



The Administrative Court of Thailand

Newsletter

Vol. 2/2026 (February – May 2026)





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Interesting Administrative Case

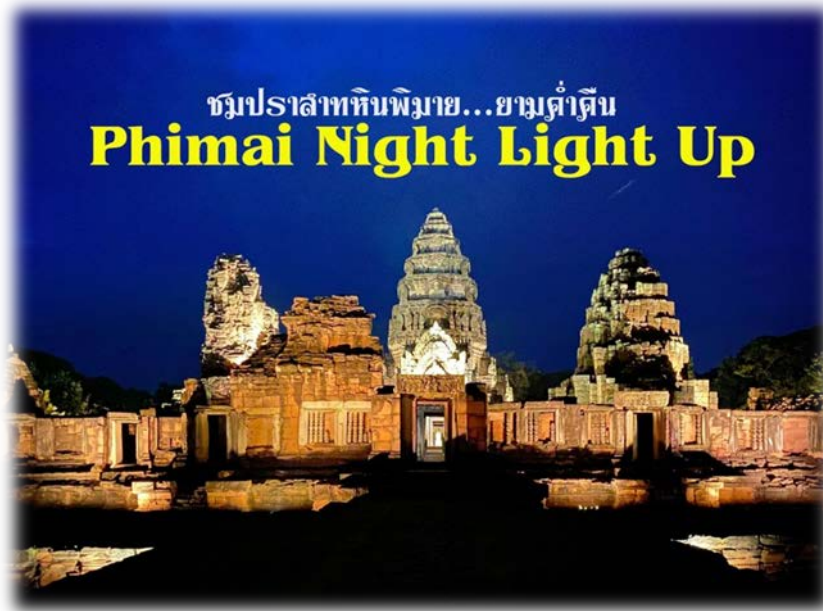


Photo: The Government Public Relations Department (PRD), Thailand

The Supreme Administrative Court ruled that the Director-General of the Fine Arts Department had issued an unlawful administrative decision by designating an area outside the Phimai city wall as part of the Phimai City Ancient Monument. Given that there was no academic or factual justification for imposing land-use restrictions on the said areas inside the city walls, the Court held that such action constituted a disproportionate restriction of constitutional property rights. Accordingly, the Court ordered the suspension of the designation of the areas outside the Phimai city wall as part of the ancient monument.

(The Supreme Administrative Court Judgment No. A. 875/2568, dated 12 September 2025)

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Interesting Administrative Case



Photo: [pngtree.com](https://www.pngtree.com)

Alcohol-importing companies argued that being required to display warning labels on their products—such as “Alcohol and beer can cause cancer,” “Alcohol and beer can cause dementia,” and “Alcohol and beer can cause disability”—violated constitutional freedom of trade and occupation and adversely affected their ability to compete fairly in the market. Those companies therefore sought the revocation of such a rule. The Supreme Administrative Court dismissed the case, holding that the warnings merely provide consumers with information about health and social risks. The measure is consistent with the Alcohol Control Act, B.E. 2551 (2008), and does not contravene the Constitution. The court found that the requirement is appropriate to protect consumers and does not affect the essential substance of the plaintiff’s property rights.

(The Supreme Administrative Court Judgment No. A.PA. 48/2567, dated 5 April 2024)

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Interesting Administrative Case



Photo: [pngtree.com](https://www.pngtree.com)

A student's attire is a form of identity expression and is protected from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Provided that the attire is formal and complies with university regulations, the Supreme Administrative Court affirmed that students are entitled to wear academic regalia that aligns with their gender identity when attending their commencement ceremony.

(The Supreme Administrative Court Judgment No. A. 10/2568, dated 7 January 2025)

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The 25th Anniversary of the Administrative Court of Thailand



To celebrate the 25th anniversary of its inauguration, the Administrative Court of Thailand hosted the following series of events:

- Press conference;
- Exhibition; and
- Lectures and symposiums.

