

Brief on Bangkok Economic Wing:

The Economic Wing's scope of work may be categorized mainly as economic, trade, protocol and routine nature.

A. **Economic:** UNESCAP is the main focus of activities of Economic Wing. UNESCAP is the regional organ of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region located in Bangkok. It provides assistance to the member countries to find out solutions to their current and emerging economic and social problems and acts as a forum for deliberations on matters of common concern. The Economic Wing represents Bangladesh at the ACPR (Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives) meetings which meet every month to advise and exchange views with the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP on the Commission's work. The Economic Wing provides secretarial services to the Bangladesh delegation attending UNESCAP Annual Commission Session held in every year in Bangkok or in other places as agreed by the member countries. The Economic Counsellor in Bangkok is the Alternate Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UNESCAP.

B. **Trade:** The Economic Wing in Bangkok is engaged in facilitating and promoting bilateral trade and investment relations with Thailand. It arranges participation of the Embassy in the local fairs and exhibits Bangladeshi products/items for promotion of exports to Thailand. It assists prospective buyers of Bangladeshi goods in Thailand with information and other needed support. The Economic Wing also liaises with different Chambers of Commerce of Thailand to promote trade and investment between Bangladesh and Thailand.

Functions of Economic Wing:

- Economic and operational matters pertaining to UNESCAP.
- Represent Bangladesh to different meetings of UNESCAP
- Ensure the participation of officials from Bangladesh to the training programmes sponsored by UNESCAP and its regional institutions and project(s).
- Assist and provide secretarial services to the Bangladesh delegation during the UNESCAP Annual Commission Session.
- Promote and strengthen bi-lateral cooperation with Thailand in the areas of economic, trade, commerce, tourism, infrastructure development, civil aviation and in areas of common interests.
- Follow-up the different economic and trade related agreements/technical cooperation agreements already signed with Thailand for achieving more benefit from them.
- Promote trade and investment relations with Thailand and technology transfer.
- Keeps contact with the BIMSTEC Secretariat
- f. Regularly sends information on rice production, exports and price trends in Thailand to the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management in Bangladesh. It also circulates the international tender notices floated by the Food Directorate for import of rice and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation for lubricants from Thailand.

Relevant Information:

The Government of Bangladesh has adopted “Look East” Policy for strengthening and widening Bangladesh’s relations with the countries of South-East Asia. Thailand as a leading country of the Asian and Pacific region has been playing a vital and constructive role in the work of extending co -operations and sharing experiences for economic and social development of the countries of this region. Bangladesh has signed the Joint Commission Agreement with Thailand, the BIMS-TEC and the ACD (Asian Cooperation Dialogue) are the main basis of economic cooperation between the two countries. Under the umbrella of Joint Cooperation Agreement and BIMS-TEC, the two countries are giving priorities to expanding relations in the areas of economic, trade, commerce, tourism, infrastructure development, energy and power etc. In view of these, the importance of the Economic Wing in Bangkok is easily realizable.