



Royal Thai Embassy
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PRESS RELEASE

RE: The allegation by PETA on the treatment of monkeys picking coconuts in Thailand and linking the matter to ban coconut-related products from Thailand

The Royal Thai Embassy wishes to make some preliminary clarifications as follows;

1. The Thai authorities take the matter very seriously and the Ministry of Commerce has consulted the Thai Food Processors' Association to gather necessary information related to the matter. The Thai exporters and entrepreneurs in the coconut-related product sector, including Chao Koh and Aroy-D, have insisted that they use 100% workers in harvesting coconuts. Also, they have started undertaking traceability of their products, but will, from now on, implement traceability more stringently and have it placed on their product labels.

From the meeting the companies have also expressed readiness for visits from importers to their factories in order to see the harvesting and production processes which comply with international standards.

2. The modern harvesting method in Thai coconut industry is to use a "Mai-soi", a long pole with a knife attached at the end which workers use to cut the stalk of the bunch. A bunch has approximately 10-30 nuts, which is quite heavy, can be effectively cut with one cut by using "Mai-soi". To cushion the fall, the "Mai-soi" is angled to have coconuts fall in a water canal next to the trees. The Thai coconut industry is constantly looking to improve the equipment and techniques to harvest coconuts even more effectively and economically. Please refer to the video clip at <https://youtu.be/fZInCTVYESE> to see how coconuts are picked. The clip was made a few years ago but is still valid. It can be clearly seen that using workers to pick coconuts is most efficient.

3. There are small farmers who still pursue traditional way of life in training monkeys to pick coconuts. Those trained monkeys are generally considered by the farmers as parts of their families. However, the products from those small farmers are minimal.

4. Thai people are known for kindness and compassion for animals and humans alike. Thais do not tolerate violence and abuses of animals. Wild animal, including monkeys, are protected by the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act enacted in 2019 and the Cruelty Prevention and Welfare of Animals Act that has also been effective since 2014. Most Thais would find PETA's clip depicting rare exceptions rather than norms. Please rest assured that efforts have been undertaken to do away with animal abuse and to protect well-beings of animals.

The Royal Thai Embassy wishes that the facts above be conveyed to readers for their correct understanding.

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