

Thailand's Role on the Global Stage

Thailand in Brief

"Thailand in Brief " has been prepared by the Thailand Foundation to support students, scholars, and the general public who wish to give presentations about Thailand to their audiences—for example, exchange program students and international participants.

The work presents some basic information about Thailand in 11 areas: 1) *Geography*, 2) *History*, 3) *Politics and Government*, 4) *Economics*, 5) *Demographics*, 6) *Culture*, 7) *Values*, 8) *Thai People and Other Popularity That You May Know*, 9) *Misconceptions about Thailand*, 10) *Thailand's Role on the Global Stage*, and 11) *Rankings Related to Thailand*.

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"Thailand in Brief" will be updated every third quarter each year. For inquiries or further suggestions, please contact the Thailand Foundation at info@thailandfoundation.or.th.

July 2026

Thailand in Brief

"Thailand in Brief" จัดทำขึ้นโดยมูลนิธิไทย (Thailand Foundation) เพื่ออำนวยความสะดวกแก่นักเรียน นักศึกษา และผู้สนใจทั่วไป นำไปใช้ประโยชน์ อาทิ ในการบรรยาย หรือให้ความรู้เกี่ยวกับประเทศไทยในด้านต่าง ๆ แก่ชาวต่างประเทศ เช่น กรณีนักศึกษาแลกเปลี่ยนที่ไปเรียนในต่างประเทศที่ต้องนำเสนอเรื่องราวเกี่ยวกับประเทศไทยในสถาบันที่ไปศึกษาอยู่ เป็นต้น

งานชิ้นนี้เสนอข้อมูลเกี่ยวกับประเทศไทยโดยสังเขป 11 ด้าน ได้แก่ **1) ภูมิศาสตร์ (Geography) 2) ประวัติศาสตร์ (History) 3) การเมืองการปกครอง (Politics and Government) 4) เศรษฐกิจ (Economics) 5) ประชากร (Demographics) 6) วัฒนธรรม (Culture) 7) ค่านิยม (Values) 8) คนไทย และสื่อที่คุณอาจรู้จัก (Thai people and other popularity that you may know) 9) ความเข้าใจผิดเกี่ยวกับประเทศไทย (Misconceptions) 10) บทบาทของไทยในเวทีโลก (Thailand's role on the Global Stage) และ 11) การจัดอันดับที่เกี่ยวข้องกับประเทศไทย (Rankings related to Thailand)**

"Thailand in Brief" นี้จัดทำเป็นสไลด์ จำนวน 400 สไลด์ ในรูปแบบ .pdf และ .pptx สามารถดาวน์โหลดและเลือกใช้หัวข้อที่นำเสนอ และสลับลำดับการนำเสนอได้ตามความเหมาะสม อย่างไรก็ดี ผู้ใช้งานไม่สามารถดัดแปลงเนื้อหาในเอกสารได้ และห้ามผลิตซ้ำ หรือนำไปใช้เพื่อผลประโยชน์เชิงพาณิชย์โดยไม่ได้รับอนุญาตจากมูลนิธิไทย

"Thailand in Brief" จะได้รับการปรับปรุงให้ทันสมัยในทุกไตรมาสที่ 3 ของปี หากมีข้อสงสัยและข้อเสนอแนะเพิ่มเติม กรุณาติดต่อมูลนิธิไทย
อีเมล info@thailandfoundation.or.th

กรกฎาคม 2569

Thailand has emerged as a significant player in international relations by actively participating in various multilateral organizations and initiatives.

This presentation explores **Thailand's contributions to global cooperation**, focusing on its role as an initiator and key member of several important regional and international bodies.

Photo credit: Wikibook



Thailand in ASEAN

ASEAN Member Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste (2025) and Vietnam.



Founding Member

Thailand is one of the five founding members of ASEAN, established in 1967 through the Bangkok Declaration.



Key Contributor

Thailand has been a key contributor to ASEAN's evolution from political cooperation to economic and sustainable development.



