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Chinese Economic Studies in Thailand—Institutes,

Researchers and Agendas

林靖琬

Lalinya Eamchit

指導教授：邵軒磊

PhD. SHAO, Hsuanlei

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摘要

1978 年，中國政府開始進行「改革開放」政策；至今，明顯地中國之政經影響力已經遍布世界各地，一般稱為「中國崛起」。因此，泰國作為鄰國，也把中國當作最重要的貿易對象，其對泰國政治也是影響甚鉅。然而，由於先前研究的不足，泰國社會對於「中國」，一般缺乏認識。因此，本研究將探討自 1975 年 7 月後，中國與泰國官方關係建立，至今約 40 年間，對於中國經濟的研究機構、研究者以及整理其他相關研究途徑，探討泰國如何研究中國。

本研究將使用兩部分之質性研究，包括文獻分析與深入訪談。筆者由訪問代表性學者和蒐集他們之前的研究資料，得以整理出影響泰國中國研究者從事中國觀之因素。此外，本文也探討他們對於後續中國研究者的影響，將有助於本文闡述中國研究在泰國的可能前景。本研究結果將提供後續研究者有關「中國學知識社群」（Communities of China-studies, Sinology）研究途徑的生動知識；本文也提供詳盡資料，為外國學者說明值得注意的泰國學者和以前泰國學界重要之中國研究成果。本文提供了瞭解泰國社會文化之途徑，並期待未來能更多促進外國學者與泰國學者之合作。



中文關鍵詞：中國研究、泰國、中國經濟、中泰關係

ABSTRACT

China government started “reform and open policy”, and their economic growth had continually begun. It is obviously that the influence of China has spread all over the world, also called “the rise of China”. Currently, China is the most important trading country for Thailand. However, there is an insufficient accurate understanding of the Chinese economy among the Thai society. Due to the inadequacy of prior study, this research will explore China Studies in Thailand after official relations were established on July 1, 1975. It will focus on the studies of China’s economy as well as its performance and characteristic. The main question for the research is to explore what institutes, researchers and their agendas in Thailand.

In order to contribute the study, the qualitative data collection technique will be used to conduct the study is divided into two parts, which are the document research and the in-depth interview. The involvement of information of scholars and prior studies will identify China Studies’ performance in Thailand. In addition, the data from existing works will provide the findings of the characteristic and effects of China Studies Communities in Thailand, led to limitations. Furthermore, investigating their effects will contribute to the possible prospect. The accomplishment of this research offers academics, students, and people who are interested in China Studies a vivid knowledge of the research field, it also provides thorough information gathered from noteworthy scholars and previous research in Thailand. Moreover, it will generate an understanding regarding Chinese Economic Studies in Thailand for foreign scholars, offering a ladder to cooperate in the future.

English keywords: China Studies, Chinese Economics, Thai-Chinese Relations

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 RESEARCH MOTIVATION

In the present day, it is obvious that the influence of China has spread all over the world, and also called “the rise of China”. Generally speaking China’s economic growth began after the Cultural Revolution which is lead by Mao Zedong. Then Deng Xiaoping improved the Chinese economic with its citizens’ standard of living, leading to productivity growth under the agricultural and structural transformation in 1978. It shall be felt more miracle if we consider with that China as the most populous country in the world, more than 1.3 billion people.¹

Between 1979 and 1983, five major reforms were pursued: agricultural reform, opening up the economy, fiscal decentralization, the reform of state-owned enterprises, and support for commune-brigade enterprises.² Since then, the economy of China has been continuously developing, with an annual average gross domestic product (GDP) growth of approximately 10%. Chinese economy is often described by analysts as one of the greatest economic success stories (Wayne M. Morrison, 2014). Due to the rapid growth of its economy, Chinese commerce has expanded throughout the world, bringing its people, culture, language, and reputation to the international stage.

“China” is not only known as an “entity”, but also a “discourse”. In most situations, “country name (in this case “China”)” is taken to refer to a sovereign nation-state³, which means a country is completely and independently controlled by her own government. Although cross-border policy is the most significant part to international cooperation, examples include, trade, military, security and development. Hence, in order to strengthen and maintain the relations between nations, we people still know others by

¹ Editor. Ten Countries with the Highest Population in the World. Available at: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats8.htm> (Accessed: 6 October 2014).

² Qian, Y. (2000) ‘The Process of China’s Market Transition (1978-1998): The Evolutionary, Historical, and Comparative Perspectives’, *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics (JITE) / Zeitschrift für die gesamte Staatswissenschaft*.

³ Editor. Political Geography Now: How Many Countries Are There in the World in 2015?. Available at: <http://www.polgeonow.com/2011/04/how-many-countries-are-there-in-world.html> (Accessed: 15 September 2014).

their “nation”, which is one of the keys is to learn in depth about each other. Consequently, The “**China Studies**” in this essay we mention area studies, indigenous studies, Chinese studies and the contemporary China studies.⁴

According to the *United States Library of Congress*, the *Country Studies Series* represents a description and analysis of the historical setting and the social, economic, political, and national security systems and institutions of countries throughout the world.⁵ Not only foreign candidates are interested in this study field, but native citizens themselves are interested as well. In general, the purpose of area studies (*country studies*) and *indigenous studies* are similar, that is to educate students to distinctly understand the nations studies as a whole through in-class lectures, group work and tutorials, seminars, and related activities. Some institutes may provide language training courses, as well.

The area studies is the background story leads to China studies in Thailand. According to Thai perspective, Thai people started to know about China from Chinese oversea people that immigrated to Thailand. At that time, Chinese was considered to be new comer to Thai, brought curiousness about their hometown to Thai people. After that, the enthusiasm to obtain knowledge about Chinese people, culture, language and China as a country was moderately developed to be a new course of study. Besides Thailand, there are other particular countries has conducted China studies for instance the United States, Japan, European countries and those in Southeast Asia region like Vietnam. The China studies in the U.S., Japan and Europe are regarded as the roles models for this dissertation since they represent the powerful and worldwide nations. Hence, the further detail of Chinese economic studies in each particular country will be discussed afterward.

⁴ China Studies mean the subjects of China country, politics and economy. While Chinese Studies cover literature, classics and sinology aspects. The paper commonly substitutes the term as China Studies, the others will be used by specific case.

⁵ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. Country Studies. Available at: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html> (Accessed: 15 September 2014)

In order to obtain common information for the study field, observation was conducted on the curriculums of China Studies in institutes in several countries including Thailand. (University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, University of Nottingham, Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University, Mae Fah Luang University) China Studies is a subject that aims to promote students' awareness of, and interest in China. The curriculum mostly focuses on all aspects of China including its political issues, economy, geography, national history, laws and regulations, society, language and culture.⁶

There is unclear written evidence of the exact beginning time of China Studies. The investigation found that there are different time periods in different countries. It may also depend on each specific point of study, such as the study of its domestic economy, politics, policy and culture. Moreover, another major factor which has influenced this study field are the relations between particular countries and China. The difficulty of Chinese language is also a barrier as scholars' ability to search for sources of primary material, to conduct empirical studies and to gather information from local people in China is limited.

Currently, China is the most important trading partner for Thailand. However, there is an insufficient accurate understanding of the Chinese economy among the Thai people. The important factor is the well social integration of Chinese overseas in Thailand. After the generations of Chinese overseas in Thailand passed by, the proximity between Thai and Chinese people had replaced curiosity to learn about China. Also, the policy of Thai government that obstructed most of the studies about China, caused by the difference among political ideals. In Thailand, the research study of China subject was absolutely less particularly before the official bilateral diplomacy had established in 1975. Nevertheless, after the establishment and the expansion of Chinese economy due to its reform, Thai people increasingly started to learn about China, especially an economic aspect.

⁶ The University of Nottingham. Contemporary Chinese. Available at: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/courses/contemporarychineseandstudies/contemporarychineseandstudies.aspx> (Accessed: 15 September 2014)

Therefore, the study timeline is set to emphasis the period from 1975 to 2014 which is the most present time. This research will explore *China Studies in Thailand* after official relations were established on July 1, 1975, due to the inadequacy of prior research. It will focus on the studies of China's economy, and include other relevant aspects. The accomplishment of this research offers academics, students, and people who are interested in China Studies a vivid knowledge of research, it also provides thorough information gathered from noteworthy scholars and previous research in Thailand. Moreover, it will generate an understanding regarding Chinese Economic Studies in Thailand for foreign scholars, offering a ladder to cooperate in the future.

1.2 RESEARCH BACKGROUND

1.2.1 Thai-Chinese Relations Overview

This section will introduce the Thai-Chinese relationship briefly. In accordance with historical evidence, relations between Thailand and China began unofficially more than 2,200 years ago. At that time, Thailand had not yet been established as the Sukhothai Kingdom (素可泰王國, the first Kingdom of Thailand founded in 1219, under the King Khunsri Intragat⁷). It was the Suvarnabhumi Kingdom, meaning the Golden peninsula, known as Siam or Xianluo (暹羅) in Chinese that had relations with China during Han and Tang dynasty.⁸ A Chinese junk sailing map from Hainan to Southeast Asia from the Han dynasty shows that, Siam was one of the destinations. In addition, Chinese porcelain ware found in Thailand have been identified as produced in the Tang dynasty.⁹ Also, the book, *Southeast Asia: a Historical Encyclopedia, from*

⁷ Historical Archives of Bangkok. การตั้งเมืองสุโขทัยเป็นราชธานี (The Establishment of Sukothai). Available at: <http://haab.catholic.or.th/history/history002/sukhothai5/sukhothai5.html> (Accessed: 6 October 2014).

⁸ ASTV Manager Online. (2012). เอกสารจีนชี้ ประวัติศาสตร์สัมพันธ์ไทย-จีน ยาวนานกว่า 2,200 ปี (Thai-Chinese almost 2,200 years Relations). *Manager Online*. Available at: <http://www.manager.co.th/China/ViewNews.aspx?NewsID=9550000109485> (Accessed: 12 October 2014).

⁹ Kanokpongchai, S. (2007). วิถีจีน-ไทย ในสังคมสยาม (*The Chinese-Thai Ways of Life in Siamese Society*). (1st edn.). Bangkok: Matichon Publishing House.

Angkor Wat to East Timor indicated that the Chinese traded with Funan, which later became a part of Thailand and held the most important commerce during the Tang Dynasty.¹⁰

After the establishment of Sukhothai Kingdom to Ayutthaya¹¹ and Thonburi¹², Siamese royal court had always emphasized on the importance of China. Meanwhile, Chinese were continued to immigrate to Siam, making numbers of Chinese overseas steady increased. The Chinese overseas could find their ways to live their lives stably in Siam, together with conserving Chinese culture in every aspect. In the 16th to 17th century, Chinese government declared the prohibition of Chinese immigration started in 1645, but many people still attempted to move out. Most of the Chinese migrants at that time were from Fujian and Guangdong especially Hokkienese, Cantonese and Chaozhou people. Bangplaso city or Chonburi province today was the center for Chaozhou migrants, while Songkla was the center for Hokkienese, and Cantonese was spread in Ayutthaya and other seaports along the gulf of Thailand.¹³

However, regarding to the record in Yaowarat China Town Heritage Center of Thailand, the emergence of Chinese overseas began when Chinese traders traveled to Thailand by junk, and settled down in many parts of the country including Bangkok where the China Town located. After the King Buddha Yodfa Chulalok the Great (as known as Rama I, 拉瑪一世) relocated the capital city to Rattanakosin in 1782, the Chinese overseas' residences were also relocated to Wat Sam Pluem and Wat Sampheng area, where later became the biggest trading center in Bangkok. During the periods of King Buddha Yodfa Chulalok to King Nangklao (Rama III, 拉瑪三世), Chinese overseas in Sampheng grew rapidly and became the Chinese Community, which led to

¹⁰ Ooi, K. G. (2004). *Southeast Asia: A Historical Encyclopedia, from Angkor Wat to East Timor*. Edited by Keat Ooi Ooi. Santa Barbara.

¹¹ Known as 大城王國 in Chinese, established in 1350 by King Ramathibodi I, and collapsed in 1767.

¹² Known as 吞武里王朝 in Chinese, established in 1767 by King Taksin, until 1782, then was replaced by Rattanakosin or Bangkok today.

¹³ Songprasert, P. (2002). *The Overseas Chinese*. (1st edn.). Bangkok: Tipping Point Press.

the increase of Thai-Chinese trade where Chinese immigrants and labours were involved in the employment. At that time, most of the Chinese settled down in Sampheng area first, then moved to other places around Bangkok and Thailand.

In 1782 King Buddha Yodfa Chulalok established the new capital as Rattanakosin which later changed to Bangkok. The government needed the great number of labours to undertake the country revival project including construction, canal digging and junk trade with China. Thus, the government had to recruit Chinese to work for the project, generated income in the area. It was known that, Chinese are enduring, diligent and excellent in trade, Thai government imposed many sets of attractive privilege for them to work in Thailand. As a result, Chinese overseas were given lots of opportunities, besides being labors, some of them became skilled technicians, traders, farmers, gardeners, and eventually the millionaires today. Before World War II, many Chinese in Thailand were still Chinese citizens who hoped to return to their homeland. That goal changed for many overseas Chinese after the 1949 takeover by the communists. Also, the Chinese seem increasingly comfortable with their condition in Thailand.

Nevertheless, relations between China and Thailand have only officially existed for 39 years, since Mom Rajawongse Kukrit Pramoj, the thirteenth Prime Minister of Thailand visited China on July 1, 1975. That was the first time diplomacy between China and Thailand was established. The treaty was signed by M.R. Kukrit Pramoj and Zhou Enlai (周恩來), the first Premier of the People's Republic of China, after the efforts of the

both governments resolved differences of political ideology. Subsequently, Chai Ze Min (柴澤民) became the first Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the

Kingdom of Thailand, and M.R. Kasem-Samosorn Kasemsri was the first Ambassador of Thailand to China. The establishment of Thai-Chinese relations resulted in cooperations of politics, military, education, culture and economy. However, there were external factors influenced the relations of Thailand and China, particularly the cold war era. We will be discussed as follows.

The Deteriorated Relations Periods

A cordial relationship between Thailand and China began in the pre-historic period, but then turned into an adversarial relationship during the Cold War. After World

War II, Thailand and China still maintained commercial connections, until a contrary change in the beginning of the Korean War period. Thailand was one of the United Nations participant countries. Thus, Thailand had to follow the UN agreement, and discontinued all trades with (mainland) China. Moreover, Thailand also attended Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) in 1954, with the purpose to oppose and prevent the intervention of Communism in Southeast Asia.¹⁴ The headquarters of SEATO was in Bangkok, and a Thai representative, Pote Sarasin¹⁵ was once the secretary of the organization during 1957-1964. However, the SEATO was disbanded in June 1977, after the agreement of the allies.

Another major incident which affected the relations of Thailand and China during Cold War occurred during the period of Field Marshal Plaek Pibulsongkram¹⁶ (known as Luang Pibulsongkram), the third Prime Minister of Thailand. Pibulsongkram possessed strong nationalistic and chauvinistic ideals. This can be seen from his efforts in several accomplishments. For instance, the country's name is to be changed from Siam to Thailand on June 24, 1939, in order to emphasize the "Thai race". Furthermore, he also revised the Thai national anthem on December 10 of the same year.¹⁷ There were some changes in culture customs, such as the command to use the same greeting word of "Sawasdee", and abolished some outdated culture.¹⁸ The extreme nationalism of Pibulsongkram led to the occurrence of an anti-Chinese riot. However, there is a lack of information about the incident. It is said that the cause of incident recounted was

¹⁴ Thaipakdee, M. (2012). Thailand and ASEAN Community: Opportunity and Risk. Available at: <http://romphruekj.kirk.ac.th/books/2555/3/6.pdf> (Accessed: 12 October 2014).

¹⁵ A significant diplomat and politician, was a Thai ambassador to the United States, a foreign minister and the Prime Minister during a military coup in 1957.

¹⁶ formerly Plaek Khittasanha, commonly known among Thai people as a military dictator, was appointed as a Prime Minister twice in 1938-1944 and 1948-1957.

¹⁷ Suvarnthong, C. (2012). รำลึก 78 ปี แรกมีเพลงชาติไทย (In the 78th Year Memorial of Thai Anthem). *Bangkok News*. Available at: <http://www.bangkokbiznews.com/home/detail/life-style/lifestyle/20120827/467625/รำลึก-78-ปี-แรกมีเพลงชาติไทย.html> (Accessed: 4 November 2014).

¹⁸ Editor. The Prime Minister. Available at: http://www.cabinet.thaigov.go.th/eng/pm_03.htm (Accessed: 4 November 2014).

false, the fact is that the government attempted to discharge Chinese people from Thailand, and followed through with actions to discourage them from staying in Thailand such as during the Yaowarat Incident.¹⁹

The Yaowarat Incident occurred on September 21, 1945. By the end of World War II, Chinese were gladly celebrated as the victorious allies, as were overseas Chinese in Thailand. After Japan's declaration of surrender, overseas Chinese celebrated throughout Bangkok, especially in Yaowarat in Chinatown. A tricycle rider rode along Yaowarat street with a Chinese national flag hanging on the tricycle, making joyful overseas Chinese run after the tricycle and caused an intense disturbance. The rider removed the flag and threw it, making them seriously angry, leading to the beginning of insurrection. From the September 21st until 30th, the police and government later took charge of the incident, and the involvement of Chinese associated, caused approximately 140 deaths of overseas Chinese, more than 400 Chinese shops and residences were destroyed and at least 1,000 Chinese were arrested.

Almost 30 years later, when Sanya Dharmasakti²⁰ was the Prime Minister of Thailand, another riot involving Bangkok's Chinese commoners happened again on July 3, 1974, known as the Plabplachai Incident. The incident occurred due to the political movement of the Chinese working class, which resisted to Thai political ideology (Aeksittipong Sittitape, 2013). On July 3, 1974, Poon Lamlueprasert (Lu Fu), a Chinese-Thai taxi driver refused to move his car from the prohibited parking area after being ordered to do so by policemen. Lamlueprasert shouted at the scene that the police were "harming a citizen", causing the surrounding people to join in to oppose the policemen. It led to intensive violence between police and citizens, particularly among the overseas Chinese working class. The Plabplachai Incident continued until July 6th, led to almost 20 deaths, approximately 120 injured and great damage to the Plabplachai police station

¹⁹ Liuxing. (2009). โฉมหน้าประวัติศาสตร์ที่แท้จริง เบื้องหลังเหตุการณ์นองเลือดที่เยาวราช (The Actual History of Yaowarat Incident), *Thai Chinese Blog*, 6 March. Available at: <http://www.thaichinese.net/thaichineseblog/yaowarat-incident/> (Accessed: 21 October 2014).

²⁰ the 12th Prime Minister, was a professor and Dean of Faculty of Law at Thammasat University, a jurist of Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court Judge.

(Prachachart Newspaper, 1974).²¹ Due to the written evidence founded, even though the conflict among Thai and Chinese people had occurred twice, but it did not influence the macro relations of the both. The cooperations of Thailand and China had still remained.

Looking back through the past, Thai-Chinese relations has never stopped interacting. There were various factors cause Chinese immigration to Thailand, some were for temporarily work while some were for permanently settle. The fact that Chinese people have slightly been parts of Thai is accepted by all. However, the differences among two natives still remain and needed to be adjusted. Including language, living culture, proximity and so forth. Nevertheless, the improvement was not easy to be adjusted while some uncontrollable incidents continued to happen. The attempt to process China studies among Thai people was quietly interested by people who were intimate to Chinese. That can be called as the beginning of China Studies in Thailand.

