

Governance and Management in Higher Education in Thailand

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Current Situation of Higher Education in Thailand

- Promulgation of the 1999 Education Act.
- Consolidation of education agencies under the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of University Affairs and the Office of the National Education Council under the Prime Minister's Office into the Ministry of Education (MoE)
- Establishment of the Office of National Education Standards and Quality Assessment – ONESQA, undertaking mandating compulsory external quality assessment of all education bodies, from primary schools to universities, once every five years.

Current Situation of Higher Education in Thailand

- Proliferation of degree granting institutes under MoE to 156 (in the 2008 educational year).
- Enlargement of the public university system in mid 2000s

39 Rajabhat Univ. (formerly 41 teachers colleges /Rajabhat Inst. in 1980s and 1990s)

9 Rajamankala Univ. Tech. (36 inst.)

- Major public universities have made transition from being Civil Service universities to public autonomous universities (totaling 13),

Current Situation of Higher Education in Thailand

- Establishment of 19 community colleges for working population, providing short training courses and 2-year community colleges diplomas that are accredited towards degrees in universities.
- Setting up of students loan schemes (for technical college and university students)
- Launching of the 2nd Long Range (15-years) Higher Education Framework by the Commission on Higher Education.

Current Situation of Higher Education in Thailand

- 2 million university students (10 % of age group)

75 % are in limited-admission public and private universities, 25% in two open-universities, (with 0.516 million students)

87 % are in 78 public universities (13% in 68 private universities/colleges).

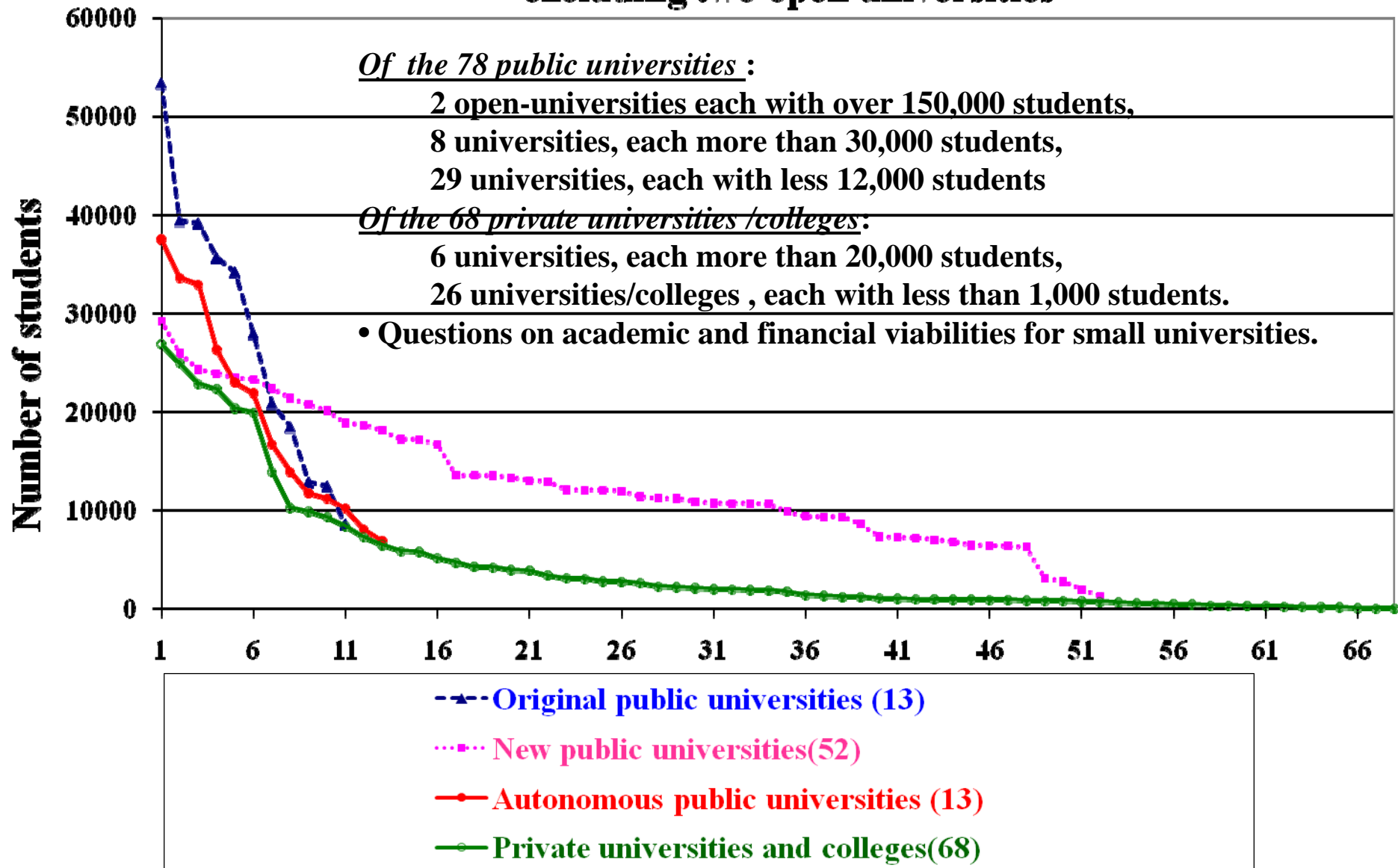
Should the public university system expand?

