(Draft) Proposal by THAILAND's Government Advisory Committee (GAC)

What is the ADDRESS in the world of electronic transaction? To connect between electronic world, computer and server are located by its IP Address in the network. For the website that display information, IP address of the server that hosted the website is not easily recognized, thus most prefers the domain name for its recognition. In order to learn more about the website domain name, WHOIS provides a service to display information of that domain name, i.e. WHOIS provides the address information for the electronic transaction world.

Now the question is how one can provide the address in the electronic world to WHOIS. Right now the registra of domain name e.g. the company called "domain name registrar" http://www.domain name registrar.co.th/ which is the top level domain registra in THAILAND provided any domain name information such as Domain Holder and Technical Contact in ENGLISH by asking the corporates and individuals to fill in information in English by themselves. To register the information, Corporates and Individuals who want to register the domain name must submit the document to prove its identity only in THAI language, the ENGLISH document is only required as an option. Then, when the payment for the domain name has been made, "domain name registrar" will ask for information from the domain holder to provide information to WHOIS database by filling in the domain registration form. The domain holder can provide information in both English and Thai, however, the more common is in English so that non-thai speaker can recognize the information on WHOIS website. The English information is from what corporates and individual translated per se and not necessarily required to get a notary from the Ministry of Foreign Affair if it is the ".th". However, if it is the domain registration under ".com", the corporates must submit the document in English and also any Thai related documents that are notarized by Ministry of Foreign Affair. However, this procedure proves to be filled with errors in conversion from THAI to ENGLISH.

For example, THAI ADDRESS "ถนนวิทยุ" can be written such as:

1. Wittayu Road
2. Wittayu Street
3. Wireless Road (Translation)
4. Thanon wittayu (phonetic)

Domain :	AFACT2014.IN.TH
ACE :	AFACT2014.IN.TH
Registrar :	T.H.NIC Co., Ltd.
Name Server :	NS1.DOTARAI.COM
	NS2.DOTARAI.COM
Status :	ACTIVE
Created Date :	29 Nov 2013
Exp Date :	28 Nov 2014
Domain Type :	Personal
Domain Holder :	Wanawit Ahkuputra (คุณวรรณวิทย์ อาฆุบุตร)
	ศูนย์ราชการเฉลิมพระเกียรติ หลักสี่ กรุงเทพฯ
	10210
	TH
	Phone: +66.93018818
	Domain Contact: Wanawit Ahkuputra
	Contact Email: wanawit@etda.or.th
Tech Contact :	Wanawit Ahkuputra (557612)
	สำนักงานพัฒนาธุรกรรมทางอิเล็กทรอนิกส์ (องค์การมหาชน)
	ศูนย์ราชการเฉลิมพระเกียรติ หลักสี่ กรุงเทพฯ
	10210
	TH
	Phone: +66.93018818
	Email: wanawit@etda.or.th

Figure 1

Thus, to avoid the mistake in conversion, the recommendation for converting ADDRESS from THAI to ENGLISH must be in place so that one can reach the Tech Contact of the website correctly at the right location in the electronic world. To do that, one must consider two aspects:

1. Name, such as Wittayu (วิทยุ)

2. Geographical Name[1], Such as Road, Street etc.

For the *name*, the Royal Institute of Thailand has the Romanization system to convert from THAI to ENGLISH. However, most THAIs do not follow the Romanization system strictly and use its own proprietary way of conversion. However, if the conversion follows the Romanization System, it might not follow the United Nations Committee of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) standard which includes the exceptional cases and provides the list of *names* table.

