

SHORT REPORT



WHAT

LIFELONG LEARNING LOOKS LIKE IN THAILAND ?

*EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AND
LEARNING DEVELOPMENT BUREAU*

OFFICE OF THE EDUCATION COUNCIL

สำนักงานเลขาธิการสภาการศึกษา

What Lifelong Learning Looks Like in Thailand?

กรุงเทพฯ: 2568

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สิ่งพิมพ์ สกศ.

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BACKGROUND

Thailand has been a member of UNESCO since 1949, and as such, the concept of **lifelong learning** has played a significant role in the country's education system, similar to other UNESCO member countries. This includes the facilities to promote lifelong learning, the support systems and the assessment that promote greater access to lifelong learning.

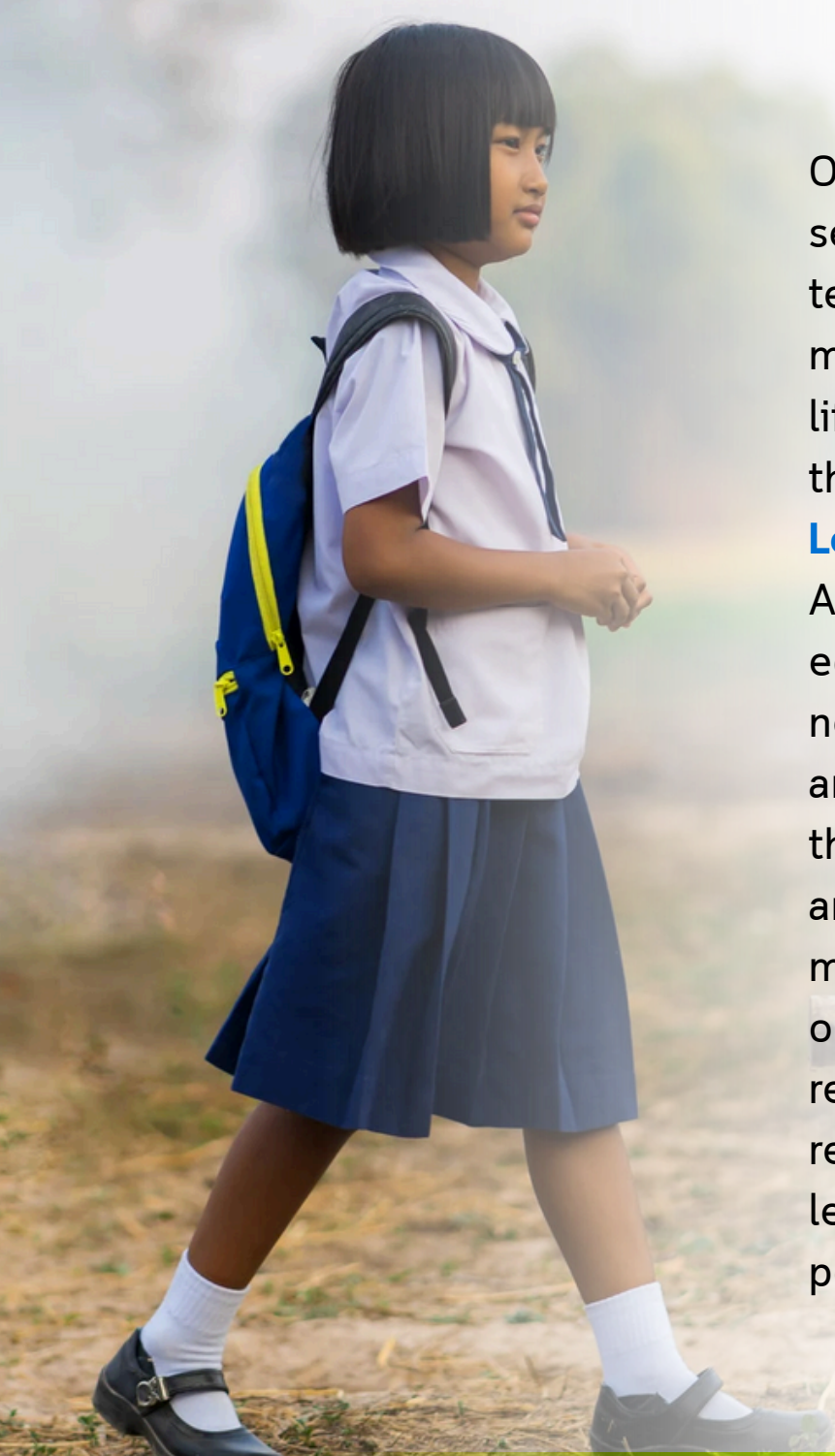


The education system in Thailand is categorized into 3 types: **Formal education, Non-formal education and Informal education**. Most Thais pursue **formal education**, typically attending schools, colleges, or universities, similar to other countries. However, some children are unable to attend formal education for various reasons, including financial constraints, family issues, and living in remote wilderness areas. In such cases, they typically enroll in non-formal education.



In Thailand, **non-formal education** meets the learning needs through short-term courses and training programs, organized by both public and private educational institutions. Whereas, **informal education** promotes learning through various resources, including public libraries, museums, learning centers, television, radio, and educational applications, fostering continuous learning among the public.

LIFELONG LEARNING IN THAILAND

A young girl with short black hair, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt, a dark blue pleated skirt, white socks, and black Mary Jane shoes, is walking outdoors. She is carrying a blue backpack with yellow accents. The background is a blurred natural setting with dry grass and trees.

Over the past two decades, global changes in several areas, such as climate change, technological advancements, and social movements, have led to the importance of lifelong learning. Thailand is no exception to this phenomenon; in 2023, the **Promotion of Learning Act** was announced. Under this Act, the government is required to provide education to the public according to various needs, including promoting lifelong learning and fostering collaboration between the state, local administrative organizations, and the private sector in educational management. This is done by creating opportunities for those who have not received formal education or who live in remote or disadvantaged areas to access learning resources and develop their potential, skills, and expertise.