Economic Relations

During the reign of King Buddha Lertla Napalai or Rama II (拉瑪二世), Bangkok was the significant center of junk building, making Chinese and Thai junk trade reached the most prosperous point, generated intensive amount of revenue to Thailand.

Moreover, the British ambassador to Thailand, Dr. John Crawford recorded that, Thai cargo fleet had load 24,562 tons of capacity annually, used 4,912 Chinese labours, brought approximately 7,000 Chinese migrants to Thailand every year, and formed a social group of Chinese community in the latter. After that, in the period of King Nang Klao (Rama III or 拉瑪三世), the Great Britain assigned Captain Henry Barney to Bangkok in order to sign trade treaty in 1825. As a result, it allowed private Chinese concessioners to operate export business, making Chinese-Thai junk trade the significant source of revenue in early Rattanakosin period. The main export goods at

²¹ Matichon Editor. (1974). เหตุการณ์จระจกที่พลับพลายไชย กรกฎาคม พ.ศ. 2517 (Plabplachai Incident). *Matichon News*. Available at: http://mic.matichon.co.th/images/mic_articles20140704.pdf (Accessed: 2 November 2014).

that time were forest products, agricultural products and junks built in Thailand with high quality of wood.

In a speech to the *National Legislative Assembly* on September 6, 1973. Thanom²² briefly outlined his government's policy on trade with the PRC. He emphasized that if his administration was convinced trading with Beijing posed no security dangers to Thailand, then free trade might be permitted. But at this point it was inappropriate to trade freely with a country with which Thailand had no diplomatic relations. (Shee Poon Kim, p.318) After the official establishment of diplomacy in 1975 and the end of Cold War in 1991, the relationship between Thailand and China has persisted to the present day. The economic cooperation in terms of trading and investment has been continuously increasing every year.²³ Formerly, Thai-Chinese commerce in 1974 valued only 3.4 million US dollars. It has since risen to 280 million US dollars in 1980, 2.6 billion US dollars in 1998²⁴, and 57.79 billion US dollars in 2011.²⁵ Between this bilateral trade, Thailand plays a trade deficit role, and China is the significant export target of Thailand, especially for agricultural products. The export products in the raw material category expected to increase are products such as rubber, sugar and plastic (Than Settakit, 2013). According to the Thailand Ministry of Commerce, the most recent statistic (January-September 2014) indicated that China is listed as the first trading market to Thailand, followed by Japan and the United States. In addition, China ranked as the top import country and export destination of Thailand.

²² Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, the 10th Prime Minister of Thailand, was a Royal Thai Army Commander, a Defence Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister.

²³ Chulalongkorn University. Chinese Studies Center, Institute of Asian Studies. Available at: <http://www.csc.ias.chula.ac.th/ncscth/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=5> (Accessed: 6 November 2014).

²⁴ Chirathivat, S. (2005). 'ความสัมพันธ์ทางเศรษฐกิจไทย-จีน: ปัจจุบันและอนาคต', The Seminar of 30 Years Sino-Thai Relationships, 600 Years Sam Po Kong / Zheng He & Ayutthaya and Southeast Asia. 25 November 2005.

²⁵ Chen, Y. (2012). 'Sino-Thailand Trade and Economic Relations Analysis and Prospect', *First Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Seminar*. 24 October 2012.

On December 20, 1973, Deputy Foreign Minister Chartichai²⁶ accepted Beijing's invitation and flew to the PRC to hold talks with the Chinese government. This trip was politically significant since it was the first time in more than two decades that a high-ranking Thai delegate officially visited the PRC; it also marked the beginning of official trading between the two countries. (Shee Poon Kim, p.319) Between Thailand and China, there are several significant economic treaties and agreements, which are part of the success of bilateral economic cooperations. The first agreement is the protocol of import and export between the Kingdom of Thailand and People's Republic of China in 1979. It was signed at Bangkok on November 9, 1979 by Auppadisr Pajareeyangkul²⁷, Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs and Huang Huang, Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs.²⁸ On the other side, in the private sectors, Thailand and China have created accords through agreements and memorandums of understanding. For instance, on August 27, 1993, there was an agreement between three Thai private sectors: the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of Thailand; the Federation of Thai Industries and; the Thai Bankers' Association, which cooperated with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.²⁹

The economic cooperations between Thailand and China had abruptly raised in 2000, after China officially entered the 143rd member of World Trade Organization (WTO) on December 11, 2001. Afterwards, Chinese economic role became even more important in the world and Asia market. China progressed to be the top forth export country, becoming one of the most significant producer in various types of product. (Department of Trade Negotiation, 2009) Furthermore, China is a huge market with a

²⁶ Chartichai Choonhavan, the 17th Prime Minister of Thailand, was a Royal Thai Army officer, diplomat and politician. He also the founder of two political parties which are the Thai Nation Party and the National Development Party.

²⁷ was appointed the Foreign Affairs Minister during October 22, 1976 to February 11, 1980, and also served as a Thai ambassador to Switzerland in 1972.

²⁸ Huang, H. and Pajareeyangkul, A. (1979). The Protocol of Import and Export between the Kingdom of Thailand and People's Republic of China, 1979.

²⁹ Department of Trade Negotiations. (2012). ข้อมูลการค้าไทย-จีน (The Information of Thai-Chinese Trade). Available at: http://www.thaifta.com/trade/china/cn_trade.pdf (Accessed: 8 November 2014).

low cost of investment that is capable to support most of the products, services and enterprises. (Suttiaphan Chirathivat, 2001) The benefit to Thailand is the Thai-Chinese economic collaborations has developed into the better way for instance tariff reduction, international trade increase, economic contract, treaty and memorandum. However, after Chinese WTO membership, there was a question about Thai and Chinese economic cooperation. “Why is Trade Agreement between Thailand and China on agricultural products not done under the framework of WTO”. The answer is that when China applied for a WTO membership at bilateral level, China just reduced the tariff but not totally abolish the tariff. Nonetheless, due to a low rate employee, the WTO membership of China also brought a higher competitive in labor-incentive product lines to Southeast Asia countries including Thailand.³⁰

Political Relations and Military Cooperation

Besides an economic relations, Thai and Chinese governments also build the political and military cooperations. Since M.R. Kukrit Pramoj and Zhou Enlai signed the Thai-Chinese diplomacy treaty in 1975, gratifying relations have developed rapidly to the present day. China is a destination that every Thai Prime Minister has visited primarily after serving as the Prime Minister. The policy to strengthen and maintain Thai-Chinese relations is one of the most important considerations of all cabinets. Even though Thailand and China have different political ideologies, both adhere to avoid any intervention in their domestic political issues.³¹ Moreover, the actions and gestures of the Thai royal family have also affirmed the significance of Thai-Chinese relations. His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the Rama ninth of Chakri dynasty (拉瑪九世), visited China on June 5, 1963 for the first time.³² The purpose was to contribute to the

³⁰ Chirathivat, S. (2001). บทบาทของจีนหลังจากเข้า WTO (The Chinese Role after Became WTO Member). Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University.

³¹ Theeravit, K. (2010). ไทย-จีน: พัฒนาการความสัมพันธ์จีนมิตรจากอดีตสู่ปัจจุบันและทิศทางในอนาคต (Thailand-China: the Friendly Relations Development from the Past to Present and Future Tendency).

³² The Golden Jubilee Network Editor. Activities of H.M.K. Bhumibol Adulyadej. Available at: <http://kanchanapisek.or.th/activities/index.th.html#foreign> (Accessed: 14 November 2014).

friendly relations between Thailand and China. Furthermore, the visits of other Thai royal family members, particularly Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (詩琳通公主), give evidence to the attempt to maintain good relations. At all times, she not only all parts of China, but also makes an effort to learn Chinese language and culture. By all means, her attempt impacts on Thai-Chinese relations, and the expansion of China studies in Thailand.

On the other hand, the military cooperation between Thailand and China has also gradually evolved since 1975. These developments came about largely due to the Cambodian conflict, wherein both Bangkok and Beijing recognized their mutual interest in resisting the expanding Vietnamese influence in Indochina. (Gill, R. Bates., 1991) During the Vietnam war, China transferred some weapons through Thailand, and the Thai military also offered support to the Chinese army. After that, Thai-Chinese military relations rapidly strengthened, and there were martial leaders' meetings on both sides. Especially, in the period between the late 1980's to early 1990's, Thai and Chinese high ranking officials met several times.³³ In addition, China provided weapon support to the Thai army such as tanks, cannons, and Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG). Besides being a supplier, China also sells weapons to Thailand at a fair price, for example T-69-II cannons and anti-aircraft guns.

The above information shows that, Thai people emphasis on the importance of China and the attempt to strengthen Thai-Chinese relations. It is obvious that, the both countries has consecutively building overall relationship especially economic and political essentials. The economic relations of Thailand and China has begun under trading between two sides of merchant. Then it has become wider and more official after government happened to be involved. Thai government tended to maintain economic relations with China even though Thailand plays a trade deficit role. On the one hand, political relations are not less important than economics. It is obvious that, every level of Thai population sees an importance to strengthen Chinese connection. This can be distinctively seen by each leader of Thailand. The visit to China is ranked to

³³ Gill, B. R. (1991). China Looks to Thailand: Exporting Arms, Exporting Influence. *Asian Survey*, 31(6), pp. 526–539.

be the top country once becoming the leader. Together with government side, the Royal Family also stresses on Thai-Chinese relations, which related to the core of relationship building as well.

1.2.2 China Studies in Thailand Overview

With China's rapid change and growing importance in the international arena, scholars from around the world have increasingly focused on studying China's economy. (Penelope B. Prime, 2006) Thailand's neighbouring country in Southeast Asia region have also begun to study the same topic especially for Vietnam. In recent years the Institute's work on China has focused on political and ideological matters, but it is planning to expand its research focus to include PRC foreign policy, economic reform, trade and investment and other matters, as well as initiating some work on Hong Kong and Taiwan. It is obvious that, not only western scholars see the importance of Chinese economy, but the Southeast Asian including Thai scholars, as well.

Thailand and China have enjoyed long and strong relations, which is apparent by the accomplishments of cooperative efforts among both countries as previously illustrated. The proportion of overseas Chinese (Hua-Qiao), which makes up 14% of the Thai population, as well as other innumerable and undefined reasons.³⁴ In accordance with the the Overseas Community Affairs Council statistics, Thailand has the second largest overseas Chinese population after Indonesia.³⁵ However, if we consider Chinese in terms of percentage in regards to the whole Thai population, Thailand has the largest percentage of overseas Chinese in the world. The majority of the ethnic Chinese population in Thailand traces their ancestry to Southern China. They can be grouped by dialect and domicile by birth as: the Hokkiens from Southern Hokkien Province; the Teochews from Northeastern Guangdong Province; the Hakkas from Northern

³⁴ From Thai perspective, there are no clarification between Mainlander and Taiwanese, the Chinese Overseas are regarded as Chinese immigrants which is '華人' in Chinese language. But some of them later being divided into groups due to their homelands by Chinese associations in Thailand.

³⁵ Overseas Community Affairs Council. (2014). Overseas Chinese Population by Country. Available at: http://www.ocac.gov.tw/OCAC/File/Attach/1168/File_1861.pdf (Accessed: 15 September 2014).

Guangdong Province; the Cantonese from Central Guangdong Province and; the Hainanese from Northeastern Hainan Province.

Nevertheless, through the generations passed by, the overseas Chinese in Thailand today were assimilated into Thai society. According to the latest data of the Department of Provincial Administration, approximately 80% of Chinese population in Thailand had changed their Chinese surname to be Thai. The record shows that, there are 4,700 Chinese surname are being used in Thailand, and totally 773,117 overseas Chinese in Thailand are using Chinese surname today.³⁶ Although Thailand has very high numbers of overseas Chinese assembly, but its relation with China studies is appeared to be indirection. In the past, China Studies in Thailand and Chinese language education did not flourish. Compared with other overseas Chinese populations, the people who are able to speak and understand Chinese are unquestionably less. One of the obstacles of Chinese language study in Thailand was due to the opposing political ideologies mentioned above.

It is admit that, the China Studies in Thailand was root by Chinese overseas that immigrated to the country. The Thai curiosity of their language, culture and homeland led to the beginning to acquire knowledge about China. Thereby, an initiation of the study field in Thailand was begun by Chinese language training, along with family background. In other word, Thai people started to learn Chinese language, then slightly appended other essences such as its culture, country, politics and economy. Consequently, the study field in Thailand is mostly named as Chinese Studies as its background story. While the actual content is relevant to both literature and science divisions.

The distinctive point of China Studies in Thailand that makes a difference from other countries is, most of Thai pioneer scholars were graduated from either Western countries or the United States, including China Studies division as well. Therefore, the perspective toward China of these scholars are slightly close to those from Western scholars. However, according to their living background, Thai scholars have been living

³⁶ Baicloy, P. (2015). คนไทยเชื้อสายจีน ใช้สกุลแซ่กว่า 700,000 คน (700,000 Chinese in Thailand use Chinese Family Names). *BEC Tero News*.

in Thailand which has many Chinese all over the country. The outcome of academic perspective combine with nature background is even more interesting than others. In contrast, it is more complicated, too.

Before the Establishment of Thai-Chinese Diplomacy (1975)

First and foremost, the different political ideologies of Thailand and China are considered to be the major obstacle of China studies in Thailand. Previously, Thailand was ruled by an absolute monarchy, but was reformed to be a constitutional monarchy on June 24, 1932 (Parliament, 2007). A sense of respect and royalism toward the Monarchy has been thoroughly rooted among the Thai people. In contrast, China has been ruled by communism, which is generally regarded as the opposite of democracy. Hence, the Thai government decided not to institute China Studies in Thailand at that time. The principal reason was to protect the regime of the country, avoiding intervention from other regimes. However, the overseas Chinese made efforts to establish a Chinese school, and the first Chinese school in Thailand (Siam, at that time) was founded in 1782, during the reign of His Majesty King Buddha Yodfa Chulalok, Rama I (Manager, 2008). The first Chinese school encountered many obstacles, and eventually closed down. After that, there is no evidence proving the establishment of another Chinese school.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, instruction of Chinese youth was essentially familial. Schools were few and received little notice from the government. As education became formalised, schools were added by the Chinese community, and by 1910 Chinese self-consciousness included increased emphasis on education. Those trends were worrisome to the government. (Curtis N. Thomson, p.405) During King Chulalongkorn (known as Rama V or 拉瑪五世), Thai government aimed to modernise the country to be Western style. The reform resulted in the system of tax collection which had been operated by Chinese was almost abandoned. Nevertheless, Chinese businesspeople managed to adjust their livings and turned to be the leaders in the new areas of trade. In the meantime, Chinese overseas started to group together and formed

their community in the new pattern, such as dialect groups (Hokkiens, Teochews, Hakkas, Cantonese and Hainanese) and public charity groups. According to the state development, the Chinese community in Sampheng were benefited by several schemes. The first Chinese temple, Chinese-owned hospitals, Chinese banks, Chinese newspaper and Chinese schools were consecutively operated. It is afraid about “Nationalism” between Chinese and Thai.

In 1908, Hua Eia School (華益) was founded by a Chinese revolutionary group of the Kuo Min Dang, under the leadership of Sun Yat Sen. The Hua Eia School was recognised as the first official Chinese school in Thailand. The school was located in Charoen Krung, formerly Soi Captain Bush, Bangkok. The objective of Hua Eia School was to train overseas Chinese in political ideals. The Hua Eia School was suddenly shut down shortly after its establishment, as most of the teachers were political officers from China, which led to trouble being abroad. During the period of His Majesty King Vajiravudh (known as Rama VI or 拉瑪六世) in 1910-1925, many Chinese schools were founded following the increase of Chinese associations in Siam. They were differentiated by each founder’s hometown in China. The Chinese schools in this period could be clarified as Hakka, Cantonese, Hokkien and Hainan. Each school provided lectures and cultural education in their own dialect.³⁷ The Chinese schools later expanded to other cities in Thailand. However, according to government policies, they are no longer called *huaxiao* (華校, Chinese schools), but are known as *minxiao* (民校, people’s schools) or *kongxiao* (共校, public schools). These schools, according to one informant (a school teacher), follow the regular curriculum of Thai schools. The significant difference is that classes are conducted in both Chinese and Thai. (Chan Kwok Bun / Tong Chee Kiong, p.154)

Even though several Chinese schools were opened in the reign under King Vajiravudh, however, it was the period that Chinese schools were restricted to the rules.

³⁷ ASTV Manager Online. (2008). ขัปรศนา ‘หลุมดำ’ ในการเรียนการสอนภาษาจีนในประเทศไทย (The Limitations of Chinese Language Studies in Thailand). *Manager Online*. Available at: <http://www.manager.co.th/China/ViewNews.aspx?NewsID=9510000127646&Page=2&TabID=3> (Accessed: 8 November 2014).

The government came up with the new law, enforced all Chinese schools to include Thai language and Thai history in their lessons. The curriculums led Chinese overseas students acquire knowledge of Thailand, and assimilated with Thai society. At that time, Chinese overseas decided to settle in Thailand, led to the establish of many Chinese schools as mentioned above in order to give their descendants the Chinese lessons involving language and culture. In 1921, Thai government passes the Private Schools Act and the Compulsory Education Act, as a result that each school had to adapt Thai language as the main language of instruction, as well as Chinese schools. One of the most important and successful Chinese schools is Pei Ing School (培英), located in Yaowarat. Pei Ing Schools was founded in 1920, during the period of King Vajiravudh, as will. The School was funded by the donations of Teochew traders, and it has made progress up from the start until the present. Many alumni of Pei Ing School later became economic leaders of Thailand.

Afterwards, in the year 1938, during the Sino-Japan War, the Thai government which was in an alliance with Japan, took charge of shutting down almost 200 Chinese schools. The reason was because Chinese schools could be used as a place for Chinese to assemble, and the government had to eliminate the anti-Japanese movement. Subsequently, the overseas Chinese leaders requested to reopen the schools. The Thai government allowed them to operate only primary education, and permitted the usage of the Chinese language to teach to no more than 20%. Under the Pibulsongkram leadership, an actively nationalistic Prime Minister, several Chinese schools were closed, and the time permitted to teach Chinese language in existing schools was restricted. In addition, during the post Chinese Revolution in 1949, the Thai government continued to strictly control Chinese schools, intercepting the distribution of political regime. Roughly 145 Chinese schools remained after government shut down many of them. The Ministry of Education allowed only 5 hours of Chinese language training per day. All curricula and teachers were closely investigated, and none of the subjects provided the Chinese Communist Regime.³⁸

³⁸ Theeravit, K. (2005). *จีนศึกษาในไทยและความร่วมมือไทย-จีนด้านการศึกษา* (The China Studies in Thailand and the Thai-Chinese Educational Cooperation). Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University.

It is obvious that, before the official bilateral relations of Thailand and China were established, China studies and Chinese language studies in Thailand were troublesome and filled with obstacles. Notwithstanding, one of the most significant institutes that pushed forward China studies was the Faculty of Political Science of Chulalongkorn University (CU)³⁹. In 1965, the Faculty first provided Chinese Communism knowledge under the subject of Politics and Governance of China and Japan, instructed by Khien Theeravit. After that, the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) was unofficially set up in 1967 as a unit of the Faculty. In 1972, Dr. Kasem Suwannakul, Associate Professor Ampon Namart and Dr. Khien Theeravit established Chinese language training in Chulalongkorn University, which was the first one among the universities of Thailand. At that time, none of the university's professors were courageous enough to provide Chinese language courses, unlike Japanese and other languages. Consequently, China studies and Chinese language studies in Thailand were gradually developed, especially after the establishment of Thai-Chinese bilateral relations.