Economic Importance

ASEAN is Thailand's largest export market, and the bloc remains a pillar of Thai foreign policy.

Photo credit: ASEAN

Thailand's Role in ASEAN Cooperation

Political and Security Cooperation

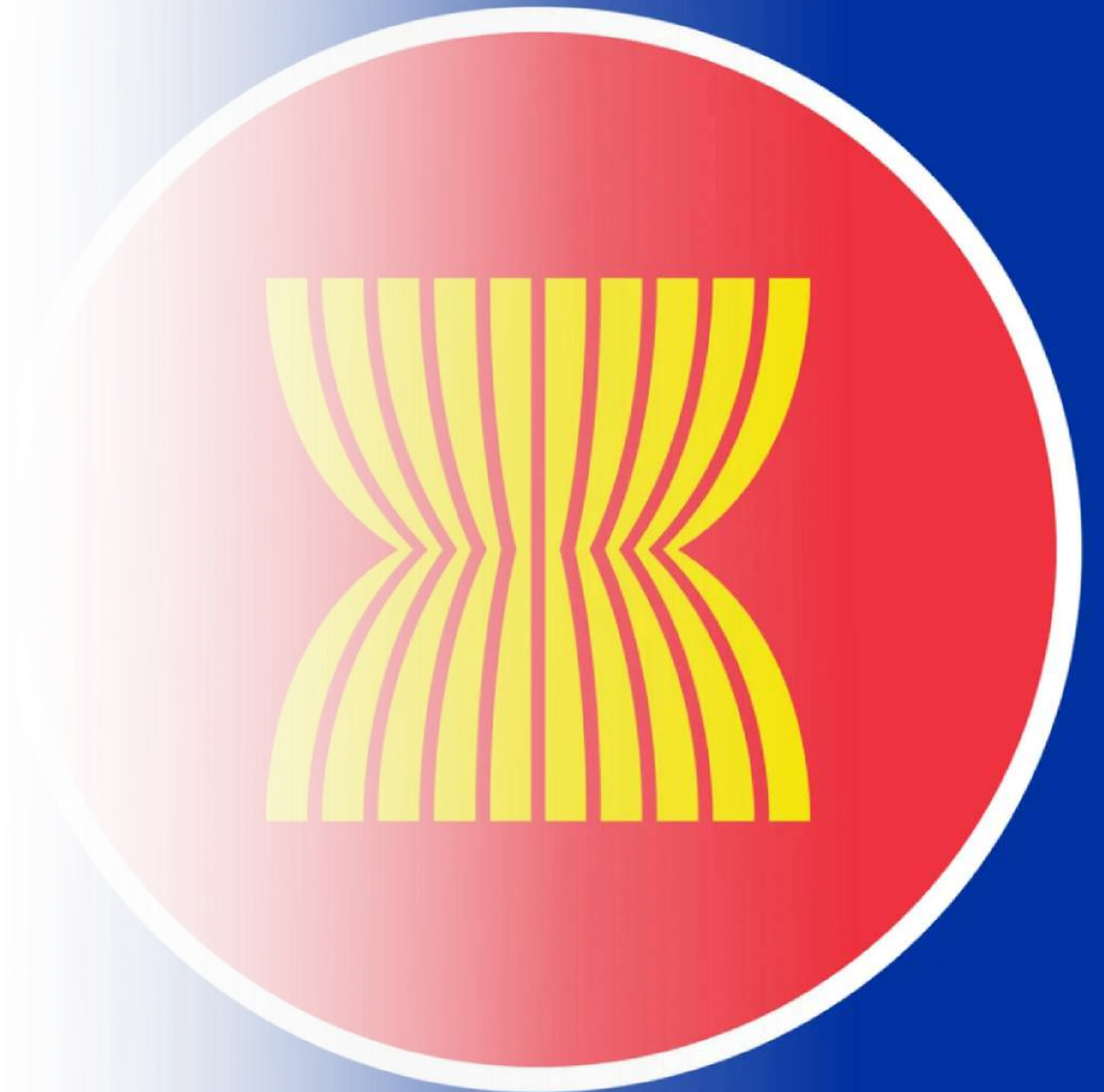
- Active in peace-building through mechanisms like TAC, ADMM, ARF, and preventive diplomacy.
- Promoted the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in 2009.

