Thai Studies Conference  
Thainess: Thailand at the Crossroads  
10-12 August 2011  
Co-hosted by College of Business, RMIT University and Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne

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<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Welcome reception, hosted by Royal Thai Embassy</td>
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<td>6.45pm</td>
<td>Conference Opening and Introduction to Mr Mechai Viravajida by Royal Thai Ambassador</td>
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<td>10.45am</td>
<td>Keynote address by Professor Pasuk Phongpaichit and Dr Chris Baker</td>
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**Theme: Politics and Governance in Thailand**

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| 11.50am | *The Constitutional Independent Organisations (CIOs) as the fourth branch of government in Thailand*  
Mehdi Krongkaew, The National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand |
| 12.10pm | *Knowing tomorrow, imponderable Thailand*  
Nicholas Farrelly, Australian National University |
| 12.30pm | *Worlds apart: From the podium to ground zero in Thailand’s Deep South*  
Marc Askew, The University of Melbourne |
| 12.50pm | Lunch is served |
| 1.10pm | Announcement of Thai Studies Field Research Grants |
| 2.30pm | Presentation of papers continues |
2.30pm  Small power but big roles: Thailand in the politics of regionalism  
Katsamaporn Rakson, Deakin University

2.50pm  Politics of public spaces in Thai Urbanism: The lost of Rajaprasong intersection  
Sirima Na Songkhla, Thaksin University

3.10pm  Political Facebook: Public sphere of Thai Middle Class during the transitional period  
Wimonsiri Hemtanon, Universität Passau, Germany

3.30pm  Afternoon tea

4.00pm  The right to health- Thai Network of People Living with HIV (TNP+) campaign for access to medicine  
Brigitte Tenni, Nossal Global Institute of Health, The University of Melbourne

4.20pm  The role of narrative sedition in Thailand’s democratic consolidation  
Andrew Walker, Department of Political and Social Change, Australian National University

4.40pm  Presentation of papers concludes

5.00pm  Cocktail reception

5.30pm  Introduction of Professor Pesuk Phongpaichit and Dr Chris Baker

5.40pm  Professor Pesuk Phongpaichit and Dr Chris Baker Book Launch

5.55pm  Questions and discussion

6.30pm  Cocktail reception ends

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Friday 12 August 2011
Research Lounge, Building 8, Level 5  
RMIT University

9.00am  Open for Registration

9.30am  Presentation of papers begins

Theme: Business and Management in Thailand

9.35am  Innovation and business competencies in Thai SMEs  
Phoommhphat Mingmalairaks, Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand  
Konrad Peszynski, RMIT University, Australia  
Brian Corbitt, RMIT University, Australia  
Siridech Kumsuprom, Dhurakij Pundit University, Thailand

9.55am  Corporate social responsibilities by multinational corporations in Thailand  
Nattavud Pimpa, RMIT University

10.15am  Professionalization of accountancy in the Kingdom of Thailand  
Chaimongkot Pholkeo, RMIT University

10.35am  Morning Tea

11.10am  Presentation of papers continues

11.15am  The diversity of family firms in the Thai electronics industry  
Joel David Moore, Monash University, Malaysia
11.00 am
Corporate governance for successful ICT risk management in Thailand after the Asian Financial Crisis
Siridech Kumsuprom, Dhurakij Pundit University, Thailand
Brian Corbitt, RMIT University, Australia
Phoomphiphat Mingmalairaks, Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand

12.00 pm
Lunch and Discussion on Thai Life in Australia

1.00 pm
Presentation of papers begins

Theme: Thai Language, Society and Culture

1.05 pm
Thailand's social transformation: A cul-de-sac or self-production society?
Rapin Quinn, DEEWR

1.25 pm
Transnational ties to Thailand: A study of Thai community in Melbourne, Australia
Sansanee Chanyothi, Thaksin University

1.45 pm
Posttraumatic growth amongst Thai Immigrants in Australia
Suteeporn Sullivan, Monash University

2.05 pm
Negotiating celebrity in Thailand: Knowledge, identity, popular culture
John Langer and James Haft, Chulalongkorn University

2.30 pm
Afternoon Tea

3.00 pm
Presentation of papers begins

Theme: Thai Language, Society and Culture

3.05 pm
Charcoal fuel, practices surrounding its usage and their association with respiratory health in refugee camps on the Thai-Burma border
James Wei, The University of Melbourne

3.25 pm
Linguistic and religious diversity in Thailand’s Far-south: Historical and ethnographic perspectives
Christopher Joll, Independent Scholar

3.45 pm
Ancient Thai ritual and beliefs: What can we learn from the Thai Ahom manuscript?
Stephen Morey, La Trobe University

4.05 pm
Refugees and responsibility in Thailand
Sam Hodge, RMIT University

4.25 pm
Presentation of papers concludes

4.30 pm
Conference concluding remarks

5.00 pm
Conference close

Conference dinner in Melbourne CBD to follow

Attendance at this event is free.
Please register your attendance by emailing sunsantee.mcdonnell@unimelb.edu.au
Please include any dietary requirements.
This program is current as of 28 July 2011 and may change slightly.
Conferences


Publication

About the Journal

The International Journal of Studies in Thai Business, Society and Culture is an academic forum to disseminate and discuss new issues in regards to Thailand. Thailand has gone through different stages of social, political and cultural development. Such development has affected Thailand and Thai people in many ways. This journal is the first international journal devoted entirely to fostering an understanding of issues in emerging social, political and cultural issues in contemporary Thailand. This journal aims to provide both conceptual and functional implications useful for the further development of research, teaching practices, and managerial techniques.

Objectives

The main objective of this journal is to promote research and application of new developments in studies in various contexts of Thailand. The editorial board members of this journal aim to use this journal as a forum to help professionals working in the field of Thai studies, Asian studies, international business, cultural studies, political sciences and international development to contribute, to disseminate and to learn from each other's work.

This journal aims to act as a forum for exchanging new ideas and sharing practical experiences in various aspects of modern Thai society. The journal will also:

i. raise the awareness about Thai's current business, economic, social and political climate;

ii. provide insights regarding Thailand's future growth opportunities; and

iii. offer a networking forum for academics, professionals and entrepreneurs in Thai and international studies.

More importantly, this journal also solicits literature that allows for a broader interpretation of research - it welcomes not only papers which adhere to the most common research standards (i.e., largely based on hypothesis testing using quantitative methods), but also those that introduce a more Thai perspective through qualitative and interdisciplinary contributions.

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Rangsun Wiloonuppatum, UNICEF

Notes for Authors
Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. (N.B. Conference papers may only be submitted if the paper was not originally copyrighted and if it has been completely re-written).

All papers are refereed through a double blind process. A guide for authors, sample copies and other relevant information for submitting papers is available here.

