



Revenue Department News

News No. : 9/2020
Date : 15th January 2020
Subject : The Revenue Department joins hands with the Immigration Bureau to speed up VAT refund for tourists and extension of stay of foreigners working in Thailand

On 15th January 2020, **Dr. Ekniti Nitithanprapas, Director-General of the Revenue Department**, stated that the Revenue Department had cooperated with the Immigration Bureau to integrate immigration data via electronic system to improve speed and accuracy of VAT refund for tourists. This electronic data exchange supports the refund process through the Blockchain technology to make it more convenient for tourists to file for VAT refunds, which will eventually stimulate purchases.

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Commissioner of the Immigration Bureau, Pol Lt Gen Sompong Chingduang, said that apart from the above mentioned cooperation, the Immigration Bureau and the Revenue Department have a common intention to integrate information on tax returns with immigration data through electronic system. The Revenue Department has agreed to link the information on tax returns given taxpayers' consent, tax clearance certificates (pre-departure), and certificates of value added tax registration, to the Immigration Bureau's system in order to operate an alien's extension of temporary stay in Thailand. In the same way, the Immigration Bureau will share immigration data to facilitate tax services for foreigners, such as VAT refund for tourists and issuance of tax certificates. Besides, both agencies confirm that cooperation will adhere to high level of data security protection to ensure confidentiality of all transmitted information.

Dr. Ekniti Nitithanprapas, Director-General of the Revenue Department, together with the Commissioner of the Immigration Bureau **Pol Lt Gen Sompong Chingduang**, concluded that the cooperation between two agencies will benefit both government and business sectors. Government services can be provided at lower costs, and one stop services can be offered to tourists. These will promote and support tourism as well as other services, which will eventually contribute to sustainable economic growth in Thailand.

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