89% are at bachelor degree level or below

52% of students in limited-admission public universities are in 51 new public universities, underfunded for few decades under the old MOE.

Large funding disparities exist between new and the original public universities.

Number of students in each university (2008 educational year), excluding two open universities



Types of institutions Educational year 2008	Total	Under degree level	Bachelor degree	Graduate degree	Degrees under professional bodies
Number of students	2,060,692	48,178	1,793,911	216,932	1,671
1. Public universities (78)	1,764,085	47,328	1,522,925	192,161	1,671
<i>1.1 Original public universities (13)</i>	819,336	1,630	718,526	99,180	0
<i>1.2 New public universities (52)</i>	674,843	27,267	611,577	35,999	0
1) Nakhon Panom University	6,842	4,864	1,846	132	0
2) Narathiwad Rajanakarindr University	2,789	1,473	1,112	204	0
3) Rajamankala Universities (9)	136,930	19,657	115,750	1,523	0
4) Rajabhat Universities (40)	526,975	1,273	491,562	34,140	0
<i>1.3 Autonomous public universities(13)</i>	253,827	2,352	192,822	56,982	1,671
<i>1.4 Community colleges (19)</i>	16,079	16,079	0	0	0
2. Private universities and colleges (68)	296,607	850	270,986	24,771	0
<i>Private universities</i>	251,138	55	230,195	20,888	0
<i>Private colleges</i>	45,469	795	40,791	3,883	0

Governance and Management

System Governance – Oversight and University Act

Commission on Higher Education

All public universities have their own royal charters.

Autonomous universities enjoying more autonomy in academic affairs, management of personnel (*own schemes on personnel recruitment, personnel management, compensations*), budgets and finances (*non-itemized budget, retaining of unused allocated budget*)

Private universities are under a common Private University Act. Some university council members are MoE designated.

Governance and Management

System Governance – Academic affairs and students admission

- Academic programs approved by university councils, subject to CHE guidelines and accreditation by the Civil Service Commission.
- Internal quality assessment yearly by CHE and external quality assessment every five years by ONESQA.
- Students admission through a common university admission system (about 50%), university direct admission and university quota systems.

Governance and Management

System Governance – Performance evaluation

Public civil service universities have service contract agreements with Office of the Public Sector Development Commission .

Autonomous public universities have own arrangement with their university councils.

Private universities submit their annual reports to CHE.

Governance and Management

System Governance – Financial audits

All public universities accounts are audited by the Office of the Auditor General of Thailand.

Autonomous universities must submit annual consolidated financial reports to OAG.

Private universities submit their financial reports to CHE.

Governance and Management

Financing of public universities

- Government spending on public universities for nearly two decades remains constant around 15-17% of the education budget.
- Most incomes (about 60+%) of public universities are from government budget allocation, remaining are from tuitions and fees (30+%), projects, contracts and assets management.
- New public universities heavily dependent on government budget. Most students are from provincial Thailand, and cannot pay large tuitions and fees.

Governance and Management

Financing of public universities

- In 2009, setting up of a body for funding autonomous university along the Higher Education Funding Council of England- HEFCE, through allocation of block-grant budget.

