The relevance of GPA principles for good governance: the case of Thailand

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Questions addressed

- What are the procurement problems in developing countries like Thailand?
- GPA principles: can they benefit developing countries?
- How does Thai law compare with the GPA?
- Would the GPA help alleviate current governance problems?
- What are the challenges of accession?



รายงานการวิจัย

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Research Report

The World Trade Organisation's Government Procurement Agreement: A Study of Thailand's Preparation for Accession

> Submitted to The Comptroller-General's Department, Ministry of Finance

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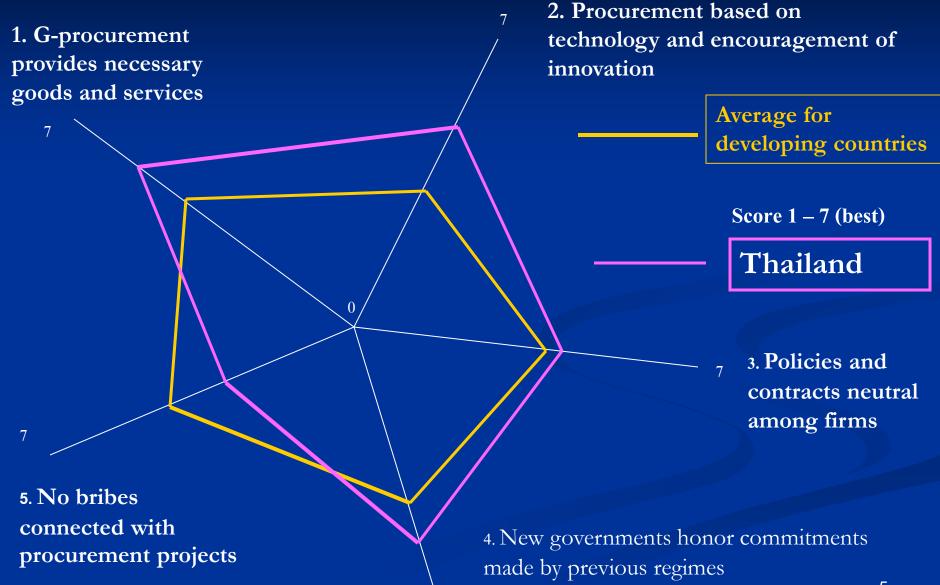
October 2009

Extent of Integrity Risks in Thailand?

- The perception index of Transparency International (TI) for Thailand:
 - 2013 the 102 position among 177 countries
 - 2014 the position had improved to 85
- 2. A survey from 2010 indicates that the presence of irregularities in public procurement is high and actually has deteriorated over time;
- 3. Other international governance and risk indicators for Thailand show a similar gloomy picture;

Source: Peder Blomberg

World competitiveness report assessment



Difficulties in designing procurement system
Multiple objectives of government procurement
Designing system that aligns with personal

incentives

Same behavior/ opposite motives

- Strict conformity
- "Special method"
- Lowest price

Detailed specifications

Can the GPA help?

- How does Thai law compare with the GPA?
- Some similarities and differences:
 - Principles
 - Thresholds
 - Tendering process
 - Time periods
 - Challenges and publication of results

Principles

- GPA: openness (procedural fairness), transparency and nondiscrimination
- Thai regulations: openness and transparency
 - Announcements and dissemination of information through Public Relations Department, Mass Communication Organisation of Thailand, G-Procurement website, etc.
 - Procurement committee required often with citizen participation
 - Contracts worth more than one million baht have to be sent to Office of the Auditor-General and Revenue Department within 30 days of signing
 - Regulations for e-procurement also include additional criteria:



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