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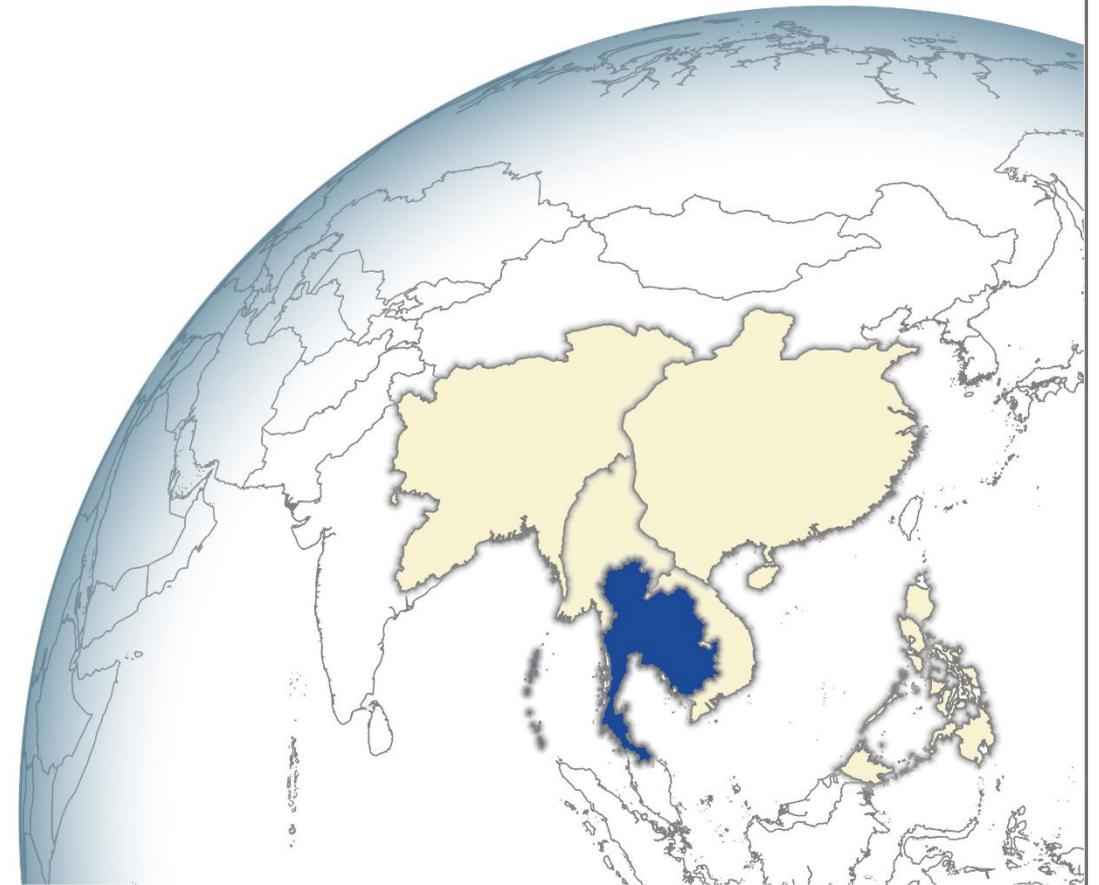


US ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND G2  
Operational Environment Integration Division

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# KHORATHIDIN

## DATE INDO-PACIFIC





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## INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Khorathidin is a Southeast Asian nation nestled on the Mainland Peninsula between Sungzon and Bagansait. Its capital is the port city of Bangkok. The official demonym for citizens is Khorathidini, or Khor, but most citizens identify with one of the many ethnicities of this diverse and densely populated nation.



Figure 1. Flag of The Kingdom of Khorathidin



Map 1. Political boundaries.

# POLITICS

## Political Overview

Khorathidin is a nation that has been beset by political turmoil over the last 6 decades. The political trend has been toward increased democratization, however, there have been multiple occasions where the military has deposed the civilian-led government and taken steps to inhibit further democratization. The last coup occurred in 2014, but elections quickly followed, and the country is once again civilian-led and progressing toward further democratization.

Khorathidin encompasses the ancient Kingdom of Siam the regions historically belonging to the Khmer and Lao peoples. The historic name for Khorathidin is Siam, but the ethnonym for the predominant people is Khor-Khor, or more simply, Khor. The other two large peoples are Khmer (sometimes spelled *Khymer*) and Lao, or Laotian. Khorathidin is the only southeast Asian nation to never be colonized by the West. France colonized the historic regions of the Laotian and Khmer in the 1600s. The French departed in the 1960s during the neighboring Sungzon conflict when fighting spilled into the Laotian and Khmer region. The aftermath left the nation in turmoil. The Khmer and Laotian regions sought the protective governance of Khorathidin and Khorathidin annexed those regions through a referendum in 1970. The effects of this post-colonial aftermath and the neighboring Sungzon conflict remain in the ethnic Laotian and Khmer regions in the form of a depressed economy and localized corruption.