AUTHORS MUST SUBMIT THEIR PAPERS directly to the Editor at: nattavud.pimpe@rmit.edu.au

http://www.e-jts.asia/
Current Issue

From The Editor

The International Journal of Studies in Thai Business, Society & Culture is the first open-access journal for scholars in Thai studies. The key objective of this journal is to promote research and new ideas on socio-cultural changes that affect business, management and society in Thailand.

At the 2012 International Thai Studies Conference in Melbourne, Australia, we, Thai studies scholars, agreed that we have witnessed some Thai studies academic resources that are non-neutral, non-empirical and non-scientific. At this crucial point of the Thai history, we need an international academic journal in Thai studies that promotes knowledge about Thailand from various perspectives and disciplines. [Full text]

Accepted for Publication

Transnational Ties to Thailand: A Study of Thai Community in Melbourne, Australia [View/Download]
Sanskree Chanamupap, Thaksin University

Innovation and Business Competencies in Thai SMEs [View/Download]
Phoominphat Mingnanakorn, Mae Fah Luang University
Konrad Pelczyński, RMIT University
Brian Corbett, RMIT University
Sriruk Kumsuporn, Dhurakij Pundit University

Politics of Public Spaces in Thai Urbanism: The Lost of Raja-Prasong Intersection [View/Download]
Simma Ika Songkhe, University Technology Malaysia

Development of the Accounting Profession in the Kingdom of Thailand during the last fifty years [View/Download]
Chaimongkon Pholkeo, RMIT University
P.W.Senarath Yapa, RMIT University

Development of the Accounting Profession in the Kingdom of Thailand over the Last 50 years

Chaimongkon Pholikeo
P.W. Senaratna Yapa
School of Accounting
RMIT University

Abstract

This paper examines the emergence of the accounting and auditing profession between 1960 and 2010 in Thailand. While most of the neighbouring countries to Thailand were historically colonised by the Western countries, Thailand was not one of these countries that was colonised, and this is the motivation for this study. Instead of tracing the influence of imperialism and colonialism, this paper places an emphasis on primary and secondary data, on the influence of organising principles - state, market, and community (Paxty, et al., 1987) which has provided the theoretical framework, to help understand the factors underpinning the development of the accountancy profession. The findings show that accounting and auditing was recognized as a mechanism of the state to stabilize Thai society rather than to serve the capital market, as in the West, in its early development. Accounting professionalization was initiated mainly by the state rather than any occupational group mobility for jurisdictional control as in the West. The state, as a major employer of accountants, monitors accounting professionals as government-employees. Whilst auditors are recognized as a dominant profession that hold a monopoly over the market through controls such as state licensing, accountants were marginalised until the enactment of accounting regulation in 2000 (the Accounting Act, 2000). This Act was passed in the parliament with the public pressure of the post-Asian financial crisis during 1997 and 1998.

Keywords: Professionalization, accounting profession, the Kingdom of Thailand

Introduction

This paper provides an historical study on the development of the accounting and auditing profession in the Kingdom of Thailand which was formerly known as Siam. Thailand is situated in the centre of Southeast Asia and borders Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, and the Indian Ocean to the west. Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country that has never been colonized by any European powers. There were approximately 64 million people reported in 2010 (National Statistical Office of Thailand, 2011, p. 576).

With a free-enterprise economy and a well-developed infrastructure, Thailand showed remarkable economic growth from 2002-2005, averaging 5.7% and it was recognized as a middle-income country, ranked 20 out of 192 countries in terms of its economy's size (The National Economic Development Board, Office of the Prime Minister, 2006).

Thailand is an emerging economy that has developed from the "rice frontier" (Phongpaichit & Baker, 2002, p. 3) to a newly industrialized country. Today, the principal export products of Thailand are industrial products such as computers, cars, machine parts and accessories. Thailand is a major automotive production base in the Asia Pacific and a large number of automotive suppliers have opened their manufacturing plants locally (Büsser, 2008; Sadoi, 2010).

The Thai economy developed gradually from 1961 to 1970 when Thailand's First Six-year National Economic Development Plan was used to stabilize the economy. The economy rapidly expanded between 1980 and 1990 before it declined sharply in the late 1990s due to the Asian financial crisis (Triammanerk, et al., 2004, p. 3). The crisis was considered to have started in Thailand and quickly spread throughout the region (Techamontrikul & Chinnomme, 2005, p. 572). Thailand's economy collapsed including the bankruptcy of several companies and financial institutions. Subsequently, the government during the period of Prime Minister Chuanwaith, signed up to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program designed to manage the financial crisis in November 1997.

The purpose of this paper is to explore the development of accountancy in the Kingdom of Thailand through the relationship between the state, market and community between 1960 and 2010. Paxty et al. (1987) defined the state as the instrument of hierarchical control that exercises its power to manage accounting practices through regulations. The market represents dispersed competition which includes demand and supply. For example, market principles created accountancy practices to support entrepreneurs and customer's expectations via the requirement of efficient and timely accounting information. Finally, the community refers to the accounting community where accountants share some common, collective identity and value (Hao, 1999; Paxty, et al., 1987; Streeck & Schmitter, 1985; Willmott, 1986). For example, accounting associations promote their member groups as public servants through a number of strategies such as establishing standards in qualifications and training. The development of the accounting and auditing profession in the Kingdom of Thailand can be divided into 3 eras: traditional accounting (up to 1932), modern accounting (1932-1960) and accounting information systems (1961-present).

Up until 1932, Thailand was an absolute monarchy however significant reforms in all areas of government and public life occurred during this period. Accounting and auditing concepts have a long history and evidence can be traced back to the reign of King Rama IV. The details of procedures and

1 The first national economic and social development plan 1961 aimed to improve the quality of living (such as greater agricultural, industrial, and power production).

2 The Asian financial crisis, triggered by the collapse of the value of Thai Baht in July 1997, spread to all the countries in the region. The crisis was rapidly escalated into the whole Asian economic disaster, accompanied by the devaluation of currencies, the collapse of stock markets (Jung & Sul, 2002, p. 94).

3 His Majesty King Chulalongkorn, or Rama V (reigns 1868 - 1910), came to the throne at the age of 16 and died as one of Siam's most loved and revered kings, after a remarkable reign of 42 years. Modern Thailand may be said to be a product of the comprehensive and progressive reforms of King Rama IV's son, Chulalongkorn's (Rama V) reign, for these touched almost every aspects of Thai
developments of this period are beyond the scope of this study and have been included in an attempt to provide a contextual framework for the wider research.