Economic Integration

- Thailand advocates for regional economic integration, supporting AFTA and RCEP to enhance ASEAN's competitiveness and contribute to global economic growth.
- Proposed enhanced ASEAN connectivity, covering physical, institutional, and people-to-people aspects.

Socio-Cultural Cooperation

- Supports a people-centered ASEAN Community.
- Initiated engagement with ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), civil society organizations (CSOs), and youth to promote involvement in community-building.



Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship

1

1995

- The Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ)
- The formal admission of **Vietnam** as ASEAN's member.

2

2009

- **ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)**
- **Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration** on Strengthening Cooperation on Education to Achieve an ASEAN Caring and Sharing Community

3

2019

- **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)**
- Advanced negotiations for the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**

4

2028

- Stands ready to serve as a bridge **between ASEAN and Global South**
- Advances **social cooperation and environmental management**
- Strengthens **regional peace, stability, and security** through hosting security and defense cooperation meetings



Photo Credit: MFA

Thailand in BIMSTEC and ACD



BIMSTEC

Thailand initiated BIST-EC in 1997, later renamed BIMSTEC. This forum connects 1.5 billion people across South and Southeast Asia.

- Members include Thailand, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- Thailand leads in 14 cooperation sectors including trade and tourism.
- Thailand has served as the host on two occasions, specifically the 1st Summit in 2004 and the 6th Summit in 2025.



ACD

Thailand founded the Asia Cooperation Dialogue in 2002, creating the first pan-Asian forum.

- Member countries such as China, Japan, India, South Korea and Indonesia and others.
- Thailand leads the Inclusive and Sustainable Development pillar

ACMECS and APEC



ACMECS

- Thailand co-founded ACMECS in 2003 with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam.
- Strengthens cooperation with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam.
- Focuses on economic development and regional stability.



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

APEC

- Thailand is a founding member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), established in 1989.
- Members economies such as United States, China, Russia, Japan and Australia
- Introduced the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy in 2022, emphasizing sustainable growth and environmental resilience.

Thailand and the United Nations

1

Joining the UN

Thailand joined in 1946, shortly after the UN's founding in 1945.

2

Cultural Diplomacy and Education

Promotes cultural preservation and education through UNESCO.

Several Thai landmarks, such as Ayutthaya and Sukhothai, are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

3

Peacekeeping Missions

Contributed personnel to UN peacekeeping operations in South Sudan, Timor-Leste and more.

Thai peacekeepers are recognized for their professionalism and dedication to maintaining global peace.

Pictured: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Photo Credit: Pattaya Mail

A photograph of the Wat Chaiwatthanaram temple complex in Ayutthaya, Thailand. The image shows several tall, weathered brick stupas (prangs) of varying heights, some with intricate carvings. The temple is surrounded by lush green trees, and the sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The entire image has a light, hazy overlay.

UNESCO Thailand's Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

Thailand has **nine properties** officially inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This includes **six cultural sites** and **three natural sites**, showcasing the country's rich historical legacy and unique ecological diversity.

Pictured: Wat Chaiwatthanaram, Historic City of Ayutthaya - Photo Credit: fanclubthailand

Cultural Sites

1. Historic Town of Sukhothai and Associated Historic Towns

- The capital of the first Kingdom of Siam in the 13th and 14th centuries.
- It has a number of fine monuments, illustrating the beginnings of Thai architecture.
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.**

Pictured: Historic Town of Sukhothai and Associated Historic Towns
Photo Credit: UNESCO



Cultural Sites

2. Historic City of Ayutthaya

- Became the second Siamese capital after Sukhothai.
- Its remains, characterized by the prang (reliquary towers) and gigantic monasteries, give an idea of its past splendour.
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.**

