



# **PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH**

## **A KEY TO HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOR ASEAN**

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# Facts and Figures

- **Higher Education Institutions (171)**
- **Public Universities (80)**
  - **Autonomous Universities (15)**
  - **Universities (65)**
- **Private Higher Education Institutions (71)**
  - **Universities (40)**
  - **Institutions (9)**
  - **Colleges (22)**
- **Community Colleges (20)**
- **Student Number**
  - **Year 2013 – 2,298,000**
  - **Year 2012 – 2,222,000**
  - **Year 2011 – 2,150,000**





# **International Strategy for Thai Higher Education by OHEC**

**Strategy 1: Develop Thai HE system and administration to enhance the capability of Thai HE institutions**

**Strategy 2: Raise HE quality to be equate with the international standard**

**Strategy 3: Improve graduates' characteristics to perform well in nation and global communities**



# Key challenges effect the English Proficiency development

- **Regionalization – Preparation for the ASEAN Community in 2015**
  - ✓ **The working language of ASEAN shall be “English”**
  - ✓ **People to People Connectivity**
  - ✓ **Free flow of investment and professionals**
- **Internationalization of higher education**
- **Cross border higher education**
- **Liberalization of trade in education services**



# ENGLISH Proficiency Development in Thai HE

## Main Drivers:

- A. **Global Language** / The global society shares new body of knowledge & learning resources in English  
e.g. textbooks, research, websites
- B. **Technology** / Universities are more visible / internet / speedy transportations
- C. **Economy** / Universities want to attract more international students & faculty staff to approach internationalization



# National Policies Cover English Proficiency Development

- 1. The Ministry of Education Strategic Plan (2012-2017)**
- 2. The Second 15-year Long Range Plan on Higher Education (2008-2022)**
- 3. The 11<sup>th</sup> Higher Education Development Plan (2012-2016)**
  - ✓ **Heighten university staff / Capacity building**
  - ✓ **Enhance HE and country's competitiveness**
  - ✓ **Raise awareness of internationalization and regionalization**
  - ✓ **Promote Bilingual education**
  - ✓ **Develop international programs**
  - ✓ **Increase more international students**



# Strategy for Preparing Thai HE for ASEAN

- Increase students mobility
- Produce graduates of International quality
- Reform language education (English and neighboring country's languages)
- Enhance quality of faculty members
- Develop QA / credit transfer
- Extend role of Thai HE in ASEAN
- Work closely with AUN /SEMEAO RIHED, etc.
- Establish Thai International Office



# Top reasons to improve English proficiency in university

- **Mobility and exchanges for students/ staff/ researchers**
- **Teaching and research collaboration**
- **Academic standard and quality improving**
- **Cooperation and development assistance**
- **Curriculum development**
- **International and intercultural understanding**
- **Promotion and profile of institution**
- **Diversity source of faculty and students**
- **Regional issue and integration**
- **International students recruitment**





# OHEC's projects enhancing English Proficiency

## 1. Teaching and learning in English and neighboring country's languages

- ❑ Improve English teaching class in university to meet the demand of ASEAN
- ❑ Promote neighboring country's languages teaching; Bahasa, Burmese, Laos, and Vietnamese
- ❑ Develop English skills among students, teachers, and education staff
- ❑ In 2012, OHEC received 224 proposals
- ❑ Granted 53 proposals



# OHEC's projects enhancing English Proficiency

## 2. Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI)

- ❑ **Cooperation among 5 nations; Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and USA. Launched in 2009.**
- ❑ **4 Pillars; Cambodia – Health / Laos – Infrastructure / Thailand – Education / Vietnam – Environment**
- ❑ **USA supports funding for every activity under LMI**
- ❑ **Each pillar shall implement the project to full the LMI desires**
- ❑ **Thailand by OHEC → “English Language Support under Education Pillar”**





# “English Language Support under Education Pillar”

- ✓ Project launched by OHEC and Chulalongkorn University under Education Pillar (LMI)
- ✓ English training for the government officials (Training for the trainers)
- ✓ To improve ability for communication in English in international and regional meetings
- ✓ To develop presentation skills in English language
- ✓ To broaden the network between 5 nations
- ✓ USA and TICA support funding
- ✓ First stage has done successfully





# OHEC's projects enhancing English Proficiency

## 3. "Tell Me More" by Thai Cyber University (TCU)

- ❑ English language E-learning program
- ❑ Learning English through internet network
- ❑ Aims to develop English skills for ASEAN demands
- ❑ Easy access / Learning everywhere / high flexibility
- ❑ English teachers can use as teaching material
- ❑ Pre-test and Post-test provided
- ❑ 6 levels from a very beginner to advanced
- ❑ Free of charge
- ❑ [www.thaicyberu.go.th](http://www.thaicyberu.go.th)



# OHEC's projects enhancing English Proficiency

## 4. Teacher TV

- ❑ TV program for teachers / students / educators launched by the UK and Thailand
- ❑ Offers many subjects in many channels; science, math, art, foreign languages and English
- ❑ Broadcasts in Thai and international programs
- ❑ Benefits all people in all education background
- ❑ Cheap device (TV) / Easy access / no charge
- ❑ Reachable / strong network
- ❑ [www.thaiteachers.tv](http://www.thaiteachers.tv)





# More initiatives from MOE

## 1. Thailand English Teaching Project

- ❑ MOE works British Council, Thailand
- ❑ UK sends British undergraduate students to teach English for 3 months in schools in Thailand
- ❑ To improve English proficiency among Thai students by native speakers
- ❑ To prepare Thai students for ASEAN Community in 2015
- ❑ To expand learning and teaching experiences both Thai students and British students
- ❑ 67 British students joined the project in 2012
- ❑ Next stage will include Australian Volunteer





## More initiatives from MOE

**2. “let speak English now” is a project for improving English Proficiency in schools consist of;**

- ☐ **Speak English Hours**
- ☐ **English Party**
- ☐ **English Club (coffee corner, English library)**
- ☐ **English Meeting**
- ☐ **English Camp**

**3. Promote bilingual education (English-Thai) in schools**

- ☐ **Schools teach several subjects in English**
- ☐ **Encourage using ICT in English in classroom**
- ☐ **Develop English skills since young ages**
- ☐ **Prepare students for ASEAN Community**





## More initiatives from MOE

### 4. English training for school teachers

- ☐ **EIS (English for Integrated Studies Project)**
- ☐ **To develop English proficiency of school teachers**
- ☐ **To improve English skills for ASEAN Community**
- ☐ **Focus on Phonemic & Phonic (speaking)**
- ☐ **Expect more number of school teachers participating**







**“It is English that stands at every centre of the global knowledge system and still be accepted for the next 200 years”**

**(Marginson and Vende, 2006: 16)**

**Globally, English has been key to academic collaboration, through research activity, events and communications, both inside and between institutions themselves**

**(Shaw, 2013)**



# Thank You