Post 1975 - Present

Previously, every research and study of China were challenged, some of the material resources are from prohibited documents. The National Security Council of Thailand considered the studies of China as somehow related to the Communist regime, which needed to be resisted. Most of the researches and works were published after the studies of Japan, in order to avoid being too distinct. The Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University was separated from the Faculty of Political Science on May 10, 1985.⁴⁰ A few years later, the Faculty of Arts of CU established a Chinese language major. After that, other universities have respectively provided the same course, including government universities and private universities.

³⁹ Chulalongkorn University, 朱拉隆功大學 or จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย in Thai is the first university in Thailand, established on March 26, 1917 under King Chulalongkorn or Rama V.

⁴⁰ Chulalongkorn University. Background - Institute of Asian Studies. Available at: <http://www.ias.chula.ac.th/ias/en/Background.php> (Accessed: 14 November 2014).

The Institute of Asian Studies had launched Chinese language studies seminar 4 times during 1986-1990. The purposes were to advocate Chinese language training in Thailand, to urge Thai people to study Chinese and properly manage systematic Chinese language study.⁴¹ The last time the seminar was held was on October 19, 1990. The IAS presented a research study of Chinese language training in primary education in Thailand, along with invitations to the administrators of Chinese language schools and teachers. Consequently, the rise of Chinese language study in Thailand progressed successively. The turning point of Chinese language study occurred during Anand Panyarachun's term, the eighteenth Prime Minister of Thailand.⁴² Panyarachun developed the undergraduate study system, and provided more opportunities and independent education.⁴³

The Panyarachun Government declared to remove restrictions on Chinese language study, and upgraded it to the same rank as Japanese, French, German languages and so forth on February 4, 1992. Moreover, every educational institution was permitted to teach Chinese language. In 1997, Chinese language was organised into a unit of the arts program at the high school level. The expansion of Chinese language study has continually followed the rise of the importance of China, especially in regards to its economy. In addition, the Ministry of Education has added Chinese to an required elective subject for university admission. In any case, the popularity of Chinese language study resulted in a rapid growth of Chinese language institutes, schools and tutorial classes. However, some of the them are commercial businesses, the curriculum, textbooks and teachers often lack in quality. Even though the improvement of education from the Panyarachun Government initiated the modification of Chinese language

⁴¹ Theeravit, K. (2005). *จีนศึกษาของไทยในยามยาก* (The China Studies in Deteriorated Period of Thailand).

⁴² was the Prime Minister, politician, a Thai ambassador to the United Nation, the United States, Canada and Germany. He was also a President of several significant industries, held important posts in many academic institutions. He received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service in 1997.

⁴³ Editor. *นายกรัฐมนตรีคนที่ 18 นายอานันท์ ปันยารชุน* (The 18th Prime Minister, Anand Panyarachun). Available at: <http://www.thaigov.go.th/th/primeminister/item/78224-นายกรัฐมนตรีคนที่-18-นายอานันท์-ปันยารชุน.html> (Accessed: 8 November 2014).

study, it essentially benefitted only the language study aspect, not for other subjects related to China. Nowadays, there are no studies of China as a country included in the fundamental curriculum of Thai education. In Thailand, according to the high school curriculum, history, politics, economics and physical geography are the subjects consisted in Social Studies. However, the above four element subjects are separately divided into “faculties” in the Undergraduate level. Nonetheless, there are only a few Faculties of China Studies (or Chinese Studies) existing at the university level. Mostly China Studies are only parts of other faculties. For instance, it can be found in Faculty of Asian Studies, Faculty of International Studies, and as a part of Arts Program in Chinese Language.

Consequently, the revision of Panyarachun Government on Chinese language studies have created a wide positive impact to several academic institutes in Thailand, which including the recent surge of China study programs provided in each particular institute. Thammasat University⁴⁴ is the first university providing a bachelor’s degree in China Studies, which was started in 2009. The Faculty not only aims to provide education in Chinese language, but also includes its society, culture, politics and economy.⁴⁵ It accepts 100 students annually for enrolment.

Later, the private university also operate China Studies program or attach the subject in Chinese language program. The noticeable private universities are: Huachiew Chalermprakiet University⁴⁶, the Faculty of Chinese Language and Culture, aims to educate proper Chinese language along with Chinese culture in order to be able to

⁴⁴ Thammasat University, 政法大學 or มหาวิทยาลัยธรรมศาสตร์ in Thai was found on June 27, 1934 by Professor Pridi Banomyong, and recognized as the second oldest university. It originally names as the University of Ethics and Politics.

⁴⁵ Vessakosol, P. (2009) บทสัมภาษณ์คนเบ็ด วิทยาลัยนานาชาติ ปรีดี พนมยงค์ มหาวิทยาลัยธรรมศาสตร์ (Interview of the Chairperson of Thammasat University).

⁴⁶ 華僑崇聖大學 or มหาวิทยาลัยหัวเฉียวเฉลิมพระเกียรติ in Thai, originally was Huachiew Hospital Midwifery School in 1941, established by the Poh Tek Sieng Tung Overseas Chinese Foundation. Then was elevated the status to “University” and received the new title on May 11, 1992.

assimilate in Chinese business; Assumption University⁴⁷, the curriculum was designed to tutor Chinese language specifically business aspect, together with the knowledge of Chinese business, economy and trade; Rangsit University⁴⁸, the operation of International Chinese College of Rangsit University (泰國蘭實大學中國國際學院) aims to promote quality Chinese language and business knowledge. Its distinctive point is Rangsit University has cooperated with Yunnan University of Finance and Economics and Xiamen University in the student exchange program.

Due to the expansion of Chinese studies, relevant Chinese Studies centers have been established. In accordance with the information found, Thammasat University (TU) was the first to set up the Center for Chinese Studies on April 1, 1984. It is a unit of the Institute of East Asian Studies. The Institute of East Asian Studies is part of three elements, the other two being Japanese Studies and Korean Studies. The main objectives are to promote the study and conduct research about China and; to support the education, seminars, conferences among scholars, institutes and organisations in the study field.

Chulalongkorn University was officially established as the Chinese Studies Center on July 1, 1995, under the Institute of Asian Studies. The main purposes are to support education of China Studies for all levels; advocate understanding among Thai people to better understand China's culture, history, politics, economy and foreign relations; to create an effective source of information about China and; to promote the academic cooperation of China Studies with international scholars. Before the establishment of the Chinese Studies Center, volunteers of the study field had produced a publication called the *Chinese Studies Magazine* (วารสารจีนศึกษา, 中国研究季刊) in 1976, but there were only 2 issues published. The document was sabotaged on October 6 in the

⁴⁷ 易三倉大學 or มหาวิทยาลัยอัสสัมชัญ in Thai is the first international university in Thailand, found in 1969 by the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. Its original name was Assumption Business Administration Collage, known as ABAC.

⁴⁸ 蘭實大學 or known as มหาวิทยาลัยรังสิต was found by the Committee consist of educationists, academics and specialists from various government enterprises. The first student enrollment was in 1986 under the name of Rangsit Collage, then was catagorized as a university on July 31, 1990.

same year as the consequence of Thai political conflict. The editor was Supat Tantasusan.⁴⁹

Aside from the institutions under the universities mentioned above, there is another important institute. The Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Centre (TCRC), or Vijaichina, operated by the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT). Founded in 2012, the Center aims to promote the systematic research of China, and its missions are divided into 3 sections which are: 'Research', to conduct China research, various in several topics; 'Platform', to be the stage for Thai and Chinese scholars to exchange and cooperate and; 'Knowledge', to support every research study about China studies, alongside the dissemination to the public.⁵⁰ The current Chief of the Center is Associate Professor Dr. Aksornsri Panishsarn.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTION AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

The questions of the research are amplified in order to act as a guidance of the study, which is related to the research objectives. The main question for the research is what are the Chinese Economic Studies like in Thailand? The information from the prior scholars and works will provide the findings of the distinctive points and effects of China Studies in Thailand, which led to its limitations. Furthermore, investigating their performances will contribute to the possible prospect of China Studies in Thailand.

1.4 STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY

The research study consists of five main chapters as follows:

Chapter 1, Introduction – provides the background of the research study which started from a wider aspect to a narrow viewpoint. The end of the chapter is the structure of the study.

⁴⁹ Chulalongkorn University. Background - Institute of Asian Studies. Available at: <http://www.ias.chula.ac.th/ias/en/Background.php> (Accessed: 14 November 2014).

⁵⁰ Vijaichina. (2012). เราคือใคร | ศูนย์วิจัยยุทธศาสตร์ไทย-จีน (The Background of Vijaichina). Available at: <http://www.vijaichina.com/aboutUs/whoAreWe> (Accessed: 21 November 2014).

Chapter 2, Research Objectives and Methodology – indicate the research objectives that are responded to its questions. Specifies the methodologies being used to compose the research.

Chapter 3, Literature Review – analyzes the existing researches that are relevant to the study topic in order to provide prior comprehension in the study scope. The gaps in the independent research are identified.

Chapter 4, Findings and Discussion – presents the result of findings after the research was conducted into three themes including suggestions the selective universities and institutes that impact the study field, together with the result discussion.

Chapter 5, Analysis – presents the analysis part due to the comparison of Chinese economic studies in Thailand and other significant countries, indicates the three mainstreams of China Studies in Thai culture.

Chapter 6, Conclusion – summarises the study and findings of the research. The possible strategies to promote China Studies in Thailand will be discussed. Then indicates the limitation of the research.



CHAPTER 2: RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of this research is to investigate the aspect of Chinese economic studies in Thailand, and it contains the specific objectives as follows:

- to investigate the prior academic works and relevant institutes on Chinese economic studies to have a better understanding of the Chinese economic studies in Thailand
- to investigate limitations of Chinese economic studies in Thailand for further development of field of study, and
- to increase awareness of Chinese economic studies and discuss its importance, along with the impact of China's economy on Thailand.

2.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

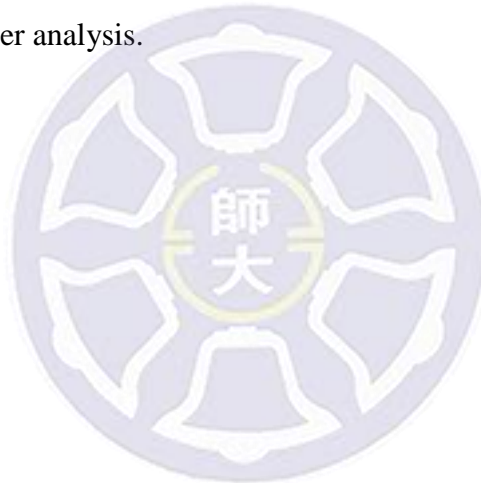
This chapter presents the research methodology used to collect data. In this study, the qualitative data collection technique is divided into two parts: documentary research and in-depth interview. The research methodology is unbiased, and capable of providing reliable data, which can meet the research questions as well as the objectives.

2.2.1 Documentary research

Document research is a method of study using documents to support arguments and perspectives of an academic work. In the study, two types of documents will be used, including primary and secondary documents. Useful and relevant prior works in Chinese economic studies in Thailand investigated by certain institutes, both public and private sectors, are mostly regarded as the primary data. The secondary data is from online databases, which are also sources for data collection, including the official websites providing relevant news, articles, and information. However, the examination of primary data is of the most importance in order to have a better understanding.

2.2.2 In-Depth Interview

The in-depth interview is a method to collect data, which is important to have a deeper and valid understanding of the subject. To obtain important data for the analysis, the primary data will be gathered by conducting the in-depth interview with significant scholars of Chinese economic studies, as mentioned earlier. The distinctiveness of the in-depth interview helps to collect valid and reliable data. Moreover, it is a procedure to obtain comprehensive data directly from interviewees' experiences, thoughts and perspectives. The interview questions prepared involve guidelines and checklists for discussion topics that will be addressed during the interview. Consequently, the questions listed beforehand are designed to help the interviewees to answer the main research questions. Lastly, open-ended questions will also be used in order to gain wider and clearer data for further analysis.



CHAPTER 3: LITERATURE REVIEW

For the comprehension of the study topic, the analysis of related previous researches will be presented in this chapter.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The literature review consists of two parts in the context of China Studies: the works of international scholars and Thai scholars. The end of this chapter reveals the research gaps, indicating different results from prior works in China.

Despite the limited sources of literature review due to scarce related studies in Thailand and difficult search for relevant materials, literature review in this chapter is beneficial as it presents a wider scope of the study from international research on the Chinese economic studies. Then, a scope of the study is narrowed down by focusing on the Chinese economic studies in Thailand. Lastly, notable works written by Thai scholars and published in the country will be described and reviewed.

3.2 CHINESE ECONOMIC STUDIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

As mentioned above, China is the most rapidly changing society in recent decades, leading to the development of China studies scholars, which are occasionally called the China Watchers. With its increasingly global importance, there is a scholarship of China Watchers from Europe, Japan and the United States⁵¹ which collaboratively wrote the book, '*China Watching*' in 2007. The book comprises of the investigations of China studies in Europe, Japan and the United States with an emphasis on three specific areas: Chinese economy, Chinese political studies, and Chinese foreign relations and national security. However, since this research focuses on the Chinese economic studies, the parts of Chinese economy of the books will be thoroughly reviewed. *China Watching*

⁵¹ Ash, Robert., a Professor of Economics with reference to China and Taiwan at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.
Shambaugh, David., a Professor of Political Science and International Affairs and Director of the China Policy Program at the George Washington University.
Takagi, Seiichiro., a Professor at the School of International Politics, Economics, and Business at the Aoyama Gakuin University.

has unique characteristics in terms of its international and comparative aspects. The distinctive comparisons among three subjects and regions are explained.

3.2.1 The Chinese Economic Studies in Europe

The study of China's economy in Europe has lagged at least 15 years behind the similar study in Soviet Union. In the early state, Walter Galenson's study was the pioneer in Chinese economic study among European scholars. At that time, he defined the eight topics of Chinese economic studies agenda such as, national product and income; population and labor force; agriculture; industry and commerce; prices, money and banking; wages, living standards, labor incentives; planning, investment and management.

The first study of China's economy was "*an Economic Profile of Mainland China*", written by Walter Galenson, and published in 1968, when the study of the contemporary Chinese economy was in the beginning periods. In addition to linguistic barriers, political and economic interests have also influenced the nature and direction of studies of contemporary China in Europe (Ash, Robert., 2007). No statistical economic indicators had been published by the government of China after the end of 1950s. When fieldwork visits in China were restricted, most of the scholars conducted the research by exploring political and ideological contexts.

Nevertheless, the recent Chinese economic studies have been adjusted due to the rapid growth of China's economy. Business and management studies were added as field of study. In the early 1990s, enthusiastic China studies experts in Europe had risen to roughly 2,000 people, resulting in a great expansion of Chinese economic studies in Europe. The author had observed several institutes and their objectives, as well as some significant works and printed matters published in Europe. The institutes in Europe represent the current generation of Chinese economic studies. Their research dimensions have been more or less adjusted. In addition to the existing research dimensions, the current field of Chinese economic studies is differentiated to include: the economic and socio-economic aspects as Chinese economy has become market-

oriented; the emphasis on rural, non-agricultural development; the role of township and village enterprises and rural urbanization.

The prospect of Chinese economic studies in Europe is investigated. It is found that, to maintain and strengthen the field of study, the exchange among relevant professionals in the regions is necessary. The objectives of universities and research institutes are clearly indicated. For instance, they set objectives to provide a database of specialists and a capability to respond to the emergence of China; to advocate postgraduate courses with proper relevant skills. In addition, the chapter also indicates the uniqueness of Chinese economic studies in Europe, which was originated by sinology.

In considering two periods of Chinese economic studies in Europe, the first period of studies obviously emphasized on macroeconomics in China. Most of the orientations tended to be the research topic as a whole at national level. In addition, the European scholars also focus on each division of macroeconomics of China. However, after the speedy growth of Chinese economy, European scholars were likewise their counterparts who began to adjust research topics on Chinese economy. The wider topics were added into the orientations and also in the deeper scopes. Noticeably, provincial studies were increasingly emphasized.

The scope of studies was expanded to rural area, while the deeper details on entrepreneurs in business and management sections were studied.

3.2.2 Chinese Economic Studies in Japan

According to the relative history and geography, studies of Chinese economy in Japan are different from those in other two regions. The successful emergence of China's economy was cited in the first part, along with the brief economic relations between China and Japan. China's economic development provided Japan trading opportunities especially in the 1990's. The Sino-Japanese economic integration means that studies of China's economy in Japan fall within the orbit of domestic and

international studies (Ohashi, Hideo⁵², 2007). Hence, most of accomplished Chinese economic studies were conducted after the 1990's. Those studies could be divided into books, articles and papers. Ohashi's observation shows that, most of the books on China's economy could be categorized into five groups. Each has its specific readers as books for general readers, and beginners with little understanding of the Chinese economy; guides to do business in China, comprising investment in stock, currency and real estate; books containing lectures on business management; works of journalists and non-fiction writers, in forms of reports and reportage; critical essays on China.

The studies of China's economy in Japan had their turning point in the 1980's. The Chinese economic studies were parts of ideological debates in 1970's and then gradually transformed to be more empirical studies in the 1980's. Henceforth, the new generations of Japanese scholars in the field mostly conduct their research through empirical studies, while China studies have expanded. The author states four prominences of Chinese economic studies in Japan as follows:

- emphasis on the diversity of Chinese society which is the core of its economy, and the parts of Chinese economy are preferred, instead of an integrated economic entity;
- scholars prefer to emphasize on more specific and details of Chinese economy. The research topic is based on economic history, institutional development and China's regional economy;
- although most of Japanese China specialists are proficient in Chinese, there are international barriers, leading to difficulties in exchange and cooperation with the community of scholars in the West, and publishing of their works abroad;
- the existence of different points of view among Japanese scholars toward Chinese economy. On one hand, the continual economic growth of China is emphasized. On the other hand, the intractable structural subjects facing China is highlighted.

⁵² Ohashi, Hideo., a Professor of Development Economics and East Asian Studies at Senshu University.

Chinese economic studies in Japan emerged later than those in Europe and the United States. Japan and China have shared parts of the similar history and culture. Thus, the focus on China became less than other countries in the first stage. This was true for the ambition to learn about Chinese economy. Nonetheless, it is undeniable that the rapid growth of Chinese economy draws Japanese and international scholars' attentions. The interesting point is, as Japanese scholars began to earnestly research about Chinese economy, it was the period that China's economic effect had been spreading to the world by all means. Henceforth, the scope of Chinese economic studies in Japan focused on the business division as described earlier. It is truly distinctive for the countries sharing similar background.



3.2.3 The Chinese Economic Studies in the United States

The chapter begins with the developments of Chinese economic studies and the collaboration among Chinese and foreign scholars, and the availability of both Chinese and English materials provided by China's State Statistical Bureau and other government agencies. Thus, the main purpose of the chapter is to review research on Chinese economy of the scholars in the United States, focusing on the recent study trends. The examination of the articles published in economic journals has been conducted in order to represent the determination of Chinese economic studies trends in the United States. However, the author composes the study by concentrating on theoretical economic questions. The core of research centers on the fundamental premise of long-run economic growth in terms of available resources and capabilities and the question of convergence, and the institutional context in which the growth process takes place (Prime, Penelope B., 2007).⁵³

The economic models of the Soviet Union and India are presented in the chapter and compared to Chinese economic theories. Then, the aggregate growth of China's economy is discussed by considering it in different periods of time. GDP rate is the main focus of discussing the economic growth.