From 1932 until 1960 far-reaching changes to the constitution opened Thailand to Western influence and practices. The first Accounting Act was enacted in 1939 and at the same time the Government introduced Accounting education at university level. In 1948 the first professional accounting body, the Institute of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Thailand (ICAA) was formed. The ICAA's mission was to promote and enable accounting and auditing professionals to reach international standards (The World Bank, 2008, p. 7). The details of procedures and developments of this period are also beyond the scope of this study, however relevant key events in the development of the profession have been included in an attempt to provide a contextual framework for wider research which acknowledges the beginning of the profession in Thailand (Punprasamee, 2009, p. 35).

Between 1960-2010 the Thai capital market emerged and it became essential to life. The King faced the western world with an eager attitude, and adopted some Western ideas and inventions in progressing Thailand to a modern and up-to-date future. He was the first King to travel to the Western countries and avoided Thailand from being colonized through careful negotiations with the English, French and Japanese. He also travelled extensively throughout his kingdom for he was passionately interested in his subjects’ welfare and was intent on the monarchy assuming a more visible role in society. During his reign, communications system was revolutionized, the post and telegraph services were improved and a railway network was built. Such advances enabled the central government to improve its control over outlying provinces (Bhakdi, 2000).

Thailand opened itself to western civilization and the concept of state accounting became a necessity. The Revenue Office was established to collect taxes and other revenues, and to report the position of the royal finances and the Royal Treasury (Henry & Ativitikamorn, 1999, p. 440).

The Accounting Act was provided guidelines for the private and public sectors for record and transaction keeping. It was adopted in 1974 when the government enacted the Securities Exchange of Thailand to stabilize the Thai economy. This was followed by produce qualified accountants and auditors however ICAA failed to organize a national accounting profession due to lack of full-time staff and strong and effective leadership (Akathaporn, et al., 1993, p. 264). This paper’s purpose is to describe and document development of the profession until 2010. Between 2004 and 2010 important changes occurred including a number of government policies and regulations such as the Accounting Act 2000 and the Accounting Professional Act 2004 that resulted in the emergence of the FAP.

The next section provides the literature review which is organised in line with significant factors that included the professionalization process as described in the theoretical framework of Streeck and Schmitter (1985) and Puxty et al. (1987). Consequently, the paper presents a narrative about the influence of market forces, the state and the community on the accounting profession in Thailand.

Literature Review


In this light, Willmot (1986, p. 557) claims that the professional body is perceived as a basic organizational instrument for defining and securing a respectable and valued social identity. Critical research indicates that the establishment of the profession is the result of economic rewards and occupational ascendency (Walkir, 1995, p. 287). In addition, the professional associations share a significant role revisions to the Revenue Code at the end of the year allowing the investment of savings in the capital market (The World Bank, 2008).

In shaping the professionalization process to produce a true profession that serves the society through designing an appropriate education to maintain its professional status (West, 2003; Yapa, 1999).

According to Willmott (1986), the development of the accounting profession can be explained through three approaches (the functionalist, interactionist and critical approach). The functionalist approach focuses on professional characteristics (Carr-Saunderson & Wilson, 1933; Wilensky, 1964), and the interactionist emphasizes the value of the profession in the society. The work of Weber (Johnson, 1972; Macdonald, 1984; Parkin, 1970) and Marx (Cooper, 1995; Johnson, 1980; Richardson, 1989) describe the critical approach that includes the profession’s privileges in the wider politico-economic context. These perspectives are useful in positioning the profession’s role in the society but are insufficient in describing the development of the accounting profession because of other factors (such as state, market and community) that influence are not included.

Thailand, unlike neighbouring Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, had not been colonized by any western country therefore there was not any colonial infrastructure to transfer accounting and auditing knowledge and practices. Over time, Thailand adopted the accounting and auditing protocols from the West; in particular the UK and USA but the development of the profession required effort and attention for it to catch up with the West.

The intervention of the state during the emergence of the capital market created a demand for accounting services and in response a number of regulations were passed by the government to protect and manage the profession. Accountants also attempted to create an accounting community where they could share knowledge and promote the profession in conjunction with state regulations. The researcher believes that understanding the inter-relationship between state, market and community is useful in explaining the development of the profession in Thailand and due to the intricate political and economic involvement of the profession Puxty et al. (1987)'s model is appropriate for the investigation and description.

This paper will draw upon the theoretical framework of state, market and community developed by Streeck and Schmitter (1985), Puxty et al. (1987), Seal et al. (1996), Hao (1999), and Bui et al (2011).

Streeck and Schmitter (1985) introduced four valuable principles in their work that are the market, the state, the community and the institutional (associationism) to analyse accounting regulations. However, this framework has been questioned with regard to its ability to analyse accounting regulations in the context of advanced capital market because it lacks historical perspective, social dimension, the role of human agency and transnational power (Puxty, et al. 1987; Seal, et al., 1996). Puxty et al. (1987, p. 277) recognized the fourth principle of Streeck and Schmitter as a crucial factor in understanding the influence of guided principles on the accounting regulations.

Instead of analyzing these four principles independently, Puxty et al. (1987) integrated the fourth principle into their model to investigate the outcome of the intersection between the state, the market and the community. This provides a better understanding of accounting regulation analysis. As a result, Puxty et al. (1987) developed this framework by emphasizing the relationship between professional development and three key factors.

State refers to the hierarchy of authority and control (Puxty, et al., 1987, p. 287). It plays a crucial role in the creation of accounting practices, for example passing the Company Acts, Commercial Codes and Accounting Regulations. During the last three decades a number of studies have placed emphasis on the relationship between the state and the profession (Bakre, 2005; Ballas, 1998; Beedle, 2002; Larson, 1977; Perera, et al., 2001; Sutt, et al., 1987; Sian, 2006; Uche, 2002; Willmot, 1986; Yapa & Hao, 2007). The state was a central factor in the accounting professionalization process in Europe (Carmanis, 2002; Ramirez, 2001), whereas in it is considered generally neutral in Anglo-America (Sian, 2006). The state has initiated the formation of professional bodies to serve the public interest and also to protect the profession (Freidson, 1970, 1973; Hove, 1986;
and auditors for non-publicly accountable entities (Small and Medium Enterprises such as Kiong Company, SP Audit Company Limited and Precha Advertising Limited Partnership).

The community is a broad term and refers to accounting environments where accountants share some common identity and values. The meaning of community utilized in this study refers to 'occupations organized in an institutional form, whose practitioners committed explicitly to serve the public interest, and who offer client services related directly to an intellectually-based body of knowledge' (Elliott, 1972; Lee, 1995; Puxty, et al., 1987; Willmott, 1986).

