



Expat Counsel

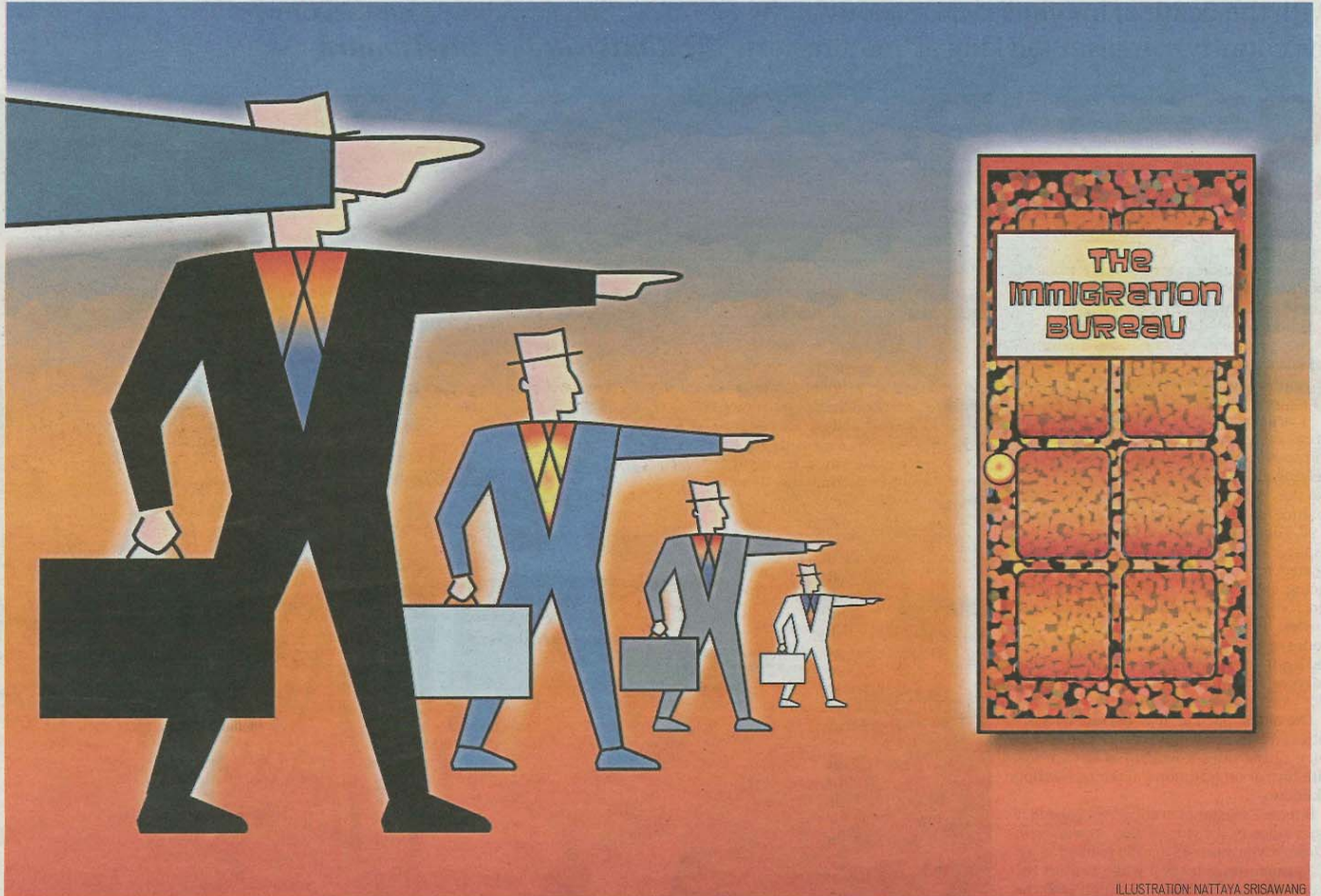


ILLUSTRATION: NATTAYA SRISAWANG

RETIREMENT VISAS IN THAILAND IV

Last time we talked about the visas available to a foreigner who wants to retire in Thailand. You'll recall there are two of them. The first is the Non-Imm O-A, for which you apply at a Thai embassy or consulate outside Thailand. You can apply for the second, the Non-Imm O, extended for retirement purposes, within Thailand by converting from a tourist visa.

This time we will explain how the Non-Imm O-A and Non-Imm O are renewed, and a couple of other topics applicable to both.

For both the Non-Imm O-A and the Non-Imm O, renewal can be accomplished from within Thailand. Of course, the renewal documentation has to be submitted to the Immigration Bureau, 507 Soi Suan Phlu, Sathon Tai road, Bangkok, 10120, if you live in Bangkok. If you live outside Bangkok, you must submit your application for re-

newal to one of the regional immigration offices. You must submit your application before the expiration of your existing visa.

To renew, you'll have to submit the application form, TM.7, and a 4cm x 6cm photo, taken within the last six months. You'll also have to give them your passport and a complete photocopy of it on which you've signed all the pages. There is a fee of 1,900 baht.

In addition to the above, to renew the Non-Imm O-A or Non-Imm O you'll have to update the information about your financial resources. Regardless of whether your original application was via a Non-Imm O-A or Non-Imm O, if you submit the bank information, it must be on a bank or banks in Thailand. As with your original application, there must be a letter from the bank certifying the veracity of the passbook and the deposits must have been in the account for three months or more.

Again, similar to your original application, the alternative of pension or monthly income or a combination of bank account plus monthly income exists. Regardless of the place your original application was lodged, however, the letter certifying the pension or monthly income must be from your embassy in Thailand.

Here's a piece of good news. You'll recall that after you converted from a tourist visa to a Non-Imm O you had to do a separate filing to extend the Non-Imm O from 90 days to a year for purposes of retirement. If you renew your Non-Imm O for retirement purposes it will automatically be for a year. So you won't need to do the additional filing to extend this as you did the first time.

Many people want to have a job in retirement. If you plan to work for an employer in Thailand, the Non-Imm O-A and Non-Imm O are not for you, because you cannot

obtain a work permit on these visas.

There is considerable discussion of bringing household goods to Thailand duty free under retirement visas. You cannot do this, however, with the Non-Imm O-A and Non-Imm O as you might be able to under another status such as that of a work or residence permit.

Don't forget that even though your retirement visa is for one year you have the obligation to submit Immigration Form TM.47, giving your address and other information to the immigration authorities every 90 days. ■

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