The study narrows its focus down to the regional dimension, using the methodology at the provincial level for analysis and making more detailed content. Moreover, other significant academic methods are also conducted to gain the outcomes in different aspects of the Chinese economic studies. The examples are market integration, fiscal decentralization and the financial system. The principle of setting questions is relevant to the initial source of Chinese economic growth, contributions of inputs and technological improvement. It should be noted that, the study of Chinese economy in the United States began in a broad aspect, and then the specific themes were consecutively oriented.

⁵³ Prime, Penelope B., a Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics and Finance at the Coles College of Business, and Director of the China Research Center, at Kennesaw State University, Atlanta, Georgia.

After the developments of Chinese economic studies were found in China, the generalist was beneficial to the research. Foreign scholars were allowed to collaborate with Chinese scholars, and the State Statistical Bureau of China and others government agencies have created English version, in addition to Chinese one. This led to a great amount of Chinese economy researches in the United States. During 1965 and 1984, there were only 873 researches found in EconLit, a comprehensive index of economic journals. However, it increased to 3,318 in 1995 to 2005. Initially, the Chinese economic studies in the United States could be divided into two mainstreams: studies of the markets and systematic studies of the policy. Poverty related researches had taken off due to the changing tendency. The scholars emphasized on Chinese economic growth, related models and other more systematic topics. The fundamentals of long run and sustainable growth in China attracted American scholars' attentions. The wider impact of China in the international arena has become challenging for the United States. Henceforth, it is obvious that the American scholars have focused on higher and wider aspects, which are quite different from the other two.

3.2.4 Critique

The Chinese economic studies described in the three chapters of *China Watching* provides the overview of the studies on China's economy in each region. In order to explicitly illuminate the studies, the process of development was identified through the research themes in different periods of time. Furthermore, the distinctive points of the studies in each country were also clarified, including factors affecting the field of study. In addition, the recent tendency of Chinese economic studies in the three regions were mentioned to represent a current orientation of local scholars. However, the perspectives or sentiments of significant scholars would help readers to better understand the Chinese economic studies in each area, as well as provide benefits for case studies and further research.

The differences among three divisions toward China Studies were caused by each country's background, including internal and external factors. For instance, physical location, culture, people, government support and foreign relations and so forth. The

other aspect derives from the scholars themselves. The core value that being obtained from *China Watching* is, a comparison between three division in overall aspects, each major research theme and major orientation are specifically interesting. It can be reviewed as example for Thailand, in order to indicate each study point and simplify China Studies in Thailand.

3.3 CHINESE ECONOMIC STUDIES IN THAILAND

The emergence of China carries an important significance in the world, especially the global economy. The Chinese economy plays the most significant role in all dimensions of the Thai economy. The key element to its development is a better and integrated understanding toward the Chinese economy, for the purpose of determining and improving strategies to bring the most benefits. However, Thai scholars specialized in Chinese economy are actually insufficient. Consequently, there are few works provided in the field of study.

3.3.1 Previous Research

The study of '*Strategic Plan Development on Research and Manpower in the Context of China-Rising Trend*' (โครงการพัฒนายุทธศาสตร์กำลังคนและงานวิจัยเพื่อรองรับกระแสจีนภิวัตน์) was contributed in July 2011 by Associate Professor Dr. Aksornsri Phanishsarn.⁵⁴ The main objective of the research is to manage the entire existing knowledge of the Chinese economy in Thailand. In order to develop the relevant sources of data, along with manpower and to create awareness of the Chinese economic expansion, the research in Thailand has integrated the rise of Chinese economy into the studies of China's economy. Hence, the importance of the Chinese economy to Thailand is described in the first section, and then the data of Chinese economic studies are clearly provided, together with the categorization of existing research types. The suggestions for further research are identified in the last section.

⁵⁴ Panishsarn, Aksornsri., an Associate Professor at Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University and the Chief of the Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center.

The development of Chinese economy after the Chinese economic reform in 1979 is explained in the context of *Beijing Consensus*⁵⁵. The study described the main points of the consensus about China and the procedure of Chinese economic development, dividing into two phases of time: 1979-1994 and 1994-present. Furthermore, the study has included *China's Five-Year Plan* (中國五年計畫)⁵⁶, its objectives, and China's economic tendencies. The investigation of existing academic works on Chinese economy in Thailand was categorized into Thai and English materials, then simplified into books, theses, researches and articles. Moreover, the timing of published works was considered as two periods: after China's WTO membership in December 2001 and the first accomplishment of Thai-Chinese Free Trade Agreement in October 2003.

Dr. Aksornsri Panishsarn is the role model of Thai China Studies scholar in the present day. She has an outstanding perspective toward China. Even China has a contrast political ideal with Thailand and most of them cannot be certainly practiced, but some administrative issues remain worth studying for Thailand. Furthermore, Dr. Panishsarn assumes that, although its rapid growth years before has been dropped, but Chinese economic growth will continually progress. There are not only internal factors, external factors derived by international also significant. She suggests to monitor both Chinese domestic economy and economic relations between China and other countries. Each contract and policy that China has with either Thailand or Southeast Asian is needed to be observed.

In addition to the academic works, government universities were investigated to identify those offering Chinese economic courses. The result shows that of 65 universities, there are only two universities offering Chinese economic courses. Both

⁵⁵ Beijing Consensus was firstly cited by Ramo, Joshua Cooper in 2004, the analyst of the Foreign Policy in the United Kingdom, in "The Beijing Consensus".

⁵⁶ The Five-Year Plan is the initiatives of China's social and economic development, proceed in every specific 5 years. The first Five-Year Plan was in 1953, and the current Plan is the twelfth one. (2011-2015) .

have provided such courses at Bachelor's and Master's degree levels.⁵⁷ Notwithstanding, there are several universities offering relevant Chinese studies courses, mostly being Chinese language studies. In addition to Bachelor of Arts in Chinese programs, there are also other programs including Chinese for Business, Chinese for Hospitality and Tourism, Chinese for International Trade and so forth. On the other hand, private universities were selected to examine their offerings of Chinese economic courses. The study found that of 36 universities, there are five universities directly offering Chinese economic courses. Moreover, other Chinese-related programs in private universities are greater than those offered by government institutes.

The higher number of Chinese economic courses in private universities implies that the Thai government has insufficient attempts to promote this field of study. Further study has examined both private and public institutions conducting the studies on Chinese economy. Moreover, the scholarships granted by the Thai and Chinese governments and private sectors in order to develop manpower in the field were also investigated. The last chapter discusses the strategic research and development of manpower in the future. The research outcomes were divided into each topic and simplified into the periods of time and the suggestions of an advanced strategic plan were vividly explained. The development strategies included the plan promoting Thai students and scholars to study in China, together with the explanation of selective target groups, period of time, procedure and estimated budget.

In addition to the study of *'Strategic Plan Development on Research and Manpower in the Context of China-Rising Trend'* in 2011, there are other works on Chinese studies published before. *'The Research of Thai Studies and Thai-China Studies'* (วิจัยไทยศึกษา ไทย-จีนศึกษา) was composed in 2000 by Associate Professor Naruemit Sodsuk.⁵⁸ The research collects the selective works of Thai and China studies.

⁵⁷ Thammasat University – Bachelor of Arts in China Studies (International Program) at Pridi Banomyong International College and; Master's of Business Administration Program in International Business (International Program).

Pince of Songkla University – Bachelor of Arts in International Business: China or IBC.

⁵⁸ Sodsuk, Naruemit., presently the Chief of the Department of Arts, Faculty China and ASEAN in World Economic System of Rangsit University.

Covering the subjects of politics, sociology, literature and law development in Thai studies, and sociology, law, communication arts and political science in China studies, the research provides comparative dimensions of both studies. Most of the researchers on Thai studies have higher ability to explore deeper topic by using primary data and interview. The official document of significant government organization is the important resource to conduct each study, particularly political subject.

An obvious difference between Thai and Chinese studies is their research methodologies. The researchers on Thai studies could obtain raw data from the government organizations, together with the interviews with officers and involving people. Hence, the analysis of such obtained data would be more reliable and accurate. On the other hand, most of the researchers on Chinese studies used documentary research and descriptive analysis from secondary data. At all events, it is unable to get primary data from any related government service because of the confidentiality of Chinese information. Thus, the researchers on Chinese studies acquired such information through the report of academic seminars, conferences, congresses and prior researches. Moreover, they also got information from speech, debates and interviews of involving people from mass media especially newspaper. On the contrary, the selected relevant publication, which was mainly composed under the authors' experiences in China, is one of the most noticeable publications of Chinese economy.

3.3.2 Relevant Publication

The importance of China to Thailand has been rapidly increasing through the decades. Thai people's perceptions of China's government has led to the establishment of the Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center (TCRC), that was founded in 2012. The TCRC induces scholars to promote research about China. So far, the books published under the TCRC's efforts amount to only two, of which only one of them is relevant to the study of the Chinese economy.⁵⁹ *'Eyes on China'* (มองจีนหลากหลายมิติ) was written by Associate Professor Dr. Aksornsri Panishsarn and co-authored with Dr. Arm

⁵⁹ Another book is *The Basic Knowledge of Chinese Law*, written by Tungnirun, Arm., published on March 1, 2014.

Tungnirun⁶⁰, published in April, 2014. The book chiefly aims to create awareness of China, as well as to modify and improve the understanding of China among Thais. The authors contribute to the general knowledge of China mainly in the aspects of its economy and politics. Its distinctive point is found in the content which expresses the forms of benefit, cooperation and important lessons to Thailand.

The book content is roughly divided into two sections. The first section is economics. The section begins with the relations between Thailand and China, especially the current period, under the leaderships of Xi Jinping and Yingluck Shinawatra.⁶¹ Major accomplishments such as treaties and agreements during each period are discussed. Second, the economic section emphasizes on the role of China in Thailand, in terms of investment, government cooperation, as well as in the Southeast Asian countries. The interesting point is, in addition to the praise given to the success of China's economic development, the author also highlights the need for an awareness of Chinese intervention that could have an effect on Thailand, alongside a careful caution of China's attempts to take advantage of Thailand. Obviously, the implication of the context induces Thai readers to have another viewpoint toward China.

The related economic policies of China are described in order to present the strategic development of the Chinese economy. The comparison between the Chinese and the Western economic models is pointed out, together with the successful accomplishments of China. In contrast, the obstacles and remaining troubles of Chinese economic development are explained as well. The chapter further studies Chinese economic tendencies. The author underlines China's cooperative efforts and its investments in the Southeast Asian countries. Moreover, the Marine Economy (海洋經濟) in the Twelfth Five-Year Plan of China is analyzed. Similarly, the cooperation between Thailand and China on the Marine Economy is also explained. There are three agreements which were signed during 2011-2013, of which the author judged as sudden agreements.

⁶⁰ Tungnirun, Arm., a lecturer of Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University and a scholars of the Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center.

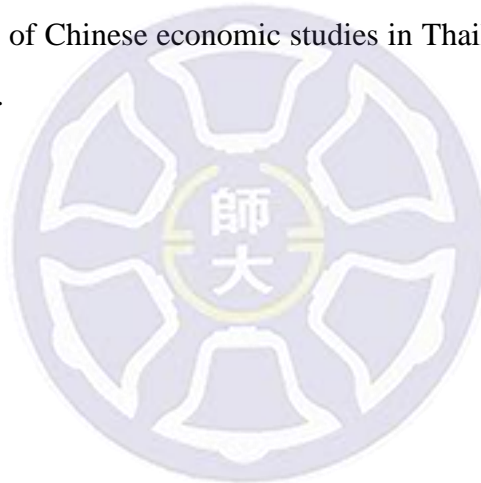
⁶¹ Shinawatra, Yingluck., the 28th Prime Minister of Thailand (August 5, 2011-March 7, 2014).

The second section involves Chinese politics. In the beginning, the success of Chinese economic development is examined, and marginally compared with Russia. The author noted that the Chinese economy attained remarkable achievements which no other countries have achieved before. China has a different political regime and government operation compared to the West. The context of politics is mostly explained through significant occurrences and people. Henceforth, several names of noteworthy Chinese figures who had an influence on Chinese society are mentioned. Moreover, the implication of democracy in Chinese society is also cited. There are some points of view from the author about the actual political regime in China. Again it is compared with Russian politics. The aspects of socialism, capitalism and nationalism which makes the Chinese nationalism unique, are defined in the analysis.



3.4 GAPS IN RESEARCH

Firstly, in Thailand, there are few researches on China Studies and Chinese economic studies. There are no studies examining specific scholars' previous works or no analyses of their prior studies. According to China Watching's information on foreign accomplishments, it was found that each Chinese economic study in each particular region (and country) has its own prominent points and national characteristics, leading to a curiosity of the studies in Thailand. Thus, the research will gather data by interviewing significant scholars who specialized in Chinese economic studies. In examining the development of Chinese economic studies in Thailand, its development and distinctive points, the scholars interviewed will be categorized into pioneer and new generation. In order to maximize the benefit, the research will end by clarifying the limitations of Chinese economic studies in Thailand as the determinants of its success and failure.



CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the main findings are the results of analyzing data gathered from existing works in the field of Chinese economic studies in Thailand, along with data collected from ten interviews, and the observations in each China studies center of selective universities and institutes. The findings are divided into three themes. Some of which confirm previous findings, while other have not been reported before.

4.2 EMERGING PHASES

As discussed above, the beginning of Chinese economic studies in Thailand had faced several obstacles, which led to the limited development and ability to make progress. In accordance with honored pioneer interviews, the findings are stated as follows.

4.2.1 The Effect of Thai-Chinese Political Issues

According to the Chinese -Thai relations mentioned earlier, the differences in political ideals and war periods, the Chinese language training for both Chinese offsprings and Thai students in Thailand discontinued. The obstacle of Chinese language studies not only resulted in the deficient ability to obtain primary data in Chinese language, but also created the limited attraction to China studies. Most of the scholars, researchers and students have to use secondary data in English or even in Thai language. In fact, some significant Chinese economic experts in Thailand lack Chinese language skills. Most of Thai experts on China studies conduct their researches by reviewing English and Thai documents, then compose their works in English and Thai versions, and communicate and present them in English version on the international stage.

Mr. Tingkuang Kongpetsathit is currently the President of Ratwittaya School, one of the first Chinese schools in Phetchaburi province. He dedicated himself for Chinese language studies for promoting and making a progress of Chinese language studies in Thailand. Mr. Tingkuang is the second generation of overseas Chinese family. He had

been trained to use Chinese language and learn culture from teachers at nights until he was in the fourth years of primary school in Thailand. After that, he had to study Chinese language through newspaper, news programs, and books as well as practice Chinese skills in the daily life by himself. In addition, he wanted to acquire knowledge about China, but his study could not be supported since there was no opportunity at that time. Another example is the experience of Dr. Somsak Tambunlertchai, one of the experts on China and Chinese economy. He is former lecturer of Department of Economics, Thammasat University, and currently is the committee of Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center (TCRC). He states that there are less Thai people who are able to use Chinese properly due to the political issues in the past. A part of his interview about this is illustrated as follows:

There were actually less of them. There are many reasons, one of them is discontinuation since Field Marshal Sarit's or Luang Pibulsongkram's eras. The students could not study Chinese language after they graduated grade 4 in spite of studying 2 hours a day in grade 1-4. In my ages, after the World War some of them were old; graduated grade 4 and continued education in high school without learning Chinese. So, the older students who finished grade 4 did not apply for the examination, but I skipped the grade. Afterwards, there were night schools such as Gwanghwa, Tonghua, and Fuzheng for the students aged 17-18 or late 20s. I studied for 3-4 months, then applied Thai language tutorial school. The night school used to be legal in 1957-1958 but only a few of them..The less people know Chinese might be part of reason why there are less China Studies experts in Thailand. China experts in Thailand do not know well in Chinese, they read English and use English instead. Like me, I wrote paper in English, presented in English (sometimes presented in Chinese when the conferences were held in China) but only spoke Chinese to my friends.

He is the third generation of overseas Chinese. Dr. Somsak's interest in China started because he used to study Chinese language since he was young. Nonetheless, his study of the Chinese language was stuck after he studied secondary grade in government school, which none of the Chinese language training curriculum was provided. After that, he lost the opportunity to practice Chinese until he went to the United States for higher education in Master's Degree. Dr. Somsak mentions that, fortunately he had Chinese roommates; there were chances to revise and practice Chinese. It shows that, their accomplishment of the Chinese language and China studies were contributed by themselves since the Thailand's government policy did not support

this field of study. Thereby, the discontinuance of Chinese language studies resulted in the lack of human resources to research about China. Most of the researches on China are only able to contribute the general and basic knowledge, as there are limitations to deepen the research.

4.2.2 Resource Deficiency

In regard to the Thai-Chinese political issues, Thai government policy did not support the field of study, grant funds or advocate human resources. Thus, the drawbacks of the Chinese economic studies in Thailand are the lack of both financial resource and human resource. In order to conduct any project, financial resources are the critical factor to get started. However, Thai government did not regularly grant budget for conducting researches or relevant projects, leading to the discontinued development of projects. Most of the funds were raised from private sectors who were beneficiaries from the research outcomes of China studies. For instance, the beneficiary organizations were Bangkok Bank, Kasikorn Bank, Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Chinese businessmen. The private sector institutes appear to be more successful than those operated under government universities. The success of the China ASEAN Studies Center under the Panyapiwat Institute of Management is a good example in this case, which will be illustrated in the next section.

Undoubtedly, this success could be attributed to the fact that to be successful in Thailand, Chinese businessmen had their awareness of cooperating with the Thai elites, who control the political, military and administrative arenas, but lack the economic base to bolster their political and military powers. Thus, alliances are made between the Thai elites and Chinese businessmen, a complementary relationship which serves the interests of both groups. (Chan Kwok Bun / Tong Chee Kiong, p. 156). The interview with Mr. Sawaeng Jiwasurat, the former President of Ratwittaya School, presently the chairman of Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Phetchaburi, reveals some significance of financial resource to academic projects as the following:

Even Thai government has continually developed Chinese language training for Thai students as the emergence of Chinese economy, but the government actually does not raise the funds to run Chinese language schools. Thai government only allocates some funds for private Chinese schools and scholarships for students, which I considered as a deficient factor to process an advancement of Chinese language training, along with produce the human resource of the field. For example, we have to raise funds from our alumni and Chinese businessmen in the province. I can say that, the success of Chinese schools in Thailand mostly comes from the efforts of committees, not the government.

Notwithstanding, human resources are as important as financial resources. Several China studies center in Thailand have the potentiality to follow their expected plans and strategies, even some of which have adequate financial resources. However, the limited qualified human resources make it harder to accomplish. The majority of the China studies centers is the organizations run by the director and few research fellows. Some of the interviewees stated that, their China studies centers are operated to provide knowledge about China, and be the database center for Chinese academic books and relevant publications. Their centers are not capable to conduct any China studies research due to the deficiency of human resources. Dr. Somsak Tambunlertchai mentioned his viewpoint of the Thai-Chinese Strategic Reproach Center in the following:

I was not a committee at the beginning. The present director invited me to help, but there is not any conference until now. The main problems are lack of staffs and money, at least there should be one staff in the office but it doesn't have a budget. Actually, China Studies could be done without our new studies, just hiring someone to read and conclude; citation to people who said. Although it's very easy, we lack human resource. The second is, sending newsletter about China. Whoever investing in China are pleased to get the information because China often changes its policies, we have to be up-to-dated. These things don't need any serious studies, we could apply, analyze, and conclude from other's studies. The third is, sending more people to study. We've sent many people to study in China, but as I said, all of them were shallow studying and we are so late than other countries. We were active only for 7-8 years.

