

Abstract

This is a study of the development of the Chinese Associations' role in Bangkok towards Ethnic Chinese between 1942 and 1992. The study examines individually, the objectives and activities of each Chinese Association in Bangkok and the impact of the political, social and cultural changes in Thai Society on the Chinese Associations in Bangkok. It also attempts to understand the ethnic Chinese perception of the Chinese Associations in Bangkok.

The Thesis consists of 5 chapters. The introduction deals mainly with the sources of the problems, the purpose, scope, theory and past researchs and methodology of research. Chapter II illustrates the historical perspectives of the Development of the Chinese Associations in Thailand. Chapter III focuses on the roles of the Chinese Associations in Bangkok. The Chinese Associations can be divided into nine groups:

1. The Business Chinese Association	40
2. The Professional Chinese Association	24
3. The dialect Chinese Association	9
4. The district Chinese Association	14
5. The clan Chinese Association	103
6. The Public Health Chinese Association	252
7. The cultural Chinese Association	56

8. The educational Chinese Association	20
9. The age Chinese Association	4
Total	522

An attempt is then made to explain the role of these Chinese Associations in Bangkok. Chapter IV discusses the role of Hua Kiaw Poh Teck Tung Association, a Chinese Associations from the ethnic Chinese perspective. Finally, Chapter V concludes by deviding the role of the CHinese associations into two time frames. Prior to 1969, the Chinese associations aimed to help orerseas Chinese who came from the same districts, clans and/or had the same dialects. After 1969, the Chinese associations adapted their role, in order to maintain Chiense ethnicity, by promoting activities in public health and by cooparating with Thai bureacratic association. Therefore, the these associations will continue to play an important part in Thai Society.