries.



The Administrative Court of Thailand

Event

The French National Day



On 14 July 2026, Mr. Vishnu Varunyou, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court, on behalf of the President of the Supreme Administrative Court, presented a basket of flowers to the French Embassy at the Eastin Grand Hotel Phayathai to express congratulations on the occasion of the French National Day.



The Administrative Court of Thailand

Event

The National Day of Malaysia



On Friday, 11 September 2026, the President of the Supreme Administrative Court entrusted the Office of the Administrative Courts to present a floral arrangement in celebration of the 69th National Day of Malaysia. The presentation ceremony was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok. On this occasion, Mrs. Wallapat Svetarundra, Director of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs, represented the Office of the Administrative Courts in presenting the floral arrangement and conveying warm congratulations to the Ambassador of Malaysia to Thailand, who graciously received the floral arrangement.

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