Nevertheless, each institute has put an effort to develop China studies by establishing China studies center under their specific objectives. The vivid information is indicated in the following section.

4.3 THE ATTEMPTS OF MAJOR INSTITUTES

This section provides information of selective universities and institutes influencing Chinese economic studies in Thailand through their academic works, publications seminars and honorable professors and researchers. To understand the background, development and objective plans of each institute, the section concluded interviews conducted to gain the most beneficial information at institutional level.

4.3.1 Chulalongkorn University (CU)

Chinese Studies Center, Institute of Asian Studies is a part of Chulalongkorn University. Its China Studies are the China Mainland related courses taught about Chinese language, culture, sociality, politics, economics and stability. The concept of education, research and knowledge dissemination of China was found in 1967 under the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, together with an establishment of the Institute of Asian Studies. At that time, the chief of Faculty of Political Science emphasized on China Studies and professors in the major were offered to study abroad in the United States, major in Sinology. In addition, the Institute also provided China Studies class, lecturing in English language. As a result, in 1972, Chinese language course (being substituted by Chinese Studies later) was established at the Faculty of Political Science, which was the first course in Bachelor Degree in Thailand

Furthermore, there were many volunteers involved in the Institute, who were other university lecturers, businessmen and press. The volunteers joined the Institute as they were interested in China Studies, and also participated in the academic activities for special case. Through the efforts of professors and volunteers, the Chinese Studies Center was officially established under the Institute of Asian Studies on July 1, 1995. The main purpose is to support education of China Studies for all levels as mentioned earlier. The major funds supporting the activities of the Chinese Studies Center were mostly granted from the international foundation, the donation of commercial banks and Chinese businessmen.

The Chinese Studies Centre today is directed by Professor Vorasakdi Mahatdhanobol. With two research assistants, the Center has contributed several accomplishments of China studies, for instant, publishing China Studies News Pamphlet, conducting research and organizing seminar. Ms. Wannarat Thahong is a Researcher Assistant of the Chinese Studies Center, Institute of Asian Studies of Chulalongkorn University. A part of her narratives expresses the effort of the Chinese Studies Center to the society.

There are 2 full time Research Assistants worked at the Center, each of us normally take this position about 4 years working with the Director which currently is Professor Vorasakdi Mahatdhanobol. Most of the research of the Chinese Studies Center are the topics about politics, while the economic subject is only a small part of them. However, the most successful research project that makes a great impact is the project of 'the Research of Chinese Language instruction' including Vocational Education, Undergraduate Study and Elementary Education. The project was conducted almost 6 years ago under the fund of Bangkok Bank, divided into 2 phases which are conducting the research and producing the textbooks in 2011. Moreover, our Center also provides related information to the public. The Director and Professors of the Center are usually interviewed by mass media and students. Most of the topic depends on current trend of China, which some of them could affect Thailand or the region.

Although the Chinese Studies Center of Chulalongkorn University was officially founded in 1995, but there were some research projects accomplished before under the Institute of Asian Studies which set up in 1967. The Research of Chinese Newspaper in Thailand, the first research on China Studies was conducted in 1983 by the IAS research fellow team. Afterwards, there was none of China Studies research accomplished by the IAS research fellow team. It was basically because the research topics were chosen by researchers' interest, and China Studies was apparently not the attractive one. However, after the Chinese Studies Center was established, Khien Theeravit, one of the center founders, composed the second research in 1996. The number of research projects under Chinese Studies Center of CU is truly few, but most of the China Studies works are short academic articles presented through their newsletter and website.

Another issue is the lack of full time researchers at the center. After Theeravit's project was done, it was not until almost 10 years when the center published the

research project again. The adjustment of Thai government policy to Chinese language studies and China Studies raised an interest in China. In 2005, the research team began to conduct the project again. During 2005 and 2008, several research projects were completed, most of them were educational research including Chinese language training in Thailand. The Research of Chinese Language Instruction projects for four educational levels were the most successful one. There were two phases: the research conduct and the textbook composition. In the present day, the textbooks of vocational and non-formal education level remain available for sale at the center, while those of the elementary and undergraduate levels are sold out and have not yet been published. The list of completed research project is illustrated as follows:



Year	Researcher	Project Topic	Category
1983	IAS Research Fellow Team	The Research of Chinese Newspaper in Thailand	Cultural Research
1996	Khien Theeravit	The Foreign Policy of China	International Relations
2005	IAS Research Fellow Team	The Condition and Problem of Thai-Chinese Tourism	Foreign Relations
2006	Vorasakdi Mahatdhanobol	The Political Economy of China	Politics and Economics
2007	Khien Theeravit	The Instruction of Chinese Language in Thailand	Educational Research
2007	Luecha Roowiwat and Fellows	The Research of Chinese Language Instruction for Vocational Education	Educational Research
2007	Sawai Witsawanant and Fellows	The Research of Chinese Language Instruction for Elementary Education	Educational Research
2007	Nattapong Pannachet and Fellows	The Research of Chinese Language Instruction for Non-Formal Education	Educational Research
2007	Samarn Laodumrongchai	The Research of Taiwan: Its Potential, Security and Benefit to Thailand	Foreign Relations
2007	Vorasakdi Mahatdhanobol	The Political Regime of China: Study of its Present Situation and Future Tendency	Politics
2007	Tawee Teerawongseri, Zeng Zhixiong and Fellow	The Thai-Chinese Cooperation in Chinese Language Teaching in Thailand	Educational Research
2007	Siripetch Trissanawadee	The Thai-Chinese Relations: the Major Factor of Diplomacy Establishment in 1975	Foreign Relations
2008	Patchanee Tungyuenyong and Fellows	The Research of Chinese Language Instruction for Undergraduate	Educational Research
2008	Chao Pongpichit	The Research of Chinese Herb	Scientific Research

Table 1: The Complete Research Projects of Chinese Studies Center, CU

Recently, the Chinese Studies Center has not completed more research project. However, the center has continually made an effort to influence China Studies in Thailand. The center mainly provides useful information through its website.⁶² It contains up-to-date news, center activities, publications and articles to which everyone is able to access. However, the website does not contain large amount of resources.

⁶² <http://www.csc.ias.chula.ac.th/ncscst/index.php> The website of Chinese Studies Center provides only in Thai language.

Most of the China Studies books are gathered at the university library, the center does not provide China Studies book collection for the public. Most of the visitors are invited to interview the Director and to make observation. In addition, Chinese Studies Center also publishes China-related books, there are 14 books published so far including research project textbooks.

In addition to spreading China Studies information through its website, the center also publishes China Studies Newsletter three times annually. The newsletter aims to distribute China Studies news, knowledge and the center activities to Thai people, along with related articles. The newsletter is a pamphlet providing academics, intellectuals, students and general people who are interested in China Studies useful information. The columns of newsletter are categorized based on the current situation, Thai-Chinese relations news, political analysis, economic analysis, Chinese society, the highlight of the edition, interesting tips, new books and websites introduction and Chinese Studies Center activities. However, the newsletter is known only in a small circle of people. Only members could get the newsletter delivered every issue, and those who want a membership have to register directly with the center. Thereby, although the center has put effort to develop China Studies in Thailand, the impact of its effort has not yet been clearly seen. It was attributed to the lack of Thai people's attention and the difficult access to the center information.

4.3.2 Thammasat University

The Center for Chinese Studies of the Institute of East Asian Studies under the Patronage of her Royal Highness Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn, Thammasat University was established on April 1, 1984. The main purposes are to promote the China-related study and research, to support the education, seminars, conferences among scholars and institutes. The Center for Chinese Studies is managed by a group of committee, involving scholars of China Studies, the university professors, and volunteers who are interested in China Studies. Through the decades, the Center has been organizing several academic activities under the purpose of Institute of East Asian. The China Studies activities include cultural, traditional, religious, belief, historical, political, economic and foreign relations aspects.

Assistant Professor Wanrak Mingmaninakin was a lecturer of Faculty of Economics and a committee of the Center for Chinese Studies, Thammasat University. She narrated her experience during her position, illustrated as follows.

Institute of East Asian Studies, Thammasat University, the steadfast institute of East Asian including Japan and China Studies, was founded in 1984. Not so long after its establishment, I became a part of Center of Chinese Studies' Committee. I was responsible for Chinese economic research. However, I was the only one researcher in Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, who continually conducted the projects of Chinese economy. Therefore, I was the committee for many years until the new researcher took the place (Professor Aksornsri Panishsarn), then I left the position.

Thammasat University gives annual research funds every year for China Studies. While I was the committee of China Studies' projects, there was a-year annual government statement of expenditure (I'm not sure about this information after I quit). By emphasizing on the budget, it was tiny research fund, no researcher compensation, no major or limitation of topics. The researcher had to be a Thammasat University's professor. There were only few research grant applicants. During 1983-1995, I was an academician and project committee so my responsibilities were producing research from the annual research fund. The research topics were chosen based on teaching usefulness, or article presentation in seminar. The research method emphasized on library research. After that, the Institute of East Asian Studies had researchers, so they were trained to do research. Moreover, I got a scholarship from TU to do observed studies in Beijing and Shanghai.

According to Professor Wanrak, although the Center for Chinese Studies at Thammasat University has been established for approximately 30 years, its progress and accomplishment have not yet influence the country. The major reasons are because of insufficient resources and inattention of the national arena. Nonetheless, the center has consecutively proceeded several projects on China Studies since 1985. The research topics vary but the most of them are regarded as economics category. Besides, there are various fields including politics, culture and foreign relations, meanwhile educational researches have a small proportion.

According to a list of research projects of the Institute of East Asian Studies, Thammasat University, it was found as follows. Japan Studies has the highest amount of researches. It has 33 research projects. Korea Studies and China Studies have 24

each, and Southeast Asian Studies takes the least 14 projects.⁶³ Nevertheless, all of the research projects were written in Thai language, and only some of them published the abstract on the website. A list of research projects under Center for Chinese Studies is presented in the following table:

Year	Researcher	Project Topic	Category
1985	Junlacheep Chinnawanno	The Development of China Studies in Thailand during 1970-1984	Educational Research
1986	Junlacheep Chinnawanno	The Chinese Role in Southeast Asia	Politics
1987	Wanrak Mingmaninakin	The Development in China Rural Area	Provincial Research
1988	Yoopin Claymone	The Influence of Chinese Culture to Thailand	Cultural Research
1989	Surachai Sitikrai	The Relations between China and ASEAN	Foreign Relations
1989	Yoopin Claymone	The Chinese Cultural Influence to Thailand	Cultural Research
1990	Wanrak Mingmaninakin	The Contemporary four Policies of China	Politics
1990	Ajjarawan Ngamyang	The Taiwanese Investment in Thailand	Economics
1991	Wanrak Mingmaninakin	The Economic Relations of Thai-Chinese: Its Tendency and Problem	Economics
1992	Wanrak Mingmaninakin	The Economic Reform of China in Deng Xiao Ping Period	Economics
1992	Surachai Sitikrai	The Foreign Policy of China: Indo-China Region	Foreign Relations
1993	Surachai Sitikrai	The Conflict between China and ASEAN	Foreign Relations
1994	Surachai Sitikrai	The Religious Belief of Chinese Overseas in Thailand	Cultural Research
1994	Yoopin Claymone	The Comparative Studies between Thai and Chinese Language Structures	Educational Research
1994	Sutin Saisanguan	The Thai-Chinese-Japanese Commercial Relations	Economics and Foreign Relations
1995	Wanrak Mingmaninakin	The Direct Investment between Thai- Chinese-Japanese	Economics

⁶³ The information gathered from http://www.asia.tu.ac.th/research/End_Research2.html which is the center's website.

1995	Yoopin Claymone	The Development of Chinese Roots in Thai Language	Educational Research
1996	Surachai Sitikrai	The Role of China in Asia-Pacific during the 21st Century	Politics
2000	Suppaluk Pornkullawat	The Current Affect from Economic Crisis to Chinese Overseas Businesspeople in Thailand	Economics
2002	Wichean Intasri	The Policy of Cross-Strait Relations	Foreign Relations
2002	Prapas Thepchatri	The Economic Community in East Asia	Economics
2003	Aksornsri Panishsarn	The Dimension of Thai-Chinese Relations on the World Economy Stage	Economics and Foreign Relations
2004	Junlacheep Chinnawanno	The Thai-Chinese Relations: The Past, Present and Future Aspects	Foreign Relations
2007	Teerasak Kumbannaraks and Fellows	The Comparison of Adversity Quotient (AQ) and Emotional Quotient (EQ) between Chinese Businesspeople in Thailand and China	Educational Research

Table 2: The Complete Research Projects of the Center of Chinese Studies, TU

In addition, the recent secretary of the center also mentioned that, the Chinese Studies has insufficient staff. Furthermore, the 2011 major flood also negatively affected the center. However, the center has attempted to develop China studies in Thailand by establishing another important branch. The Institute of East Asian Studies under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Mahachakri Sirindhorn established the Borom Rachakumari Chinese Learning Center on March 8, 2008, and merged it with the Center for Chinese Studies. The objectives of this center are: to promote and expand the works of China studies contributed by Her Royal Highness Mahachakri Sirighorn; to be the center of all dimensions of China studies and; to create the database and up-to-date resource about China. There is a part of the center secretary's interview illustrated as follows:

In order to produce an effective database, we desired to collect all information of China Studies in Thailand, including information of scholars in Thailand, the books, research projects and articles. We have created the website to provide information, but it is still in process. Moreover, the major flood in 2011 damaged the center and some of the works collected here. Thereby, we have been waiting for a few years to move all works collection and office to the new place. Most of the books in our collection are topics about literature, small parts of collection are publications from the previous projects, the other China Studies books are in the university library which only Thammasat students can borrow. You can observe and read all available here. Normally, not much people or students come here to ask for information, most of the visitors are journalists or reporters. They usually come to interview the director of the center, Dr. Aksornsri Panishsarn.

The Center for Chinese Studies also publishes the China Studies related books. So far, there are 11 books published, almost all of them are Chinese history books. Furthermore, the center also arranges the seminars, all students and the public are able to join. However, most of the seminar topics are also about Chinese history and literature due to the interest of Her Royal Highness Mahachakri Sirindhorn, the patronage of the center. For instance, they include the Chinese Gods, What Happens in Tang Dynasty, Her Royal Highness Mahachakri Sirindhorn's Sagacity of Chinese Literature Translation and Contemporary Chinese Literature. Furthermore, the center is a host to hold the first National Seminar of China Studies in September 2015, which is considered as another step of China Studies progress in Thailand.

4.3.3 Panyapiwat Institute of Management (PIM)

In March 2007, Panyapiwat Institute of Management was founded by the CP All Public Company Limited. Consequently, China-ASEAN Studies Center was established with an aim to make an impact through 7 roles: opinion leader in financial integration under the China-ASEAN Economic Community (AEC); gate opener in China-ASEAN FTA; path finder in China-AEC infrastructure connection; incubator of Thai Entrepreneurs entering AEC and China; mentor for Chinese Multinational Corporation (MNC) in AEC; content developer of oriental wisdom in management education and; projector of a balanced and objective image of China.

The vision of China-ASEAN Studies Center is to be the center of China and ASEAN knowledge, to provide the relevant counsel, to analyze the effect of the integration and to give government policy and business strategy advice. The Center serves the services to 4 sections: monitor the process and analyze the impacts of ASEAN- China integration, provide policy recommendation for government; generate knowledge on the economic integration at the macro level as well as globalization and regionalization strategy at micro level for academic section; analyze the changing ASEAN-China environment and future trend, record and disseminate experience and best practice for doing business in China and ASEAN for business section; create awareness and provide education on how to participate and benefit from ASEAN China integration for public.

Ms. Orrasa Rattanaamornpirom has been in China studies field for more than 10 year. She is presently the Director Assistant of China-ASEAN Studies Center under Panyapiwat Institute of Management. Her interview reveals the accomplishment of China-ASEAN Studies Center as illustrated in the following quote.

Our works on China studies are divided into 3 themes, which are research, training and seminar. The research is categorized as policy and consulting research. So far, we have done 6 researches and another one is in process, making the impact on the country such as the research on the strategy of Thai jasmine rice import and the research analysis of Thai financial and bank performances for the Bank of China. For

the training project, we have already sent Thai high school students to learn about convenient store business in China for 3 years. In addition, we also conduct the seminar, most of the topic depends on the current ASEAN-China issue, for instance, Thai-China Rail Memorandum of Understanding.

The works under China-ASEAN Studies Center of Panyahpiwat Institute of Management are mostly relevant to trade, business and entrepreneurship especially between Thailand, China and Southeast Asia. Noticeably, the center of PIM makes the highest impact on Thai government, while other government institutes and universities do not. Unfortunately, all of research projects under PIM are not available for students or the public, but business sectors. The observation at the center presents a success of PIM, including their management and impact on the national policy. The center has provided China Studies pamphlet three times every year. The pamphlet began to publish in 2013. The major objective is to provide China's current situations, events and trends. Besides, the pamphlet is only available at the PIM, not for other students and the public.

4.3.4 Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center (TCRC)

The Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center or Vijaichina has been operated by National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) in 2012. It aims to promote the systematic China research. The present Director of the TCRC is Associate Professor Aksornsri Panishsarn. The mission of the center is divided into three sections in the following:

- Research: TCRC aims to conduct the research about Thailand and China in order to distribute the knowledge to Thai society, along with making an understanding of China in overall aspect. Furthermore, the TCRC also assigns the strategic research topic to the scholars and provides some mutual funds.
- Platform: TCRC plays an important role as the stage for both Thai and Chinese scholars to exchange their opinion and corporation with the purpose of developing the collaborative network of new generations of China Studies scholars, national prestige and experienced scholars. Besides, it also aims to be the stage for research exchange between Thai and Chinese scholars.

◦ Knowledge: The TCRC is the center that support all of analysis and research on China studies, together with the information dissemination to the public.

Obviously, the Thai-Chinese Strategic Research center is an organization under Thai government. Therefore, instability of Thai politics, leading to fluctuated government policy, results in the difficulty for the center to continue their projects. It is the major obstacle halting the performance of TCRC. Additionally, the association between the Director of TCRC and the government provides a greater opportunity for the center to make a progress. Dr. Arm Tungnirun was the director of TCRC in 2013, a part of his narratives presented the accomplishment of the center, illustrated as follows.

The Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center was established in 2012. After arriving Thailand, I spent a year as an advisor for the center, and I got funds on the academic activities. The center's roles were 1) Providing China information through the website. 2) Acting as the NRCT's representative by collecting researches about China, being a data bank, so the government organizations should reveal their researches, too. That's different from other ministries' or departments' work. We would know which research has done, which one hasn't done before. 3) Continuously providing knowledge by holding academic conferences. We have held many big events such as the coordination with Kasikorn Bank, inviting the international speakers. And 4) Make strategic impacts.

The interorganizational relations depend on the relations between the leaders and government. The participants in an academic seminar are only students. That is not strategic research which can improve the country. Thailand has distributed researches, but does not provide funds to research centers.