The biggest challenge for the Khorathidini government is to advance democratization in such a way as to not risk another military upheaval yet make enough progress to appease pro-democratic movements. Khorathidin is

Khorathidin Provinces

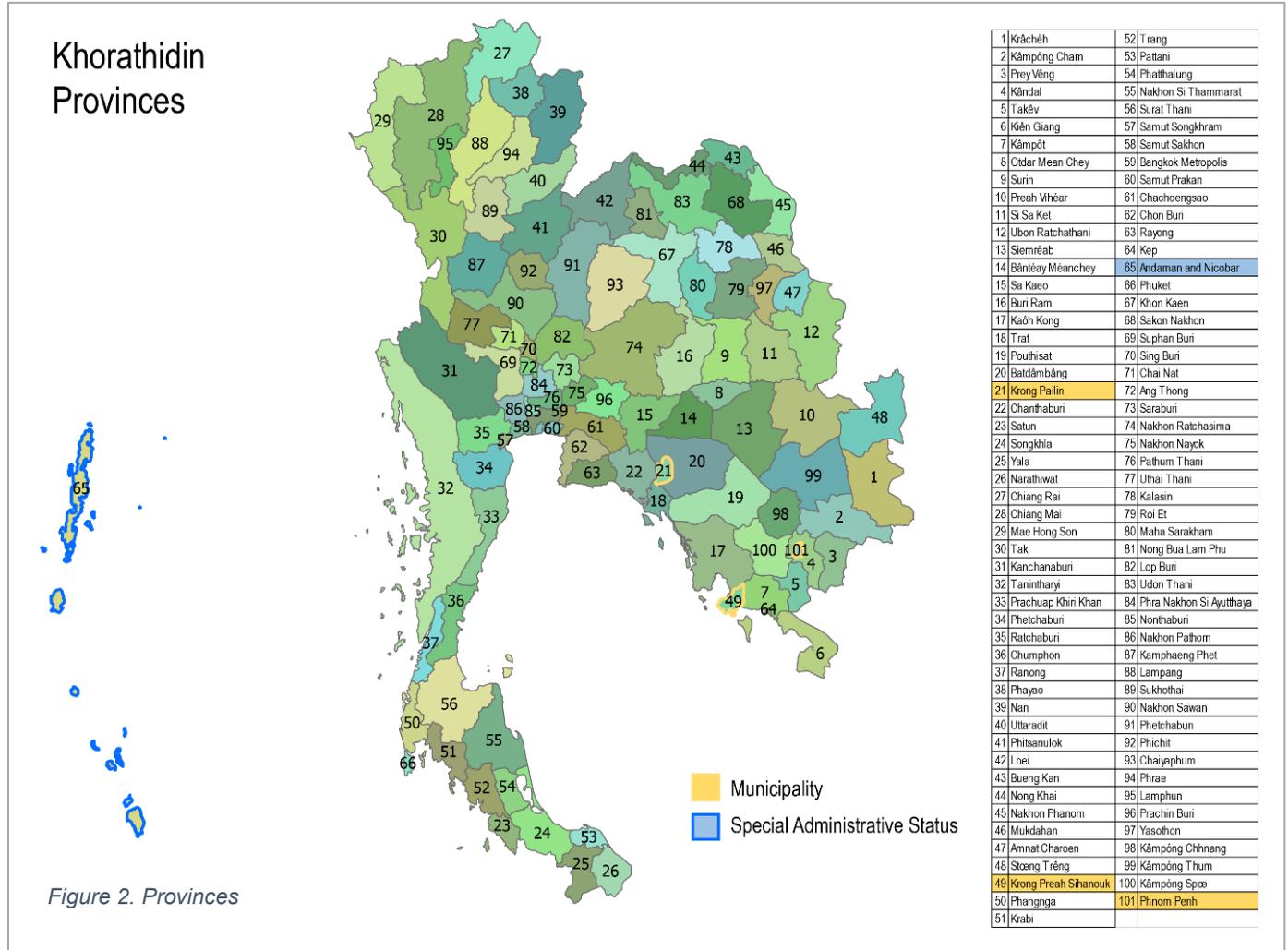


Figure 2. Provinces

dependent upon its military to deter regional aggression. But the military also poses one of the biggest threats to continued democratic reform.

The Khorathidini government views Bagansait's military-led government as a serious challenge to Khorathidin's sovereignty, both directly as a military threat



and as an influence on insurgent movements within Khorathidin. Khorathidin looks to the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the European Union for political, economic, and military support. Bagansait's growing partnership with Olvana has significantly impacts Khorathidin's regional outlook.

### Political History

Khorathidin has existed for most of its one-thousand-year history as a feudal monarchy. Over the last sixty years the Khorathidin military and civilian-held democracy have exchanged power in a series of soft coups that have impeded efforts at expanding democratic reforms. Currently Khorathidin is under civilian control.

### Government Overview

Khorathidin is a constitutional monarchy. Its government is democratically elected and civilian-led through a parliamentary system. It operates under a constitution framework, though its current constitution was dismissed in the 2014 coup d'état. The military and civilians have exchanged leadership twenty times in modern history.

### Branches of Government

There are three branches of government in Khorathidin: legislative, executive, and judicial. The prime minister of Khorathidin serves as the head of government, while the head of state is the king of Khorathidin. The king serves as the diplomatic face of the country and the symbolic leader of the Khor peoples and traditions. The hereditary monarchy culturally connects modern-day Khorathidin with the Siam kingdoms of old.

**Legislative Authority.** The Legislature, known as the *GP* (Congress), is composed of two chambers: lower and upper. The lower house consists of 300 members elected by party leadership through internal elections, and the upper House consists of 100 members, each representing one province, for six-year terms. Senate members have advisor and appointment responsibilities, but little legislative authority. Senate members are non-partisan and cannot serve as House members.

### Executive Authority

**Prime Minister.** The prime minister serves as head of government and is elected by both houses of Congress (the Ratehsepah). Congress may also hold votes of no-confidence and recall the prime minister. The prime minister acts as the head of the cabinet. The prime minister has several deputies and a chief of staff, who assists in daily oversight of the various ministries.