In this light, professional association has significant roles in shaping a professionalization process to create a true profession, concerning an appropriate course of training to maintain professional status (West, 2003; Yapa, 1999). Hau (1999, p. 287) is correct in his belief that one of the reasons behind the success of the group's power derived from the confidence and respect of the rest of the community. Therefore, without the interaction of state and other competing principles, the accountancy association is likely to govern the community via self-regulation as defined by westerners. For example, the members of the accounting profession in the U.K. have been working towards self-regulation and autonomy from the state to preserve their independent status (Yapa, 1999). In Thailand, the FAP is the self-regulatory professional body, which is also the standard-setter (The World Bank, 2008). However, the state still has a significant role in the development of the accounting standards through its representatives from the Committee of Accounting Standard-Setting as defined by the Accounting Profession Act 2004 (Section 33).

The success of professionalization as a strategy of collective social advancement depends upon a range of conditions, including the structure of the relationship of professions with the consumers of their services; their relationship with the agencies; their relationship with the agencies empowered to legitimate and extend their occupational domain and control; and finally, the sections of their membership whose material position and social identity is affected by the activities of their association.' (Willmott, 1986, p. 561)

This implies that the state, market and community are significant factors in the development of the accounting and auditing profession. Therefore, these principles are employed to investigate and explain the development of this profession in the Kingdom of Thailand.

Research Method

The study is based on archival records, secondary sources and semi-structured interviews conducted by the author with 30 individuals including academicians, accountants, auditors and representatives from government agencies in Thailand. This paper recognizes the FAP as a significant body in the development of accounting and auditing in Thailand and attention has been focused on it to illustrate the case study of the participants were committee members who played a significant role in the FAP between 2008 and 2011.

All the interviewees have experienced in the accounting profession ranging from ten to forty years. In addition, the researcher utilized a mixed-source of data on key events to support and validate the findings.

Accounting and auditing profession in Thailand before 1932

The development of Thai society from the early Rattanakosin Era to 1934 was determined by the Chakri Kings, particularly King Rama V, Chulalongkorn the Great. The development of accountancy as an efficient instrument to control public finances can be traced back to their reign during which the state managed the national finances through the Royal Treasury (Henry & Attavikantorn, 1999, p. 440). In 1873, King Rama V directed Treasury accountants to record revenues for taxation purposes (The Comptroller General's Department, 2011) and due to the increase in financial transactions, the King created the Department of Accounting as evidenced in its history.

"The Comptroller General's Department was established on October 7, 1890 during the reign of King Rama V. At that time, it was called the Department of Account (Khom Suteuahechee), and it took the responsibility for direction for the Kingdom's financial management."

(The Comptroller General's Department, 2011)

The Royal Audit Office was created by Royal Decree in 1875 as an independent organization to audit the fiscal records of the country and was similar in structure and operation to that of the Western system (The Office of The Auditor General of Thailand, 2011). Currently, it is known as the Office of the Auditor General of Thailand (OAG). At the time, the Thai economy was based on agricultural products and rice, rubber, tin and wood were the most important exports. As most businesses, were run as family operations. The need for accounting as a planning and controlling tool was used scarcely at the time. However, with the development of the Thai economy, the State initiated a strategy idea to develop business forms through the Partnership and Company Act of Rattanakosin Era 130.
This Act classifies business into 3 types: partnership, limited partnership and limited companies. It contains descriptions for the nature of business, the registration process and the process of liquidation and required that only limited companies have their records professionally audited. Although the Act mentions the role of an auditor there wasn’t however, an auditing profession at the time and was setting the scene for economic development of the future.

There was no capital market at the time and accounting records were used mainly for tax purposes and state operations. With economic development, the government increased the number of qualified accountants through providing scholarships for study in Britain and also established vocational schools. These developments are cited in a speech by the first president of the Institute of Thai Accountants, Mr. Yan Sukong.

"Before 24 June 1932 or the political revolution, Siam considered the importance of accountancy and commerce so the state provided scholarships for Thai students to study in Britain. In addition, vocational schools were established to educate Thai people about commerce and one that still exists is the School of Walanaewa, Siphon road, Bangkok. (Punkrasamee, 2009, p. 18).

In essence, accounting was undeveloped during this period due to the lack of qualified accountants. Over time, qualified accountants were needed to collect taxes however the regulations were not implemented effectively because the economy was still based on the traditional micro-economy of small family businesses not corporatization or globalization.

Accounting and auditing profession in Thailand between the 1932-1960 era

The development of the accounting and auditing profession during 1932 and 1960 modernised the business sector of Thailand through the implementation of new accounting concepts and practices from western countries. The evidence from the publication of the commemorative book on the opening ceremony of the FAP building shows that:

During the Revolution 1932, there are few accountants who obtained their qualification from overseas – they are, Luang Damri Issarawat and Phaya Jaiyos Sompati. These people played a significant role in the development of the accounting profession in Thailand who obtain the government scholarship to study in the U.K. in the reign of King Rama V. These people and accounting experts at the time had paid attention to promote and enhance accounting as well as establishment of the accounting association as in other countries. (Punkrasamee, 2009, p. 17).

There were several endeavours to establish an Accounting Council with the aim of providing some of the same privileges to accounting professionals as those enjoyed by westerners. The evidence from the publication of the commemorative book on the opening ceremony of the FAP’s building shows that the accounting association was developed to be structured and in line with western practices due to experts such as Phya Jaiyos Sompati, Luang Damri Issarawat, Jaron Wimolsiri, Hong Boonmark, Yooks Na Thalang (Punkrasamee, 2009, p. 17).

Two pioneers who played a significant role in the development of accountancy are Phya Jaiyos Sompati, in the Ministry of Finance and Luang Damri Issarawat, the chairperson of the Audit Council of Thailand. They passed a law that established a professional organization of Chartered Accountants during the government of Field Marshal Plaek Phibunsongkhram, but this initiative failed due to the lack of qualified practitioners. The government realised training was needed and hence introduced accounting education programs at university level. It was noted in an archival material that:

The Prime Minister’s Office has considered and agreed with the promotion of accounting education. It was not the right time for establishing the Accounting Council. We should offer accounting education in Thammasart University or Chalalongkorn University at graduate level. Also, vocational colleges have to be responsible for offering this discipline at high-school level (Archival records 1, 1937, p.1). The Thai version of this archival record is provided in Appendix 1.

In establishing the protocols of accounting education, the government considered the American model that focused on a combination of theory and practice and the British model which emphasised knowledge acquisition followed by the practice.

Consultants of the Prime Minister’s Office suggested that applying both the American and British models was appropriate, Thammasart University should focus on law and regulations where as Chalalongkorn University should emphasise practice (Archival records 1, 1937, p.3). The original Thai text of this statement is shown in Figure 2.

Concurrent with economic growth, the government passed the Revenue Code 1939 with the purpose of collecting personal and corporation tax and at the same time was encouraging universities and vocational colleges to train accountants to support the business sector (Tassanaprasert, 2001, p. 72).

