



ROYAL THAI CONSULATE-GENERAL  
KENNEDYALLEE 109,  
60596 FRANKFURT am MAIN

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Alleged treatment of monkeys in Thailand's coconut industry**

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The Royal Thai Consulate-General, Frankfurt am Main, wishes to provide preliminary clarifications on the allegation regarding the treatment of monkeys in Thailand's coconut industry as follows;

1. The matter has been seriously taken by the Thai authorities. On 8 July 2020, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce chaired a meeting with relevant stakeholders which, in the consultation, the Thai Food Processors' Association (TFPA), in particular Thai Agri Food Public Company Limited and Theppadungporn Coconut Co., Ltd. (producers of "Aroy-D" and "Chaokoh" brands of coconut milk respectively) confirmed that monkeys are **NOT** used in the harvesting coconuts which are processed into their coconut milk production.

2. These firms stated that they have entered into MOUs with major Western retailers/importers and with their suppliers to ensure that there is no usage of monkeys in the supply chain and to put in place and auditing process, including random inspection.

3. Nevertheless, to enhance consumer confidence, the TFPA will work with its members to implement a more stringent traceability system (with trace code on packaging) to guarantee no mistreatment of animals in the food production process.

4. Coconut milk is an integral part of Thai cuisine, thereby coconut farming in Thailand has been constantly adjusted and improved harvesting techniques and equipment in an efficient and sustainable manner. The harvesting method in Thai coconut industry is as shown on the video clips <https://youtu.be/fZInCTVYESE> and <https://youtu.be/y8pfMn9ci4c>.

5. Thailand is utterly given importance and concerns on Wildlife conservation and animal welfare. The Royal Thai Government, NGOs and private individuals have worked closely to strengthen animal welfare by raising public awareness and enacting relevant legislations. These include the **Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562 (2019)**, the **Cruelty Prevention and Welfare of Animal Act B.E. 2557 (2014)**, both of which stipulate clear punishments against offenders, as well as under the **Criminal Code (Section 381 and 382)** which also set responsibilities and punishments against and act of animal maltreatment.

6. The use of monkeys should also be understood in the local Thai cultural context. In many parts of southern Thailand, some farmers still pursue traditional way of life in training monkeys, most of which as part of their families member, to pick coconuts for their own livelihood, similar to other parts of the world where dogs and falcons are trained to assist in hunting or sport. And likewise, while the practice of retaining animals for traditional use do exist in Thailand, they are **UNCONNECTED** with the modern efficient industrial manufacturing process. Acts of cruelty towards animals are individual acts, and violate the relevant legislation described above.

As one of the world's leading suppliers of high quality coconut products, Thailand is committed to create an accountable businesses supply chain as well as to further enhance social responsibility towards trade partners and end consumers. As a member of International Community, Thailand is also committed to promote animal protection, welfare and rights and expects all parties to work together in the spirit of constructiveness and transparency.

Royal Thai Consulate-General,  
Frankfurt am Main  
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