**Cabinet.** The Khor cabinet is a council of secretaries of state, each with responsibility for executing policy over their respective departments. Secretaries are nominated by the prime minister and appointed by the king.

### Upper House (Senate) Non-partisan

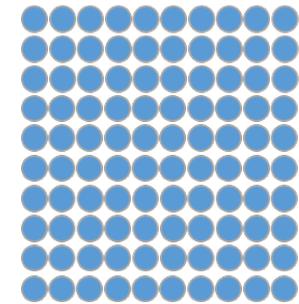
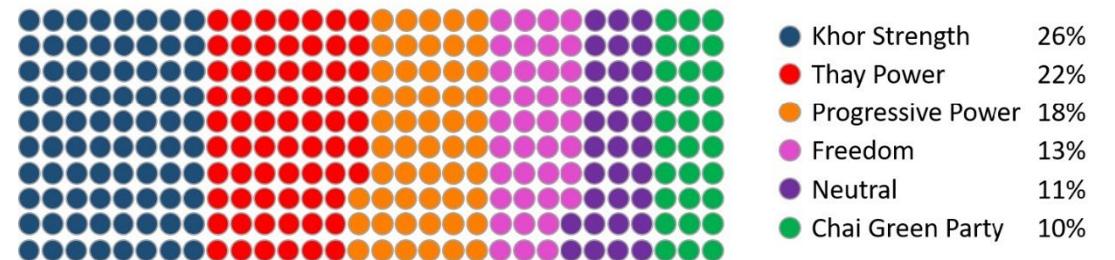


Figure 3. Khorathidin Upper and Lower Houses

### Lower House Party Representation Percentage





**Judicial Authority.** The national court system of Khorathidin is divided into four authorities: National Courts, Administrative, Military, and Government (constitution).

**The National Court System** is the predominant judicial mechanism and handles criminal and civil cases between citizens. There are three levels: local, appeals, and the Supreme Court of Khorathidin.

**Administrative Courts** are the mechanism for matters between civilians and organs of government. There is a criminal and civil component to this level. Like National courts, there is a Court of Local Jurisdiction and a Court of Appeals.

**Martial Courts** handle military matters.

**Government Court** is a unique court system designed during a coup to settle all constitutional matters for Khorathidin. It sits in direct conflict with the Khorathidin congress and is a source of criticism from international human rights commissions.

### Legal System

The legal system of Khorathidin is a blend of ancient Khor customs and western law. The government uses either to suit its needs and is often criticized for using inconsistent benchmarks for further rulings.

### Governance Issues

#### Legitimacy

Though the rule of Khorathidin has exchanged between military and civilian-led governments nearly twenty times over the last ninety years, the consistency of the national Khor identity, the relatively peaceful and willing handover of power from military to civilians, and the monarchy itself have provided relatively stable legitimacy.

Citizens protest in large groups, most recently during the last coup. However, the government clamps down using riot police and rapid lawmaking procedures

to criminalize these events. The occasional rise in authoritarian regimes gives way to new rounds of demands from various factions to force politicians to resign.

### Effectiveness

#### Elections

Voting in Khorathidin is compulsory for all citizens 18 years or older of sound mind and not incarcerated. Elections are run by a commission who is unelected themselves. This commission effectively controls outcomes of elections with decisions on qualifications and annulments.

Khorathidin uses elections to select parts of the government including the House of Representatives of Khorathidin (which combines with the appointed Senate of Khorathidin to create the National Assembly of Khorathidin), local administrations, governors, and national referendums. For all local governments the electoral term is four years. If a councilor position becomes vacant, a by-election is held in the corresponding constituency. If a mayoral position becomes vacant, a new election for a four-year term is held. Khorathidin has had 28 general elections since 1933; the last election was in 2019. Voting in elections in Khorathidin is compulsory and regulated by the Election Commission of Khorathidin. Elections are held under universal suffrage in accordance with the 2007 constitution; however, certain restrictions apply. The potential voter:

1. must be a national of Khorathidin, either by birth or legal citizenship,
2. must be over 18 years of age,
3. must be register for at least 90 days prior to the election, and
4. must not be a member of the clergy, convicted of a felony, or of unsound mind.

### Rule of Law

**Police.** The Royal Khor Constabulary, also known as the Police Force, is the long-standing law enforcement agency of Khorathidin. The Force grew as an extension of the military from the 1800s, which served as the law enforcement



authority. The Force is the only echelon of law enforcement and is akin to a domestic military. Because it must serve all domestic security interests, the Force is large and includes dedicated, specialized divisions:

1. Border Control and Tariff Enforcement
2. Counter-Narcotics
3. Special Investigations (Domestic Intelligence)
4. Provincial and Local Operations
5. Capital Police Force
6. Tourism
7. Royal Guard

While the Police Force is a branch of the Khorathidin army, it often struggles for power with military elites who wish to exert control over internal security.

**Prison System.** Prisons are run nationally by the Department of Justice. Recidivism is low compared to prison systems globally at 17% (compared to 67% in the U.S.). Prisons are not well-funded but are well managed. Prisoners are allowed to purchase additional rations and receive rations and money from family. Local wardens manage prisoners' accounts. This leads to corruption within the prisons systems. However, Khorathidin is embracing digital technology which should remove the opportunity for local corruption. Khorathidin's prisons have:

- the lowest recidivism rate in the world (17%),
- the highest female inmate population percentage in the world (15%),
- more than half of all inmates incarcerated for drug and narcotics offences (58%)

### Corruption

Much corruption in Khorathidin stems from the political instability between the frequent coups and subsequent civilian-led governments. Businesses use bribes to smooth unpredictable political circumstances, and politicians rely on those bribes as a constant.