Consequently, the first Accounting Act 1939 applied international standards to accounting practice that could be used to measure and plan economic growth through taxation (Tassanaprasert, 2001, p. 73).

This regulation contains broad provisions that include advanced accounting concepts for companies and partnerships. For example, and as shown in the archival records (Figure 1), an organization must maintain accounting books, records and prepare annual financial reports. This regulation was amended and updated to include provisions such as the prohibition of tax evasion in 1953 and was finally replaced by the Accounting Act of 2000.
significant role; in particular through the establishment of the ICAAT where accountants and auditors can meet and share ideas. The ICAAT was the only national accounting professional body at the time to disseminate accounting knowledge and unify accountants throughout the country.

The need of professional accounting and auditing in Thailand was imposed by state regulations. As mentioned, the Accounting Act of 1939 specifies that books and records had to be kept by all businesses and these requirements were comparable to many Western tax laws but failed to be enforced in Thailand at the time. A main reason for this failure was that the Act exempted a large number of businesses from its provisions (Holzer & Tremblay, 1973, p. 72), and as a result did not stimulate the development of the Thai accounting practices. In addition, there was not any act or regulation that defined and described the qualifications necessary for professional accountants and auditors. An interviewee observed that:

"In the past, most businesses kept their records in the easy way just for reminding about cash receipts and payments." (Interview A04.1.13).

Up until now, the state, market and community did not have a strong influence on the development of the accounting profession in Thailand however the state as the regulatory body, influence market and community principles during this period. An academic who was one of the former Accounting Education and Technology Committee members of the FAP (2009-2011) confirmed that "The accounting profession in Thailand has developed continuously on the basis of relevant regulations" (Interview T6.1.1).

The Accounting and Auditing profession in the period of accounting information systems (1960-2010)

The Thai economy developed rapidly between 1960 and 2010 with expansion in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors in particular manufacturing, trade and services as shown in Figure 3.

![Figure 3 Structural Changes in Gross National Product for the First Six-Year Plan Source: The National Economic Development Board (1967, p.11)](image)

Progress in Thailand relied on agricultural businesses such as rice, rubber, timber and wood that had the highest annual percentage of distribution. For example, in 1961 it was 38.3%. However, the structure of the Thai economy began to change from farm businesses to manufacturing business with the fast expansion from 11.40% in 1961 to 13.9% in 1966. The first National Economic Development Plan indicated that:

Thailand's economy progressed satisfactorily during the period of the First Plan, 1961-1966, with Gross Domestic Product increasing at an annual rate of 7.2%, from 36,000 million baht in 1960 to 87,000 million baht in 1966. The economic growth of the past six years has increased the productive capacity of the nation and improved its structural balance. Agricultural production has been diversified, with new commodity lines...
Parallel with the development of the Thai economy, a capital market was introduced between 1961 and 1962 with the formation of Bangkok Stock Exchange (BSE) by a group of private sector companies. It failed to enhance the development of Thai business due to ineffective management coupled with lack of government support. Importantly, there was limited investor awareness of the equity market at the time (The Stock Exchange of Thailand, 2011). Some evidence from the historic of this organization shows that:

Despite its well-intended foundation the BSE was rather inactive. Annual turnover value consisted of only 160 million baht in 1968, and 114 million in 1969. Trading volumes continued to fall sharply thereafter to 46 million baht in 1970 and then 28 million baht in 1971. The turnover in debentures reached 57 million baht in 1972 but stocks continued to perform poorly, with turnover hitting an all time low of only 26 million baht. The BSE finally ceased operations in the early 1970s. (The Stock Exchange of Thailand, 2011)

However, the government was concerned about the importance of the capital market as a key to stabilize the capital foundations of the Thai economy. The government also planned to develop the capital market as described in the Second National Economic and Social Development Plan (1967-1971). It says that:

"During the second Plan period, the Government will continue its policy to encourage the development of the capital market so that it can generate more savings in the private sector. The Government will promote the establishment of specialized financial institutions as a diversification of activities and increase the number of financial intermediaries and to lengthen the process by which funds can be channelled from the savers to the ultimate users." (The National Economic Development Board, 1968, p.46)

In 1969, as recommended by the World Bank, the government employed financial expert Professor Robbins of Columbia University, USA to study and assist in the development of the Thai capital market. Due to the success of this strategy, in 1974 the government enacted the Securities Exchange of Thailand (SET) Act to stabilize the Thai economy. This was followed by revisions to the Revenue Code at the end of the year allowing the investment of savings in the capital market (The World Bank, 2008). The SET officially commenced trading on 30 April 1975 (The Stock Exchange of Thailand, 2011) and this played a crucial role in the Thai economy. However, the SET was operationally unstable due to the involvement of several regulatory bodies (the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Bank of Thailand). To stabilize the operations of the SET, the government passed the Public Limited Companies Act B.E. 2535 in 1992 that established a statutory organization, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to oversee the Thai capital markets. Its objective is to “develop and supervise the Thai Capital Market to ensure efficiency, fairness, transparency, and integrity” (Securities and Exchange Commission, 2010).

The SET and the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) are the principal statutory agencies concerned with the regulation of accounting practice in Thailand. These two organizations (SET and MOC) “enforce accounting and auditing standards to ensure that all corporations and registered partnerships maintain proper accounting records and have their financial statements audited by independent licensed auditors on an annual basis” (Akathaporn, et al., 1993, p. 261). Report on the observance of standards and codes in the Kingdom of Thailand by the World Bank found that:

The Securities and Exchange Commission Act and the rules and regulations of the Securities Exchange Commission require all companies and regulated entities offering securities to the public to prepare quarterly financial statements and any financial statements for any period according to Thai Accounting Standards. Annual financial statements of such companies and half yearly financial statements of all security companies must be audited, and quarterly financial statements of companies offering securities to the public must be reviewed by an SEC-approved auditor2, who has been scrutinized by the FAP Quality Screening Committee and approved by the SEC. (The World Bank, 2008, p. 4)

Foreign investment has played a crucial role in the rapid growth of the SET (Techanomritkul & Chinchome, 2005, p. 570). To protect and control domestic and international investors, it requires that listed corporations have their annual and semi-annual financial statements audited by certified public accountants. Puxty et al. (1987) argue that the capital market require useful and accurate financial information to support the company’s stakeholders. This pressure stimulated the development of the accounting and auditing profession including accounting and auditing services.

