

(Translation)*

**CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ACT,
B.E. 2509 (1966)**

BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, REX;
Given on the 4th Day of April B.E. 2509;
Being the 21st Year of the Present Reign.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:

Whereas it is expedient to have the law on chambers of commerce;

Be it, therefore, enacted by the King, by and with the advice and consent of the Constituent Assembly serving as the National Assembly, as follows.

Section 1. This Act is called the “Chambers of Commerce Act, B.E. 2509 (1966)”.

Section 2. This Act shall come into force on the day following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.**

Section 3. All provisions of other laws, rules and regulations insofar as they deal with matters governed by this Act or are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be replaced by this Act.

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Section 4. In this Act,

*“chamber of commerce” means an institute formed by several persons for the purpose of promoting trade, servicing, the carrying out of freelance professions, industry, agriculture, finance or economy, without seeking profits or sharing revenues;

*“State enterprises” means State enterprises under the law on budgetary procedures, being limited only to those which are juristic persons and have objects related to trade, servicing, industry, agriculture, finance or economy;

*“co-operatives” means co-operatives under the law on co-operatives, being limited only to those which have objects related to trade, servicing, industry, agriculture, finance or economy;

“Registrar” means the Central Registrar of Chambers of Commerce or the Registrar of Provincial Chambers of Commerce, as the case may be;

“competent official” means a person appointed by the Minister to perform activities under this Act;

“Minister” means the Minister having charge and control of the execution of this Act.

* Translation by Dr. Pinai Nanakorn, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, for the Department of Business Development, Ministry of Commerce

** Published in Government Gazette, Vol. 83, Part 38, dated 26th April 1966.

* As amended by section 3 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

Section 5. The Minister of Commerce shall have charge and control of the execution of this Act and shall have the power to appoint competent officials and issue Ministerial Regulations prescribing fees not in excess of the rate annexed hereto and prescribing other acts for the execution of this Act.

Such Ministerial Regulations shall come into force upon their publication in the Government Gazette.

CHAPTER II

FORMATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Section 6. Chambers of commerce are classified into 4 categories as follows:

- (1) provincial chambers of commerce;
- (2) Thai Chamber of Commerce;
- (3) Foreign chambers of commerce; and
- (4) Board of Trade of Thailand.

***Section 7.** There shall be established the Central Chambers of Commerce Registration Office in the Department of Business Development, Ministry of Commerce, for the purposes of controlling issuance of permits and registration of chambers of commerce throughout the Kingdom and serving as the Chambers of Commerce Registration Office in Bangkok.

In any Province other than Bangkok, there shall be established the Provincial Chambers of Commerce Registration Office directly reporting to the Central Chambers of Commerce Registration Office.

The Director-General of the Department of Business Development or the person entrusted by the Director-General of the Department of Business Development shall be the Central Registrar of Chambers of Commerce and the Registrar of Provincial Chambers of Commerce in Bangkok areas, and the Governor of each Province other than Bangkok or the person entrusted by the Governor shall be the Registrar of Provincial Chambers of Commerce.

Section 8. No person shall form a chamber of commerce unless upon permission by the Registrar.

No branch of any chamber of commerce shall be established.

Section 9. In applying for permission, not less than five promoters shall submit an application to the Registrar in accordance with the rules and procedures prescribed in the Ministerial Regulation.

****Section 10.** When the Registrar has received an application for permission and considers that the application is not contrary to any law and does not endanger national economy or security, public order or good morals and that the promoters are persons of good behaviour, the Registrar shall give an order granting permission, issue a chamber of commerce permit to the applicants and also register the chamber of commerce in question.

If the Registrar gives an order refusing to grant permission, the order shall be notified in writing to the applicants without delay. The applicants have the right to appeal against such order by submitting an appeal in writing to the Minister within fifteen days as from the date of receipt of the notification thereof. The decision of the Minister shall be final.