Pictured: Historic City of Ayutthaya
Photo Credit: UNESCO



Cultural Sites

3. Ban Chiang Archaeological Site (Udon Thani)

- The most important prehistoric settlement discovered in South-East Asia.
- Presents the earliest evidence of farming in the region and of the manufacture and use of metals.
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992.**

Pictured: Ban Chiang Archaeological Site
Photo Credit: Kiwiodysee



Cultural Sites

4. Si Thep Historical Park (Phetchabun)

- The most important prehistoric settlement discovered in South-East Asia.
- Presents the earliest evidence of farming in the region and of the manufacture and use of metals.
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2023.**

Pictured: Prang Si Thep, Si Thep Historical Park, Phetchabun
Photo Credit: Fine Arts Department



Cultural Sites

5. Phu Phra Bat (Udon Thani)

- The most important prehistoric settlement discovered in South-East Asia.
- Presents the earliest evidence of farming in the region and of the manufacture and use of metals.
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2024.**

Pictured: Hor Nang Usa, Phu Phra Bat Historical Park, Udon Thani
Photo Credit: Fine Arts Department



Cultural Sites

6. Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan (Nakhon Si Thammarat)

- Founded in the 8th century, Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan has been a major Buddhist centre in southern Thailand for over 1,500 years.
- Its architecture and traditions blend influences from India, Java, Sri Lanka and the Mon region.
- The monastery preserves important traditions, including the annual cloth-wrapping ceremony, and Nora dance drama.
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2026.**

Pictured: Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan
Photo Credit: Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)



Natural Sites

1. Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries

- Contain examples of almost all the forest types of continental South-East Asia.
- Home to a diverse array of animals, 77% of the large mammals, 50% of the large birds and 33% of the land vertebrates
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.**

Pictured: Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries
Photo Credit: UNESCO



Natural Sites

2. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex

- Home to more than 800 species of fauna, including 112 mammal species (among them two species of gibbon), 392 bird species and 200 reptile and amphibian species.
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005.**

Pictured: Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex
Photo Credit: UNESCO



Natural Sites

3. Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex

- Home to rich diversity.
- Dominated by semi-evergreen/dry evergreen and moist evergreen forest with some mixed deciduous forest, montane forest, and deciduous dipterocarp forest.
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021.**

Pictured: Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex
Photo Credit: UNESCO



Nakhon Ratchasima world's 4th city declared "Triple Crown" by UNESCO

The UNESCO Triple Crown in Nakhon Ratchasima includes:

- **World Heritage Site:** *Khao Yai National Park* (part of the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex), famous for its biodiversity and lush tropical forests.
- **Biosphere Reserve:** *Sakaerat Biosphere Reserve* located in the Pak Thong Chai District, a hub for ecological research and forest conservation.
- **Global Geopark:** *Khorat Geopark*, recognized for its ancient fossils (such as ancient elephants) and unique geological landscapes spanning across five districts.

Photo credit: The Government Public Relations Department



Dong Phayayen – Khao Yai Forest Complex (World Heritage Site)



Sakaerat Biosphere Reserve (Man and Biosphere Reserve)



Khorat Geopark (Global Geopark)

Thailand's Integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Thailand and UN Country Team signed the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026.

- **National Integration:** SDGs are embedded within Thailand's 20-year National Strategy and 5-year Economic Plans.
- **Priority Areas:** Focus on poverty reduction, quality education, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.



Thailand's Climate Commitments

Thailand officially announced its commitment to **achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050** at COP30 on 19 November 2025.

Thailand also pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions **by 47% by 2035**.

Thailand also remains committed to its goal of **achieving carbon neutrality by 2050**.