After the establishment of the Thai-Chinese Strategic Center, its successful attempt and objectives have not yet been seen because of the deficiency in both financial and manpower resources. However, the center has created the website for the public to surf and get China Studies information, including news, events and activities. The center arranges annual seminar cooperated with Huaqiao University, China Society for Southeast Asian Studies and Thai-Chinese Culture and Economy Association. The latest was held in July 2015 under the name The 4th Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Seminar, in Xiamen, China. The topic of the 4th seminar was Building a China-ASEAN Community of Common Destiny in the 21st Century. There were 8 divisions discussed in the seminar: Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Cooperation; Commerce,

Investment and Finance, Transportation, Agriculture, Science, Ocean and Environment; Tourism, Culture and Education; The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and Ethnic Chinese; The 40th Anniversary of China-Thailand Diplomatic Relations; Building and Upgraded Version of the CAFTA and; Kra Canal. However, Thai student and people did not pay much attention to the seminar.

4.4 MAJOR RESEARCH THEMES OF CHINESE ECONOMY IN THAILAND

The rapid rise of the Chinese economy has had significant impacts on the world economy and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries including Thailand (Tambunlertchai & Tambunlertchai 2015). The growth of Chinese economy affects Thai economy both micro and macro scales. It does impact investment, import, export, industry, service business and population of the both countries. As a result, the majority of Chinese economic studies in Thailand are focused on the subjects related to Thai economy, international trades, domestic business and society. In addition, an awareness of Thai people toward the assembly of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in December 2015 urges Thai academic circle to conduct the studies of China and ASEAN economic relations.

Previously, the information of China was difficult to access. Most of the referable resources of Thai research were composed by foreign scholars due to the Chinese language barrier, particularly from the United States. At that time, the references being used were substantially considered the fact. Principally, China researches were conducted after the Chinese revolution of 1949. According to the document review, the majority of research in this field is related to: Chinese economic reform and its policy after the establishment of People's Republic of China; the economic development in specific area, such as rural area and Yunnan; the economic relations between Thailand, China and ASEAN including trade and commerce; Chinese economic role in ASEAN and ; the economy and development of Yunnan. A part of Professor Wanrak Mingmaninakin shows an attempt of Thai scholars to conduct Chinese economic research, as presented in the following:

What I wanted to do at that time was, providing knowledge in printed media because Thai people lacked China knowledge especially the economic aspect. When China opened the country, Thai businessmen were interested in doing business but they had less understanding on fundamental economic knowledge. In the beginning, there were 3-4 Chinese-Thai investors who invested in China, but the only one who sent staffs to directly collect data for planning and decision making, so he was very successful.

The others were not (when the situation was better, they went back to China again) because they lacked investment knowledge in China which had absolutely different rules, styles, methods, and experiences from Thailand and other counties.

Most of Thai small private investors failed, some were defrauded by China co-investors. They lost in lawsuits because of the unintentional China's rules breaking. When China opened the country, the changes in commercial and investment regulations were often made. The business information providing spend too long on printed media, resulting in out of date information. It is better that nowadays we can get fast information, moreover the 'Manager' website provides current information which is very useful for Thai businessmen.

It is undeniable that China is considered as one of Thailand's most important trading partners. Although China has a large economy and powerful role in international trade, it is worth to analyze China by considering its sub-regions and provinces as it cover tremendously large geographic area and is rich in demographic aspects of population (Jiravot Thangrhokit, p.26). Thai scholars usually conduct the China research by considering smaller parts of China. Furthermore, due to the geographic factors of Thailand and China, some of Thai scholars choose to conduct research on Thai-Chinese border, specifically Yunnan. Yunnan has established "sister cities", connecting with many provinces in Thailand, for example, Kunming-Chiang Mai, Kunming-Chiang Rai, and Dehong- Tak areas. Besides, Board of Investment has collaboration with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Yunnan sub council, to expand mutual investment (Jiravot Thangrhokit, p.40). Nonetheless, a part of Professor Arm Tungnirun illustrated another point of view:

I think some Chinese are interested in Thailand especially for some precincts where China has the relationships with Thailand such as Yunnan and Sichuan, but that's only a few of them when comparing to the whole China. The excellent academicians have not paid much attention to Thailand, therefore the ones who did researches on Thailand weren't the experts or had little impact

on Thailand. However, when we compare the academicians population of China to that of Thailand, the amount of Chinese academicians is still more than Thais who are interested in China Studies.

Most of the Chinese researches are about national relationships or Thai language and they are abstract. They are different from economic research which requires research methods. The amount of researches on Thai economy is not high. Nobody interviewed Thai businessmen. For Chinese opinion, they ignore Thailand, that's why they don't know much about Thailand.

In Thailand, the research projects under government funding are generally divided into two categories: academic and policy research. The academic research is conducted under interesting topic at that time, and tends to be beneficial to the country. In fact, the topics of academic research on Sinology, Confucius-studies and Classic-studies are fewer than those on Chinese economy. One of the reasons is because of the institutional condition to conduct academic research, requiring seminar. Thus, the topic research should attract public attention. However, it is uncertain whether the research outcome will be utilized. Mostly, the result will be beneficial as a reference to other researchers and narrow circle.

The second reason is that the policy research is the study on government policy. Its outcome conforms to the government strategy, and creates impact on Thai economy. Nonetheless, not every policy research will actually be taken by government. The noticeable organizations that grant funds for Chinese economic research are: the Office of Industrial Economics, Ministry of Industry (OIE); the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce (DTN); and the International Institute of Trade and Development (ITD).

Furthermore, the expansion of Chinese economy and the emergence of ASEAN Economic Community led to commercial attraction to Thai business. Henceforth, many private institutes, business enterprises and commercial banks have sponsored studies on China. For instance, they include CP All Company, Kasikorn Bank, Bangkok Bank and the Manager Newspaper. The research sponsored by these private sectors are

distinctively related to commercial purposes. For instance, they are the studies of Chinese business and investment; the law and regulation of Chinese and Thai business; the fluctuation of Chinese currency. Furthermore, they also perform as consultant of Thai business and investment. Notwithstanding, the information is only provided for business enterprises, common people or students are not permitted to observe. Therefore, this thesis focuses on China-studies as “Chinese Economic Studies”.

4.5 DISCUSSION

This section reviews the three main research findings, together with the attempts of universities and institutes to generate the impact on Chinese economic studies in Thailand. The major findings are presented to meet the research questions and improve understanding of the subject. The results still indicate that there are some limitations which impede the progress of Chinese economic studies in Thailand.

4.5.1 The Limitations of Chinese Economic Studies in Thailand

Thai and Chinese political issues in the emerging period appear to be the major obstacle of Chinese economic studies in Thailand. It resulted in incomplete structure of the study, and a limitation to build the systematic study. In this case, it is obvious that the government sectors are recognized as the significant supporting division for the development of Chinese Economic Studies in Thailand. Apart from the political issues, the deficient resources also are another important hindrance, including the issues of funding, training, management and development.

Nowadays, many China Studies centers have been operated under the both public and private organizations. Nevertheless, none of them performs as the center of all. Each institute works under their parental universities or organizations. There is no cooperation among Chinese study centers in Thailand. In 2012, the Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center or Vijaichina was established under the National Research Council of Thailand. One of the main purpose of TCRC is to be the center of all China studies centers under ever institute. However, due to the instability of Thai politics, the TCRC has not successfully met its mission. A competent researcher is the essential

resource for the success of Chinese economic studies. Nonetheless, every China studies center of interest has no more than 3 full-time researchers. Ms. Orrasa Rattanaamornpirom, the Director Assistant of China ASEAN Studies Center under Panapiwat Institute of Management stated that, most of the scholars and experts in Thailand choose to work as university lectures at the same time because the perception of being a researcher and a lecturer/ professor in Thailand is different. Hence, most of the institutes or research centers need to have famous university professor as their members in order to spread their reputation and be able to conduct more works under the funds.



CHAPTER 5: ANALYSIS

5.1 ANALYSIS AND COMPARISON

The research explores the Chinese economic studies in Thailand and its components of the development in order to identify the cause of limitations. The empirical data gathered from interviews are divided into two main themes. Each represents the key limitations of Chinese economic studies in Thailand. However, this field of study in Thailand has developed later than some countries such as the United States, Japan and countries in Europe region. Each country has its distinctive points. Therefore, this section firstly reveals the comparison of China Studies between Thailand and other countries, then presents three main paths to conduct China studies in Thailand.

In order to comprehend the characteristics of Chinese economic studies in Thailand, it is necessary to investigate the characteristics of other countries. Henceforth, the chapter of literature review mentioned the characteristics of Chinese economic studies in Europe, Japan and the United States. Additionally, Professor Arm Tungnirun's narrative is interesting and relevant to the different point of Chinese economic studies in Thailand:

For Thai academic system, we're not interested in China because China is important, but westerners are, then we care about westerner's thought and that's why we do the same to China. On the other hand, the "central" academicians in Thailand are graduated from western countries. In the last 30 years, China was in a cultural reformation era, that's why there were few graduates but most of the academicians studied in western countries, therefore they have western mindset. They don't realize the China's fast changes by themselves, but from western textbooks. The advantages of western textbooks are freedom with many aspects, but China's textbooks are limited. Therefore, Thai academicians who read western textbooks got quality but insufficient aspects of Chinese academics.

Considering the concrete Chinese economic studies among the United States, Europe, Japan and Thailand, Europe was the first mover in conducting the research on Chinese economic studies, followed by the United States. The distinctive point of Chinese Economic Studies in Europe is that they rejoice in a large variety of languages which most of them have shared the same roots. In addition, political and economic

interests have influenced their nature and direction of studies. While the United States was late mover, compared to Europe, the American scholars began to conduct Chinese Economic Studies after some development were adjusted to China, providing benefits to foreign scholars. The generalists were allowed to collaborate with the Chinese scholars for the studies and China's State Statistical Bureau and other government agencies have made English data rather than Chinese. Japan, the country sharing some of historical and cultural background with China, turned out to be the latest mover among four countries that earnestly began to study in this field.

It is interesting that, Japanese and Thai scholars focus on the similar research themes. They focus on general Chinese economy, microeconomics and business aspect. While Europe and the United States focus on broader and deeper themes. It is possible that, culturally, Japan and Thailand regard China as 'a similar one', not 'an other'. The proximity between countries decreases a curiosity to learn about them. In contrast, the United States saw the potentiality of Chinese economy in the future. Thus, it is necessary to research about them in the long-run. The research themes in Europe varied with assembly of several countries in the region, so the interests toward Chinese economy in this region are wider than other regions.

The comparison of Chinese economic studies between Thailand and other countries in all dimensions is illustrated in the table below. The obvious characteristic of Chinese economic studies in Thailand is a narrow scope of the studies. The major research theme in Thailand is confined within certain topics that create impact on the country and the region in general. There are only few researches that could deepen the topic, and create more specific work.

	Europe	Japan	the United States	Thailand
Major research theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national product and income • population and labor force • agriculture • industry and commerce • prices, money and banking • wages, living standards, labor incentives • planning, investment and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general study of Chinese economy • resource flow between agricultural and industrial sectors • labor migration • income disparity • market economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fundamentals of long-run and sustainable economic growth • the contribution of the state sector to growth • resource flow of China as reform progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general study of Chinese economy • corporation of Thai-Chinese commerce • Chinese investment • the impact of Chinese tourist in Thailand • the development of Chinese economy and its policy
Major orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the economic and socio-economic aspects of China • Chinese rural and non-agricultural development • role of township and village enterprises • rural urbanization • social welfare • Chinese environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • economic threat of China • opportunities afforded by Chinese economic growth • quantitative analysis on economic data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • role of private sector in China's transition • international markets developed in Chinese economy • reforms of China's fiscal system • financial and banking system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the collaboration between Thailand, China and Southeast Asian countries • the effect and benefit of Chinese economy toward Thailand

Important organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Association of Chinese Studies • The International Institute for Asian Studies • The European Institute for Asian Studies • The Europe-China Academic Network • The European Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development in China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Japan Association for Chinese Business Management • The Japan Research Association for China's Economy • The Japan Association for Modern China Studies • The Japan Association for Asian Studies • The Society of Chinese Professors in Japan • The Japan External Trade Organization • The Japan-China Economic Association • The Japan Association for the Promotion of International Trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chinese Economists Society • the China Data Center based at the University of Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center • The Chinese Studies Center, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University • The Center of Chinese Studies, Institute of East Asian Studies, Thammasat University • China ASEAN Studies Center, Panyapiwat Institute of Management
Significant scholars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenneth R. Walker (until 1989) • Lucien Bianco • Marie-Claire Bergere • Claude Aubert • Willy Kraus • Wolfgang Klenner • Margot Schuller • Heike Holbig • Thomas Scharping • Williem Van der Geest • Eduard Vermeer • Perer Ho • Kjeld-Erik Brodsgaard • Jon Sigurdson • Leila Fernandez-Stembridge • Robert Ash • Rachel Murphy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shigeru Ishikawa • Ryutaro Komiya • Ryoshin Minami • Toshio Watanabe • Atsuo Kuroda • Toshiya Tsugami • Yasushi Onishi • Osamu Tanaka • Yoshihisa Onishi • Hideo Ohashi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Krugman • Alwyn Young • Thomas Rawski • Gregory Chow • Barry Naughton • Yasheng Huang • Christine Wong • Roy Bahl • Yingyi Qian • Barry Weingast • Edward Steinfeld • Penelope B. Prime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khien Theeravit • Mingsarn Kaosard • Wanrak Mingmaninakin • Aksornsri Panishsarn • Sompop Manarungsan • Vorasakdi Mahatdhanobol • Somsak Tambunlertchai • Arm Tungnirun

Table 3: The Comparison of Chinese Economic Studies in each Country

5.2 THE CHINA STUDIES IN THAI CULTURE

Thai culture not only affects China studies or Chinese economic studies, but also affects Thai education as a whole. Basically, Thai people are regarded as ‘risk avoiders’, they fear of changing. In Thai culture, people do not usually want to change or learn something new. They always follow the instructions, patterns, role models and what other people used to do without questioning. This character affects the Thai education by making it the ‘rote learning’. Firstly, Thai students learn by memorization, instead of understanding and analyzing, and such learning is not effective and beneficial.

Transferring knowledge from teacher to student, with an emphasis on textbooks, has long been a major instructional practice of most schools throughout the country. This learning process has engendered learners’ boredom and passivity, and the lack of inquisitive minds and eagerness to learn, resulting in low academic achievement in most subjects. Secondly, for twelve-year basic education in Thailand, its curriculum is regarded as an outdated program. The textbooks of required courses in primary and secondary schools have been used for more than 10 years. While the world has been changed, the instruction in Thailand has remained the same. The interview of Professor Arm Tungnirun has shared some opinion about Thai academic circle problem as follows:

Actually, I think there are not much China Studies topics in Thailand. The problem is not about China Studies, but the overall Thai academic circle. Thai society does not highly support the academicians, and it's getting worse than 30-40 years ago. Being a university teacher is honorable and respectful for Thais; we could say this job is good. But the intellects might not want to be the university lecturers as much as the past because they have more choices. I think this phenomenon in Thailand is not the same as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, or China. Those countries have higher competitions in academic circle, it's harder than before. I'm not sure Thailand got the same situation. That might be the problem, are the intellects interested in the academic circle? The second question is, are there research funds? Will the research results be useful or important? Those problems lead back to Thai's social problems which doesn't emphasize on academic works; it's shallow.

Recently, the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in December 2015 has urged Thai people to step forward. They are eager to learn about other ASEAN

countries, and start to learn about those countries out of the region. Although the willingness to encourage global trading led to a gradual change in Thai society, the passive custom of Thai people remained an obstacle to progress. The obvious influence on China studies in Thailand shows a delay compared to other countries starting to conduct China studies beforehand. Generally, there are three mainstreams of China studies, categorized as Sinology, Chinese Communist Studies and Contemporary China Studies. The three themes of China studies attracted the scholars to conduct further research under the specific subjects. Notwithstanding, in Thailand, each path of three mainstreams is considered as follows.

5.2.1 Sinology in Thailand

Recently, Sinology in Thailand is essentially run under the Confucius Institutes that are operated with selective universities and schools. Nowadays, there are 13 Confucius Institutes in Thailand; the first one was established on July 5, 2006, located at Khon Kaen University. While others were also established under the cooperation of the Confucius Institute in Beijing such as Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, Mae Fah Luang University, Burapha University and so forth.⁶⁴ The objectives of the Confucius Institute of Beijing are to develop better understanding toward China and expand Chinese language and culture to the

⁶⁴ Weekly Manager 360°. (2010). The prospect of Thailand's Confucius Institutes: CU aims to build largest center of Chinese books in Thailand.

world under the same criterion. Henceforth, the instruction of Sinology in Thailand has conducted through the study of Chinese language and culture. The main purposes of every Confucius Institute in Thailand are to support and promote Chinese language training through supporting the production of Chinese educational medias, training Chinese language teachers, conducting the test of Chinese language level, organizing Chinese language studies program, integrating Chinese language curriculum and organizing relevant academic seminar.

In Thai society, even though Thai people see the importance of China to Thailand, the development of human resource specialized in Chinese language is necessary. Nonetheless, Thai people have limited vision of Chinese language training, which leads to small-scale strategies for Chinese language learning. The scope of developing Chinese language experts is confined within the field of business communication and service. It is lack of an ambition to deepen further training. For instance, only few people have Chinese language ability in the context of science and technology. Therefore, the primary aspect of Sinology in Thailand that is in need of adjustment is to instill the value of Chinese language into the new generations' minds, rather than improve the Chinese language training strategies. Similarly, Chinese culture and tradition are considered as parts of Thai society. The great amount of overseas Chinese in Thailand, which most of them are later assimilated into the Thai society shows the proximity of Thai and Chinese people. In addition, Thai government policy supports the assimilation of overseas Chinese into Thai society, making Chinese people feel like they are a part of the country. Nevertheless, the fact that Chinese and Thai people have a high level of proximity resulted in Thai people's lack of attention to learn about Chinese culture. The perception of Chinese culture is a part of Chinese own culture.

5.2.2 Chinese Communist Studies in Thailand

As previously discussed, the political regimes of Thailand and China are different. In the past, the research of Chinese communist regime was decisively prohibited in Thailand. The fact that Thai government has a duty to protect any intervention of Thailand's constitutional monarchy influences the possibility to extend the study topic. However, after Thai-Chinese diplomacy was officially established in 1975, Thai government has had better attitude toward China. The notion that studying Chinese language or researching about China would lead to the intervention of Thai Monarchy has quietly declined.⁶⁵ In the past decades, the number of Chinese communist studies has increased. Nonetheless, most of the Chinese communist research is part of political study. Even the growing number of works is obvious but it is still considered to be a small portion among all China studies. The observation of prior works in this field shows that, a great number of Chinese communist regime studies are the work contributed from other languages, or using secondary data to analyze. Moreover, other compositions were composed as short articles. Besides, there are a small number of researchers in Chinese communist regime and the Thai readers of this field are also a minority comparing with other two mainstreams.