* As amended by section 4 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

** As amended by section 5 of the Trade Associations Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

Any permission granted for the formation of a chamber of commerce and any dissolution of a chamber of commerce shall be published by the Central Registrar of Chambers of Commerce in the Government Gazette.

Section 11. A chamber of commerce to which a permit has been granted and which has been registered shall be a juristic person.

Section 12. If a chamber of commerce permit is lost or damaged, the chamber of commerce shall submit an application for a permit substitute.

Section 13. A chamber of commerce must have its regulations and such regulations must at least contain the following statements:

(1) its name;

(2) its objects;

(3) its office address;

(4) procedures for the admission of members and removal of membership of the chamber of commerce, and rights and duties of members; and

(5) the operation of affairs of the chamber of commerce, the appointment, vacation of office and meetings of directors and general meetings.

The regulations of a chamber of commerce must be registered with the Registrar at the time of submitting the application for permission to form a chamber of commerce. Prior to issuance of a permit, the Registrar may, if the Registrar deems appropriate, order any alteration of or addition to such regulations.

***Section 14.** Only one provincial chamber of commerce may be formed in each Province. The provincial chamber of commerce in Bangkok shall be called the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

Only one foreign chamber of commerce may be formed for each foreign country.

Section 15. The Thai Chamber of Commerce, foreign chambers of commerce, trade associations, State enterprises and co-operatives may reunite as the Board of Trade of Thailand.

Section 16. The name of a chamber of commerce must be in Thai characters with or without the accompanying foreign-language characters at the end or beneath the name in Thai characters. Only such names as indicated in the regulations may be used. The expression "Provincial Chamber of Commerce, Thai Chamber of Commerce, Foreign Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade of Thailand" or any expression of a similar connotation shall not be used as part of any name without forming a chamber of commerce under this Act.

A chamber of commerce shall cause its clearly legible name board to be displayed in front of its office.

Section 17. No person shall use a name incorporating Thai characters "Chamber of Commerce" or "Board of Trade of Thailand" or foreign-language characters which mean or read "Chamber of Commerce" or "Board of Trade of Thailand" in a seal, a name board, a letter, a notice or any other document related to the business without forming a chamber of commerce unless such use is made in the application for permission to form a chamber of commerce.

* As amended by section 6 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

Section 18. The Registrar shall have the power to issue a written order instructing any person to appear for enquiries or furnish documents to assist official consideration in relation to an application for permission to form a chamber of commerce.

CHAPTER III
MEMBERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Section 19. A chamber of commerce may have only 4 categories of members as follows:

- (1) ordinary members;
- (2) extraordinary members;
- (3) associate members; and
- (4) honorary members.

Only ordinary members are eligible for appointment as directors of a chamber of commerce.

***Section 20.** Subject to section 21, any member of a provincial chamber of commerce must be a natural person of Thai nationality or a juristic person having natural persons of Thai nationality as partners or shareholders in excess of one half of the amount of the capital of such juristic person and must be an operator of an enterprise in trade, servicing, the carrying out of freelance professions, industry, agriculture, finance or economy or must be a trade association having members of Thai nationality in excess of one half of the total number of members or must be a State enterprise or a co-operative.

Any ordinary member of a provincial chamber of commerce, apart from possessing the qualifications under paragraph one, must have a domicile in the Province where the chamber of commerce is located.

Any natural person, juristic person or trade association not possessing the qualifications under paragraph one may only become an associate member of a provincial chamber of commerce.

Any member of a provincial chamber of commerce in any Province may be an associate member of the Thai Chamber of Commerce or of a provincial chamber of commerce in any other Province.

***Section 21.** The Thai Chamber of Commerce consists of members that are natural persons of Thai nationality or juristic persons having natural persons of Thai nationality as partners or shareholders in excess of one half of the amount of the capital of such juristic persons and that are operators of an enterprise in trade, servicing, the carrying out of freelance professions, industry, agriculture, finance or economy or that are State enterprises, co-operatives or provincial chambers of commerce.