The development of the capital market created a demand for qualified accountants. The report on the observance of standards and codes of Thailand indicates that:

Of the 7,000 CPA members, 110 belonging to 26 audit firms are approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission to undertake the audits of listed companies. The Bank of Thailand also approves and authorizes auditors to audit banks and financial institutions. At present, the Bank of Thailand approved bank auditors belong to the local affiliates of Big-4 international firms that audit listed entities do not envisage audit supply problems with the requirement. (The World Bank, 2008, p. 8)

There were 547 listed companies reported on 11 January 2008 (The Stock Exchange of Thailand, 2007) which needed accountants to prepare quarterly financial statements and annual financial statements according to Thai Accounting Standards. As well as requiring auditors who were approved by the SEC to audit annual and half yearly financial statements defined by the Securities and Exchange Act 1992.

A senior official of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) confirmed that:

“Accounting and the accounting profession are matters particular, in relation to the disclosure of listed companies. Information provided to investors is the key to make a decision to invest in the shares of each company” (Interview R3.1.2).

Another participant also claimed that:

“The primary mission of the SEC is to govern the capital market which is part of the national economy. Overall, the SEC will oversee anything that is relevant to the capital market such as accounting and auditing for listed companies under the state regulation” (Interview R3.1.1).

Under the national economic development plan and the development of the capital market during this period, there was a demand for accountants and auditors to serve the emerging economy. This confirmed by Puxty et al. (1987) that useful and efficient financial information is required to support the companies’ stakeholders.

Influence of Big Four

The development of the Thai economy also created demand of the external markets for accounting services. International accounting firms began to operate in Thailand during this period. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu JaYoos is an example of cooperation between JaYoos & Co. and the Deloitte Touche

15 Auditors are approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission to audit regulated entities for a five-year period. Re-approval is granted by the SEC after a subsequent review of auditor’s performance by the FAP Quality Screening Committee. For the reviews of auditor performance, the SEC relies mostly on the FAP which reviews the quality of the auditors’ work. (The World Bank, 2008, p. 8)
Opinions in regard to the expectation of graduated accounting students that:

"Ethics is the most important for this profession but our education system does not encourage students to concern themselves much with this issue." (Interview AUS.2.5)

"We need someone who is ready to work." (Interview AU4.7.8)

"The SET is going to fully adopt the International Financial Reporting Standards and our accountants should be people with fluent English communication skills." (Interview A6.3.13)

"Systematic thinking is necessary for accounting students." (A08.5.13)

However, a representative from a Big four company claimed that most candidates come from leading universities which have a high standard of curriculum, teaching, texts and materials.

"We do not have any problems with recruitment but instead have a high rate of staff turnover because competent staff is needed by large corporations. This could be the result of effective training as we have trained our staff to be more practical accountants through updating accounting standards and information technology skill." (Interview AU1.3.10)

The quality of Thai accountants and auditors still needs improvement and this could be the result of the disparity in the quality of accounting programs offered by Thai universities. Currently, there are more than a hundred universities offering accounting courses and the report on the observance of standards and codes by the World Bank shows that accounting education at university level has encountered problems since the upgrading of vocational colleges throughout the country to the university status. This upgrading took place about two years ago. Many of these upgraded universities face challenges in maintaining high quality accounting programs. Consequently, the standard of accountancy education varies significantly among higher educational institutions throughout the country. Most of the students who graduate from accountancy programs in the higher educational institutions, receive basic knowledge in bookkeeping and related subjects that they can very well apply to bookkeeping and accounting jobs in small and medium-sized businesses that describe the majority of businesses in Thailand. The leading Thai universities have internationally comparable accountancy curriculum and teaching. The students at the leading universities often use American textbooks for reference, with many instructors receiving their higher education in foreign countries. (The World Bank, 2008, p. 11)

An auditor from one of the Big four firms confirmed that:

"Many new graduate students at leading universities have already been recruited by one of the Big four firms or large companies hence they know where their future work place is and how to prepare for their careers." (Interview AU1.2.10)

According to the respondents this researcher interviewed, there is a perception that the Big four firms occupy a dominant position in the Thai capital market due to their advanced knowledge and established reputation.

"I think the Big four accounting firms dominate the Thai capital market due to their comprehensive knowledge of International Accounting Standards that is readily available through their companies' international network." (Interview R4.1.8)

"It seems that the Big-four firms dominate our capital market due to their international network and we cannot blame them. Some companies use a Big-four firm because their parent company uses it." (Interview T12.7.18)

"Of course, most of the members of the Accounting Standards Committee come from one of the Big-four firms and they hold a dominant position in the Federation of Accounting Professions." (Interview T10.5.12)

"I believe that the Big four firms came to dominate in Thailand because they have continuously updated accounting and auditing knowledge with particular reference to international accounting standards. Without Big-four firms, I think the development of the accounting profession would have been extremely slow." (Interview T6.5.15)

The Big four firms are gradually becoming part of the accounting community in Thailand with their comprehensive knowledge and established reputation as appeared in the Czech Republic (Seal, et al., 1996) under the economic transitions.

The emergence of the auditing profession

The development of the auditing regulations of Thailand has a long history. As mentioned in the previous section, the government began auditing the state sector in 1875 through establishing the Royal Audit Office and this was the origin of auditing practices in Thailand. The most crucial regulation for auditing practice, in the past, was the Auditor Act 1962 which existed for 42 years before being replaced by the Accounting Professional Act 2004. Under the enactment of the Auditor Act 1962, the auditing profession emerged officially came into being.

"It was the first time that the law specified qualifications and performance standards for public accountants and authorized auditors." (Indaravijaya, 1981, p. 298). The Board of Audit Supervision (BAS) was established in 1962 with the aim to oversee Certified Public

An audit license is granted to a person who possesses the following qualifications: holding a bachelor's degree in accounting; having auditing experience not less than two years or 2,000 hours; and passing the professional examination. (Indaravijaya, 1981, p. 298)
Accountants (the CPA) by granting, suspension, and revocation the audit license."

"The BAS consists of fifteen members, five of whom are designated high-ranking government officials, two academics, and eight appointed by the minister. At least four of those appointed by the minister must be authorized auditors" (Holzer & Tremblay, 1973, p. 73). This implies that the state has a significant role in controlling the auditors and Authorized auditors as defined by the act are roughly comparable to CPAs in the United States" (Holzer & Tremblay, 1973, p. 73).

The origins of professional Thai accountancy can be traced back to this period. When Yook Na Thalang (Professor) was granted the title of Certified Public Accountant, CPA number 1 of Thailand by the BAS (Punkrasamee, 2009; Tungsrivong, 2545).

The development of the accounting and auditing profession in Thailand

The accounting and auditing profession in Thailand placed a strong emphasis on improving the quality of individual accountants in recognition of the importance the profession occupies in Thai society. Particulars of emphasis is paid to accountants’ relationships with clients and colleagues. Seventeen years ago, Akaphorn et al., (1993, p. 264) described the weaknesses of the Thai accounting professional body which operated without full-time staff and lacked strong and effective leadership.