Photo credit: Department of Climate Change and Environment

NDC 3.0 GHG emission reduction in the 2019 baseline



■ GHG Emission in 2019
□ GHG Emission in 2035



NET GHG EMISSION 152 MtCO₂eq

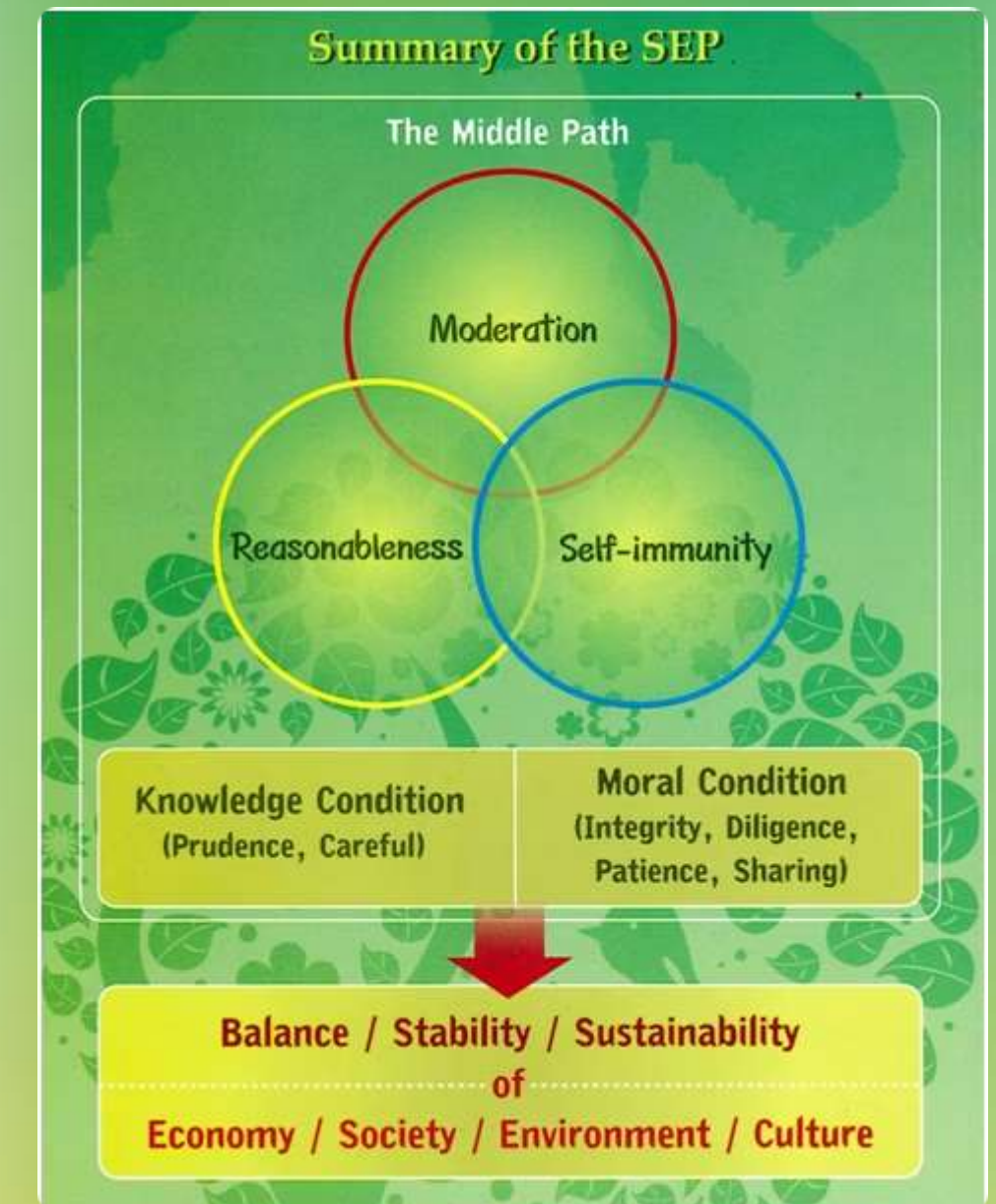
SEP with SDGs

Thailand's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) complements the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) perfectly.