In addition to the Act, there are various initiatives driving lifelong learning in Thailand. Briefly;

1. The facilities to promote lifelong learning:

increasing various learning spaces, such as museums, public libraries, learning centers. Furthermore, 10 cities in Thailand have been recognized as UNESCO Learning Cities, meaning Thai people can easily access learning opportunities, thereby enhancing lifelong learning. Additionally, the lessons have been creating to allow learners to learn anywhere and anytime through online application, TV channel and radio program.



2. The support systems of lifelong learning:

Credit Bank: This initiative creates opportunities for learners to transfer and validate knowledge and experiences gained from other learning formats, such as non-formal education and work experience, within the credit bank system. Additionally, plans are in place to establish an institute under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation, which will oversee the credit bank system. As a result, all students will be able to transfer their learning credits, regardless of the university they attend.

Non-degree courses: Non-degree courses encompass non-formal and informal education, focusing specifically on short courses that allow individuals to learn according to their needs and interests. For instance;

- *the pre-university program* is designed for undergraduate students, where the university offers over 400 courses from various faculties. These courses are broken down into smaller lessons, enabling learners to choose 1-3 short-term courses based on their interests.
- *online learning platforms* such as Thai MOOC, STOU Modular, Chula Lifelong Learning Ecosystem, are making learning more accessible and flexible for people of all ages.



3. The assessment

Thailand Lifelong Learning Index (TLLI) was launched last year. It measures 3 factors; the learning ecosystem, the learners, and the outcomes. For the year 2024, the TLLI result was fair, with a score of approximately 24 out of 36. (<https://isted.onec.go.th/kpi/7>) This indicates that significant effort is needed to further develop lifelong learning in Thailand and we still have a long journey ahead to develop cities that can effectively encourage and support lifelong learning for all.

FUTURE PLANS



To further promote lifelong learning, Thailand plans to introduce a new education law that emphasizes lifelong learning. The plan also aims to increase the number of learning cities and foster international collaboration to enhance lifelong learning in the country. The ultimate goal is to ensure that all Thai people, regardless of age or background, have access to quality learning opportunities.

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