Provincial chambers of commerce must be ordinary members of the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

Ordinary members other than provincial chambers of commerce must be domiciled in Bangkok.

Any member of the Thai Chamber of Commerce may be an associate member of a provincial chamber of commerce in any other Province.

***Section 22.** A foreign chamber of commerce consists of members that are domiciled within the Kingdom the majority of which are natural persons of the nationality of the country represented by such chamber of commerce or juristic persons having natural persons of the nationality of the country represented by such chamber of commerce as partners or shareholders in the number of at least one half of the amount of the capital of such juristic persons, including branches of juristic persons registered in the country represented by such chamber of commerce, and that are operators of an enterprise in trade, servicing, the carrying out of freelance professions, industry, agriculture, finance or economy.

* As amended by section 7 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

A foreign chamber of commerce must be a member of the Board of Trade of Thailand.

*** Section 23.** The Board of Trade of Thailand consists of members that are representatives of foreign chambers of commerce, being five for each foreign chamber of commerce, representatives of trade associations, being two for each trade association, representatives of State enterprises, being two for each State enterprise, representatives of co-operatives, being two for each co-operative, and representatives of the Thai Chambers of Commerce, in the number of not less than one half of the number of members of the Board of Trade of Thailand.

The representatives of the Thai Chamber of Commerce under paragraph one must consist of representatives of provincial chambers of commerce of all Provinces that are members of the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

A natural person or juristic person that is a member of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, a provincial chamber of commerce, a foreign chamber of commerce, a trade association or a co-operative may only become an associate member of the Board of Trade of Thailand.

Section 24. There shall be Boards of Directors of chambers of commerce, as follows:

(1) the Board of Directors of a provincial chamber of commerce consists of directors elected by a general meeting from ordinary members in such number as directed by the regulations of the provincial chamber of commerce in question;

(2) the Board of Directors of the Thai Chamber of Commerce consists of directors elected by a general meeting from ordinary members in such number as directed by the regulations of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, provided that amongst the said number at least three directors must be elected from members representing provincial chambers of commerce;

(3) the Board of Director of a foreign chamber of commerce consists of directors elected by a general meeting of that foreign chamber of commerce from ordinary members in such number as directed by the regulations of the foreign chamber of commerce in question; and

****** (4) the Board of Directors of the Board of Trade of Thailand consists of:

(a) President of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, as President *ex officio*;

(b) four vice presidents elected by the Board of Directors of the Board of Trade of Thailand from directors representing the Thai Chamber of Commerce, provincial chambers of commerce, foreign chambers of commerce and trade associations, provided that one director shall be elected from each of such categories;

(c) directors, in the number specified in the regulations, elected by a general meeting of members from the representatives of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, provincial chambers of commerce, foreign chambers of commerce and trade associations, on the basis of an equal number for each of such categories; and

(d) six directors appointed by the Ministry of Commerce from the representatives of State enterprises and co-operatives.

CHAPTER IV

OPERATION OF AFFAIRS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

***** Section 25.** A chamber of commerce shall have a Board of Directors to be in charge of the operation of its affairs and represent the chamber of commerce in transactions made with third persons. For

* As amended by section 7 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

** As amended by section 8 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

*** As amended by section 9 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007). Also, section 19 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007) provides that those holding office of directors in the

these purposes, the Board of Directors may entrust the chamber of commerce's director or administrative staff member assuming office at a level of Executive Director or Vice Executive Director to act on its behalf.

Section 26. In addition to the vacation of office in accordance with the regulations of a chamber of commerce, a director of the chamber of commerce shall vacate office upon becoming bankrupt or being sentenced by a final judgment to a penalty under this Act, and such director shall thenceforth not be entitled to become a director of any chamber of commerce unless the period of three years has elapsed as from a discharge from the bankruptcy or a release from the penalty.