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Press Conference



On 6 March 2026, Mr. Prasitsak Meelarp, President of the Supreme Administrative Court, and the Administrative Court PR team gave a presentation on the achievements of the Administrative Court of Thailand over the last 25 years. The presentation covered the successful adjudication of cases as well as other judicial accomplishments including: 1) The adoption of technology to facilitate services for people; 2) Mediation in administrative cases; 3) International cooperation with judicial institutions worldwide and the performance of leading roles in international judicial forums.

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Exhibition

The Administrative Court of Thailand organised an exhibition under the theme “*The 25th Anniversary of the Administrative Court of Thailand: The Upholding of Administrative Justice throughout the Past 25 Years*”. The exhibition took place from 6 March 2026 to 29 May 2026, at the 1st floor, the Supreme Administrative Court (Building C), Chaeng Watthana Road, Bangkok.

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Lectures and Symposiums



- A lecture entitled “*The 25th Anniversary of the Administrative Court of Thailand: Reflecting on the Past and Moving Forward*”, was delivered by Prof. Dr. Amorn Chandarasomboon, Former Secretary-General of the Council of State of Thailand, on 9 March 2026, from 11:00 to 12:00 hrs.

- A lecture entitled “*The Fundamental Values of the Dual System of Courts: Between Their Past and Future*”, was delivered by Mr. Rémy Schwartz, President of Studies, Strategic Planning and Cooperation Division of the French Council of State, on 9 March 2026, from 13:30 to 16:30 hrs. French-Thai consecutive interpretation was provided by Dr. Prasat Pongsuwan, President of Personnel Administration Division of the Supreme Administrative Court.



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Lectures and Symposiums (continued)



- A symposium on “*The Administrative Court’s Way Forward: Public Perspectives*”, was facilitated by Dr. Jait Satawornseelporn, Secretary-General of the Office of the Administrative Courts, with panel discussions by Prof. Dr. Somkit Lertpaithoon of the Faculty of Law, Thammasat University; Mr. Udom Chinnawong, Deputy Director-General of the Administrative Case Office, Office of the Attorney General; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aua-Aree Engchanil of the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University; and Asst. Prof. Dr. Bajrawan Nuchprayool of the Graduate School of Law, National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), on 10 March 2026, from 09:00 to 12:00 hrs.

- A symposium on “*The 25th Anniversary of the Administrative Court of Thailand: Prominent Cases in Judicial Review of the Exercise of Administrative Powers*”, facilitated by Dr. Saitip Sukatipan, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court, with panel discussions by Mr. Pranai Vanichchanon, President of a Chamber of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Wachira Chobtang, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court; Mr. Anucha Hunswasdikul, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court; and Mr. Itthiporn Jirapattanakul, Former President of the Administrative Court of First Instance, attached to the Supreme Administrative Court, on 10 March 2026, from 09:00 to 12:00 hrs.



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AC News Update

Responsible AI Innovation Hackathon "AI for Justice"



Invited by Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), the Office of the Administrative Courts designated Miss Radaphat Chongthammakun, Advisor and Chief Information Officer of the Office of the Administrative Courts, as a mentor and judge for the competition entitled Responsible AI Innovation Hackathon “AI for Justice”. During the competition, Miss Radaphat Chongthammakun provided competitors and relevant participants with information on the roles and responsibilities of the Administrative Court of Thailand, the Administrative Court’s workflows, and the challenges encountered in actual work processes. The information provided enabled competitors and relevant participants to identify directions and goals for developing AI and related technologies to support efficient and effective judicial proceedings.

In the final round, Miss Radaphat Chongthammakun evaluated and judged the competitors’ projects. Mr. Jait Satawornseelporn, Secretary-General of the Office of the Administrative Courts, was invited to serve as a distinguished presenter of awards to the winners of the competition.



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Notable Visit

A Courtesy Call by the Ambassador of Lao PDR to the President of the Supreme Administrative Court



On 14 May 2026, H.E. Mr. Sisavath Inphachanh, Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) to Thailand, accompanied by Mr. Kaysone Khounlavongsa, First Secretary, paid a courtesy call on the President of the Supreme Administrative Court on the occasion of his recent assumption of office. On this occasion, H.E. Mr. Prasitsak Meelarp, President of the Supreme Administrative Court, together with 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 Personnel Administration Division of the Supreme Administrative Court, Mr. Jait Satawornseelporn, Secretary-General of the Office of the Administrative Courts, and the Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, welcomed the delegation at the reception hall, the Administrative Court Premises, Chaeng Wattana Road, Bangkok. The visit concluded with a guided tour of the e-Courtroom (Courtroom 12) and the Public Law Library.



