

Dear Dr. Crocker and Members of the ICANN Board:

The management of Better Living Management Limited (BLM) would like respond to the GAC Advice issued in Durban on 18 July 2013. GAC has listed the gTLD string, .thai under section IV, "GAC Advice to the Board".

In our last response to the GAC Advice tabled in Beijing, BLM mentioned that it has spoken to the relevant Ministries within the Thailand Government to send a representative to the next GAC meeting to remove .THAI from GAC Advice. During the last GAC meeting in Durban, The Prime Minister Office in Thailand has issued an official letter to authorize Mr. Bhuwanart Na Songkhla, Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Commerce, as the Thailand GAC Representative to attend the GAC meeting and provide the comment on the new gTLD program. Mr. Bhuwanart Na Songkhla attended the meeting Durban with the intention to officially request for .THAI to be removed from GAC Advice. Unfortunately, Mr. Bhuwanart Na Songkhla has had some issues attending the closed GAC meetings and making comments in his official capacity during the meetings being new to the community. Mr. Bhuwanart Na Songkhla has since officially sent an email on 18 July 2013 to the GAC Chair, Vice-Chairs and Secretariat on his inability to speak in his official capacity during the GAC meetings but have yet to receive an official response. Mr. Bhuwanart Na Songkhla has also dropped an official email on 18 July 2013 to Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehadé, Mr. Chalaby and Ms Heather on this matter and to request that GAC and ICANN not make hasty decision to dismiss .THAI. Mr. Chalaby responded promptly and advised that the request will be handled appropriately by ICANN Staff.

BLM did not managed to speak again to Mr. Wanawit Ahkupatra, who is one of the Thailand GAC representatives, in Durban. In the last meeting with Mr. Wanawit after the ICANN meeting in Beijing, he is adamant that the word, "THAI" is the geographic name for Thailand. We explained again that this is not true based on the guidelines issued by ICANN. BLM would like to clarify that the short geographic name for Thailand is "Prathet Thai" and formal geographic name for Thailand is "Racha Anachak Thai", which can be easily confirmed with various standards organisations. The citizens of Thailand would usually hear the short geographic name being mentioned in most national speeches by the Thailand Government. However, Mr. Wanawit is persistent that his interpretation is correct and started making false accusations against BLM in an attempt to discredit BLM and its reputation. Mr. Wanawit has also provided false information to a newspaper in Thailand, which has possibly caused one of the Ministries to re-consider its support for the .THAI initiative. BLM have since filed legal proceedings against Mr. Wanawit Ahkupatra and other related persons in Thailand in regards to the false accusations and can provide relevant information to ICANN upon request.

We contacted the newspaper in Thailand (Prachachart Business Newspaper), who published incorrect information about the .THAI initiative and BLM. The newspaper was surprised that the information was incorrect and readily identified Mr. Wanawit Ahkupatra as the source for its information. The

newspaper is apologetic and is willing to re-publish a new article on the facts of the .THAI initiative and BLM.

BLM has also taken a step further to speak to the President of Senate in Thailand and they have also issued a letter to support the .THAI initiative, which we will be providing to ICANN. The Senate in Thailand is the upper house of the National Assembly of Thailand, which is also known by many names, the most common being parliament or congress.

BLM would also like to inform that it still has the official support from the various Government Ministries in Thailand namely Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Culture for the .THAI initiative. BLM also has the full support from the Miracle of Life foundation under Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya of Thailand.

BLM would like to further share that it has applied for the string .THAI only after careful consideration and that it has not violated any of ICANN's guidelines or international standards with the blessing of various Government Ministries in Thailand. It would be disappointing if BLM were rejected on the basis that one of the GAC Representative decided on his own that the string, "THAI" is a geographic name and that application is not allowed to proceed. BLM would like to re-iterate that it has worked with the Government Ministries in Thailand to send a GAC Representative to the GAC meetings in Durban. Unfortunately, the new GAC Representative met with problems to join the meetings and voice his views in his official capacity.

In closing, BLM appreciates the opportunity to respond to GAC Advice and look forward to the approval from the ICANN Board for BLM to delegate and operate the gTLD string, .thai.

Yours sincerely,

Asvin Asvinvichit  
Better Living Management Limited