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KALLAYARAT CHINSRIVONGKUL : LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR UTILITY MODEL
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The purpose of this research is to consider the suitability of protecting Utility Model in Thailand through the study of policy, principles, reasons and significant characteristics of Utility Model Laws in some countries.

The studies show that in some countries, Utility Model Law is enacted with the aim of developing local economy and industry in a short period of time by encouraging the public to create new technology. The Utility Model Law is enacted to protect inventions that fail to reach the standard for eligibility to receive protection under the patent law. Such inventions have been made without developing technology to a high level; on the other hand, such inventions suffered from the shortness of period of trading. Generally such inventions are the products of efforts by nationals.

After Utility Model Laws have been enacted by the aforementioned countries, it appears that the number of applications from national inventors continually increased. The law helps, develops national technology which in turn accelerates the economic and industrial developments. Therefore, Utility Model Law is suitable for Thailand under present conditions. The Utility Model Law will encourage Thais to make new inventions which could lead them to create new technologies of their own. Moreover, Utility Model Law could promote investment in Thailand, essential for the steady growth of the national economy. The Utility Model Law possess characteristics that are consistent to the Government's policy incorporated in the Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan.

This Thesis proposes the enactment of Utility Model Law in Thailand, which should be composed of the following significant principles:

1. Subject Matters of protection should be the same way as provided in the Patent Law.
2. The criteria for registration should be that the invention is new, the invention has some degree of inventive step or, in other words, it is not so obvious to a person ordinarily skilled in the art and the invention is useful.
3. Period of protection should be shorter than that of invention patent, but longer than that for design patent,
4. Registration system, rather than examination system, should be applied to the procedures and methods of registration.