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Piracy has occurred as long as 3,000 years ago. The problem has become so serious and has caused such a great loss to mankind that it is now considered a serious international crime by most states who accordingly put an effort into cooperation with other states in suppression and prevention of this form of crime, which has led to the convening of an international convention and issuance of internal law.

Due to the long existence and evolution of piracy, the definition of piracy as defined by international convention or by internal law is different due to domestic situations in the passing years. Apart from the definition, modus operandi also varies in each state. It is therefore necessary for all concerned states to cooperate with other states in combating this form of crime. In this regard, Thailand has enacted the Act on Piracy B.E.2534 which has entered into force since December 30, 1991. This act, itself, still has some defects and fails to comply with some provisions of the existing international convention.

The objective of this thesis is to make a comprehensive study on the evolution of piracy, its definition and modus operandi in sense of comparison between the international convention and internal laws of some particular countries, Special emphasis is to be given to speculate on weak points under Thai law. It is hoped this thesis will lead to considerable amendment and to cope with the growing problems relating to law enforcement that may occur in the future.