Train Services between Thailand and Neighboring Countries: Thailand’s Perspective

By State Railway of Thailand
Geographically, it allows Thailand to enable rail connection with 4 neighboring countries:

<table>
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<th>Country</th>
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<td>Thailand – Myanmar</td>
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Thailand – Malaysia: Active Service

Status

• 2 connection points
• Provide both freight and passenger train services
• Padang Besar is being used as an international station
• Host a Joint Conference every two years
  (State Railway of Thailand – Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad)
Passenger Service

**Overnight Train:**
2 trains/day
BKK-PB & PB-BKK
(Sleeping Coach)

**Shuttle Train:**
4 trains/day
HY-PB & PB-HY
(Sitting Coach)
Freight Service

**Landbridge Train:**
Long Distance (2-3 trains/week)
Short Distance (1 train/day)
Joint Traffic Agreement

Agreement between the Governments of Thailand and the Federation of Malaya for Joint Traffic Working over the Malayan Railway and the State Railway of Thailand

(signed in 1954)
Recently

- The electrified double tracking project in Malaysia completed in November 2014.
- Malaysia increased passenger trains and planned to uplift the service by running a train with 30–45 wagons per trip.
- Thailand would consider improving its existing infrastructure to accommodate more trains in the future.
- Both sides set up a joint working group to discuss on marketing and operation for passenger services to promote seamless cross border travelling by train.
Thailand - Lao PDR: New Market

Services
✓ Passenger (available)
✓ Freight (coming soon)

Status
• Connected in 2008.
• Provide only passenger train services
• Thailand operates with its own rolling stock and personnel.
• Nongkhai and Thanaleng are being used as a border station
Passenger Service

Shuttle Train:
4 trains / day
NK-TNL & TNL-NK
(Sitting Coach)
Future Freight Service

Freight Service between Laem Chabang Port to Container Yard at Thanaleng
Joint Traffic Agreement

The Agreement on Joint Traffic Working Over Railway Between
The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand And
The Government of Lao People’s Democratic Republic

(signed in 2008)
Challenges

Recently
• CY Thanaleng in Lao PDR was completed and ready for operation.
• Both sides set up a working group for planning and working on freight cross border transport.
• The working group has met and discussed several times.
• They expect to launch the new service in 2018.
Revival of Railway Connectivity between Thailand - Cambodia

Source: Peter William-Hunt
Thailand - Cambodia

The Railway Friendship Bridge between Thailand and Cambodia

<<Bangkok

Thai Halt (km 260+210) (Temporary)

Ban Dong Ngu Border Station (Tentative)
Passenger & Freight Operation
Immigration / Customs
Quarantine Office

Steung Bort International Station
Passenger & Freight Operation
Immigration / Customs
Quarantine Office
CY

Klong Luk

Poipet Station (Temporary)

Passenger & Freight Operation

Sisophon>>
Thailand - Cambodia: Re-connection

Services
- Passenger (not available)
- Freight (not available)

Status
- The rehabilitation project (Thai Side) linking with Cambodia was completed in February 2016.
- The rehabilitation project (Cambodia side) linking with Thailand is being constructed.
- It is expected to link two countries within 2018.
The Railway Friendship Bridge between Thailand and Cambodia
The Renovated Set of Diesel Multiple Unit
Future Passenger Service on Thai Side

Temporary Border Station at Thai Halt (km 260+210)
Future Passenger and Freight Service on Thai Side

Tentative Border Station at Ban Dong Ngu
Joint Traffic Agreement

The Agreement on Joint Traffic Working Over Railway Between The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand And The Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia

(ongoing and expected to be signed in 2018)
Thailand – Cambodia: Re-connection

Challenges

Recently

• Thailand and Cambodia are in the process of joint drafting the agreement on cross-border railway operation.
• It is expected that the rail link would have accommodated both passenger and freight services.
Thailand – Myanmar: New Connection

Study

- Passenger (not available)
- Freight (not available)

Status

- Two alternative routes to link Thailand and Myanmar
- Two countries agreed to develop the Ban Kao (Kanchanaburi) – Ban Phu Nam Ron – Dawei section.
- The FS was completed in 2015.
- The total cost is about USD 4,774 million.
Summary

- To develop better services with Malaysia and Lao PDR, Thailand works closely with them to develop and to promote international rail transport. If the joint cooperation plan succeeds, it will help boost number of passengers and volume of cargo.
- As for linkage with Cambodia, the cross border agreement is the upcoming milestone which both sides have to speed up on conclusion the agreement. The sooner the agreement is signed, the faster we can start working on the marketing and operation plan.
- As for Myanmar, it seems to be a long way to go but we will try our best to make it happen.
A first step for railway interoperability in ASEAN

Bilateral Joint Traffic Agreements based on Common Ground

1. Thailand - Malaysia
2. Thailand - Lao PDR
3. Thailand - Cambodia
THANK YOU