

Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

*Submitted by Thailand
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General Policy

1. Thailand has continuously undertaken and strengthened national measures to support the international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials and technologies.

2. To ensure that WMD would not fall into the wrong hands, Thailand has designated national focal points to control and monitor movement of WMD and its related materials into and out of the Kingdom as follows:

- The Ministry of Defense is the national authority to regulate and control missiles, conventional weapons and related materials;
- The Office of Atoms for Peace is the national authority to regulate and control nuclear and radiological weapons and related materials;
- The Ministry of Industry is the national authority to regulate and control chemical weapons and related materials;
- The Ministry of Public Health is the national authority to regulate and control biological weapons and related materials;
- The Ministry of Commerce is the national authority to regulate and control dual-use items.

Measures Undertaken at the National Level

3. To complement its efforts in preventing terrorists from acquiring WMD, Thailand has enacted and enforced several legal instruments as follows:

- The Customs Act (1926);
- The Act Controlling the Exportation of Arms, Armament and War Implements (1952);
- The Atomic Energy for Peace Act (1961);
- Ministerial Regulations, issued under the order of the National Administrative Reform Committee No. 37 (1976);
- The Export and Import Goods Act (1979);
- The Disease Control Act (1980);
- The Munitions of War Control Act (1987);
- The Royal Decree Controlling the Exportation of Arms, Armament and War Implements (1992);
- The Hazardous Substance Act (1992);
- The Amendment to the Anti-Money Laundering Act (1999);
- The Animal Disease Control Act (2001);
- The Pathogens and Toxins Act (2001);
- The Amendment to the Section of 135 of the Penal Code regarding terrorist acts and offences.

4. The Ministry of Industry has strictly controlled the import and export of toxic chemicals, especially those prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention, by cautiously scrutinizing the licensing process and inspection measures. In addition, Thailand has also prohibited or controlled other hazardous chemicals under Thai domestic laws.

5. The Office of Atoms for Peace has reviewed and amended its regulations to control import and export of nuclear materials, as well as their domestic use, storage and transfer in order to ensure security and safety of nuclear and radioactive materials and related materials.

6. The National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, has developed a national mechanism to control biological dual-use materials through bio-safety and bio-security principles. Measures to prevent an abuse of pathogens have also been put in place.

7. The Ministry of Commerce is undertaking necessary steps to establish a national export control system to include control of dual-use items that are not yet covered under control lists of other agencies. A working group has already been established to expedite the required process. In parallel with the efforts on the compilation of dual-use items to be included in our control list, the Ministry of Commerce has also been organizing outreach activities for the private sector to promote their better understanding about the necessity of export controls.

8. Thailand signed the Declaration of Principles for the Container Security Initiative (CSI) with the United States in June 2003 and has implemented the CSI by using X-ray container equipment to pre-screen and detect high risk containers at Laem Chabang Port since 2004.

9. Thailand has also joined the Megaports Initiative to prevent the smuggling of nuclear and radioactive material. The Laem Chabang Port in Chonburi Province has been equipped with X-ray scanning device and radiation portal monitors to detect the illicit trafficking in special nuclear materials and other radioactive materials.

Views on Additional Relevant Measures

10. At the national level, Thai concerned agencies are in the process of developing an integrated export control system, incorporating licensing and enforcement, to enhance Thailand's capability in controlling WMD-related materials, particularly sensitive dual-use items. Technical cooperation from more advanced countries would be very helpful in this regard.

11. Intelligence cooperation and regional /international mechanisms for information sharing between exporting and importing countries should be developed so as to monitor and strictly control WMD and WMD-related materials, as well as to alert concerned authorities on suspicious cases. In this regard, points of contact of each country for information sharing should be designated.

12. As a capacity-building measure, training courses and workshops should be arranged for concerned Thai authorities to exchange views and experience on how to effectively detect, deter, prevent and combat the transport of illicit WMD and related materials as well as trafficking and brokering which is consistent with international law. Support from more advanced countries in this regard is welcomed.
