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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

IDENTIFICATION CODE NUMBERS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS IN THAILAND

Submitted by the Government of Thailand

Identification code numbers are currently in wide use in Thailand, but there is not a common standardization system used throughout all the government agencies. To achieve the standardization of a coding system for administrative divisions in Thailand, the Ministry of the Interior has recently established a committee consisting of the representatives from various government agencies dealing with the matter. The work of this committee was started in May 1967, and is now in progress.

The aim of a coding system standardization is primarily directed to the uniformity of numeric codes for automatic data processing of populated place names which have been listed as the country's administrative divisions; these are changwats (the highest order administrative level), amphoes and king amphoes, tambons and mubans.

Several factors contribute to the desirability of establishing numeric identification codes:

- (a) The multiplicity of names for each muban;
- (b) The duplicity of names for different mubans in the same tambon;
- (c) The difficulty of processing Thai character information by data processing machines and computers;
- (d) To obtain an easy method for relating each muban to its higher or administrative levels.

The committee is working out a feasible code system. The major objective is that each administrative level is assigned a unique number which precisely identifies one and only one entity of that level including its relationship to higher order administrative entities. This identification system will also identify king amphoes as distinct from amphoes, and it will be applicable to the identification of municipalities.

It is hoped that the establishment of this coding system in Thailand will be expanded to cover ultimately all geographical entities throughout the country.
