

A Study on the Transformation of Overseas Taiwan School in the Context of Globalization of Education:

A Case of Thailand

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Under the current wave of globalization, Taiwanese business people residing overseas in Southeast Asian countries hope their children have a strong foundation in Chinese language, maintain Chinese traditional cultural values, and also pursuit excellent English ability and build an international perspective. They intend to enroll their children into Overseas Taiwan Schools from kindergarten to Year 6 and then transfer to international schools for the value of good English language skills in the higher educational environment. When considering these issues, how will the Overseas Taiwan Schools embrace the challenge to meet market demands? Thai-Chinese International School has been established for 21 years; it was joining in the system of Overseas Taiwan Schools, receiving advice and subsidies from Education department of the government of Taiwan. However, both the curriculum and channel to enter universities were both limited in the system of Overseas Taiwan Schools. Therefore, this school withdrew the system of Overseas Taiwan Schools for guaranteeing competition in the market. It has been defining and organizing for school autonomy, especially in the domains of curriculum and teaching, and student admissions. Through the global competitive challenges, it has also changed the original perspectives of the education for Taiwan businessmen's children to the international schools with more highlights and features of three language teaching, which has elaborated a brand new page of overseas compatriot education.

Based on the structure of case study, and according to the perspective of globalization of education, this study explored the development and transformation of Thai-Chinese International School. Data were collected through document gathering as well as in-depth interviews of school board members, current and former administrators and teachers, Thai and Taiwan government officials. Hopefully this study can be a reference for overseas compatriot education in international perspective, and this case may become a consultation on transformation of Overseas

Taiwan Schools or overseas school missions. The findings of this study are summarized as follows:

1. Thai-Chinese International School has been challenged with student admission when encountering the dilemma of staying or withdrawing the Overseas Taiwan School System.

2. The acts of establishment and advice of Overseas Taiwan School are difficult to suit the local conditions in Thailand.

3. Taiwan's national education system has gaps with international standards, and the overseas school board intend to run an international school based on American curriculum.

4. The key factors that TCIS' management rely on school major feature of applying Taiwanese teaching materials, joining more international school unions, and maintaining good reputation in the local area.

5. Chinese language teaching via the international education system for further education may turn a new page on overseas compatriot education.

According to the research results, this study has concluded some suggestions to the overseas school boards and future researchers in overseas compatriot education.

Keywords: Globalization of Education 、 Overseas Compatriot Education 、 Overseas Taiwan School 、 Thai-Chinese International School