* In the case where a director other than that appointed by the Ministry of Commerce vacates office before the expiration of the term and the remaining term of the director has not less than two months, the Board of Directors shall elect the person under section 24, as the case may be, as replacing director and such replacing director shall hold office for the remaining term of the replaced director.

Section 27. Any member of a chamber of commerce has the right to request an inspection of affairs and property of the chamber of commerce, provided that such request shall be submitted in writing to the chamber of commerce.

Section 28. A chamber of commerce has the duties as follows:

** (1) to generally promote trade, servicing, the carrying out of freelance professions, industry, agriculture, finance or economy by, for example, compiling statistics, disseminating trade information, conducting research related to trade and economics, promoting tourism, issuing certificates of origin of goods, formulating quality standards of goods, inspecting standards of goods, establishing and operating educational institutions related to trade and economy and goods museums, organising goods exhibition fairs and serving as an arbitration centre for the resolution of trade disputes;

** (2) to provide consultation services and give recommendations to members in connection with trade, servicing, the carrying out of freelance professions, industry, agriculture, finance or economy and provide facilitation of the operation of business of members;

(3) to give advice and recommendations to the Government for the purpose of national economic development;

(4) to co-ordinate trade affairs between traders and the Government; and

(5) to perform other activities as specified by law to be the duty of a chamber of commerce or as entrusted by the Government.

Section 29. Subject to section 28, any chamber of commerce shall not perform any of the following acts:

*** (1) operating an enterprise by such chamber of commerce itself or operating an enterprise of its member or participating, holding shares, entering into partnership or entering into co-investment in the operation of an enterprise with any person, with the exception of holding a bond or holding shares in a company listed in a securities exchange as donated or given to the chamber of commerce;

Board of Directors of the Board of Trade of Thailand under the Chambers of Commerce Act, B.E. 2509 (1966) on the date of the entry into force of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007) shall continue to hold office until the expiration of the term as specified in the regulations of the Board of Trade of Thailand.

* As amended by section 10 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

** As amended by section 11 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

*** As amended by section 12 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

(2) carrying out any act in any manner manipulating prices of goods or services towards an unreasonably low or high point or causing turbulences in connection with prices of goods or services;

^{*}(3) giving money or a loan of money to a member or any other person, with the exception of a gift made for a charity purpose or in compliance with a moral duty or out of reasonable social disposition or in the interest of welfare to employees of the chamber of commerce;

(4) carrying out any act in any manner increasing, reducing or restricting the production quantity or the quantity of goods distributed or other services, when the carrying out of such act is prejudicial to domestic or external markets for trade or finance or national economy;

(5) carrying out any act in any manner eliminating competition in a normal course of the operation of enterprises, with the exception of the act performed in pursuance of governmental policies or regulations;

(6) carrying out any act in any manner endangering national economy or security or public order or good morals;

(7) preventing or obstructing any person, being eligible for becoming a member in accordance with the regulations of the chamber of commerce, from becoming a member, or coercing such person in any manner to become a member involuntarily or coercing a member to relinquish membership of the chamber of commerce with a dishonest intent or contrary to the regulations of the chamber of commerce;

(8) disclosing statistics, documents or statements related to specific benefits or interest of any member, except upon such member's written consent; and

^{**}(9) allowing any other person who is not its director to operate the affairs in the capacity as its director, or giving consent thereto, with the exception of the person entrusted by the Board of Directors under section 25.

Section 30. Any chamber of commerce shall not distribute profits or revenues amongst its members or be involved in political affairs.

CHAPTER V CONTROL OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Section 31. The Registrar shall have the power to issue a written order instructing any director or member to appear and give explanations of facts in connection with the affairs of a chamber of commerce or furnish documents in connection with the operation or minutes of meetings of a chamber of commerce.

Section 32. In the execution of this Act, the Registrar or competent officials shall have the power to enter a chamber of commerce's office during its office hours for the purpose of an inspection.

