Thai

1.
Origin of the system

The United Nations recommended system was approved in 1967 (resolution I/14), based on the modified general system of the Royal Institute of Thailand. The table and notes on its application were published in vol. II of the conference reports[1].

2.
Implementation

The system is used in Thailand and in international cartographic products. In recent years, however, a revised version of the system had been prepared and presented as *Principles of Romanization for Thai Script by Transcription Method* to the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems in October 1997 (hereinafter referred to as the 1997 revised version). The revision was about to be presented to the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, January 1998) but this was postponed because of the absence of the Thai delegation at the conference.

3.
Brief characterization

Thai uses an alphasyllabic script. In Thai writing word division is not ordinarily indicated which may complicate the romanization. The romanization system is not reversible to its original script form. For transliteration a different system is used.

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[1] *United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*. Geneva, 4-22 September 1967. Vol. II. *Proceedings of the Conference and technical papers*, pp. 122-123.

4.
Romanization

ก k (k)   จ ch (t)   ฎ d (t)   ด d (t)   บ b (p)   ย y   ศ s (t)

ข kh (k)   ฉ ch (t)   ฏ t (t)   ต t (t)   ป p (p)   ร r (r)   ษ s (t)

ฃ kh (k)   ช ch (t)   ฐ th (t)   ถ th (t)   ผ ph (p)   ฤ ru,ri,ree[2]   ส s (t)

ค kh (k)   ซ s (t)   ฑ th, d (t)   ท th (t)[1]   ฝ f (p)   ฤๅ ru[2]   ห h

ฅ kh (k)   ฌ ch (t)   ฒ th (t)   ธ th (t)   พ ph (p)   ล l (n)   ฬ l (n)

ฆ kh (k)   ญ y (n)   ณ n (n)   น n (n)   ฟ f (p)   ฦ lu[2]   อ o

ง ng (ng)   ภ ph (p)   ฦๅ lu[2]   ฮ h

                                               ม m (m)   ว w

[1] combination ทร is romanized *s* if so pronounced

[2] these Thai characters are traditionally considered as vowel characters; for revised
romanizations see below

Note. Thai characters are romanized in two ways depending on whether they denote syllable-
initials or syllable-finals. The romanization of syllable-finals is indicated in brackets.

Vocalic nuclei (• stands for any consonant character)

•ะ	a	◌ี	u*	โ•ะ	o	เ•ย	ia	ไ•ย	ai	•วย	uai
•ั•	a	◌ุ	u	•	o	เ•อะ	ua*	•าย	ai	◌ิว	iu*
•รร•	a	◌ู	u	โ•	o	เ•อ	ua*	เ•า	ao	เ•็ว	eo
•า	a	เ•ะ	e	เ•าะ	o	•ัวะ	ua	•าว	ao	เ•ว	eo
•รร	an	เ•็•	e	•อ	o	•ัว	ua	•ุย	ui	แ•็ว	aeo
•ำ	am	เ•	e	เ•อะ	oe	•ว•	ua	โ•ย	oi	แ•ว	aeo
◌ิ	i	แ•ะ	ae	เ•ิ•	oe	ใ•	ai	•อย	oi	เ•ียว	ieo*
◌ี	i	แ•็•	ae	เ•อ	oe	ไ•	ai	เ•ย	oei		
◌ึ	u*	แ•	ae	เ•ียะ	ia	•ัย	ai	เ•อย	uai*		

* romanization equivalents marked with an asterisk have been revised in the 1997 version

Notes[2]

1. Geographical names are transliterated individually according to their pronunciation, words should not be divided into meaningless syllables, e.g. *Chorakhe* (not *Cho Ra Khe*), *Samphao* (not *Sam Phao*).

2. Names which are combinations of words and the last consonant of words pronounced should be transliterated as single words to retain their original pronunciation and forms, e.g. *Ratchakhram* is transcribed from the Thai words which, without the above notation, would be *rat khram*; *Aranyaprathet* is transcribed instead of *Aran Prathet*.

3. Names comprising many syllables, of which the last and the first character of the first and second syllable respectively are vowels should be separated by a hyphen, e.g. *Saing* is written *Sa-ing*.

4. A word or a group of words followed by a *maiyamok* (ๆ) is written twice according to the reading rules, e.g. ทำบ่อย ๆ *tham boi boi*, ไฟไหม้ ๆ *fai mai fai mai*.

5. A word or a group of words followed by a *paiyannoi* (ฯ), a shortened form of well known word or expression, is to be written in full according to the reading rules, e.g. กรุงเทพฯ *Krung Thep Maha Nakhon*.

6. A Thai consonant character with no accompanying vowel mark or diacritical mark may be romanized with the vowel letter *a* or *o*: ปฐม *pathom*, พลบ *phlop*.

7. ห at the beginning of a syllable and serving as a tone mark should not be romanized: หวอ *wo*, หลืบ *lup*; otherwise, ห should be romanized *h*: หวย *huai*, โวหาร *wohan*.

8. The vowel shortening mark ◌ั and the tone marks ◌่, ◌้, ◌๊, and ◌๋ should not be romanized: ก็ *ko*, ยี่หอ *yiho*, กระต๊อบ *kratop*.

5.
Other systems of romanization

The **1997 revised version**[3] of the official Thai romanization system gives different Roman equivalents to the following Thai characters:

ฤ	rue,ri,roe	ฦ	lue	◌ื	ue	เ◌อะ	uea	เ◌อย	ueai	เ◌ียว	iao
ฤๅ	rue	ฦๅ	lue	◌ื	ue	เ◌อ	uea	◌ิว	io		

The transliteration of Thai in the standard **ISO 11940:1998**[4] gives each Thai character a unique equivalent in the Roman script (a single letter or a combination of a letter plus a "modifier letter"). The Thai characters are transliterated strictly in the order they are written, diacritical marks accompanying a consonant are transliterated starting by the uppermost mark and finishing with the subscript mark. As an example, here are some transliteration equivalents:

ก k, ข k̄h, ฃ k̠h, ค kh, ฅ k'h, ฆ ḳh, ง ng; ะ a, ั ạ, า ā, ำ å, เ e, แ æ, etc.

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[4] This is a modification of a document presented in 1992: *Romanized Transliteration of Thai*. Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Vol. II. *Technical papers*. New York, 25 August - 3 September 1992, pp. 369-379. Some consonants have been given revised equivalents in the ISO standard.