



EDUCATION IN THAILAND

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Elizabeth Fordham, Senior Advisor for Global Relations,
Directorate for Education and Skills, OECD



Student Assessment in Thailand



Student assessment in Thailand

A well-balanced, high-quality student assessment framework is an essential part of any high-performing education system. It yields data that:

- Allows policy makers to continuously improve the education system
- Informs teachers' pedagogical strategies
- Helps individual learners improve



Important achievements...

- Creation of a dedicated assessment agency, NIETS
- Growing use of assessment data to inform policy and practice
- Increasing awareness of the importance of different assessment types to obtain a well-rounded picture of student learning



... but challenges remain

- Capacity gaps at all levels
- Concerns about the quality of national assessments
- Over-reliance on standardized tests



3 strategies to ensure assessment improves student learning

1. Build capacity to develop and use student assessments
2. Ensure student assessments are methodologically sound
3. Develop the right mix of assessments to accurately monitor and improve student learning



1. Build capacity to develop and use student assessments

- Strengthen teacher training and support in the area of assessment
- Develop professionals in the measurement and psychometric field
- Strengthen the capacity of policy makers to use data and research from student assessments to inform decision making



2. Ensure student assessments are methodologically sound

- Conduct validity studies for all standardised student assessments, especially O-NET and tests for university admission.
- Implement international best practices in equating to ensure that student's scores can be compared across testing conditions and over time
- Implement Item Response Theory for test development and data analysis



3. Develop the right mix of assessments to measure a wider range of skills

- Review the overall framework for assessment and evaluation to ensure coherence
- Broaden the range of student assessments
- Develop assessments of greater complexity to evaluate higher-order competencies
- Use international tests as a guide to improve national assessments



Thailand's Teachers and School Leaders



Thailand's teachers and school leaders

The quality of teaching and school leadership are the most important school-level factors in improving student performance

They are central to the success of any education reform



Important achievements...

- Longer pre-service programme, with practicum
- Teacher certification
- Teacher induction
- Teacher standards