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Seminar/Conference

Distance-Based Seminar on “The Roles of Prosecutors and Judge-Rapporteurs in Administrative Litigation: A Comparison between Lao PDR and Thailand”



On Friday, March 12, 2026, from 08:30 to 16:30, the Office of the Administrative Courts organized an academic discussion to promote knowledge and understanding of Administrative Law Principles for judges and personnel of the People’s Supreme Court of the Lao PDR. The session was conducted online via Cisco Webex Meetings at Conference Room 1, 2nd Floor, the Supreme Administrative Court Building. This initiative was conducted under the Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation between the Office of the Administrative Courts of Thailand and the People’s Supreme Court of the Lao PDR.

The discussion featured distinguished speakers, including Mr. Somchai Wattanagaroorn, Vice President of the Supreme Administrative Court, and Mr. Prasat Pongsuwan, President of the Personnel Administration Division of the Supreme Administrative Court, who shared expertise on the topics of "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." A total of 40 participants attended the event, comprising personnel from the People’s Supreme Court of the Lao PDR, the People’s Prosecutor Organization of the Lao PDR, the Justice Committee of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR, the Ministry of Justice of the Lao PDR, National Academy of Politics and Public Administration, and the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the National University of Laos.



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Seminar/Conference

A Series of Academic Seminars on “Building Control Law and Environmental and Safety Management: A Comparative Study between Japan and Thailand.”



Mr. Vishnu Varunyou, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court, assigned Mr. Chanwit Chaikan, Judge of the Rayong Administrative Court, to represent the Administrative Court in attending a series of academic seminars entitled “Building Control Law and Environmental and Safety Management: A Comparative Study between Japan and Thailand.” The seminars were organized under the University of Osaka’s International Exchange and Research Capacity Enhancement Program and were held from 29 April to 17 May 2026 at the Graduate School of Law and Politics, the University of Osaka, Japan.

Participation in these seminars represented an important opportunity to strengthen academic cooperation and promote the exchange of knowledge between the two institutions. The seminars focused on disputes concerning building control laws and urban planning laws through a comparative analysis of legal systems, notable case studies, and law enforcement practices in Japan and Thailand.



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The discussions also addressed issues relating to environmental management and public safety, particularly disaster prevention, environmental governance, and safe urban development, with significant case studies drawn from Tokyo and Bangkok.

Feedback from participants indicated that this academic seminar was highly successful and showed strong potential for further academic collaboration between the two institutions through systematic comparative studies on building control laws, as well as environmental and safety issues in the context of modern urban development. Such cooperation is expected to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of administrative justice and sustainable urban management in the future.



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Seminar/Conference

Seminar for Judges from ASEAN Countries



From 7 to 20 May 2026, the President of the Supreme Administrative Court commissioned Mr. Churtwut Sinpimonboon, Judge of the Central Administrative Court, to represent the Administrative Court at the "Seminar for Judges from ASEAN Countries." The seminar was held at the National Judges College in Beijing and Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China. The program aimed to foster technical cooperation and the exchange of judicial experiences between ASEAN member states and China, while deepening the understanding of the modern Chinese legal system and its judicial developments.

Organized by the National Judges College, the seminar welcomed participants from various ASEAN countries, including Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand. Representing Thailand, the invited agencies included the Administrative Court, the Court of Justice, and the Royal Thai Police.

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Throughout the seminar, delegates attended lectures on legal frameworks, judicial processes, and the integration of modern technology in court administration. The program also covered Chinese legal culture and modern legal philosophies. Furthermore, participants conducted study visits to the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China and various local people's courts, alongside visits to key cultural and economic landmarks. These activities provided a comprehensive perspective on the legal system within the social and cultural context of the People's Republic of China.