Bribes are often used to shut out competition, cover-up malfeasance, and hide illicit activities. Though Khorathidin has many mechanisms in place to fight corruption, it is ranked among the worst by several anti-corruption watchdog agencies.

### Human Rights and Freedoms

**Not Free.** Several human rights watchdog organizations rank Khorathidin among the least free countries in the world along various indices, such as political freedom, civil liberty, and internet freedom. Internet freedom evaluates the ability for citizens to access information outside of government control.

The government, though technically democratic, is authoritarian. The king has declared several national emergencies over recent years as a premise to expand control.

### Provision of Services

The provision of utilities is handled locally through private-public partnerships administered by the government. These partnerships are in effect state-owned companies. The latest constitution of Khorathidin specifically tasks the government to integrate and improve the provision of services to its citizens across all regions and agencies.

Utility services in metropolitan areas are robust, while service in rural areas is shoddy, except where government offices are located.

Khorathidin provides universal healthcare to all citizens. The network of public hospitals and services is overseen by the Ministry of Public Health. Private hospitals supplement the services. Rural healthcare clinics are in under-served communities. Healthcare costs are rising, and service rationing has been an issue over recent years. Healthcare in metropolitan areas is adequate and in rural areas is poor.

## Centers of Political Power

### State Institutional Authority

There are 100 states and municipal zones at the first administrative level in Khorathidin. Each has its own senator in the Khor Congress. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands that frame the Andaman Sea to the west coast of Khorathidin are internationally contested but administered by the coastal province of Tanintharyi. The Royal Khorathidin Navy patrols the archipelago. The southernmost island is a protected wildlife zone with isolated aboriginal humans. The remaining islands Khorathidin is evaluating for naval military projection.

### Ethnic Lao and Khmer Regions

Khorathidin maintains overall federal level control of all provinces within the historically Laotian and Khmer regions. Through 1984 legislation called the *Klab Baan* (homecoming) Measure, Khorathidin assumed control of Lao and Khmer lands, giving them representation in the *Ratehsepah* while leaving provincial control of these lands to those ethnicities. The legislation satisfied those who wished for a unified, Theravada Buddhist nation while appeasing those who did not wish complete integration of ethnic Lao and ethnic Khmer minorities into Khor society. As a result, those regions are not as well integrated with the federal government and have not kept pace with the economic growth of the western provinces.

### Military

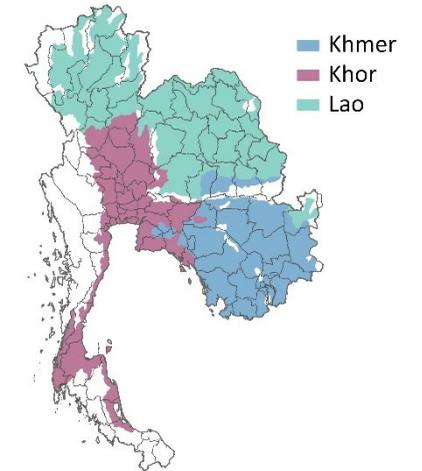
The Khorathidin Military has served as a deputized police force since the last military coup. The ruling junta at the time granted the military broad civil policing responsibilities and authorities to quash civil unrest and dissent. The military often are in a power struggle with local police, except around tourist areas where proper decorum is expected. Since the coup and subsequent military crackdowns on dissent, the military earned a reputation of being corrupt, with senior officers using purchasing powers to enrich themselves. The civilian led government sought to undermine the military's political power by removing leaders associated with anti-democratic sentiment.

## Religious

There is no significant religious political power within Khorathidin.

### Informal Authority

Khor culture is the most predominant and influential culture besides Theravada Buddhism. It shares much in common with the Khmer and Lao cultures, the next two largest ethnic groups, so the differences between those three main ethnicities may seem subtle to outsiders. While Khor ethnicity represents over 70% of the population, there are fifty recognized ethnic groups, to include peoples of Sungzon, Olvana, Bamar (Bagansait), Karen, and visiting workers. Those groups are not oppressed and the government of Khorathidin actively guards against oppression of minority groups. In ethnic Laotian and Khmer-dominated provinces, those minority populations hold traditional positions of power at all levels.



Map 2. The three largest individual ethnicities in Khorathidin.

Once influential in family decisions, elders in Khor society no longer hold the sway over their communities they once did. Respect for elders in general is still important. The Khor family unit is based on an extended nuclear family construct, which is still prevalent in the hill tribes of the northeast and Karen tribes along the western coast. As the metropolitan areas grow, traditional nuclear families are declining. Khorathidin is a patriarchal society.

## Politics and Political Parties

### Domestic Issues

**Constitutional Stability.** The only constant is change. With each subsequent exchange between civilian-led democracy and military-installed authoritarianism comes a new constitution. Recent protests and political campaigns are based on



stabilizing the transition of power and creating a more reliable economic environment. Until that stability is reached, expect civil demonstrations and increasing calls for reform to be the predominant political issue within Khorathidin.