Government expenditures on education in million baht (\$1=34 baht)

	1997	2000	2005	2009
Basic education and pre-school	146,650.2	147,854.3	184,405.3	281,548.6
University education (% of GDP)	35,202 (17.35%)	34,482.1 (15.63%)	40,131.8 (15.28%)	72,058.6 (18.00%)
Others types and education supports	21,011.8	38,280.4	38,184.7	46,625.0
Education budget	202,864.0	220,620.8	262,721.8	400,232.2
GDP		5,137,000.0	7,195,000.0	9,813,800.0

Despite the economic crises of 1997 and 2008, Thailand manages to spend at least 20% of the government budget on education

2008 Government budget allocation to public universities and other university earnings

	Government budget allocation (million baht) A	University earnings from tuitions and fees and others (million baht) B
All 78 public universities	68,133	56,805
16 original public universities	23,944	16,618 A : B = 1.44 : 1.00
11 autonomous universities (excluding 2 Buddhists universities)	23,316	32,998 A : B = 0.71 : 1.00
40 Rajabhat Universities	11,857	5,314 A : B = 2.23 : 1.00
9 Rajamankala Universities	7,265	1,401 A : B = 5.18 : 1.00

Governance and Management

Financing of public universities

- Universities with teaching hospitals receive additional budget, in 2010 amounting to roughly another 50% of all public university budgets combined,
 - are a part of the universal health care coverage,
 - are normally the tertiary health service providers, tend to be very expensive
 - lose money running university hospitals
- Government financing to public universities are supply-side , used mainly for undergraduate teaching.

Governance and Management

Financing of private universities

- Almost all (95%) of incomes of private universities come from student tuitions and fees, except few private universities run by foundations and churches.
- Small universities and colleges heavily depend on availability of students loans.

Current Situation of Higher Education in Thailand

Financing of universities : Students Loans

- For over a decade, student loans, based on need basis, are available. Loans are for tuition and fees and living allowances.
- Over one million students have benefited. Over 250 billion baht (\$ 7.5 billion) is in the scheme.
- Scheme to shift university financing from supply-side to demand-side financing through the Income Contingent Loan-ICL, for tuitions and fees. Under ICL, all students are entitled.
- Public and private universities will benefit equally.

Present Higher Education Financing Scheme

Government Budget

Supply side financing

(60+ billion baht a year)

- Undergraduate teaching (90%)

- Management
- Infrastructure development
- Research and Development
- Education quality improvement
- Services to society
- Arts and culture promotion

Demand side financing

(20 + billion baht a year)

- Student Loans

(Over 250 billion baht in the Scheme)

Most government budgets allocated to public universities are for teaching.

Students in private universities only receive supports through student loans.

Public universities (Supply/demand)

Private universities (Demand)

Tuitions and fees

Personal expenses

Students(Parents)

Student loans

Future Higher Education Financing Scheme

Government Budget

Supply side financing

(Maintain around 60 billion baht a year on Expenditure Neutrality Principle)

- Research and Development
- Education quality improvement
- Services to society
- Arts and culture promotion

Demand side financing

Income Contingent Loans

(2-3 trillion baht for universities and technical colleges students)

Education

Management

Infrastructure development

Public universities (Supply/**Demand**)

Private universities(**Demand**)

↑ Tuitions and fees

↑

Personal expenses

←.....

Students(Parents)

ICL



Governance and Management

Financing of public universities : Research

- In 2000 and 2006 , setting up 9 Centers of Excellence in science and technology, for graduate study and research (*Chemistry, Toxicology and Environmental Health,*

Management of Environment and Hazardous Wastes, Petroleum and Petro-chemistry, Energy and Environment, Agricultural Biotechnology, Post Harvest technology, Physics, Mathematics). Each COE consists of a core and 5-10 partner universities

Total funding support 5,134 billion baht (\$ 150 m)

- In 2009, designating 9 national research universities aiming at competitive research and to be ranked among top universities of the world within 10 years.

- Funding support of 9 billion baht.

Governance and Management

Personnel Management

Public universities

- There are 2 main types of personnel

1. *University civil servants* : under personnel management guidelines of CHE University Civil Servants Committee. *Government has ceased providing new civil servant posts in universities since 1998.* Entitled to civil service pensions & allowances, and Government Providence Fund - GPF.

2. *University contracted employees* : under management guidelines of university councils. On contract basis with possible tenureship. Entitled to university allowances , some with GPF, some with university providence fund

