

REGISTRATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS: AN UPDATE

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Since the Protection of Geographical Indications Act came into effect in 2003, 14 applications have been successfully registered from a total of 38 applications. These are: PISCO, Champagne, Nakornchaisri Pomelo, Phetchabun Sweet Tamarind, Trang Roast Pork, Doi Tung Coffee, Phurua Plateau Wine, Chainat Khaotangkwa Pomelo, Sriracha Pineapple, Surat Thani Oyster, Sangyod Muang Phathalung Rice,

Chiangrai Phulae Pineapple, Nang Lae Pineapple, and Sakon Dhavapi Haang Golden Aromatic Rice. Out of the 14 successful applications, 12 were submitted by Thai applicants and two by foreign applicants.

In general, the examination procedure for geographical indication applications is quite similar to the process of trademark examination. However, a notable difference is that in the geographical indication examination

process, the Registrar may request an opinion from an expert in the relevant field in order to examine the linkage between the goods and the geographical area. Currently, the Thai government has undertaken a project to file Thai Silk, Phulae Pineapple, and Thai Jasmine Rice in the European Union as the main market, and then spread to other markets in the future. ♦