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**SESSION 4: Emerging methodologies for the census**

**THAILAND 2010 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS**

**Prepared by**

**Ms. Rejana Netseangtip  
Deputy-Director General  
National Statistical Office  
Thailand**

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## **1. Introduction**

The Population and Housing Census is one of the most important sources of socioeconomic data in the country. It provides the most comprehensive update of the information on the population in terms of their demographic and social conditions as well as the housing conditions at the national and sub-national: region, province, district, sub-district (Tumbon) and village levels. The census is therefore a statistical projection of national importance which serves a variety of information needs.

As in other country, the Thai Population Census data are being utilized in many ways by a variety of clients that include Government, the private sector, those engage in social and economic research, the politicians and the general public. The Government forms by far the largest user group.

Population and Housing Census in Thailand is undertaken every 10 years. The latest census was carried out in 2010. It was the eleventh population census, and the fifth housing census. The National Statistical Office (NSO), a governmental organization under the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, bears the full responsibility for the planning, implementation, analysis, publication and dissemination of the census results.

The 2010 Census aimed at collecting information on demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, fertility, migration, and housing conditions. These data items were suggested by the census users and approved by the Census Executive Committee. The 2010 Census provided data for the formulation of a wide-range of the national policies and the monitoring and evaluating the development programs at the macro and micro levels. Furthermore, the census facilitated historical comparisons over a number of censuses and provided a basis of the projections of various demographic characteristics.

## **2. Objectives of the Population and Housing Census**

1. To collect fundamental information, such as sex, age, nationality, education, employment, of population and of dwelling, such as type, drinking water, water supply.
2. To have the most detailed information at the level of small localities (villages, sub-district administration organization, municipals, etc.)
3. To measure changes in population structure and housing during 10 years.

## **3. Census Coverage**

### **3.1 Coverage of Population**

1. All Thai people residing in Thailand at the Census Date (1<sup>st</sup> September 2010),

2. All Military servants, defenses, civil servants, and Thai diplomatic personnel including their dependents, of which their office located outside the country,
3. Foreigners and migrants who live in Thailand at least three months prior to the Census Date,
4. Thai people, foreigners, and migrants who usually live in Thailand but temporarily be outside the country at the Census Date.

### **3.2 Coverage of House or Dwelling**

All House or Dwelling where people live such as house, building, construction, public area, rooms in the office, space under the bridge, etc.

## **4. Data Collection Methods**

NSO provided choices of completing the census questions as following;

1) Direct / Face-to-face interview: The 2010 Population and Housing Census still adopted face-to-face interview as the major method of data collection.

2) Self-enumeration method (Drop off and Pick up or mail back): This method was applied for specific areas, such as apartment, condominium, high security areas, etc., where the enumerators were not normally allowed to enter into those places to do face-to-face interview, or the enumerators were not be able to find any persons to be interviewed after several visits.

3) Internet

4) Telephone Interview through the Telephone Interview Center

This multi-modal data collection was applied in order to help the field interviewer in tackling the problem of complexity of recent living society.

## **5. Census Collection Period**

1 – 30 September 2010 (the follow up period was during 1 – 31 October 2010)

## **6. Census Field Personnel**

The census force consisted of:

- NSO officers from the center and all provinces which were comprised of:

- 1) Census manager at provincial level: Head of provincial NSO (Bangkok and 76 provinces)
- 2) District or Area cooperation officers (2,600 personnel)
- 3) Training officers and fieldwork control officers (500 personnel)

- Other agencies from public and private sector recruited at local area which were comprised of:

4) Field supervisors (9,000 personnel)

5) Enumerators (63,000 personnel)

## **7. Census Data Processing**

Data was recorded by using the ICR (Intelligence Character Recognition) at each Provincial National Statistics Office.

## **8. Census Data Dissemination and Publication**

### **8.1 Data Dissemination**

1) Preliminary report: Data from the listing form was disseminated at the national level and provincial level.

2) Advanced report: Data of the 1% population/household from the enumeration form was disseminated at the national level and regional level.

3) Final Report: Data from the enumeration form was disseminated at the national level, regional level, and provincial level.

4) Analytical Report: In cooperation with academic institutes, the study on an in-dept analysis for some important and policy-needed themes, such as migration, fertility, etc, will be published.

### **8.2 Provision of census micro data**

1) General users: the 1% sample of anonymized micro data is available for general purpose.

2) Specific-requested users: For special use, NSO has considered the requests on a case by case basis, for example, the construction of poverty line and the production of population projection.

### **8.3 Publication**

1) Report, Fact sheet, CD-ROM

2) Website: [www.nso.go.th](http://www.nso.go.th) and <http://popcensus.nso.go.th>

3) Data Warehouse

4) Census Info

## 5) Geographic Information System (GIS)

### 9. Census Quality Control

Concerning quality control for data collections and fieldwork operation throughout the census project, NSO had organized the following activities:

- 1) Intensive training; all census workforce were involved this intensive training which was organized both theoretical and practical.
- 2) Field supervisors were assigned to monitor the data collection process of each enumeration area and responsible for re-interviewing (2 households/EA) and manually editing for completeness and consistency of census questionnaires.
- 3) The "Center for Census Operation Follow-up" was established at NSO Headquarter. The work was to check the progress of the field operations through digital maps. The feature was designed to show different colors according to the progress of fieldwork in each enumeration area (EA). For example, the 'Red' color was displayed for the un-do EA, the 'Yellow' color was displayed for the ongoing fieldwork EA, and the 'Green' color was identified the finished EA. The number of population and housing were also consistently checked for the most completeness of census coverage and compared with other sources such as administrative report and the listing of NSO surveys.
- 4) All census questionnaires were scanned by using ICR at each province where all information was recorded accordingly and able to retrieve for usage in timely manner. The images and data files from each province were then sent to the center via internet in order to perform a centralized editing (both manual and machine editing) by expert team.
- 5) The Post Enumeration Survey (PES) was organized and conducted for 2% of the total EAs.