5.2.3 Contemporary China Studies in Thailand

The emergence of Chinese economy in the past decades led to an awakening in Thai academic society. The study of contemporary China includes the subjects after the Cultural Revolution. The core essence of this field of study is the research of Chinese economy, such as their development, modification, performance and its effect on other countries. Among the topics on Chinese studies, China's experience in economic reform and opening up are particularly interesting. The successful transformation from a poverty-ridden country to an economic superpower should offer valuable lessons for other developing countries, including Thailand.⁶⁶ The investigation and interviews

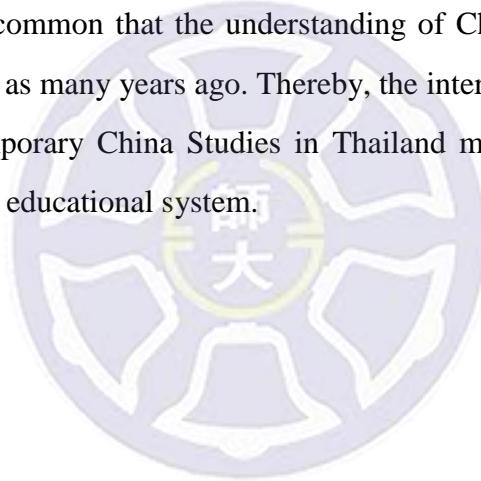
⁶⁵ Chinese Studies Center. (2008). Chinese-Thai Cooperation on Chinese Education in Thailand.

⁶⁶ Tambunlertchai, S. and Tambunlertchai, K. (2015) How Should Thailand Study China?. Bangkok: Thammasat University.

reveal that, most of Thai researchers study the Chinese economy through their policies. Some of which were conducted by provincial parts of China, analyze from each incident, and define them into the timeline. Although the rise of China has the great impact on Thai economy, as mentioned above, the studies of Chinese economy are in form of general studies. In addition to documentary research, there are some studies that are contributed by the researchers in the field including an interview and observation in China.

The unexpectedly fast economic development in China, meanwhile Thai economy has been tardily growing. The perceptions toward Chinese economy among Thai people do not follow the actual circumstance. One of the interviewee gave an example in the case as, the textbooks of Thai economy today are the same sets as 10 years before.

Henceforth, it is not uncommon that the understanding of Chinese economy in Thai people today is the same as many years ago. Thereby, the interviewee suggested that, a key to improve Contemporary China Studies in Thailand may not only the subject curriculum, but an entire educational system.



CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION

6.1 CONCLUSION

The research consisting of document review and in-depth interview have generated the outcome of the Chinese Economic Studies in Thailand after the Thai-Chinese bilateral relations had established. Undeniably, it is necessary to improve several aspects of this field of study in Thailand. However, the key points to re-establishing this subject is the weakness of academic system and the lack of enthusiasm about China Studies.

Unlike some other ASEAN countries like Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam which have many China experts in different disciplines, in Thailand, despite the growing interest in China, government officials and academics who have profound knowledge on China are still lacking. This is what this essay contributes.

In recent years, the Thai government and a few private sector companies have sent Thai students to continue their studies in China. The number of those who go to study China using their own resources have also increased. (Tambunlertchai & Tambunlertchai, 2015) This chapter reviews the prospect to improve Chinese Economic Studies in the future based on the perspectives of interviewees. The chapter also mentioned with the limitations of the research, and looking forward the following deepen research.

6.2 THE PROSPECT OF CHINESE ECONOMIC STUDIES IN THAILAND

Although Thailand and China have officially established the bilateral relations for almost 40 years, some obstacles in the Chinese economic studies remained.

Consequently, both Thailand and china have faced a difficulty to maximize mutual benefit. In order to develop the Chinese economic studies in Thailand, there are some projects and expected plan to be implemented as follows.

6.2.1 Establishing the Institute Specialized in China Studies

In the present day, China studies centers in Thailand work independently. The government should establish the institute specialized in China studies in order to

develop a systematic research and education of China studies. Each China studies center today is unable to focus on a specific direction of the study. For instance, some center emphasizes on Chinese social studies, other focus on Chinese economic studies.

Consequently, none of the research would be systematically generated and this leads to inability to further study in the deeper aspect. Therefore, the government should take a role of supporting China studies by assigning the study scope to each China studies center, and then should establish a specific scope of specialized center.

6.2.2 Improving the Standard of Chinese Language Studies

Even though greater amount of Thai people are active to learn Chinese language more than ever before, most of the Chinese language courses in Thailand are still below standard. Henceforth, it is necessary to improve the teaching quality in every aspect, including the curriculum, teaching material and teacher. In order to achieve the goal, an attempt to cooperate with China should be performed in order to create a better quality course, produce adequate teaching materials, promote the quality of Chinese teachers and, set up the Chinese language test.

6.2.3 Promoting Thai-Chinese Students Exchange

Promoting Thai and Chinese students exchange program could directly help to develop human resources in both China studies and Chinese language training. Currently, Thai students in China and Chinese students in Thailand are both consecutively increased. However, there are only few numbers of Thai students who promote their studies in specific faculty such as economics, social science and politics. Most of Thai students go to China in order to take a short course of Chinese language training. The government should come up with student exchange projects through the cooperation between Thai and Chinese universities, generating some scholarships for Thai students, creating Chinese exchange students center in Thailand in order to support and help Chinese students.

6.2.4 Building the Stability of Thai Researchers

The significance of Thai researchers is different from other countries. They are considered by Thai society to be less important than university professors. The government should create a job security for Thai researchers as well as provide a wider opportunity for them. Nowadays, most of the researchers work under the instruction of professors, which limits their ability to extend further knowledge. Moreover, the fact that researcher profession is not stable, leads to the scarcity of human resources, the major factor to accomplish the academic research.

6.3 LIMITATIONS

Conducting this study provided a valuable source of information from the honourable scholars and works. Even standards of reliability and accuracy data are always considered, but the analysis could be biased according to personal understanding and interpretation of the context. Owing to the insufficient materials of China economic studies in Thailand, most of the existing research was retained in each particular institute, and very few are provided for public to access. Furthermore, the materials that would affect national security by intervention of the Monarchy and Government are restricted and concealed. Nonetheless, some accessible supportive information was gathered from internet sources such as columns and reviews of reports websites, and online editorial articles. It resulted in some incomplete information. In addition, there is a limitation on data collection due to the time constraint and a difficulty of access due to the physical distance.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: THE SELECTIVE CHINESE STUDIES INSTITUTES

1. Chinese Studies Center, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University

ศูนย์จีนศึกษา สถาบันเอเชียศึกษา จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

อาคารประชาธิปไตย-รำไพพรรณี ชั้น 3 ถนนพญาไท แขวงวังใหม่ เขตปทุมวัน กรุงเทพฯ 10330

<http://www.csc.ias.chula.ac.th/ncseth/index.php>

2. Center for Chinese Studies, Institute of East Asian Studies, under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Mahachakri Sitindhorn, Thammasat University

ศูนย์จีนศึกษา สถาบันเอเชียตะวันออกเฉียงใต้ศึกษา ในพระราชูปถัมภ์สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี มหาวิทยาลัยธรรมศาสตร์

Borom Rachakumari Chinese Learning Center

ศูนย์การเรียนรู้จีนศึกษาบรมราชกุมารี

99 หมู่ 18 ถ.พหลโยธิน ต.คลองหนึ่ง อ.คลองหลวง จ.ปทุมธานี 12121

<https://sites.google.com/a/asia.tu.ac.th/center-for-chinese-studies/>

<http://bclc-tu.com>

3. China ASEAN Studies Center, Panyapiwat Institute of Management (PIM)

ศูนย์อาเซียน-จีนศึกษา สถาบันการจัดการปัญญาภิวัฒน์

85/1 หมู่ 2 ถ.แจ้งวัฒนะ ต.บางตลาด อ.ปากเกร็ด จ.นนทบุรี 11120

<http://cascenter.pim.ac.th>

4. Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center (TCRC)

ศูนย์วิจัยยุทธศาสตร์ไทย-จีน

196 ถ.พหลโยธิน เขตจตุจักร กรุงเทพฯ 10900

<http://vijaichina.com>

5. China Studies Center, Faculty of Humanities, Chiang Mai University

ศูนย์จีนศึกษา มหาวิทยาลัยเชียงใหม่

239 ถนนห้วยแก้ว ตำบลสุเทพ อำเภอเมือง จังหวัดเชียงใหม่ 50200

<http://www.human.cmu.ac.th/index.php>

6. Department of Chinese for Economy and Trade, Assumption University

Assumption University, Suvarnabhumi Campus

88 หมู่ 8 ถนน บางนาตราด บางเสาธง สมุทรปราการ 10540

<http://www.au.edu/index.php/chinese-for-economy-and-trade>

7. China-ASEAN International College, Dhurakij Pundit University

110/1-4 ถนนประชาชื่น หลักสี่ กรุงเทพมหานคร 10210

<http://www.dpubkk.com>



APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW QUESTION GUIDES

To understand the background of the scholars

- How did you take part in the China studies?
- Please describe your study process and relative factors.
- How did you start your pedagogy or research field?
- What were the courses you have instructed over the years?
- How many students have taken the courses you provided?
- How did you design the content of instruction?
- What is your perspective toward your students?

To understand the researches and institutes of the scholars

- When did you become a part of the institute, and how?
- Why did you want to be a part of the institute?
- How did you select the theme of research study?
- Please describe your research study's process.
- What are your financial resources to conduct the research?
- How often do you visit China, and what are the experiences you have explored?
- Have you cooperated with other China Studies scholars, what were your similar experiences and sentiments?

To comprehend the China Studies in Thailand

- How many Thai scholars specialized in China?
- What are relative conferences or seminars were arranged, and by which institute?
- What are relative research periodicals were published, and by which institute?
- How many theses related to China were conducted over years, and what were their research topics?
- Please describe your perspectives toward China Studies in Thailand.
- Please describe your perspectives toward China Studies in other countries.

To acquire further prospects of the scholars

- Please describe your opinion toward China in the future.
- Please describe your opinion toward Asia in the future.
- Please describe your opinion toward China Studies in the future.
- What is your greatest accomplishment or regret about China Studies?



APPENDIX III: INTERVIEWEES SAMPLING

1. Dr. Somsak Tambunlertchai

Retired member of Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University

The pioneer of China studies and Chinese economic studies

2. Associate Professor Wanrak Mingmaninakin

Retired member of Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University

The pioneer of Chinese economic studies

3. Mr. Tingkuang Kongpetsathit

The President of Ratwittaya School, Phetchburi

4. Mr. Sawaeng Jiwasurat

The chairman of Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Phetchburi

5. Ms. Wannarat Thahong

Researcher Assistant of Chinese Studies Center, Institute of Asian Studies,
Chulalongkorn University

6. Ms. Orrasa Rattanaamornpirom

Director Assistant of China ASEAN Studies Center, Punyapiwat Institute of
Management

7. Dr. Arm Tungnirun

Former Director of Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center



APPENDIX IV: INTERVIEW RECORD SAMPLING

The Interview Record of Assistant Professor Wanrak Mingmaninakin

1. When did you take part in the China Studies? How did you process the research?

I used to be a part of Thai rural area development in 1975-1976. At that time, I started to know about China. The success that overcame poverty with the large amount of population had attracted my interest. I was curious how could China become where they were by their own attempt, without relying on other countries. In 1977, I got an opportunity to study two subjects of Fundamental Chinese Economy at the Faculty of Economics, University of Washington. When I returned to Thammasat University in 1978, I continually researched about Chinese economy by emphasizing on Chinese rural area development together with its related economic development. However, the scope of my research stressed on the period of post revolution in 1949.

I usually conduct the research by reading English books and academic articles, mostly were composed by American scholars. I had to consider the fact of content as all of them had their own pros and cons. In the meantime, Chinese government also had provided some relevant information in Chinese, unfortunately I did not know Chinese language.

During 1978-1982, China encountered the major political reform, followed by the macroeconomic policy alterations. The main idea was to shift from centerization system to the price mechanism or market system. China took at least 15 years to process this adjustment in 1978-1993.

The theoretical adjustment and its practice had indirectly affected China Studies circle. The achievements of scholars were truly difficult to obtain because a limitation to gather information from China. Before foreigners were permitted to freely travel across China in 1990, made it was even harder. Specifically, those related to the philosophy and political ideals of administration and economic development in Mao's period. The research studies at that time were regarded as obsolete information, were not beneficial for new generations, and were no longer interesting. Some China Studies scholars were discouraged and gave up on China Studies. On the other side, those who maintained the

interest of China Studies had to put all researches away and started conducting the news over.

By the way, in 1960s, the decadences of Soviet and other socialist countries including China led them turn to adjust the concept of economic development administration. However, China was only one that successfully achieved the goal. None of other countries could reform the economic development to be the Price Mechanism and success as China. The factors drove China to this achievement were distinctive and still needed to be researched.

2. Have you ever teach any subject related to China Studies? How many students have taken the course? What is your perspective toward your students?

I used to instruct the subject related to Chinese economy since 1979. It was Asian Economy subject, which consisted of Southeast Asia countries and China. Firstly, the course was provided annually, then added to twice a year. (available in the both semesters) The substance in the first semester is about economy in Southeast Asia countries, while the second is for China's economy. There were approximately 20-40 students taken the course. Most of them had high intention toward the content.

The limited ability of students to read English papers, and there were none of Chinese economic composition in Thai language, motivated me to write "The Economy of People's Republic of China" book in Thai language in 1982. The books were published by Thammasat University Publisher, and regarded as the prior Chinese economy textbook in Thai academic circle. Furthermore, Faculty of Economics' Library at Thammasat University tends to be the most complete one of Chinese economic books and documents collection in Thailand.(Except The Chinese Economics Statistical Yearbook in ESCAP, UN)

3. When did you become a part of China Studies Institutes, and how?

Institute of East Asian Studies, Thammasat University which insists of Japan Studies and China Studies was found in 1984. Not so long after the establishment, I had become a part of Center of Chinese Studies' Committee. I was responsible for Chinese

economic research. However, I was only one researcher in Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, who had continually conducted the study projects of Chinese economy. Therefore, I was the committee for many years until the new researcher took the place (Professor Aksornsri Panishsarn), then I left the position.

4. How did you select the theme of research study? What were your methodologies? Did you get any research fund from institutes?

Thammasat University gives annual research funds every year on China Studies. While I was the committee of China Studies' projects, there was a-year annual government statement of expenditure (I'm not sure about this information after I quit). By emphasizing on the budget, it was tiny research fund, no researcher payment, no major nor topics limited. The researcher had to be a Thammasat University's professor. There were only few applicants on research fund. During 1983-1995, I was an academician and project committee so my responsibilities were producing research from the annual research fund. The research topics were chosen on teaching usefulness, or article presentation in seminar. The research method emphasized on library research. After that, the Institute of East Asian Studies had researchers, so they were trained to do research. Moreover, I got a scholarship from TU to do an observed studies in Beijing and Shanghai (See more from question 5).

What I wanted to do at that time was, providing knowledge in printed media because Thai people lacked of China knowledge especially the economic aspect. When China opened the country, Thai businessmen were interested in doing business but they had less understanding on fundamental economic knowledge. Unfortunately, there were not any publishers who were interested in China economy. In the beginning, there were 3-4 Chinese-Thai investors who invested in China, but the only one who sent staffs on directly data collection for planning and decision making, so he was very successful. The others were not (when the situation was better, they went back to China again) because they lacked of investment knowledge in China which had absolutely different rules, styles, methods, and experiences from Thailand and other countries. Most of Thai small private investors failed, some were defrauded by China co-investors. They lost in

lawsuits because the unintentional China's rules breaking. When China opened the country, commercial and investment regulations were often changed. The business information providing spend too long on printed media; out of date. It's better nowadays we can get fast information, moreover the 'Manager' website provides current information which is very useful for Thai businessmen. During 2005-2006, I've got a research fund from the Thailand Research Fund (TFR). I've gathered primary economic data in each precinct and gave it to Manager Publishing for printing. We aimed to give basic understandings on each precinct or province of China to interested people and Thai businessmen instead of taking chance business.

5. How often do you go to China? Have you got any academic experience? How?

I've been to China many times in 1984-1994 for host interchange on China Studies project between Thammasat University and some institutes in some precincts of China. I've got less interesting economic information from Chinese academicians, they were usually careful of talking about the old system which was throwing away. Whereas the new system which will replace are still unclear, the Chinese academicians have less freedom of criticizing on government policies, therefore we didn't have many chances to exchange about it. However, the general information on talking and perception were properly useful, especially the commune visiting (which was going to decompose) and enterprises. Then we visited share investment factory of Chinese-foreigners, public utility, material and building changes, higher education development, etc. I saw many tourist attractions which were not developed as nowadays. I've got the scholarship from TU for observe studies in Beijing and Shanghai during 16 May – 15 June in 1989. At that time, the university students protested the government and it turned to Tiananmen Square Crisis (students were suppressed by weapons on 3-4 June)

6. Have you ever worked with foreigner academicians on China Studies? What experiences have you got?

I've never formally worked with Chinese academicians.

7. *Do you think the China Studies academicians in Thailand are less or more? Is it proper quality?*

Thailand has less China Studies academicians when compared to the roles and influences of China on world community, Asian and Thailand, especially we lack of Chinese economic studies academicians. Now the information is plenty and easily to be accessed, the researchers should shift their studies from primary study to analysis studies.

8. *Do you think the China Studies academic conferences in Thailand are less or more? Is it proper quality?*

(I didn't attend any academic conferences since 2008) When I was working on China Studies, there were two institutes which held the China academic conferences; Institutes of Asian Studies Chulalongkorn University and Institutes of East Asian Studies Thammasat University. There were 6-8 conferences a year. People usually interested in China especially literatures and cultures which were well-known by many elders. The working group was interested in economic and politics. Moreover, the China Studies project of Thammasat University used to held the academic conferences by inviting some Chinese academicians. The conferences were held at Santi Maitree Building, Government House.

9. *Do you think Thailand have more or less of China writing? (including books, articles, thesis) What is the most popular topic?*

Academic Writing - If I ranked them from more to less (according to my feeling, might not be true) is articles, thesis, and books. The books are the least, most of them are textbooks. The commercial book publishing was barely. There were a few in the last 25 years.

General Writing - There were some, most of them are Chinese literatures, (reprinted or comic books with translation authority) and documentary tourism. Recently there are cultural, belief, and ritual writings of overseas Chinese in Thailand.

10. What do you think about China Studies in Thailand and other countries?

(See question 12)

11. What do you think about China in the future?

As we looked in the past and present, China might have economic and technology growth by using economic machineries and income distribution for poverty decreasing. For internal precincts, they required more processes. The international political power of China might be increased to be the great power. From the history, China has never attacked other countries. If Chinese don't use election system as westerners do, the Chinese leaders will not be under the investor groups. It means different visions from westerner's leaders. The Chinese leaders emphasize on overall people, not only election fund supporters. Although present China doesn't use Mao Zedong's concepts; small and big countries are equal, the bitterness of Chinese by westerners might lead China leaders to be mercy to other inferior countries. For the economic relationship between Thailand and China, Thailand has to be proud of our own honor and emphasizes on equality and overall people's advantages.

12. What do you think about China Studies in the future?

Despite of several aspects of China Studies in the future in Thailand, the study framework should be targeted on the usefulness in case of enough research funds. The information and works should spread for easier access. The publication should be emphasized as much as doing research for the most advantages of information using.

The Interview Record of Dr. Somsak Tambunlertchai

1. When did you start studying about China? Why?

Actually I always interested in China because I know Chinese language, I could read Chinese book when I since young. After I graduated I didn't study about China. In my publications, there are only international investment and industrial development. One year, the Pridi Banomyong Institute which usually had a professors from Beijing University to teach, but there was none that year, invited me to teach. I taught only a semester then there were two retired professors from Beijing. Under the institute, there were subjects about Chinese economy studies, Chinese studies, and the one I taught was Chinese economy (中國經濟). I taught for a term and stopped. When I was a lecturer there, I realized that actually I knew Chinese language, then I was interested in China Studies. In my lecture, I used Justin Lin's textbook who was vice-president of World Bank.

