

Income Tax (Singapore — Thailand) (Avoidance of Double Taxation Convention) Order 1976

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**INCOME TAX ACT
(CHAPTER 134, SECTION 49)**

**INCOME TAX (SINGAPORE — THAILAND) (AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE
TAXATION CONVENTION) ORDER 1976**

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WHEREAS it is provided by section 49 of the Income Tax Act that if the Minister by order declares that arrangements specified in the order have been made with the Government of any country outside Singapore with a view to affording relief from double taxation in relation to tax under the Act and any tax of a similar character imposed by the laws of that country, and that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect, the arrangements shall have effect in relation to tax under the Act notwithstanding anything in any written law:

AND WHEREAS by a Convention dated the 15th day of September 1975, between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Royal Government of Thailand, arrangements were made amongst other things for the avoidance of Double Taxation:

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby declared by the Minister for Finance —

- (a) that the arrangements specified in the Schedule to this Order have been made with the Royal Government of Thailand; and
- (b) that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect notwithstanding anything in any written law.

THE SCHEDULE

CONVENTION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AND THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO THE TAXES ON INCOME

The Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Royal Government of Thailand,

Desiring to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

PERSONAL SCOPE

This Convention shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

ARTICLE 2

TAXES COVERED

1. This Convention shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of each Contracting State or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income or on elements of income including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property, taxes on the total amount of wages or salaries paid by enterprises.

3. The existing taxes to which the Convention shall apply are in particular:

(a) In the case of Thailand:

- (i) The income tax;
- (ii) The petroleum income tax; (hereinafter referred to as “Thai tax”)

(b) In the case of Singapore:

The income tax (hereinafter referred to as “Singapore tax”).

4. The Convention shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are subsequently imposed in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. At the end of each year, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify to each other any significant changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws.

ARTICLE 3

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. In this Convention, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) the term “Thailand” means the Kingdom of Thailand and any area adjacent to the territorial waters of the Kingdom of Thailand which by Thai legislation, and in accordance with international law, has been or may hereafter be designated as an area within which the rights of the Kingdom of Thailand with respect to sea-bed and sub-soil and their natural resources may be exercised;
- (b) the term “Singapore” means the Republic of Singapore;
- (c) the terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State” mean Thailand or Singapore, as the context requires;
- (d) the term “tax” means Thai tax or Singapore tax, as the context requires;
- (e) the term “person” comprises an individual, a company and any other body of persons which is treated as an entity for tax purposes;
- (f) the term “company” means any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes under the relevant laws of either Contracting State including any group or body of persons which is taxed substantially in the same manner as a body corporate;
- (g) the terms “enterprise of a Contracting State” and “enterprise of the other Contracting State” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
- (h) the term “competent authority” means —
 - (i) in the case of Thailand, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative;
 - (ii) in the case of Singapore, the Minister for Finance or his authorised representative.

2. As regards the application of the provisions of the Convention by a Contracting State any term not otherwise defined shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has under the laws of that Contracting State relating to the taxes which are the subject of the Convention.

ARTICLE 4

FISCAL DOMICILE

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who, under the law of that State, is liable to taxation therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his case shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:

- (a) He shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which he has a permanent home available to him. If he has a permanent home available to him in both Contracting States, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State with which his personal and economic relation are closest (centre of vital interests);
- (b) If the Contracting State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has not a permanent home available to him in either Contracting State, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which he has an habitual abode;
- (c) If he has an habitual abode in both Contracting States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State of which he is a national;
- (d) If he is a national of both Contracting States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall resolve the problem by mutual agreement.

ARTICLE 5

PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term “permanent establishment” means a fixed place of business in which the business of the enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term “permanent establishment” shall include especially:

- (a) a place of management;
- (b) a branch;
- (c) an office;
- (d) a factory;
- (e) a workshop;
- (f) a warehouse;
- (g) a farm or plantation;
- (h) a mine, quarry or other place of extraction of natural resources;
- (i) a building site, construction, installation or assembly project which exists for more than six months.

3. The term “permanent establishment” shall not be deemed to include:

- (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
- (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
- (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
- (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise, or for collecting information, for the enterprise;
- (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of advertising, for the supply of information, for scientific research or for similar activities which have a preparatory or auxiliary character, for the enterprise.

4. A person acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State — other than a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 5 applies — shall be deemed to be a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned State, but only if —

- (a) he has and habitually exercises in the first-mentioned State an authority to negotiate and conclude contracts for or on behalf of the enterprise, unless his activities are limited to the purchase of goods or merchandise for the enterprise; or
- (b) he habitually maintains in the first-mentioned State a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise from which he regularly delivers goods or merchandise for or on behalf of the enterprise; or
- (c) he habitually secures orders in the first-mentioned State wholly or almost wholly for the enterprise itself or for the enterprise and other enterprises which are controlled by it or have a controlling interest in it.

5. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State merely because it transacts business through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status in the other Contracting State, where such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business. For this purpose, an agent shall not be considered to be an agent of an independent status if it acts as an agent exclusively or almost exclusively for the enterprise and carries on any of the activities described in paragraph 4 of this Article.

6. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

ARTICLE 6

INCOME FROM IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

1. Income from immovable property may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such property is situated.