

## ABSTRACT

The thesis aims to study the transnational drug firms' influence in determining Thai state's policy on the protection of intellectual property rights , focusing on the process leading to the amendment of Patents Law of B.E. 2522 during 1985-1992 . It makes an inquiry into factors making for related policy decision-making of Thai state .

The finding is that the Thai state's decision to amend the patents law to protect pharmaceutical products was significantly influenced by transnational drug firms (TDFs) which forms an inherent part of the "Transnational power structure" . These firms undertook two forms of operation : 1) measures on trade sanctions which caused Thai exporters and Thai state to be highly sensitive to negative impacts on the export markets . This measure succeeded in forcing the Thai state to fulfill the US's demand ; 2) policy campaigns which focused on the legitimacy and benefits of patents protection for Pharmaceutical Products . The TDFs were the key actors , operating through Pharmaceutical Products Association with the cooperation of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in organising technical seminars for state agencies .

However , the demand to amend the patents law was opposed by various social forces , which staged varying forms of campaigning and pressuring the Thai state . They include academic groups , public health NGOs , students' organisation and Thai drug firms . They argued that the patents protection for Pharmaceutical Products would adversely affect their prices , owing to the monopolistic market power of TDFs .

This study also argued that the extent to which TDFs succeed in their demand depends as much on the condition and character of Thai state as on the degree of political participation of a wide variety of social forces .