Some respondents expressed concern of the ICAAT’s ambiguous accounting and auditing standards, insufficient educational seminars, irrelevance of seminar topics to local needs, high fees for seminars, and the influence of a small group of people on the ICAAT’s activities. (Akaphorn, et al., 1993).

The small group of people involved in the operation of the ICAAT lacked funding support from the government and therefore its activities were run by voluntary academics from large universities and practitioners from auditing firms. An academic expressed an opinion that:

"Yes, of course. The accounting association had a financial problem because the government did not provide funding for its operations. Its funding came from membership fees and members’ training seminars. There were many problems regarding employing full-time staff such as salary, qualifications, and other benefits as described in the regulations." (Interview T12.8.20)

An academic confirmed that:

"I agree with the statement that there was only a small group of people involved in ICAAT activities. Committee members of the Accounting Association were rotated during each term of its existence but they were not a group of people. If you did not come from a large company or recognized as an expert, you had little chance of working in the organization. Good connections were necessary." (Interview T4.2.8)

The Auditor Act 1962 was amended in order to update regulations and to keep pace with the changing business environments. Subsequently, the government passed the Accounting Professional Act 2004 with the aim of unifying the accounting profession as it had done with other professions. In addition, this Act also aims to develop the quality of individual accountants who are required to comply with the code of ethics.

Akaphorn et al. (1993) found that important aspects in the development of the accounting and auditing profession in Thailand had been overlooked due to "the lack of government support combined with a negative view of the accounting profession" (Akaphorn, et al., 1993, p. 265). Several interviewees agree that progress in the accounting and auditing profession was achieved through the enforcement of state laws and regulations. One academic confirmed that "the accounting profession in Thailand has developed continually throughout each historical period. Mostly, it was developed through the implementation of relevant laws and regulations" (Interview, T6.1.1). In addition, the accounting profession is not perceived to be a prestigious profession when compared to other professions. Akaphorn et al. (1993) claimed that there was scant application of accounting information in economic decision making because of doubt about its quality. A private accountant also claimed that:

"Before 2000, the financial reports prepared by Thai companies were of low quality. Many businesses prepared their financial reports in order to obtain credit facilities from financial institutions without considering proper accounting standards" (Interview, A07.1.1).

Combined with pressure from the Thai public that questioned the quality of the country’s accounting and auditing system and the influence of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government implemented several strategies to improve confidence in financial information. These strategies included the promotion of corporate governance and the development of the accounting regulations. Recently, there were two significant regulations passed by the government to improve the quality of the accounting profession and they are (1) the Accounting Act 2000 and (2) the Accounting Professional Act 2004.

The report on the observance of standards and codes by the World Bank states that:

The Accounting Act B.E. 2543 (2000) provides the basic requirements relating to financial reporting by all business entities incorporated in Thailand. The Accounting Act requires that registered partnerships, limited companies and public limited companies established under Thai law, and joint ventures and foreign entities operating in Thailand under the Revenue Code have a duty to maintain books of accounts. According to the rules prescribed under the Accounting Act; such accounts must be kept for a period of at least 5 years after the accounting period. The rules prescribe that Thai Accounting Standards (TAS) are mandatory for accounting and financial reporting by all business entities. The Ministry of Commerce, Bureau of Business Supervision of the Department of Business Development, are responsible for administering and implementing the Accounting Act. (The World Bank, 2008, p. 2)

The Accounting Act 2000 specifies two main issues with regard to the establishment of the accounting profession in Thailand and they are: the description of accounting qualifications7 and the definition of the responsibilities of bookkeepers and any person8 with duty of keeping accounts. An accountant who is also the chief financial officer of a Thai company claimed that:

"After the enactment of the Accounting Act 2000, it shows that the Thai accounting profession is more effective because it has penalties for misbehaving accountants. Therefore, no one wants to break the accounting law." (Interview A01.1.2)

An academic confirmed that:

"I think the starting point of the transformation in accountancy occurred after the Crisis of 1997 and 1998. Now we have the Accounting Act 2000 which focuses on the profession and in particular the qualifications of accountants that are needed for work in large corporations and small to medium enterprises. Importantly, accounting and auditing standards became law that accountants and auditors have to comply with." (Interview A21.1.2)

7 Accountants for small business which has equity less than 5 million baht and total revenue less than 30 million baht and total asset less than 30 million baht should have their qualification at least diploma certificate in accounting. On the other hand, accountants for a large company must obtain their qualification at bachelor degree in accounting from both local and overseas university which is accepted by the PAP.
8 Registered partnerships, limited companies, public limited companies established under Thai Law, and joint ventures and foreign entities operating in Thailand under the Revenue Code.
Up until 2000, the most important regulation for auditors was the Auditor Act 1962 whereas for accountants it was the Accounting Act 2000 and it appears that then the business environment changed based on the demands of the world economy. The Auditor Act had been used for more than three decades and was regulated by auditors only. Other areas of accounting such as taxation, managerial accounting, and accounting education and technology also need to be developed and it was to meet this need that the government passed the Accounting Act 2004 and replaced the Auditors Act of 1962.

The report on the observance of standards and codes of the World Bank states that:

“The Accounting Professions Act 2004 governs the accountancy profession in Thailand. The FAP is in charge of implementing this under the overall administration of the Ministry of Finance. "An Oversight Committee on Accounting Professions" was created to oversee the activities of the FAP, endorse Thai accounting standards and other duties developed by the FAP" Committee and consider appeals regarding FAP activities. (The World Bank, 2008)

From the first accountants convention in January 1966, a more effective and professional organization had emerged with the power to protect and oversee its members. Membership had increased from 650 members in 1966 to 47,548 accountants in 2009 (The Federation of Accounting Professions under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King, 2011, p. 141).

The FAP continues its transition from the Institute of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Thailand (ICAAAT) and the FAP, endorse Thai accounting standards and other duties developed by the FAP’s Committee and consider appeals regarding FAP activities. (The World Bank, 2008)

The FAP is an independent organization under the jurisdiction of the Oversight Committee and this creates a balance between state authority and business practices. It is also represents an opportunity to create transparency through the development of a national accounting professional body. The Oversight Committee has 14 members (Appendix 2), from the government and private sectors, FAP, two accounting professionals and one legal professional.