In the performance under paragraph one, the competent officials shall produce their identification cards to persons concerned.

The identification card shall be in the form prescribed by the Minister.

^{*} As amended by section 13 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

^{**} As amended by section 14 of the Chambers of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

In the performance of the duties of the Registrar or the competent officials under paragraph one, the persons concerned shall provide reasonable convenience or assistance or give explanations to the Registrar or the competent officials as requested.

Section 33. A chamber of commerce shall prepare a register of its members to be kept at its office and shall furnish a copy of such register of members to the Registrar within ninety days as from the date of receipt of a permit and registration as a chamber of commerce. A register of members shall at least contain the following particulars:

- (1) names and nationalities of members;
- (2) names used in the operation of enterprises and types of enterprises;
- (3) addresses of offices of members; and
- (4) dates of admission as members.

In the case of admission of new members or any change in relation to the register of members, the chamber of commerce shall notify such admission of new members or such change to the Registrar within ninety days as from the date of admission of the new member or the date of such change.

Section 34. A chamber of commerce shall prepare a balance-sheet at least once every period of twelve months, which constitutes an accounting year of the chamber of commerce.

The balance-sheet must contain particulars showing assets and liabilities of the chamber of commerce together with the revenues and expenses account. The balance-sheet must completely be prepared and audited by an auditor and thereafter submitted to a general meeting of the chamber of commerce for approval within one hundred twenty days as from the end of the accounting year.

Section 35. A chamber of commerce shall prepare an annual report indicating the operation of its affairs for submission to a general meeting at the same time of submitting the balance-sheet and shall furnish a copy of the report and of the balance-sheet to the Registrar within thirty days as from the date of the general meeting.

Section 36. Any alteration of or addition to the regulations of a chamber of commerce may only be made upon resolution of a general meeting and must be registered with the Registrar within thirty days as from the date of the resolution of the general meeting. But, if the Registrar considers that such alteration of or addition to the regulations is contrary to the objects of the chamber of commerce or contrary to the law, the Registrar shall not effect the registration of such alteration of or addition to the regulations.

If the Registrar refuses to effect the registration of the alteration of or addition to the regulations, section 10 paragraph two shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Section 37. Any appointment of directors or any change of directors of a chamber of commerce must be registered with the Registrar within thirty days as from the date of the appointment or the change of directors.

* If the Registrar considers that the person appointed as a director has faulty behaviour or there is a reasonable cause to suspect that such person threatens to endanger national economy or security or public order or good morals, the Registrar has the power to refuse to effect the registration of such person as director of the chamber of commerce.

* As amended by section 15 of the Chamber of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

Section 38. Any person who intends to inspect or copy any document or obtain a certified copy of any document related to a chamber of commerce shall submit an application in accordance with the form prescribed by the Central Registrar of Chambers of Commerce.

Section 39. When it is apparent that the Board of Directors, a director or a member of a chamber of commerce has committed any act threatening to endanger national economy or security or public order or good morals, the Registrar shall have the power to issue a written order instructing the Board of Directors or such director or member to discontinue or rectify such act within the time specified by the Registrar.

Section 40. When a chamber of commerce has committed any act in contravention of section 29, the Minister has the power to instruct all directors *en masse* or any individual director to vacate office. In such case, such directors or director shall lose the right to become directors or a director of a chamber of commerce unless the period of three years has elapsed as from the date of the removal from office by the Minister's order.

Section 41. When there is a reasonable cause to suspect that any chamber of commerce will carry out an act which is unlawful or threatens to endanger national economy or security or public order or good morals, the Registrar shall have the power to issue a written order instructing such chamber of commerce to give the Registrar not less than three days' prior notice of the date and time of every meeting. In such case, the Registrar or the competent official shall have the power to attend the meeting.

