

**Article:** Should Thai Government Allow Legalized Football Betting?

**Author:** Siritipa Suwanpol

The purpose of this research paper is to elaborate and provide deeply cost and benefit of legalized gambling especially on football industry. Moreover, this paper also illustrates the role of government in the gambling problems by giving examples of other countries that betting has been legalized such as United Kingdom, Laos, and Australia.

The author used both primary and secondary data. For the primary data, as author mentioned about the limitation of secondary data about gambling in Thailand, author decided to interview a local bookmaker around Bang-sue area to get more information about the system and structure of football betting in Thailand. For the secondary data, author gathered the data about the size and cash flow in football betting industry in Thailand between 2002 and 2014. Moreover, the author also gathered the data from other countries, United Kingdom, Australia, and Laos, for giving examples of benefit of legalized gambling and how their government take the role in gambling industry.

As a result of interviews, supply chain of Thai football gambling has 4 main characters which are the head owner who need at least 500 million Bath for starting the gambling business, local leaders, local bookmakers, and players. The money circulation in 2002 is around 10,050 million Baht and in 2014 is around 43,520 Baht which the industry grew 333 percent between 2002 and 2014. Moreover, the number of tables and young kid players percentage also increased along the period of time. From the money circulation, Thai government lost the money that they can get from corporate income tax and personal income tax around 11,375 million Baht per year in 2014 and tend to be increase further. Comparing with the countries that gambling is legalized like United Kingdom, Australia, and Laos, both can generate more revenue and benefits from the gambling industry. However, they have some problems about too much gambling which their government have taken an action by impose the law to control their people in different ways.

In conclusion, from the research, Thai government cannot collect tax from the gambling industry and lost money around 10,000 million Bath per year. Moreover, Thai government lost at least 30,000 Baht per year with the inefficient control. Therefore, as government can generate more revenue from Gambling industry, Thai government should legalize it and impose the regulation that helps to control players and minimize the social cost from gambling problems.