The main reason for the emergence of the FAP was to unify the accountancy profession. The FAP still pursue the operational policies of the first accounting association, the ICAAT, and at its anniversary in 2005, the former president of the FAP, Professor Keseree Narongdej, reported to the membership and the Prime Minister that:

“During the first year, the FAP has achieved several goals such as:
1. Arrangement of training in Bangkok and other provinces around Thailand.
2. Updating relevant information for accountants and auditors via the FAP’s website.
3. Registering of 5,775 accountants and 288 auditors.
4. Arrangement of the CPA’s examination for 12,111 candidates.
5. Setting and developing the accounting and auditing standards based on international accounting standards.
6. Certifying accounting degrees or certificates of institutions as credentials in applying for FAP membership.
7. Regulating the conduct and practices of members” (Narongdej, 2005)

The community is referred to accounting environments where accountants share some common identity and value (Puxty, et al., 1987). It is perceived that a professional association is a part of accounting community which play a significant role in the development of accounting professional by designing in appropriate education for its members to maintain the professional status (West, 2003; Yapa, 1999). In Thailand, the FAP is a significant organization to serve the Thai society. However, the development still requires quite an effort to meet the international standards. The report on the observance of standards and codes of the World Bank states that:

Thailand has made great efforts over the past ten years to improve the quality of corporate financial reporting. Considerable progress has been made on various fronts to strengthen the institutional framework of accounting and auditing, and to move towards converging Thai national accounting and auditing standards with international benchmarks. (The World Bank, 2008, p. 1)

Some of the positive perceptions on the operation of the FAP show that:

“In my opinion, there is no difference between the Institute of Certified Accountants and Auditor of Thailand (ICAAAT) and the FAP. It depends on who manage the association. What are they focusing on? Both of these associations are continually developing Thai accounting standards.” (Interview, A01.4.12)

An academic noted that, “The FAP is in the early stage of its development. It was founded for only 6 years ago and therefore it is difficult to demonstrate such impressive progress” (Interview, T1.1.1).

Although the profession has more power to protect and control members under state regulations, it still needs to develop further in terms of its mission statement and that requires more funding support from the government. It also implies that the government still plays a significant role in the development of this profession particularly as a regulatory influence (Puxty, et al., 1987, p. 278).

Conclusion

The participants’ responses were formulated in the context of their perceptions about the development of the accounting and auditing profession over the last fifty years. Its development was influenced by interdependent factors which included State, market and community. As mentioned in the literature review, the principles of State, market and community Puxty et al. (1987) are needed to explain the development of Thailand’s accounting profession. The interaction between these principles and the profession explains the transformation of accounting from an unregulated activity to a professional body of knowledge, protocols and procedures.

The State refers to the authority of hierarchical control which plays a crucial role in the creation of accounting practices.
related services and an example of that is the passing the Commercial Codes and Accounting Regulations (Puxty et al., 1987). This paper has considered the case of the accounting and auditing profession in the Kingdom of Thailand between 1932 and 2010 and argues that the state has played a dominant role in shaping the development trends of both from before 1932 which is described as the traditional accounting era until 2010. In 1938, the State also increased the number of accountants by introducing accountancy education at university level and in 1962 through passing the Auditor Act 1962 established the Board of Audit Supervision to oversee the Thai Certified Public Accountants.

In terms of training and education, accountants and auditors are required to maintain their profession through participating in Continuing Professional Development programs prescribed by the Accounting Profession Act 2004.

Market principle of supply and demand determine accountancy practice in a variety of ways (Puxty et al., 1987). While the development of the capital market and the growth of international and domestic businesses in Thailand have created a demand for accounting practices and related services that use financial information for decision making empirical evidence does not indicate a parallel development in the expertise of the accountancy profession. The external market for accounting services also emerged in this period with the gradually influence of the Big Four accounting firms as a result of the capitalist society as appeared in the case of Czech Republic (Seal, et al., 1996).

The community refers to accounting environments where accountants share some common identity and values (Hao, 1999; Puxty, et al., 1987; Streick & Schmitter, 1985; Yapa, 1999). In Thailand, the FAP is recognized as the national professional body which plays a significant role in improving the quality the Thai accounting profession. To ensure that individual professionals provide quality services to the society and to maintain their professional status, the FAP has monitored developments. The responsibilities of this organization vary from requiring all accounting and auditors to register as members, accrediting accounting programs and arranging regular accounting seminars.

The accounting and auditing profession developed rapidly after the Asian financial crisis as a result of the enactment of the Accounting Act 2000 and the Accounting Professional Act 2004 but the professional body failed to achieve self-regulation as defined by western protocols due to state influence. With regard to the future of this profession, researchers argue that the continued interaction between these three principles will accelerate the development of the accounting and auditing profession in Thailand.

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Appendix 1
Archival records

Figure 1 (Archival records 1, 1937, p.1)

Archived records 1 (1937), the promotion of accounting education, Minutes of ministry on 13 October 1937, SR.0201.59.1334, and Bangkok: National Archives Thailand.

Figure 2 (Archival records 1, 1937, p.3)

Appendix 2
Organizational Structure of Federation of Accounting Professions, THAILAND under the Accounting Professions Act B.E. 2547 (2004)

The Oversight Committee on Accounting Professions (Section 50)
- President of the Federation of Accounting Professions
- Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce
- Ex-officio members of the Committee derived from chairmen of all accounting profession committees, chairmen of the Committee on Accounting Standard Setting and chairmen of the Committee on Accounting Profession Ethics.
- Two accounting specialists and one law specialist appointed by the President of Federation of Accounting Professions and ex officio members under 2.

Committee on Professional Ethics (Section 50)
Consist of not fewer than nine but not more than fifteen members selected from persons with apparent justice and honesty and appointed by the Committee of the Federation of Accounting Professions with approval of a General Meeting of the Federation of Accounting Professions.

The Committee of the Federation of Accounting Professions (Section 52)
1. President of the Federation of Accounting Professions elected by ordinary members at a General Meeting.
2. Ex-officio members of the Committee derived from chairmen of all accounting profession committees, chairmen of the Committee on Accounting Standard Setting and chairmen of the Committee on Accounting Profession Ethics.
3. Two accounting specialists and one law specialist appointed by the President of Federation of Accounting Professions and ex officio members under 2.
4. Members of the Committee elected by ordinary members at a General Meeting in the number of fewer than or equal to five persons.

The Secretary-General of the Federation of Accounting Professions shall be a member and secretary of the Committee. An assistant secretary may be provided as necessary and may be appointed by resolution of the Committee of the Federation of Accounting Professions.

Committee of Accounting Professions (Section 32)
- Bookkeeping Committee
- Auditing Committee
- Managerial Accounting Committee
- Accounting System Committee
- Tax Accounting Committee
- Accounting Education and Technology Committee

Committee of Accounting Standard Setting (Section 33)
- Composed of No fewer than seven but not more than eleven experts in accounting, appointed by the Committee of the Federation of Accounting Professions
- A representative of the Office of Commerce
- A representative of the Department of Business Development
- A representative of the Revenue Department
- A representative of the Bank of Thailand
- A representative of the Office of Auditor General of Thailand
- A representative of the Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission

Source: (Narongdej, 2008, p. 11)