### Official Political Parties

There are roughly sixty officially registered political parties in Khorathidin, and a dozen different, ever-changing coalitions. Some parties are dissolved involuntarily from time-to-time, and others are absorbed in realignments. The seven most represented political parties in Khorathidin are:

Table 1. Official political parties

<i>Khor Strength Party</i>	Right wing populist. Largest political party. Aligned with military. Prime Minister is a member.
<i>Thay Power Party</i>	Populist neo-liberal. Second largest party. History of corruption and has gone through several iterations.
<i>Progressive Power Party</i>	Social democrats. Very recently founded as a foil to military dominance. Currently third largest party in Khorathidin.
<i>Freedom Party</i>	Classic liberals/conservatives. Pro-Royal and free market.
<i>Neutral Party</i>	Populist conservatives. Gained power through alliance and coalitions. Favors status quo.
<i>The Left Party</i>	Progressivism. Platform of military reduction and social welfare programs.
<i>Chai Green Party</i>	Democratic alliance, with a platform of environmentalism.

### International Relationships

#### Geopolitical/International Political Strategy

Khorathidin seeks a place among the world’s powers economically and politically, participating in global forums and trade negotiations to expand its

influence in Asia and the world. A founding member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Khorathidin has courted Olvana as a regional partner in security and trade. The move toward Olvana has left some prominent members of the Khorathidin government worried that relations with the United States will sour.

Over the last twenty years, Khorathidin has sided with the West in matters of global significance, including human rights, anticommunism, and anti-terror. The increase in reliance upon Olvana has placed Khorathidin in a compromising position with U.S. diplomats making appeals to Khorathidin to cut ties with the Asian powerhouse lest they lose out on deals with the U.S.

#### Relationship with Major World Powers

**United States. Good** (Declining). With each subsequent return to junta rule, Khorathidin leadership seeks to strengthen ties with Olvana while trying to maintain good relations with the United States. Iterative civilian Khorathidin governments seek to reverse these junta policies in favor of alignment with the U.S. and western nations. The relationship is complicated however, and while Khorathidin is currently moving toward more democratic practices (i.e., growing its political relationship with the U.S.), it is also courting infrastructure deals with Olvana that would commit the nations to long-term cooperation in economic and security developments. The United States collaborates with Khorathidin and other Lower Mekong countries to strengthen transboundary economic connections and address other emerging challenges. The U.S. supports Khorathidin’s leadership in the Southeast Asian region through the Lower Mekong-U.S. Partnership (MUSP) as a development partner. **Relationship Focal points: Political, Economic, and Military**

**Donovia. Fair.** Khorathidin has had cordial diplomatic relations with Donovia, but has also had a history of confrontational politics considering Khorathidin’s cooperation in the Global War on Terror with the U.S. The junta recently considered the renewing of extradition treaties with Donovia, which it had dissolved in the 1930s. Donovia has recently pledged to raise import quotas on



agriculture and food products from Khorathidin in the hopes it can alleviate its own internal food production woes and to entice Khorathidin to buy more weapons from Donovia. Khorathidin remains a popular tourist destination for Donovians. **Relationship Focal points: Economic, and Military**

#### Olvana

**Fair** (Improving). Khorathidin has a centuries-old relationship with Olvana, and many Khor hill tribes descend from mixed-Olvanan ancestry. Under the military-led government, Khorathidin is pursuing long-term agreements with Olvana that would encourage Olvanan investment in Khorathidini infrastructure and government technology. Bi-lateral trade was once non-existent in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century but has increased between the two nations over the last twenty years. Olvanan depletion of its own natural resources drove them to look to Khorathidin to supply them with rubber and bamboo. Olvana is the largest net importer of goods into Khorathidin, mainly in technology and machinery. **Relationship Focal points: Political, Economic, Infrastructure**

#### European Union

**Good**. Khorathidin maintains friendly relations with all European nations as part of its effort to be seen as a safe and friendly destination for tourism and business. Khorathidin curates an image of itself as a power broker in global trade and politics and as a speaker for ASEAN politics globally. Some of Khorathidin's oldest diplomatic missions are in European nations. **Relationship Focal points: Political, Economic**

#### Relationship to Other Countries in the Region

##### Bagansait

**Poor**. Khorathidin has tense relations with its western neighbor. Bagansait's own authoritarian state has driven minorities and persecuted peoples across the border into Khorathidin, creating a financial and security issue along their shared border. The two nations often find themselves on opposite sides of alliances. Their mutual interest lies in improving relationships with Olvana, though Khorathidin not as much as Bagansait.

#### Sungzon

**Good**. Sungzon and Khorathidin enjoy open trade and security cooperation. This was not always the case, as the two nations fought for control over what is now western Sungzon in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Himaldesh

**Good**. Himaldesh and Khorathidin have had warm relations since Himaldesh became independent. Their cooperation in ASEAN and several other international partnerships has evolved into a joint leadership of several regional efforts, including humanitarian assistance operations, human rights councils, and economic development fora.

#### Belesia

**Good**. The Malays of Khorathidin are linguistic cousins of Belesians. The two cultures have traded for centuries and maintain good diplomatic ties.

#### Gabal

**Good**. Because of Gabal's size, Gabal benefits from having a large trading partner and defensive partner. Gabal provides occasional basing for Khorathidin Navy vessels and is a popular port. Khorathidin provides some protection to Gabal and can contribute to protecting ASEAN interests in the South China Sea from Gabal ports.

#### North Torbia

**Poor**. Despite periods of amiable cooperation through the 1970s, North Torbia has tested that relationship through aggressive attempts at influencing ASEAN regional power through kidnappings, extortion, and spying through its diplomatic mission in Khorathidin. World pressure upon Khorathidin to cease trade with N Torbia has succeeded, with Khorathidin censuring N. Torbia's diplomatic mission in Bangkok.

