ACT FOR THE PROMOTION OF NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION,
B.E. 2551 (2008)¹

BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, REX:
Given on the 19th Day of February B.E. 2551;
Being the 63rd Year of the Present Reign.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:
Whereas it is expedient to have a law on the promotion of non-formal and informal education;
Be it, therefore, enacted by the King, by and with the advice and consent of the National Legislation Assembly, as follows:

Section 1. This Act is called the “Act for the Promotion of Non-formal and Informal Education, B.E. 2551 (2008)”.

Section 2.² This Act shall come into force as from the day following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

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¹ Translated by Mr. Tohpong Smiti under contract for the Office of the Council of State of Thailand’s Law for ASEAN project.- Initial version- pending review and approval.

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Section 3. This Act shall not apply to non-formal and informal education provision undertaken by public and private institution of higher education under the enacted laws on institution of higher education.

Section 4. In this Act:

“non-formal education” means an educational activity which has an obvious target client group and education objective, and has flexible and various format, curriculum, method, and duration of course or training in accordance with the educational requirement and potential of such target group, and has an up-to-standard examination and assessment method to receive educational qualification, or to rank academic results;

“informal education” means an educational activity in way of life of a person, which the person can choose to learn continuously for lifetime, in accordance with his or her interests, requirements, opportunities, readiness, and personal learning potential;

“establishment of education” means establishment of education which provide non-formal and informal education affiliated with Office of Non-formal and Informal Education;

“network” means a person, family, community, community organisation, local administration organisation, private organisation, professional organisation, religious institute, establishment, and other organisation, including other establishment of education which is not affiliated with the Office of Non-formal and Informal Education, and which participate in or has an objective to undertake the non-formal and informal education;


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“committee” means the committee for the promotion and coordination of non-formal and informal education under the law on Ministry of Education Government administration Regulation.

“Office” means the Office of Non-formal and Informal Education

“Minister” means the Minister having charge and control of the execution of this Act.

Section 5. For the purpose of the promotion and support of education, a person shall receive extensive and up-to-standard non-formal and informal education as per the law on National education, whether or not such person has received basic education, and such person shall entitled to receive non-formal or informal education, as the case may be, asper the procedures and undertakings prescribed in this Act.

Section 6. The promotion and support of non-formal and informal education shall be in compliance with these principles:

(1) non-formal education:
   (a) equity in the access and receipt of extensive, thorough, fair, and of the suitable quality for people’s living conditions;
   (b) decentralisation to establishments of education and allow networks to participate in the provision of learning;

(2) Informal education:
   (a) accessibility to learning source which is in harmony with the interests and way of life of the learner of every target groups

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(b) development of learning source to be diverse, both in local wisdom and technology brought to the study;

(c) framework or guideline which is beneficial to learners.

Section 7. The promotion and support of non-formal education shall be undertaken for these objectives:

(1) people receive continuous education, to develop the potential of manpower and society, which utilises knowledge, and wisdom as a foundation of development in economic, social, environment, security, and living standard, as per the State development guidelines;

(2) networks are motivated, and are ready to participate in educational activities.

Section 8. The promotion and support of informal education shall be undertaken for these objectives:

(1) learners acquire knowledge and basic skills in the pursuit of knowledge which contributes to the lifelong learning;

(2) learners learn materials in harmony with his or her interest and necessity to increase the living standard, in relation to politics, economic, social and culture;

(3) learners can utilise the knowledge learned; compare and transfer his or her academic results to formal and non-formal education.
Section 9. The Ministry of Education shall promote and support non-formal and informal education, by emphasising on stakeholders in accordance with the roles and duties as follows:

(1) a learner who is a beneficiary participates in educational activities, and is able to choose various services as per his or her own interests;

(2) a learning provider for non-formal education, and an education sources provider for informal education have diverse acts in accordance with the potential, to satisfy the needs of learners by integration of knowledge, instilment of morals, and good values.

(3) a promoter and supporter who contributes benefits to learners and learning providers has diverse acts to promote and support continuous learning.

Section 10. For the purpose of the promotion and support of non-formal and informal education, relevant State agencies, and networks may undertake to promote and support the followings:

(1) media and technology for education which is essential for non-formal and informal education and financial support for non-formal education provision;

(2) education provision, development of academia and personnel, utilisation of resource for education, and praise and honour of providers of non-formal and informal education;

(3) appropriate privilege for promoters and supports of non-formal education;

(4) creation and development of various learning resources to be appropriately accessible by learners of informal education;

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(5) other resources in relation to undertaking for persons and community to learn as per the interests and needs in harmony with necessity of the informal education societies.