Governance and Management

Personnel Management

Public universities

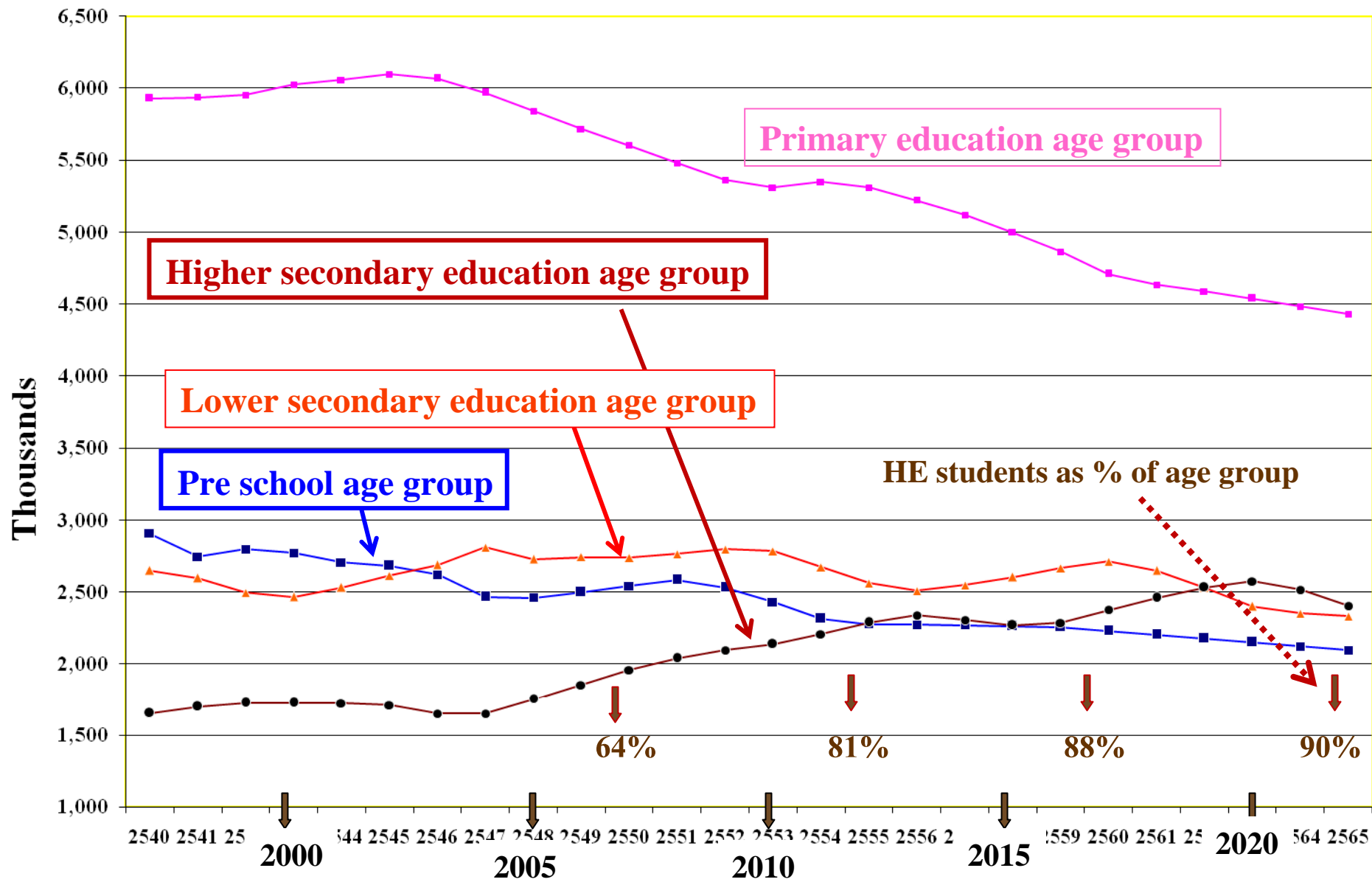
- Most of staff in original public and autonomous universities are university contracted employees.
- About 15% of academic staff of 51 new public universities have Ph.D. Considerable pressure in staff development.
- Autonomous universities have considerable autonomy in staff management and compensations.

Private Universities

- Large private universities tend to employ retired public university staff of repute, enabling very fast development.

Issues Facing Higher Education in Thailand

- Proliferation of degree granting institutes with questionable quality
- Governance of universities (roles and accountability of university councils)
- Declining school student population, increase in the over 60 age-group, constant working population
 - shift of higher education from age group to working population to increase economic and social productivity
 - life long education
- Thailand is becoming an aging society



Projection of students in various age groups (1997-2022)

Issues Facing Higher Education in Thailand

The 2nd Long Range (2008-2023) Higher Education Framework

- Demographic changes
- Articulation between basic, vocational and university education
- The 4 higher education subsystems : graduate and research universities, comprehensive and specialized universities, the 4-year colleges, community colleges
- University governance and management
- Financing of higher education
- Research and global competitiveness
- Higher education for southern Thailand
- University networks