#### South Torbia

**Good**. South Torbia and Khorathidin cooperate economically and militarily to ensure freedom of movement in the South China Sea. The two have traded for centuries and in modern times have cooperated politically. Khorathidin is a large



consumer of S. Torbian pop culture, with many overlapping fan networks in social media.

### Regional Issues

**Sovereignty.** The largest threat to Khorathidin sovereignty is the influence of Olvanan investments and espionage. The more Olvana invests in Khorathidin, especially on debt notes, the more Khorathidin is bound to Olvanan soft takeover of policy and security. Reliance on Olvanan security technology places Khorathidin at risk for information exploitation.

**Domestic Sovereignty.** The frequent coup d'états and rewriting of the constitution erodes the public's faith in its institutions. To maintain control of the security narrative, Khorathidin authorities increasingly monitor communications and pressure private firms to police their employees' speech online. This will further erode the stability of the ruling junta and make additional revolutions more likely.

**Territorial/Interdependence Sovereignty.** Khorathidin has two minor disputes on a segment of its border with Sungzon, and one with Bagansait. The government considers neither a national security threat.

Khorathidin's military cooperates with regional partners to provide rapid response to crisis and joint operations in defense of the region against a fictional foe.

The islands that frame the western portion of the Andaman Sea – the Andaman Islands and Nicobar – are contended with Bagansait and Himaldesh who also claim the archipelago. Though the islands do not have direct representation in Khor Congress, the Royal Khor Navy has a strong presence on the island. Their value is not in natural resources, but in their strategic location on the edge of the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal as a gateway for transit for economic and military transit.

**International Sovereignty.** Khorathidin has no international sovereignty issues.

### Political Relationships

#### Global Participation

Khorathidin is a “key non-NATO ally” according to the United States and Europe. The European Union considers Khorathidin a most favored nation trade partner in several key export sectors.

#### Regional Participation

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- Asian Development Bank (AsDB)
- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- Mekong River Accord (MRA)
- Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), a partnership between several Mekong–region countries (Olvana, Khorathidin, and Sungzon) to coordinate infrastructure development.

#### Military Relationships

Khorathidin participates in joint exercises with its neighbors, especially Olvana, Sungzon, Himaldesh, and South Torbia. It also participates in exercises with the United States and occasionally Donovan.

- Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)

#### Economic Relationships (See *also* ECONOMICS Variable)

Khorathidin has entered several long-term, economic cooperation agreements with Olvana for the development of a railway between the two countries. The railway would give Olvana direct access to the Bay of Bengal through Bangkok.

#### Trade Agreements

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)



- G77

#### Other International Organizations

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Interpol
- International Labor Organization (ILO)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Organization of American States (OAS) – *observer status*
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- UN

# MILITARY

## Military Overview

The Royal Khorathidin Military Forces (RKMF) have undergone significant changes in recent years. The government has taken steps to reduce the size of the military while maintaining a force structure that supports the rapid mobilization of the reserve forces. This self-imposed deficit was done to allow for modernization but also to limit the military's ability to grow large enough for a potential coup. The Khorathidin military is currently focused on border security and internal security. The recent coup in Bagansait is of particular concern, and Khorathidin border forces increased their numbers along their shared border with Bagansait. Conscription is still used to fill the military ranks. Serving in the armed forces is considered a national duty and enshrined in the constitution. Despite its reduced size, the Royal Khorathidin Military Forces (RKMF) have increased their participation in military exercises with other democratic nations. This includes U.S. and U.N. exercises, disaster relief, and peacekeeping operations. Khorathidin's armed forces will continue to modernize by focusing on interoperability with western countries while maintaining its internal and border security efforts.

## Military Forces

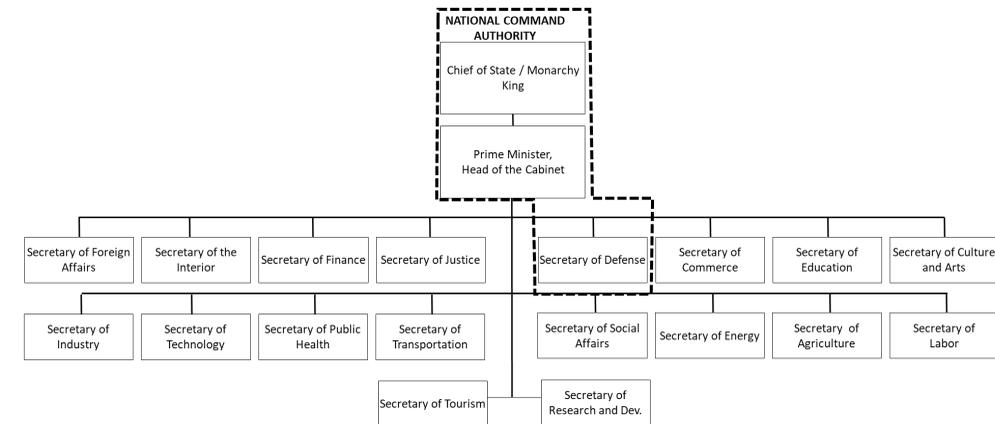
The Royal Khorathidin Military Forces (RKMF) are composed of approximately 360,850 active duty and over 200,000 reserve personnel. This equates to nearly one percent of Khorathidin's population. The Royal Korathidin Army (RKA) makes up most of the forces with 245,000 active-duty personnel. The RKA is organized into four regional armies (Northern, Eastern, Central, and Southern). The Royal Khorathidin Navy (RKN) consists of approximately 71,000 active personnel, (53,000 Navy personnel, 18,000 Marine Infantry). There are three major tactical fleets (the Western Sea Fleet, the Northern Gulf Fleet, and the Southern Gulf Fleet). The Royal Khorathidin Air Force (RKAF) is made up of approximately 44,000 personnel. The air force is organized into four districts aligned with the regional armies (Northern, Eastern, Central, and Southern). The Royal Khorathidin reserve forces are primarily army and are an essential part of

the design of the overall armed forces. In recent years, the military was reduced to cut costs. However, a force structure was designed to be maintained so reserve forces could rapidly mobilize.

