

# KINGDOM'S COMPETITIVENESS REMAINS RELATIVELY STRONG

THANONG KHANTHONG  
THE NATION

Thailand is ranked 34th out of 134 countries in the 2008 Global Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum and 27th out of 55 countries in IMD's 2008 World Competitiveness Yearbook.

These rankings place the Kingdom's competitiveness very much in the middle tier.

However, when compared to a broader group of countries, which includes developing and least-developed countries,

Thailand's position is relatively strong, according to a report entitled "Competitiveness of Thailand: Economic Analysis from Competitiveness Reports".

Piyachart Phiromswad, Sabin Srivannaboon, Taka Fujioka and Pongsak Hoontrakul of Chulalongkorn University's Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration have jointly worked on the World Economic Forum (WEF) report, which will be presented this weekend at the TDRI (Thailand Development Research Institute) Year-end

Conference in Pattaya.

A former chairman of the audit committee of UOB Bank Thailand, Pongsak is also a senior research fellow of Sasin, chairman of the working group of the WEF competitiveness survey on Thailand and adviser to the International Association of Deposit Insurance.

The rankings from both the WEF and IMD - the Switzerland-based global business school - indicate that

Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia and China have a greater level of national competitiveness than Thailand, while India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia and Philippines have a lower level.

Japan is ranked above Hong Kong and Malaysia according to the WEF, but the other way round according to IMD. South Korea is ranked above Malaysia, China and India according to the WEF, but IMD again has it the

other way round.

Both sets of rankings indicate that Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong and Malaysia consistently have a greater level of national competitiveness than Thailand, while India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Philippines always have a lower level.

China has always been ranked as a better performer than Thailand since 2004 according to the IMD rankings and is ranked as a better performer than Thailand in 2008 in the WEF's report.

## HOW THAILAND FARES

National competitiveness scores and rankings in 2008

Countries	GDP per capita in 2007 (PPP \$)	WEF 2008 World Ranking
Malaysia	12,631	21
China	5,046	30
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>7,682</b>	<b>34</b>
India	2,599	50
Indonesia	3,519	55

Note: PPP=Purchasing Power Parity

NATION GRAPHICS

Sources: The WEF Global Competitiveness Index 2008-2009 and the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2008.

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