In the case where any chamber of commerce fails to give notice of the date and time of the meeting as instructed by the order of the Registrar, the Registrar shall have the power to order such chamber of commerce to cancel the meeting once for a period not exceeding ninety days as from the date of the Registrar's order.

In the case where the Registrar orders a cancellation of the meeting, section 10 paragraph two shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

***Section 42.** If a general meeting of a chamber of commerce passes a resolution which is in contravention of the law or the regulations of the chamber of commerce, the Court shall, upon an application made by any member or the competent official, revoke such resolution of the general meeting, provided that in the case where the application for the revocation is made by a member, such revocation shall be made within thirty days as from the date of such resolution.

Section 43. The Minister shall have the power to order a chamber of commerce to be dissolved in any of the following cases:

(1) when it is apparent that the act performed by the chamber of commerce is unlawful or endangers national economy or security or public order or good morals;

(2) when the chamber of commerce has performed an act in contravention of section 29 and such act is gravely detrimental;

(3) when the chamber of commerce is unable to continue its operation of affairs or has ceased its operation of affairs for at least two years upwards; or

* As amended by section 16 of the Chamber of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

** (4) when it is apparent that the chamber of commerce has allowed any other person who is not its director to operate its affairs in the capacity as its director, or given consent thereto, with the exception of the person entrusted by the Board of Directors under section 25.

Any director of the chamber of commerce ordered by the Minister to be dissolved under (1), (2) or (4), who was involved in the act giving rise to the chamber of commerce being ordered by the Minister to be dissolved, loses the right to become a director of a chamber of commerce unless the period of three years has elapsed as from the date of the Minister's order for the dissolution of such chamber of commerce.

CHAPTER VI DISSOLUTION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Section 44. A chamber of commerce is dissolved upon any of the following events:

- (1) upon a general meeting passing a resolution for dissolving it;
- (2) upon its bankruptcy; or
- (3) upon the order of the Minister for dissolving it under section 43.

The chamber of commerce dissolved under (1) or (2) shall notify it to the Registrar within fifteen days as from the date on which the event giving rise to the dissolution occurred.

Section 45. Subject to section 10 paragraph three, when any chamber of commerce is dissolved on account of any of the events specified in section 44, the Registrar shall revoke the permit and strike the name of such chamber of commerce off the register. In such case, it shall be deemed that such chamber of commerce continues to operate only insofar as it is necessary for its liquidation.

Section 46. The provisions of the Civil and Commercial Code on Liquidation of Registered Partnerships, Limited Partnerships and Limited Companies shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the liquidation of a chamber of commerce which is dissolved under section 44.

Section 47. Upon completion of the liquidation, any remaining assets shall not be distributed amongst members of the chamber of commerce. Such assets must be transferred to any other juristic person having objects related to public charity as indicated in the regulations of the chamber of commerce or, in the absence of such indication, be transferred to such particular juristic person, with objects related to public charity, as directed by a resolution of a general meeting. In any case other than those aforesaid, the remaining assets shall be vested in the State.

CHAPTER VII PENALTIES

Section 48. Any person who contravenes section 8 shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding ten thousand Baht or to both.

Section 49. Any person who becomes a member of a chamber of commerce not granted permission under section 8 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand Baht.

** As amended by section 17 of the Chamber of Commerce Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

Section 50. Any person who contravenes section 16 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand Baht and to an additional fine at a daily rate of fifty Baht until proper rectification is carried out.

Section 51. Any person who contravenes section 17 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand Baht and to an additional fine at a daily rate of fifty Baht until discontinuance of the use in question.

Section 52. Any person who fails to comply with the order of the Registrar under section 18 or section 31 or fails to comply with section 32 paragraph four shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand Baht.

Section 53. Any chamber of commerce which refuses to allow a member to inspect its affairs and property under section 27 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand Baht.

Section 54. Any chamber of commerce which contravenes section 29 or section 30 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand Baht.

