

No.511.4/898

September 9, 2013

Ms. Heather Dryden  
Chair, Government Advisory Committee of ICANN  
ICANN  
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536  
The United States of America.

**Re: Response to GAC Advice response of new GTLD .thai Applicant published on 28 August 2013**

Dear Ms. Dryden,

Having reviewed the response to GAC Advice from the applicant, Better Living Management Co., Ltd. ("BLM"), published on 28 August 2013 ("BLM's response"), we, in our capacity as GAC Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand, would like to provide clarifications in relation to BLM's response as follows;

- 1.1 With reference to BLM's inaccurate claim that the Prime Minister's Office in Thailand has issued an official letter to authorize Mr. Bhuwanart Na Songkhla to attend GAC Durban meeting as Thailand GAC representative, we would like to point out that the letter (**Attachment 1**) was meant to facilitate Mr. Na Songkhla's attendance at the meeting as an observer. Moreover, since this claim is serious, we verified it with the Secretary-General, Secretariat of the Prime Minister, who signed the said letter and received confirmation that Mr. Na Songkhla has never been appointed as Thailand GAC representative by the letter. Please see a translated copy of the letter, dated 3 September 2013, of the Secretariat of the Prime Minister for more details. (**Attachment 2**).
- 1.2 At the meeting between Mr. Wanawit Ahkuptra and Mr. Asvinvichit of BLM after the ICANN meeting in Beijing, Mr. Ahkuptra explained clearly that "Thai" is an integral and specific part of "Prathet Thai" and "Ratcha Anachak Thai", which are a short and a formal geographical name of Thailand respectively, as provided by the Royal Institute of Thailand, an agency officially responsible for provision of geographical names in Thailand. Mr. Ahkuptra subsequently informed BLM in an email to Mr. Asvinvichit that the determination of the term "Thai" as a geographical name was subject to interpretation and that BLM was free to express its different view to ICANN. He also conveyed his readiness to give BLM any advice on any other issue upon BLM's request.
- 1.3 We, as GAC representatives to ICANN, have never made any false accusation against BLM. Our statement made to the Thai press was merely to encourage the participation of Thai people in ICANN multistakeholder model in relation to .thai application. At the GAC meeting, our position is to give advice on public policy and other matters which may become sensitive issues in our country. Thus, we have stated our concern on the importance of the term "thai" as an over-arching term referring to our country, culture, language, and history and conveyed concerns of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and of the Thai Prime Minister, H.E. Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, that were expressed to us on the occasion of Dr. Steve D. Crocker's courtesy call on her at Government House on 7 June 2013 that the application for operation of .thai should be approved beforehand by the Royal Thai government.

1.4 As regards the supporting letters that BLM claimed to have received from the President of the Senate and the Ministry of Culture, we have already sought clarification from the two agencies. However, as there is no reference date or document number, the authorities concerned are still trying to verify their claim. At this moment, we still could not find any supporting letter issued by either of the two organizations for BLM's application of .thai gTLD.

We hope that this information is helpful and we do hope the ICANN Board will consider this matter with regard to GAC principle on new gTLDs that they should respect the sensitivities regarding the terms with national, cultural, geographic and religious significance and, in particular, with regard to ICANN's objective to increase competition, innovation, and growth in the internet addressing system.

Should you have any inquiries, please feel free to let us know.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,



Thaweesak Koanantakool, PhD  
President  
National Science and Technology Development Agency  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
Thailand GAC Representative to ICANN



Wanawit Ahkupta  
Deputy Executive Director  
Electronic Transactions Development Agency  
(Public Organization)  
Ministry of Information and Communication  
Technology  
Thailand GAC Alternate Representative to ICANN