## National Command Authority

The Kingdom of Korathidin is a constitutional monarchy where the king serves as the head of state, the Prime Minister serves as the head of the executive level of government, and the Minister of Defense serves as the head of the armed forces. The Chief of State / Monarch is not typically that involved in other areas of the government but does stay actively involved with the administration of the military. This is due to the many coups that have occurred in the past where the monarchy struggled to maintain its traditional role. The Korathidin National Command Authority is comprised of the Head of State / Monarch, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of Defense.

**KHORATHIDIN NATIONAL COMMAND AUTHORITY**



## Strategic Operational Framework

Korathidin exercises command and control of the Armed Forces via the Supreme High Command (SHC). The SHC includes the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and a General Staff (consisting of the Chief of the Armed Forces and his staff) drawn

from all the service components. In peacetime, the MoD and General Staff operate closely, but separately. The MoD assumes the responsibility for policy, acquisitions, and financing of the military. The General Staff promulgates policy and supervises the service components, while its directorates assume

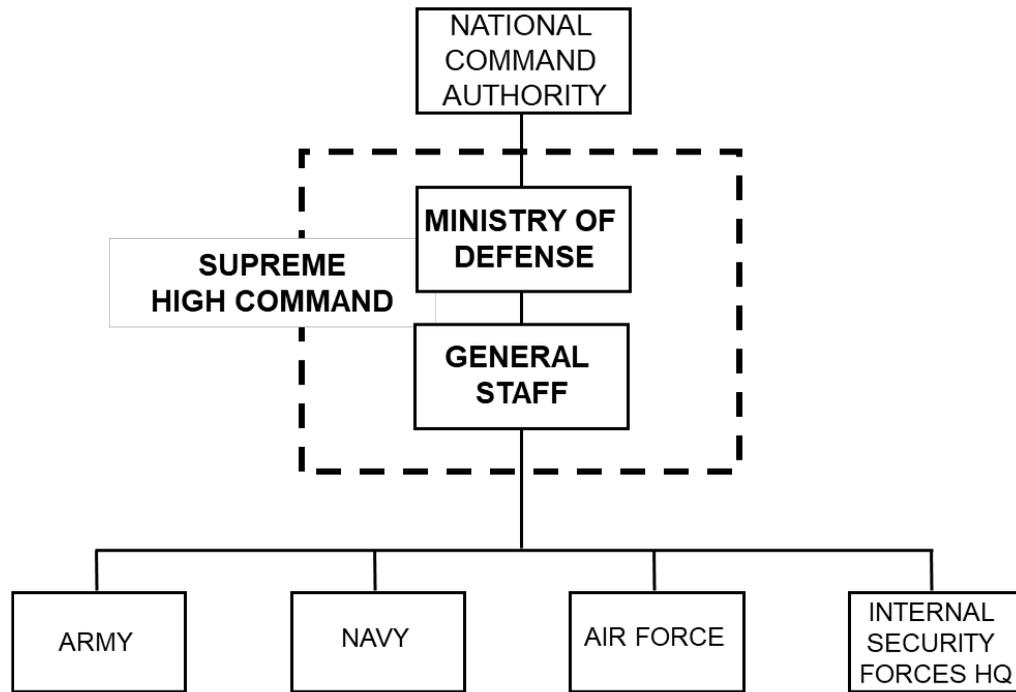


Figure 4. Supreme High Command diagram

responsibility for key aspects of defense planning. In wartime, the MoD and General Staff merge to form the SHC, which functions as a unified headquarters.

### National Strategic Goals

#### National Security Strategy

Khorathidin’s National Security Strategy is designed to provide freedom and safety to every Khorathidin citizen from all threats, international and domestic.

The strategy is grounded in maintaining a sovereign constitutional monarchy, modernizing a balanced military, and increasing trade (but not to the point of dependency). The government has framed this strategy into four areas:

- The constitutional monarchy must remain an essential part of the people and its governing intuitions. The monarchy must remain pure and strong throughout the transitions of government.
- The military must maintain a force structure to rapidly grow when needed. This must be balanced with the cost of modernization.
- Khorathidin must remain an independent state. Its sovereignty must remain intact without dependency on any other nation.
- Khorathidin must strive to achieve sustainable economic growth. Trade relationships with other countries must be in the interest of Khorathidin and economically sound so as not to cause dependency.

### Land Forces/Army Overview

#### Land Forces/Army Size and Structure

The Royal Khorathidin Army (RKA) is currently composed of approximately 245,000 troops. The national army structure is organized into four army regional commands, a medical department, an aviation division, and a special warfare command. The tactical units consist of nine infantry divisions (including 16 tank battalions); one armored division; three cavalry divisions (light armored divisions); a developmental / internal security division; and one special operations command. The Central Army Regional Command (CARC) is headquartered in Bangkok and consists of four infantry divisions; a cavalry division; and various specialty units like a support command, artillery, engineers, and long-range reconnaissance unit. The Eastern Army Regional Command (EARC) is structured similarly but contains only two infantry divisions. The Northern Army Regional Command (NARC) consists of two infantry divisions; a cavalry division; and various specialty units like a support command, artillery, engineers, and long-range reconnaissance unit. The Southern Army Regional Command (SARC) contains two infantry divisions; a cavalry division; and various specialty units like a support command, artillery, engineers, and long-

range reconnaissance unit. Additional information on force structure can be found below for each army area of operations.