Both frameworks balance social, economic, and environmental dimensions for sustainable growth.

- SEP adds cultural values and practical implementation principles
- Knowledge, morality, reasonableness, and moderation guide actions
- Development starts locally, building community resilience

Photo credit: UNDP and MFA Thailand



Thailand as the "Geneva of Asia"

Home to Numerous UN and International Organizations



UN Agencies

Hosts several UN agencies, including the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok.



International Organizations

Over 30 international organizations, such as FAO, ICAO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, and UNODC, operate in Thailand.



Thailand as Host of the 2026 Annual Meetings

Thailand is honored to host **the 2026 IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings**, reaffirming its commitment to multilateral cooperation and sustainable development.

The Meetings will take place from **12–18 October 2026** and mark **Thailand's second time hosting**, following its first hosting in 1991.

As a leading economy in Southeast Asia, Thailand provides **a strategic platform** for dialogue on global economic and financial issues.

Designed by Thai designer **Paitoon Patisonticharoen**, the logo is inspired by **the Phoduang (ancient Thai bullet coin)**. The logo also symbolizes endless financial growth, global economic cooperation, and Thailand's welcoming hospitality.

Photo Credit: www.am2026thailand.go.th



The official logo



The official landmark located at Benjakitti Park

International Campaigns / Events in Thailand

1. Bangkok Music City 2026

- **24–25 January 2026, Bangkok**
- Thailand's leading music conference and showcase festival, connecting Asian artists with global music industry opportunities in Bangkok's Charoenkrung Creative District.

Photo Credit: Bangkok Music City



International Campaigns / Events in Thailand

2. Thailand International Choral Festival 2026

- **3–7 August 2026, Bangkok**
- An international choir festival bringing together choirs from around the world through competitions, performances, masterclasses, and cultural exchange

Photo Credit: KMUTT



International Campaigns / Events in Thailand

3. International Horticultural Expo 2026

- **1 November 2026–14 March 2027, Udon Thani**
- A major international expo under the theme “Diversity of Life,” highlighting nature, sustainability, local identity, and Thailand’s connection with the Mekong region.

Photo Credit: Udon Thani Expo

UDON THANI
INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL
EXPO 2026



Diversity of Life

CONNECTING PEOPLE,
WATER AND PLANTS
FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

1 NOVEMBER 2026
TO 14 MARCH 2027
UDON THANI, THAILAND



International Campaigns / Events in Thailand

4. Global Wellness Summit 2026

- **10–13 November 2026, Angsana Laguna, Phuket,** marking the summit's 20th anniversary.
- Under the theme “**The Science, Art and Soul of Wellness,**” discussions will cover longevity and precision medicine, women's health, wellness travel, neuroaesthetics, creativity, and spirituality.
- Highlights Thailand's potential to combine **traditional healing wisdom with preventive medicine and future health innovations.**

Photo Credit: Global Wellness Summit



GLOBAL WELLNESS
SUMMIT™



2026
2026: PHUKET
Registration Now Open



International Campaigns / Events in Thailand

5. Wonderfruit 2026

- **3–7 December 2026, Chonburi**
- A Thai-born international festival celebrating music, art, food, wellness, sustainability, and creative culture, with its first overseas chapter in Kyoto.

Photo Credit: The Standard



International Campaigns / Events in Thailand

6. Tomorrowland Thailand 2026

- **11–13 December 2026, Chonburi**
- The first full-scale Tomorrowland festival in Asia, highlighting Thailand as a global hub for music, creative tourism, and international events.

Photo Credit: Tourism Thailand



International Campaigns / Events in Thailand

7. Road to WorldPride 2030

- Thailand is launching a **nationwide campaign to support its bid for WorldPride 2030**, bringing together Pride events, local communities, and partners across the country.
- Through this campaign, Thailand showcases its openness, creativity, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, and readiness to welcome the world.

Photo Credit: Pride City Network Thailand

