

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Effect of The General Agreement on
Trade in Services on the Economic
Laws of Thailand : A Case study of
Road Transport.

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This thesis is written for the purpose of studying the major principle of General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and structure of road transportation industry and legal criteria in Thailand, analyzing the impact of GATS on the related road transportation law , and finding the guideline for the suitable amendment in Thailand.

The result of the study shows that GATS has drawn up the regulation related to international trade in services for the practice of the member countries under the conditions of disclosure, transparency and progressive liberalization, accordingly, which will bring to the final liberalization without limitation or any conditions. Furthermore, GATS will be a mechanical for the expansion of trade in services, promotion of the economic development

in developing countries within the respective of domestic law and regulations in each country.

Road Transportation industry is one type of trade in service. There are many direct and indirect activities related to road transportation. The study of the structure of road transportation and measurement of related laws indicate that this industry is a closed market for foreigners because the owner must be Thais. If the foreigners wants to come in, they must join with a major Thai people to set up a joint venture company that has Thai partner holding portion of the share holders. Therefore, when Thailand is coming to be a party of GATS, she needs to follow the regulation of trade in services such as amendment and adjustment of Thai law and regulation in order to follow up with GATS. Since the road transportation is an important factor for the economic development, it is necessary to amend and adjust law and regulations to go along with the principle of GATS by recognition of economic situation, the readiness for liberalization, and capacity of Thai people to compete with foreigner in the road transportation industry.

According to the study and analysis of the impact of GATS on the law concerning trade in services in road transportation in Thailand, including advantage and disadvantage of liberalization, the writer has proposed

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guideline for the amendment of related law to cope with the
liberlization in the way of small changes, step by step.
In order to allow Thai services providers on road transports
to compele with foreigners, we would suggest that the changes
should be prolonged as long as possible so the Thai operator
could adapt themselves to the new rules and regulations of
GATS.