



Siam Legal International Issues Advisory Following Thailand's Launch of Cross-Border Scam Database

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Siam Legal International, a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience assisting foreign nationals in Thailand, is advising expatriates and travelers to remain vigilant following the launch of SHIELD, a new centralized cross-border platform developed by the Royal Thai Police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to combat online scams and human trafficking networks operating across the region.

SHIELD, which stands for Scam and Human Trafficking Information Exchange and Linked Database, is a web-based system that allows participating countries to securely share information including details about scam operations, criminal networks, victims, financial transactions, and cross-border movement of suspects. Officials cite speed as one of the primary motivations behind the platform, noting that traditional coordination between countries has historically been too slow to respond effectively to fast-moving online crime. At launch, 11 countries have joined the platform including Thailand, the United States, Japan, and China, alongside several other regional partners. International organizations including Interpol and United Nations agencies are also involved in supporting cooperation and information sharing across the network.

The platform addresses a fundamental challenge in combating modern online fraud. Each participating

country may only hold part of the picture of a criminal operation, and by connecting that information across jurisdictions, authorities can build a more complete view of how networks operate and respond more effectively. For foreigners in Thailand, the launch of SHIELD reflects the reality that scams targeting expatriates and travelers often do not originate locally. A message that appears to come from a local source may in fact be part of a network operating from another country entirely, and what appears to be a single individual contact may be one node in a larger coordinated operation.

"The launch of SHIELD changes the landscape for how cross-border fraud and trafficking cases are investigated and prosecuted," said Rex Baay, Operations Manager at Siam Legal International. "For foreigners in Thailand who have been targeted by or fallen victim to online scams, this means that the information trail is now being tracked across multiple jurisdictions simultaneously. Reporting incidents promptly and seeking proper legal guidance is more important than ever, both for potential recovery of funds and for understanding the legal implications of any cross-border financial activity involved." A full overview of the SHIELD platform and what it means for foreigners in Thailand is available in Siam Legal's cross-border scam database update.

Scams targeting foreigners in Thailand increasingly operate through familiar channels including messaging applications, social media platforms, and investment or job offers that appear credible on the surface. The SHIELD platform is designed for law enforcement cooperation rather than individual protection, meaning that individuals remain the first line of defense against these schemes. Verifying unfamiliar contacts independently, avoiding rushed financial decisions, and reporting suspicious activity to local authorities are the minimum precautions travelers and expatriates should take. In more complex situations involving cross-border financial transactions or potential legal exposure, qualified legal guidance can help clarify available options and next steps. Victims of online scams involving cross-border financial transactions are also advised to document all communications and transaction records as early as possible, as this evidence becomes increasingly relevant once international enforcement cooperation mechanisms such as SHIELD are engaged.

Siam Legal International is a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience assisting foreign nationals in Thailand, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya. The firm provides comprehensive legal support across cybercrime, litigation, immigration, property transactions, and business law.

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American-managed Thailand law firm with 22+ years? experience. Experts in corporate setup, BOI, FBL, family & divorce, property, litigation, immigration, notary, wills, contracts & due diligence across Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya & more.

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