Rules, procedures, and conditions in the Promotion and support under paragraph one shall be as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulation.

Section 11. For the purpose of provision and development of non-formal and informal education, relevant State agencies shall collaborate with networks to undertake the followings:

(1) to provide basic structure for learning, such as education resources, community education centres, various media and technology for learners to have access to learning;

(2) to promote and support the undertaking of networks, for collaboration and continuous development;

(3) to promote and support networks to have opportunities to allocate resources and to access capital resources for undertaking.

Section 12. For the Purpose of undertakings under this Act, the committee shall have powers and duties as follows:

(1) to prescribe policy and plan for the promotion and support non-formal and informal education which is in harmony with National education plan and National economic and social development plan;

(2) to create guidelines for undertaking non-formal and informal education;

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(3) to promote and support cooperation between Government agencies, State enterprises, and private sectors, both domestic and international, for non-formal and informal education provision;

(4) to suggest to the Minister in making and development of system comparing transfer of academic result from non-formal and informal education;

(5) to perform any other duties prescribed by this Act or other laws as powers and duties of the committee, or as assigned by the Council of Minister.

Section 13. The committee shall appoint a sub-committee called “network sub-committee” consisting of various sectors of the society which take parts in the promotion and support of non-formal and informal education.

The number of member of sub-committee, qualifications, rules, acquisition procedures of the chairperson and the sub-committee, term of office and vacation from office, including powers and duties of the network sub-committee shall be prescribed in the Ministerial Regulation.

Section 14. There shall be an Office of Non-formal and Informal education affiliated with the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education called in brief “ONIE”, and shall have a Secretary-General of the Office of Non-Formal and Informal Education, called in brief “Secretary-General of ONIE”, who has a Director-General status, and who is a commander of officials, personnel, and employees, and be responsible for the undertakings of the Office.

The Office shall have the following powers and duties:

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(1) be the central organisation for undertaking, promotion, support, and coordination of non-formal and informal education, and be responsible for general affairs of the committee;

(2) to make recommendations, policies, strategies, plans, standards of non-formal and informal education to the committee;

(3) to promote, support and undertake the development of quality of academia, research, development of course and educational invention, personnel, and information technology related to non-formal and informal education;

(4) to promote, support and undertake to compare and transfer of academic results, knowledge, experience, and level of education;

(5) to promote, support, and coordinate persons, families, communities, community organisations, local administration organisations, private organisations, professional organisations, religious institutions, establishments, and other organisations to accumulate as networks, to strengthen the undertaking of non-formal and informal education;

(6) to make a recommendation in relation to utilisation of information technology and communication networks, radio and television stations for education, community radio services, science centres for education, public libraries, museums, community learning centres, and other learning sources for the promotion of learning and continuous development of living standard of people;

(7) to undertake in relation to following-up, inspection, and assessment of the result of non-formal and informal education;

(8) to perform any other works prescribed by this Act or other laws as powers and duties of the Office or as assigned by the Council of Minister.
Section 15. There shall be a Changwat non-formal and informal education committee in every Changwat as follows:

(1) In Bangkok, there shall be a Bangkok non-formal and informal education committee, consisting of Bangkok Governor as the chairperson, Bangkok Deputy Governor, Secretary-General of ONIE, a representative of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, a representative of the Ministry of Interior, a representative of the Ministry of Labour, a representative of Ministry of Public Health, and 8 qualified members appointed by the Minister, in this number, at least five persons shall be appointed from operational personnel of private sectors which related to non-formal and informal education, and the Director of Bangkok ONIE shall be a member and secretary;

(2) In other Changwat, there shall be a Changwat non-formal and informal education committee, consisting of Changwat Governor as the chairperson, Changwat Deputy Governor, Changwat Agriculture Official, Changwat Public Health Official, Changwat Labour Official, Changwat Social Development and Human Security Official, Chief Executive of the Changwat Administrative Organisation, and 8 other qualified members appointed by the Minister, in this number at least five persons shall be appointed from operational personnel of private sectors which related to non-formal and informal education, which is in the area of such Changwat; and the Director of Changwat ONIE shall be a member and secretary.

Qualifications, term of office, vacation from office of the qualified members, and the meeting of the committee under paragraph one shall be as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulation.

