

Thanapol Pakdee 2014: Thai-European Union Trade Negotiations on Timber and Wood Products Under EU Timber Regulation. Master of Arts (Conflict Management), Major Field: Conflict Management, Faculty of Social Sciences. Thesis Advisor: Miss Kingkanok Chawalitthomrong, Ph.D. 216 pages.

This study of Thai-European Union Trade Negotiations on Timber and Wood Products Under EU Timber Regulation is a qualitative research project with 2 objectives: (1) to study Thai-European Union trade negotiations on timber and wood products under EU Timber Regulation and (2) to study the problems and difficulties relating to timber and wood products which are traded between Thailand and the European Union. It was conducted through exploration of documentary sources, and in-depth interviews with stakeholders of the Thailand and European Union timber and wood products trade: the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand, the Royal Forest Department, the Foreign Trade Department, the Department of International Trade Promotion, the Department of Trade Negotiations, the Department of European Affairs, the Department of International Economic Affairs, the Thai Rubber Wood Association and the Federation of Thai Industries.

The results of the study showed that: (1) the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) negotiations between Thailand and the European Union are still at an early stage, which affects the production costs of Thailand's small entrepreneurs, and the product acceptance of the European Union entrepreneurs with regard to the legality of timber and wood products imported from Thailand's neighbors; (2) Thailand has a problem with regard to producing a definition of the term "legal timber". The Thai government has not set a precise definition of "legal timber", which means that Thai stakeholders need to mutually define the term so as to clearly separate legal timber from illegal timber. Furthermore, there is a problem concerning categorization of rubber wood: whether it should be classified as an agricultural or a wood product. Additionally, there is a problem of overlapping authority related to rubber wood. Rubber wood laws fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, whilst laws which apply to other woods are mostly the responsibility of the Royal Forest Department. Lastly, current customs codes do not separate rubber wood from other types of wood.

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