Section 55. Any director of a chamber of commerce who contravenes section 29 or performs any act which is contrary to the objects of the chamber of commerce and endangers national economy or security or public order or good morals shall be liable to a fine not exceeding thirty thousand Baht.

Section 56. Any chamber of commerce which contravenes section 33, section 34, section 35, section 36 or section 37 paragraph one shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand Baht.

Section 57. Any person who fails to comply with an order of the Registrar under section 39 or section 41 paragraph one or paragraph two shall be liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand Baht.

Section 58. Any person who contravenes section 40 or continues to become a director or a member of a chamber of commerce already dissolved under section 44 or under section 61 paragraph three shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand Baht or to both.

Section 59. Any chamber of commerce which contravenes section 44 paragraph two or fails to comply with section 46 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand Baht.

Section 60. Any person who contravenes section 47 shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding ten thousand Baht or to both.

***Section 60/1.** All offences under this Act which are only punishable by a fine may be settled, by way of payment of a fine, by the Director-General of the Department of Business Development or a person entrusted by the Director-General of the Department of Business Development; and, upon payment of the fine by the offender, the case shall be deemed **settled** under the Criminal Procedure Code.

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

* As added by section 18 of the Trade Associations Act (No. 2), B.E. 2550 (2007).

Section 61. All chambers of commerce, Boards of Trade or associations, having the same nature or objects as the nature or objects of chambers of commerce, which have been registered as associations under the Civil and Commercial Code prior to the date of the entry into force of this Act, must, if desirous to operate as chambers of commerce under this Act, apply for permission to operate as chambers of commerce within ninety days as from the date of the entry into force of this Act. Upon their permission to operate as chambers of commerce under this Act, the Registrar of Associations under the Civil and Commercial Code shall strike the names of such chambers of commerce, Boards of Trade or associations off the Associations Register.

All assets and liabilities of the chambers of commerce, Boards of Trade or associations which have the same nature or objects as the nature or objects of chambers of commerce granted permission and registered as chambers of commerce under this Act shall be transferred to the chambers of commerce newly formed.

If any chamber of commerce, Board of Trade or association, having the same nature or objects as the nature or objects of a chamber of commerce, which has been registered as an association under the Civil and Commercial Code, fails to apply for permission to operate as a chamber of commerce under this Act within the time specified under paragraph one, such chamber of commerce, Board of Trade or association shall be deemed dissolved and the Registrar of Associations under the Civil and Commercial Code shall strike its name off the Associations Register.

If the chamber of commerce, Board of Trade or association which has the same nature or objects as the nature or objects of a chamber of commerce is not satisfied with the order of the Registrar under the Civil and Commercial Code demanding that its name be struck off the Associations Register, such chamber of commerce, Board of Trade or association may appeal against that order by submitting a written appeal to the Minister within fifteen days as from the date of receipt of the notification of the order. The decision of the Minister shall be final.

Countersigned by:

Field Marshal Thanom Kittikhajorn

Prime Minister

RATES OF FEES

(1) Applications	2 Baht each
(2) Chamber of Commerce Permits	500 Baht each
(3) Substitutes for Chamber of Commerce Permits	50 Baht each
(4) Registration of the Alteration of or Addition to the Regulations or Registration of the Appointment or Change of Directors	5 Baht for each registration
(5) Application for Inspecting or Copying Documents	5 Baht for each inspection
(6) Application for Certified Copies of Documents	20 Baht a copy

Note: - The reasons for the promulgation of this Act are as follows. At present, in the absence of specific law directly regulating the formation and operation of chambers of commerce, existing chambers of commerce, including Boards of Trade, must be registered as associations under the Civil and Commercial Code. Although the Government has proposed a law bill, intended to be *sui generis* legislation, on trade associations under which trade associations are to be separated from ordinary associations, the natures of chambers of commerce are different from those of trade associations, both in terms of the composition and duties. It is therefore necessary to enact a specific law on chambers of commerce.