For the *geographical name*, THAI word "ถนน" is the same for street and road. The phonetic for "ถนน" is *thanon* but to put up the sign for *thanon*, one can call it either a street or road if one does not follow the requirement of Thailand Post, implying that it does not follow Universal Postal Union (UPU)
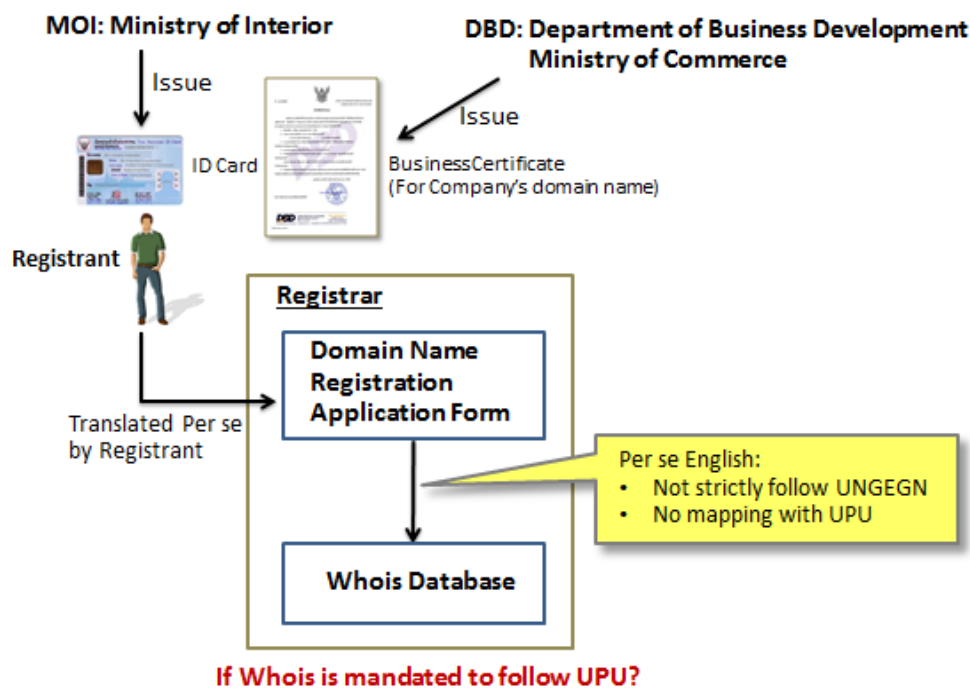

Figure 2: Current Situation in Thailand

These two aspects are what one must follow when submitting information to WHOIS database. To prevent errors and inconsistency that may happen, each registration process should go through the procedure for validating the address in ENGLISH by Registrar of the country.

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[1] E/ConF.94/INF.41 Writing Systems: Romanization Principles of Romanization for Thai Script by Transcription Method, UNGEGN Berlin, 2002
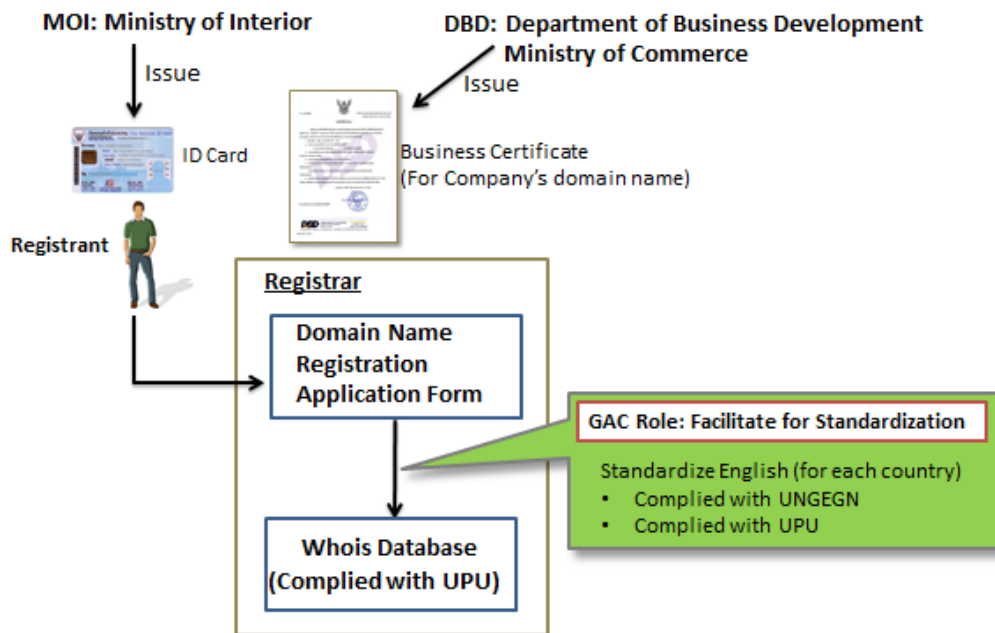
Proposal by Thai GAC:

Figure 3: Should be Situation for Thailand

Therefore, to translate contact information to a single common language, Thailand GAC would like to propose that ICANN shall designate each country's GAC to coordinate locally to standardize the conversion for each country.

In addition, ICANN shall uphold the integrity of the address conversion by accreditation program for the conversion process in each country, based on its local requirement. Therefore, the Registrar can validate the address information and if the information submitted by the Domain Holder is not valid, the Registrar must provide the conversion service to standardization the ADDRESS provided in the WHOIS.