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Section 16. Bangkok non-formal and informal education committee, and Changwat non-formal and informal education committee shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) to give consultation, and to cooperate with networks in relation to the development of non-formal and informal education;

(2) to promote and support networks for the provision of non-formal and informal education to be in accordance with policies, and standard prescribed by the committee;

(3) to follow up the undertaking of non-formal and informal education provision of establishments of education and agencies which provide non-formal and informal education to meet the prescribed quality and standard, and to be in accordance with the direction of State development, including local needs of development;

(4) to perform other works prescribed by the committee.

Section 17. There shall be Changwat Office of non-formal and informal education in every Changwat, as follows:

(1) In Bangkok, there shall be Bangkok Office of non-formal and informal education, called in brief “Bangkok ONIE”, which affiliated with the Office, and which is an educational agency under the law on Government teachers and educational personnel, acting as an administrator of the Bangkok non-formal and informal education committee, and having the powers and duties to administrate and manage non-formal and informal education within Bangkok.

(2) In other Changwat, there shall be Changwat office of non-formal and informal education, called in brief “Changwat ONIE”, which affiliated with the Office, and

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which is an educational agency under the law on Government teachers and educational personnel, acting as an administrator of the Changwat non-formal and informal education committee, and having the powers and duties to administrate and manage non-formal and informal education within Changwat.

An educational agency under paragraph one shall have a director as a commander of Government teachers and educational personnel affiliated with Bangkok ONIE, or Changwat ONIE, as the case may be, and shall also be a commander of Government teachers and educational personnel affiliated with establishments of education which locates in the area under authority, which has an education administrator status under the law on Government teachers and educational personnel, as well as responsible for the course of performance of such agencies.

Section 18. An establishment of education shall have the duties to promote, support, coordinate, and provide non-formal and informal education in coordination with networks.

In the undertaking of the establishment of education under paragraph one, there may be a community learning centre which organises activities and create learning process of the community.

The foundation, dissolve, termination, merger, and prescription of roles, powers, and duties of establishments of education under first paragraph shall be as prescribed by the Minister.

Section 19. Each establishment of education shall have a committee of the establishment of education.

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The number of members, qualifications, rules, acquisition of chairman and members, term of office, and vacation from office, including powers and duties of the committee of the establishment of education shall be as prescribed by the committee.

Section 20. The office shall provide a system for quality assurance of non-formal education, which is an internal quality assurance system for establishments of education which has quality and standard in harmony with the law on National education.

An establishment of education shall undertake the internal quality assurance so as to be in accordance with systems, rules, and procedures of internal quality assurance, with collaboration, promotion, and support from networks and the office.

Systems, rules, and procedures of internal quality assurance shall be as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulation.

Section 21. The Alternative Education Administration Office shall change its role to be the Office of Non-formal and Informal Education, and the director of the Alternative Education Administration Office who holds the office on the date this Act is published in the Government Gazette shall perform the duties of the Secretary-General of ONIE until a New Secretary of ONIE is appointed under this Act, which shall not exceed one hundred and eighty days as from the date this Act comes into force.

The Committee for the promotion, support and coordination of non-formal and informal education under the law on Administration of the Ministry of Education which holds office on the date this Act is published in the Government Gazette shall remain as such committee and perform the duties under this Act until a new committee is appointed for the execution of this Act.

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Section 22. The Secretary General of ONIE shall appoint an administrator of an establishment of education in the area of Bangkok to perform the duties of the director of Bangkok ONIE until new director of Bangkok ONIE is appointed under this Act.

The director of Changwat Alternative Education Administration Office who holds office on the date this Act is published in the Government Gazette perform the duties of the director of Changwat ONIE until a new director of Changwat ONIE is appointed under this Act.

Section 23. The Minister shall furnish a list of establishments of education affiliated with the Alternative Education Administration Office, the Office of Permanent-Secretary, Ministry of Education which are ready to perform the role of the establishment of education as prescribed in this Act, and disseminate the name of such establishments of education in the Government Gazette within ninety days as from the date this Act comes into force.

The establishments of education in the list disseminated by the Minister under paragraph one shall be establishments of education under this Act.

Section 24. Ministerial Regulations, By-laws, Rules, Notifications, and Orders in relation to the administration of the alternative education which is in force on the date this Act come into force shall be enforceable mutatis mutandis until Ministerial Regulations, By-laws, Rules, and Notification issued under this Act are issued, which shall not exceed two years as from the date this Act comes into force.

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Section 25. The Minister of Education shall have charge and control of the execution of this Act and shall have the power issue Ministerial Regulations and notifications for the execution of this Act.

Such Ministerial Regulations and notifications shall come into force upon their publication in the Government Gazette.

Countersigned by

General Surayud Chulanont

Prime Minister