



Thailand and Disability Fact sheet

- In 2006, it was estimated that 1.8 % of the Thai population are disabled people.
- Only 679,766 people with disabilities had registered with the Bureau of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities under the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act 1991.
- A survey conducted by the Bureau also found that 1.9-4.9% of disabled people were employed so most people with disabilities are not economically active.
- National Statistics Office 2002 Survey said 71.5 % of persons with disabilities over 15 are unemployed.
- Among persons with disabilities over 15, 47.5% are self-employed, 29% assist in household businesses, and 19.4% are private sector employees.
- The status of the disabled in Thailand is traditionally low.
- On 11 October 2007, Thailand ratified the ILO Convention on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons), (No. 159), 1983.
- Thailand recently promulgated new disability legislation, The Act on the Promotion and Development of Life Quality of Persons with Disabilities, which includes anti-discrimination and stronger employment promotion measures.

Disability Definition in Thailand

“A person with Disabilities means those who are unable to do daily activities or limited by function to conduct activities in daily living and have a full participation in society regarding to their impairment and enabling factor such as physical, attitudinal, systematic and information and technology through methods used by persons without disabilities due to visual, hearing, mobility, communication, psychological, emotional, behavioral, intellectual or learning impairment, and has special needs in order to live and participate in society as others.”