

Thailand Attaches Great Importance to Skill Development to Prepare for AEC



As the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) will emerge at the end of 2015, Thailand is accelerating skill development to improve the quality and capacity of human resources and enhance workforce competitiveness.

It recognizes that skilled workers and professionals are important to economic and employment growth and the raising of productivity in the region.

The Secretary-General of the Office of the Vocational Education Commission, Mr. Chaiprug Sereerak, has revealed a plan to develop the vocational curriculum in order to promote Thailand as an ASEAN vocational education hub. The plan seeks to exchange Thai and foreign students for job training in Thailand and abroad. It also includes joint cooperation between the public and private sectors in producing a workforce in response to the market demand. In this connection, the business sector has been asked to accept vocational students for training in various workplaces.

Mr. Chaiprug said that the Office of the Vocational Education Commission, which is under the Ministry of Education, is also cooperating with the CLMV group in joint curriculum development. The group comprises Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam.



The Office has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Skill Development, under the Ministry of Labor, in order to integrate the vocational education system with skill development. Under the MOU, skilled workers, who have been recognized at various levels of standards by the Department, will be allowed to have equivalent qualifications at the lower-level certificate of vocational education, or the higher-level certificate of

vocational education. In addition, vocational students will be encouraged to attend the national skill standard testing, so that they will receive both education and work certificates.

The Teachers Council of Thailand recently decided to allow the Office of the Vocational Education Commission to recruit persons who have not graduated in the teaching profession to work as teachers in the government service. However, there is a condition that the recruitment will be made for the fields that are in shortage and are

not taught at teacher education institutions, or the Faculty of Education in many universities.

There are altogether 82 fields under this condition. Among them are industry, electricity, mechatronics, mechanics, and logistics. The Teachers Council of Thailand will issue a letter to allow these professionals to teach without teaching licenses for 90 days, so that they have enough time to apply and attend tests to become teachers in the government service.