Another thing is, there was Chinese Asian Conference (Strategic Think Thank) at Nanking (廣西社會科學院) and I was a part of it. I presented my 2-3 writings about China, and Thai-Chinese relationships. Actually, I went to China every year so I was interested in it. Before that time, I never used Chinese in academic or profession, just reading Chinese novels and talking with friends because when I studied in the United States my roommates were Chinese and Taiwanese, so I usually used Chinese when I was there. But I didn't use Chinese language when I came back to Thailand because I wrote paper in English and some were Thai. After that, I wrote in English but I started to present in Chinese. I taught Chinese Economic Studies in English, the power point was English but I spoke Chinese. Actually, I always read Chinese books when I was young. I studied only grade 4 then moved to junior high school. In my high school ages, Chinese language was prohibited. Until many years after that Chinese language studies were allowed in high school, therefore my Chinese language stopped. Later, I was in commercial business so I used Chaozhou, writing letters in Chinese, then I spoke Chinese when I was in America but never used for jobs. So, there are less people in Thailand who know that I have China knowledge except my closed people. At the time that I got a scholarship, Dr. Puey was a dean, so I thought although I knew Chinese

language I still should study more about China because China would be an important country. However when I arrived Washington, I asked for China studying but they denied, they said if I wanted to study about Chinese economic, I had to asked for government's permission. That's why I didn't apply for China Studies. (at that time Thailand and China didn't have any relationships) I went there in 1969, but we started the relationships in 1975, later China's economy has grown so there were many people studied about it. Although many people studied Chinese language but they were not expert. For example, when I taught at Pridi Banomyong Institute, there were only 4-5 students from 50 who could answer in Chinese. I made an examination questions both in Chinese and English. Only 4-5 students answered in Chinese, they were not very good but acceptable, others answered in English.

2. Many Thai people are Thai-Chinese, but why do we have less Thai people who are capable to listen, speak, read and write in Chinese properly?

There were actually less of them. There are many reasons, one of them is discontinuation since Field Marshal Sarit's or Luang Pibulsongkram's eras. The students couldn't study Chinese language after they graduated grade 4 in spite of studying 2 hours a day in grade 1-4. In my ages, after the World War some of them were old; graduated grade 4 and continued high school without learning Chinese. So, the old students who finished grade 4 didn't apply for the examination, but I skipped the grade. Afterwards, there were night schools such as Gwanghwa, Tonghua, and Fuzheng, the students were 17-18 or late 20. I studied for 3-4 months then applied Thai language tutorial school. The night school used to be legal in 1957-1958 but only a few of them. Now the Chinese newspapers are not longer popular, the journalists incorrectly write because the Chinese language experts were too old to work. Some of them passed away, while the new bloods are not good at Chinese enough. Studying Chinese language gives only for speaking and basic conversation, not for specific purposes. Studying requires time, book reviews, and practicing, the development will not happen without opportunities.

3. For night Chinese language schools you mentioned, were most of students Chinese-Thai?

Yes, they were Chinese overseas (華僑) and some worked in other provinces, so they had night free time to study. I think it's great like small Chinese association, however Chinese language studying is revealed and got lots of students now. 20 years later, my niece and nephew generations are still studying, and Chinese language is considered as an elective subject. Chinese language was very popular when China's economy highly grows and many people alerted about it. Studying Chinese language requires attempt and continuation which rarely to be found. Most of Thai people have writing problem, but they can slightly listen and speak. When we compare about Chinese language ability of Thailand and Singapore, or Malaysia, we have less knowledge than others. For Malaysia, although Chinese people are citizen and some are prevented, they still can choose to learn Chinese. In Thailand, Chinese is taught as the second or third language and we don't use Chinese as a media language for every subject as same as Malaysia. Perhaps because Chinese is an elective subject so there are only less students. Although students increase, Chinese is still be taught much less than English for period and time.

4. Do you think Thai people have less knowledge about Chinese language which effects on China Studies?

That might be part of it. China experts in Thailand don't know well in Chinese, they read English and use English instead. Like me, I wrote paper in English, presented in English (sometimes presented in Chinese when the conferences were held in China) but only spoke Chinese to my friends. Actually those China experts have tried to learn Chinese language, but they have lots of work to do so they don't have time for serious studying.

5. Do most of China Studies Institutes emphasize on Chinese language more than China Studies?

Yes, most of them do. I mentioned that when they talked about China Studies they actually meant Chinese language studies, but the researcher projects emphasized on economic. Most of ministries and departments have research funds, and most of the funds are about economic such as there were many research funds in the Ministry of Industry. Last year I was an advisee of the west precincts studies project. Some professors used to be China Studies researchers. It is one of a master degree of Thammasat University. There are not many students because it's quite new. The Liberal Arts Faculty has China Studies project on weekends. It's started for 6-7 years.

6. Were there many students when you taught Chinese Economy subject?

Actually there were 2 classes, 50 students each, and there was another lecturer teaching. There are 80-100 students in China Studies every year in the Institute especially for bachelor degree. As I mentioned previously about the students, they could listen and speak Chinese but limited in writing, except two of them who had learnt Chinese since they were young and another one came from Hong Kong.

7. Were you an advisor of Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center?

That's right. Actually I used to present my paper in Thai to the Center, but the Center is very small with only two staffs (not researcher). I usually say that, the China Studies in Thailand is very shallow when compare to Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam because I often go to China for the conferences. Singapore has been deeply studying about China, Vietnam is also deeper with more Chinese speaking people than us. We have done shallow study without any deeply or seriously studying. Another thing is, Rangsit University has studied about China. This year is the 40th Anniversary of Thailand-China Relationships, there will be many books in July from both Rangsit University and Pridi Banomyong Institute. Now the staff in the Institute is truly less. The seminar was once held with Huachiew University in Xiamen. Actually the staffs in NRCT (National Research Council of Thailand) have gone for 4 years, the conferences were interchange in Thailand and Xiamen. Who wanted to write paper so they can

write, and present the paper. But there were not many applicants, so whoever presented the paper could join the conference. There were about 30 of them.

8. When did you start to be a committee in the National Research Council of Thailand?

I was not a committee at the beginning. The present director invited me to help, but there are not any conference until now. The main problems are lack of staffs and money, at least there should be one staff in the office but it doesn't have budget.

Actually, China Studies could be done without our new studies, just hiring someone to read and conclude; citation to people who said. Although it's very easy, we lack of human resource. The second is, sending newsletter about China. Whoever invest in China are pleased to get the information because China often changes its policies, we have to be up-to-dated. These things don't need any serious studies, we could applied, analyze, and conclude from other's studies. The third is, sending more people to study. We've sent many people to study in China but as I said, all of them were shallow studying and we are so late than other countries. We were active only for 7-8 years.

Kasikorn and Bangkok Banks are very active about China. China has fast changed and wide areas, so we need to specific and follow on the region. Only a precinct is bigger twice than Thailand, then we have to research. Another thing is, instead of study on economic relationships, we have to study on culture, custom, traditional, and political system, but Thailand doesn't have any systemic educations.

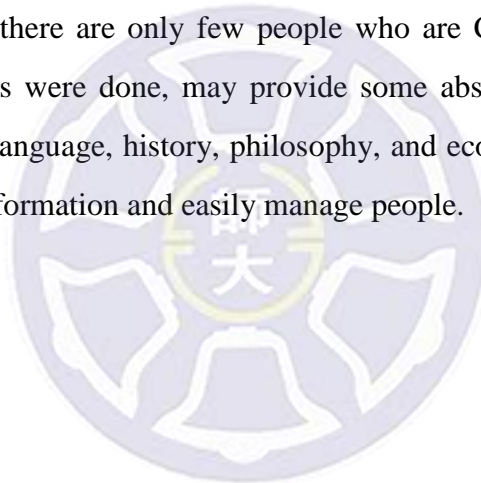
9. Did you have a research fund in your writing?

Some of them were written without the fund because I didn't hire assistant. Some projects or from government invited me to be an advisor, such as Ministry of Industry. The problems are lacking of coordination; individual working, another thing is the results were not used as much as it could be. Thus, I think the central organization should be established. We have research funds as 0.03% of GDP. Actually every ministry, department, and private sectors are interested in China but they individually work without coordination. If we have newsletter, we could tell others that who is studying this, what results are; everybody gets advantages. But we don't have the

central organization so the repeated situations keep happening. Less resources created more difficulties. I wrote paper because there was brain storming, I presented it after finished and told them that I wanted to show to the National Research Council of Thailand. However there are not any progresses, that's very pity.

10. What do you think about the way of China Studies in the future?

If we don't use any tries, it will not be changed. Most of people are interested in language, another one is economy but for only some organizations. Actually the soldiers are interested, but they just only interesting and lack of formally operations. In fact, the NRCT should be a main resource, but it is not. Budget allocation might create responsibility on people, but that requires money then work. Another thing is, directory providing. In Thailand, there are only few people who are China experts. We should record that, which topics were done, may provide some abstracts and directory from experts in many fields; language, history, philosophy, and economy. If we could finish that, we will know all information and easily manage people.



The Interview Record of Dr. Arm Tungnirun

1. When were you started to interesting in China? Why?

I got a government scholarship to China when I graduated high school. I was the fifth year's scholarship students which was quite new in 2004. The scholarship had increased since the first year; one student, until the fifth year; 8 students who studied in Beijing for 4 students and another four studied in Shanghai. The government didn't specific on what did we have to study, just had to be Arts program. I chose law for my bachelor degree which required 2 years of Chinese language courses, then another 4 years for law, then I moved to the United States. After I graduated, I came back to be a professor at Chulalongkorn University in Law Faculty. I didn't directly teach about economics but my job wasn't 100% law, it actually also related to economics. While I was teaching at Chulalongkorn University, I had a chance to help in the Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center.

China has been popular since I was in high school. Personally, I've been interested in Chinese history since I was young. At that time, it was noticeable that China is the fast developing country. Most of the people studied law in Europe, the United States, and Japan, but less of them said they would go to study law in China. I thought China would be continually grown, and Thailand had to do more commercial businesses with China. Thus, it would interest for me to study law in China. When I arrived there, I found it was interesting because many things weren't as same as I thought about before I flew. Before I went there I thought I would come back to Thailand after graduated to help people who wanted to do business with Chinese people, or for national relationships, but what I learnt was happened among national reformed. Law was one of the reformations, therefore all economic reformation could not ignored law reformation. Henceforth, law studies could not be distinguished from economic reformation which was different in Thailand. At that time, China was in an exciting period because everything was new; changed law, actually the Chinese Law has happened for 30 years.

2. You are interested in Chinese history because you are Thai-Chinese?

I'm not sure if it is related to Thai-Chinese family background or not. My father is Thai-Chinese, and he can speak Hainan. My mother can't speak any Chinese, as same as me, I'd never spoken Chinese before. However, we knew that we are Thai-Chinese, we celebrate Chinese New Year and arrange Ancestor Worship. When I lived in China I read Chinese philosophy, then I realized that my family's thoughts are based on Chinese philosophy such as education emphasizing and diligence belonged to Confucius. Nevertheless, I'm not sure how much my Chinese family's thoughts have effected me, but I think the media took a part, too. I started to watch Chinese series since I was young, I've got plenty of them; ancient Chinese history such as the Justice Pao (包青天) and Romance of the Three Kingdoms (三國). After watching them, I was interested in Chinese history, then tried to find books which there were a lot in Thailand. Most of them were about histories and many dynasties and I found these were interesting.

3. You mentioned that you studied Chinese language for 2 years before doing bachelor degree, that meant you have never studies Chinese language before?

No, never.

4. Did you mainly use information in English for China Studies research?

I'd never studied Chinese language before I graduated high school. After that, I took two years course on Chinese language, then I studied every subject in Chinese liked other Chinese students. Thereby, I was one of few Thai academicians who studied in non-Chinese faculty and could read Chinese. In my opinion, most of Thai academicians who graduated from China and could write and read Chinese were in economics, law, and political science faculties. Most of China Studies academicians in Thailand used English.

5. How did you choose research topics?

I've never done any big researches before, I mean I've never taken all responsibility of the project, just being an assistant. I usually focus on general academic

writing such as the law textbook in Chinese and an article in Bangkok Business Newspaper once a month. However they don't require any field work or interviews, but secondary research, reading and evaluation, then explain the information again. If you asked me how much did I interest in the current news, that's not much to influence my writing. The topics for me were interesting me or few people have written about. You can take a look at my writings on 'Vijaichina' website. Sometimes I wrote about economics, but most of them were law because there were less people studied in it.

6. Did you obtain any research fund?

Yes, but they were other professor's big projects which got the research funds. I just was in the research team and never asked for it in my own project.

7. When you have taught in Chulalongkorn University, have you directly attended to any research institute or project on China Studies?

There is an Institute of Asian Studies in Chulalongkorn University, and in that institute there is Chinese Studies Center. The center, was found by many China Studies experts. Most of the founders were professors of political science and arts. The center sometimes provides researches such as for the Office of the National Security Council and other external organizations, but I wasn't directly part of it. Another organization is the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) which established the Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center. I was a director of the center for 1 year, during 2012-2013. It's like an advisor for a project, not permanent position with salary.

8. While you were a director of the Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center, what projects had you done?

There are two types of institutes which giving research funds. The first one is ministry and department. They sought academicians for conducting research, but those are not serious researches, kind of consulting work which couldn't be used to promote any academic position. Another one is an academic research. In Thailand, each organization had different research. The NRCT had some budgets and academicians.

The Thailand Research Fund (TRF) was one of the biggest research fund providers in Thailand, especially on science, but it has still provided some for social studies and economics. The TRF have schemed projects such as WTO Watch and China Watch which have plenty of staffs on taking care and giving funds to researches.

At first, the NRCT wasn't mainly role because the TRF granted funds more than NRCT. Nowadays, the NRCT takes more responsibilities with concepts of taking care of national strategic research. Therefore, the NRCT set research strategies and holding conferences for all research organizations together, then granting the funds together which are the huge budgets for national reforming research. The Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center has started in 2012. After arriving Thailand, I spent a year as an advisor in that center, and I got funds on the academic activities. The center's roles were 1) Providing China information by creating the website. 2) Act as the NRCT by collecting researches about China, being a data bank, so the government organizations should reveal their researches, too. That's different from other ministries' or departments' work. We would know which research has done, which one hasn't done before. 3) Knowledge provided continuation by holding academic conferences. We've held many big events such as the coordination with Kasikorn Bank, inviting the international speakers. 4) We'd like to make strategic impacts.

The relations in organizations depend on the relations between the leaders and government, such as there aren't any participants in an academic seminar, but students. That's not strategic research which can improve the country. Thailand distributed researches, not central fund giving centers.

9. Apart from researches in Thailand have you ever worked with international researchers about China Studies?

I've never worked with them for research, but I used to invite them as the guest speakers. Although China Studies are popular but less researchers, so the supports on China Studies research weren't happened. For example, the Asian Economic Community is very famous, so the international researches were cooperated. For China, the obstacle was, only few of Chinese were interested in Thailand because China is a

big country and Thailand is just a small country. There weren't no research funds because Chinese were interested in big countries such as the United States or Europe.

The second reason is, the Chinese researchers who did research on Thailand mainly were close to Thailand; small universities and limited funds. There weren't research funds in Thailand, might because of the research funds on China Studies in Thailand were limited when we compared to the United States, Europe, or others in Southeast Asia. The researchers in Thailand on those topics were only a few. The reason for China was, our country is a small country. In the past when Japan was popular, it provided many research funds. We could ask for the research funds from Japan, but we couldn't face the same situations to China, nor Thailand and Chinese relationships. I'm quite interested in the future, why did Japan give us many research funds?

10. How often do you go to China?

Once or twice a year. They were academic visiting such as conferences, seminars, or with commercial representatives.

11. What experience have you got from Chinese coordination?

I studied in China and knew some Chinese academicians, and I also studied in the United States. In my opinion, the Chinese academicians are in the beginning period, especially for small universities. Their researches were based on English translation, not original. I think Chinese researchers haven't been as good as western researchers yet.

About the ideas for Thai academicians, I think some Chinese are interested in Thailand especially for some precincts where have the relationships to Thailand such as Yunnan and Sichuan, but that's only a few of them when comparing to the whole China. The excellent academicians aren't interested in Thailand, therefore the ones who did researches on Thailand weren't the experts nor had impact on Thailand. However when we compare the population of China to Thailand, the few amounts of Chinese are still more than Thai academicians who are interested in China Studies. Most of the Chinese researches are about national relationships or Thai language, but they're abstract. They're different from economic research which requires research methods. The

researches on Thai economy aren't many, nobody interviewed Thai businessmen. For Chinese opinion, they think Thailand isn't much important, that's why they don't know much about Thailand. The strange view is, China is very important for Thai, but we have few researchers on China. That's quite different from Singapore, South Korea, or Japan where couldn't say that China isn't an important country. When I said the amounts of our researches are less because, China has changed fast while Thailand had slowly changed. I think Thai people's changes are less than China's changes. For example, the present China is totally different from China in 20 years ago, but for Thai people, Thailand isn't different much from nowadays and last 20 years. Changes in Thailand slowly happened. Thai people still have the same perceptions as last 20 years although the world has changed a lot.

For Thai academic system, we're not interested in China because of China is important, but we're interested because westerners are, then we care about westerner's thought and that's why we do the same on China. On the other hand, the "central" academicians in Thailand are graduated from western countries. Last 30 years China was in cultural reformation era, that's why there were few graduated but most of the academicians studied in western countries, therefore they have western mindset. They don't realize the China's fast changes themselves, but from western textbooks. The advantages of western textbooks are freedom with many aspects, but China's textbooks are limited. Therefore, Thai academicians who read western textbooks got quality but lacked of some aspects from Chinese academics. According to the fast changes in China and slow changes in Thailand, Thai people might not understand that the present researches have already changed. I'm not sure how much Thai people could understand about that, because we still use the same economic textbook as 10 years ago.

12. Do you think the academicians of China Studies or other studies about China in Thailand are enough?

If we're talking about the real systemic academic researches, they're really less. But if we focus on events about Chinese in Thailand, there's a lot. The events were held every month, but the creators were private researchers for private sectors. The

businessmen and China experts were invited as guests. Most of them were about current news, those aren't the real academic researches.

13. What do you think about the improvement of China Studies in Thailand?

Actually I think other topics studies in Thailand still haven't much. The problem isn't about China Studies, but the overall Thai academic circle. Thai society doesn't give advantages to academicians, and it's getting worse than 30-40 years ago. Being a university teacher is honourable for Thai, and got respect; we could say this job is a good job. But the intellects might not want to be the university teachers as much as the past because they have more choices. I think this phenomenon isn't the same in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, nor China. Those countries have higher competitions in academic circle, it's harder than before. I'm not sure Thailand's got the same situation. That might be the problem that, are intellects interested in the academic circle? The second one is, are there research funds? Will the research results useful or important? Those problems lead back to Thai's social problems which doesn't emphasize on academic works; it's shallow.

The China Studies in Thailand may increase in the future because China is very significant for Thailand. The amount of Thai people who studied in China were on top 5, therefore the amount of researchers on China will increase. The research fund providing will increase because the higher tendency couldn't be denied. China has got the great economic powers. But if we want the sustainable results, we have to focus on the huge structure. On the other hand, we're very slow on China Studies when compared to other countries such as Hong Kong, its institutes are stronger.