Furthermore, the National Judges College in Beijing and its Guangxi Branch extended an exceptionally warm welcome and hospitality to the delegates. Their outstanding support in terms of facilities, seamless coordination, and venue preparation was conducted with the utmost efficiency, courtesy, and formal etiquette. This exemplary support truly reflects the host's commitment to fostering a constructive environment for collaboration and the exchange of ideas, which significantly contributed to the overall success of the seminar.



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International Cooperation

Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Supreme Administrative Court of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China



H.E. Mr. Prasitsak Meelarp, President of the Supreme Administrative Court of Thailand, designated Mr. Suchat Mongkollertlop, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court of Thailand, to represent the Supreme Administrative Court of Thailand in signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Supreme Administrative Court of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed during the delegation's visit to the People's Republic of China from 15 to 17 March 2026. On this occasion, Mr. Jait Satawornseelporn, Secretary-General of the Office of the Administrative Courts of Thailand, also joined the delegation and witnessed the signing ceremony. During the visit, Mr. Suchat Mongkollertlop also met with Mr. Wang Zhongming, Vice-President of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China, and exchanged views on further strengthening cooperation between the two institutions, as well as on the implementation of activities under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding, with a view to enhancing the efficiency of the administration of justice and promoting capacity development of personnel of both sides.

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In addition, Mr. Suchat Mongkollertlop delivered the opening remarks at the training programme entitled “Judicial Transformation with e-Court and Smart Court Technologies: China’s Experience and Inspiration for Thailand,” together with Mr. Sun Zhenping, Head of the Political Department of the Supreme People’s Court of the People’s Republic of China, at the National Judges College of the People’s Republic of China. The programme, held from 15 to 21 March 2026, was attended by 25 judges of the Administrative Courts and personnel of the Office of the Administrative Courts of Thailand.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding marks a significant milestone in establishing institutional relations and further strengthening academic and judicial cooperation between the two organizations in a more concrete and substantive manner. It will facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices in the administration of justice, thereby contributing to the sustainable development of judicial work for both sides in the future. At the same time, the participation of judges of the Administrative Courts and personnel of the Office of the Administrative Courts of Thailand in the training programme at the National Judges College of the People’s Republic of China provides an important opportunity to enhance their knowledge, expertise, and professional experience, particularly in the application of digital technologies in judicial processes. This experience will serve as an important foundation for advancing the development of the Administrative Courts of Thailand towards becoming fully developed electronic courts and smart courts.



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Lecture

Lecture on “Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) - Les modes alternatifs de règlement des différends en France”



On 17 February 2026, the Office of the Administrative Courts conducted a special lecture on “Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) - Les modes alternatifs de règlement des différends en France” delivered by Prof. Florence CROUZATIER-DURAND from Université Côte d’Azur, French Republic. In this regard, judges of the Supreme Administrative Court, administrative judges of First Instance, as well as the personnel from the Office of the Administrative Courts, other external organizations attended the lecture at Seminar Room 2, B1 floor, Administrative Court Premises, Bangkok. The lecture was also broadcast via Cisco Webex Meetings and Web Live Streaming to Central and Regional Administrative Courts and via Cisco Webex for domestic cooperation partners as well.

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Event

Lao New Year Celebration



On Sunday, 5 April 2026, Ms. Radaphat Chongthammakun, Advisor to the Office of the Administrative Courts, together with the Director of the Foreign Affairs Office and relevant officials, attended the Lao New Year Celebration B.E. 2569 at the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) in Thailand, Wang Thonglang District, Bangkok.

The ceremony was presided over by H.E. Mr. Thongsavanh Phomvihane, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR. Representing the Thai side, H.E. Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Prime Minister of Thailand, along with H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuangkitkeow, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the event as heads of the Thai delegation.

On this occasion, Ms. Radaphat Chongthammakun, on behalf of the President of the Supreme Administrative Court, presented a floral arrangement to H.E. Mr. Sisavath Inphachanh, Ambassador of the Lao PDR to Thailand, to convey New Year greetings. The gesture also reflected the close and enduring relations between the two countries, as well as the long-standing and continuous academic cooperation in the field of administrative justice.

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