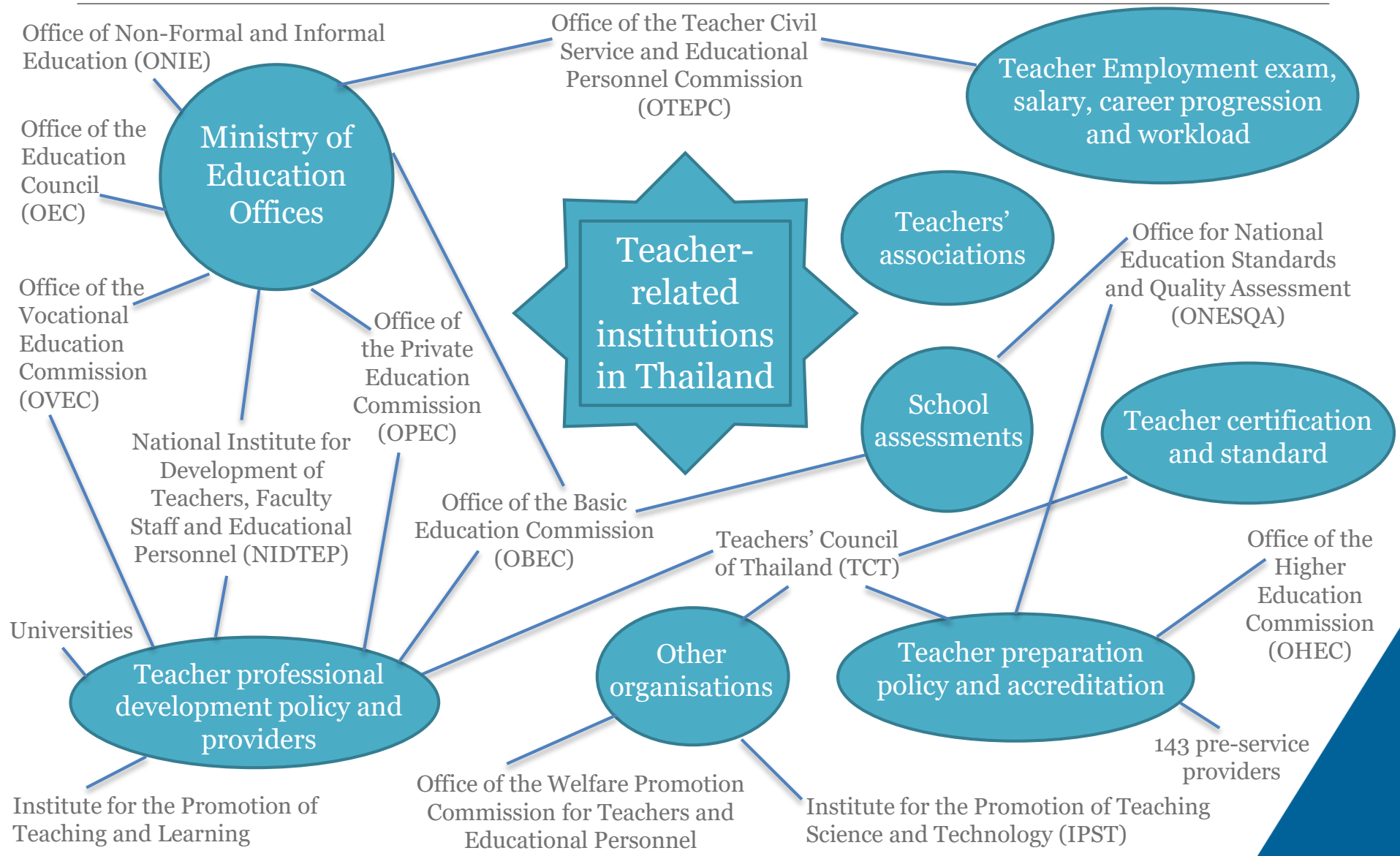


... but also new pressures

- New curriculum (standards-based, student-centred, 21st skills...)
- Decentralisation
- Increased administration (more student tests)
- More heterogeneous classroom
- Concentrations of disadvantage (small schools, rural areas, poor regions...)



And a complex institutional set-up





5 strategies to achieve excellence in teaching and school leadership

1. Strengthen teacher preparation to support education reform
2. Develop a holistic professional development strategy
3. Allow teachers to focus on student learning in the classroom
4. Support and empower school leaders to improve teaching and learning
5. Make teacher deployment procedures more efficient and equitable



1. Strengthen teacher preparation

- Establish minimum criteria for entry into initial teacher education
- Strengthen initial teacher preparation (aligned with curriculum, stronger focus on pedagogy and assessment, improved practicum)
- Streamline and strengthen pre-service accreditation – and close down low-rated institutions



2. Develop a holistic professional development strategy

- Strengthen induction and introduce mentoring
- Improve the quality of training (aligned with reform priorities, relevant to teacher needs, job-embedded)
- Update standards for teaching
- Make certification more stringent
- Introduce regular developmental appraisal
- Review career progression structure



3. Enable teachers to focus on student learning in the classroom

- Reduce workload that is taking teachers away from the classroom (eg. paperwork associated with external assessments).
- Strengthen support to rural schools (eg range incentives to attract, retain and support staff, targeted in-service professional development, collaborative inter-school networks).
- Ensure ongoing dialogue with teachers' associations



4. Support and empower school leaders to improve teaching and learning

- Develop specific leadership standards
- Focus on succession planning
- Ensure robust licensing
- Introduce effective appraisal
- Address administrative workload
- Provide leadership training



5. Make teacher deployment procedures more efficient and equitable

- Develop a co-ordinated data gathering mechanism
- Review hiring and transfer processes to ensure fairness and reduce unnecessary rigidities
- Use teacher placement policies to reduce inequities in the education system



Thank you!



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