**The Central Army Regional Command (CARC) consists of:**

- 4x Infantry Divisions (each with organic Artillery, Signal, Engineer, RISTA, and Support units)
- 1x Cavalry Division (with organic Artillery, Signal, Engineer, RISTA, and Support units)
- 1x Support Command (Transportation, Medical, Logistics, Ordinance, and Signal)
- 1x Internal Security Division (Engineers, Medical, PSYOPS, and UAVs)

**The Eastern Army Regional Command (EARC) consists of:**

- 2x Infantry Divisions (each with organic Artillery, Signal, Engineer, RISTA, and Support units)
- 1x Cavalry Division (with organic Artillery, Signal, Engineer, RISTA, and Support units)
- 1x Support Command (Transportation, Medical, Logistics, Ordinance, and Signal)
- 1x Internal Security Division (Engineers, Medical, PSYOPS, and UAVs)

**The Northern Army Regional Command (NARC) consists of:**

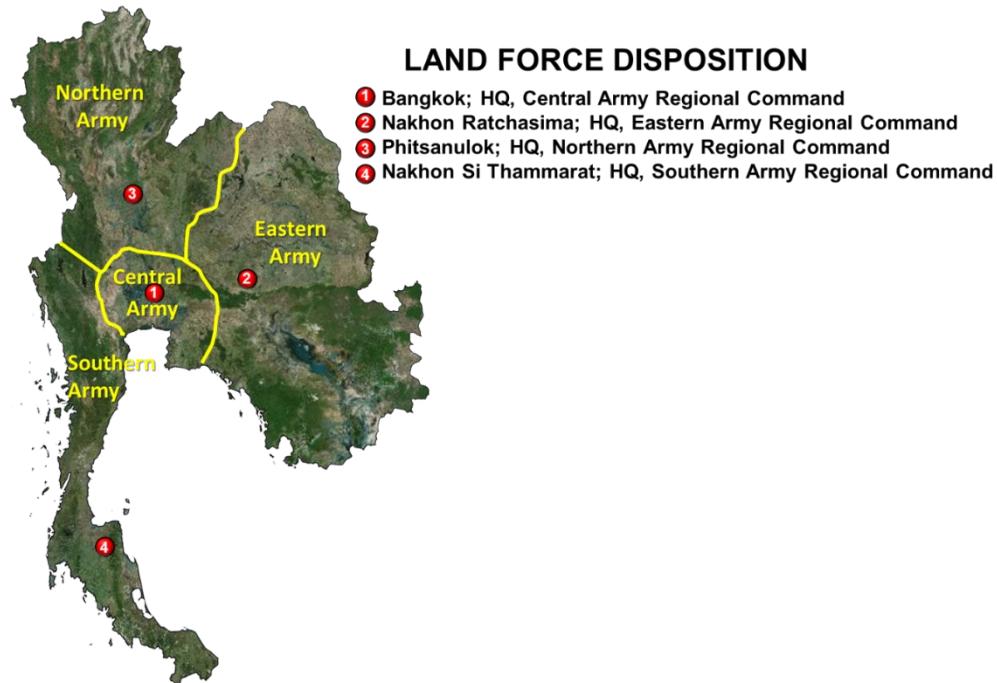
- 2x Infantry Divisions (each with organic Artillery, Signal, Engineer, RISTA, and Support units)
- 1x Cavalry Division (with organic Artillery, Signal, Engineer, RISTA, and Support units)
- 1x Support Command (Transportation, Medical, Logistics, Ordinance, and Signal)
- 1x Internal Security Division (Engineers, Medical, PSYOPS, and UAVs)

**The Southern Army Regional Command (SARC) consists of:**

- 2x Infantry Divisions (each with organic Artillery, Signal, Engineer, RISTA, and Support units)
- 1x Cavalry Division (with organic Artillery, Signal, Engineer, RISTA, and Support units)
- 1x Support Command (Transportation, Medical, Logistics, Ordinance, and Signal)
- 1x Internal Security Division (Engineers, Medical, PSYOPS, and UAVs)

**Ground Force/Army Reserve**

The Royal Khorathidin Army maintains approximately 200,000 reserve personnel. Retired conscripts and trained young adults make up the bulk of the reserves. The reserve forces are considered an essential part of the overall



Map 3. Khorathidin Army Regional Commands



strength of the Royal Khorathidin Military Forces (RKMF). The recent reduction of active forces required a structure remain in place to allow for the rapid mobilization of the reserves if an international conflict or a severe domestic uprising occurred.

### Land Forces/Army Doctrine and Tactics

The RKA military doctrine has focused on being, “swift, light, and lethal” for several decades. This has been due to the many border skirmishes, counter narcotics, and counterinsurgency operations over this period. Their mechanized forces use a U.S. model of organization and doctrine. The RKA has adjusted this mechanized doctrine to the many different types of terrain and weather conditions that exist within the country. The RKA doctrine is reviewed often, and the entire organization is capable of rapid change when needed. The RKA tactics consist of:

**Offensive Operations.** The Royal Khorathidin army recognizes three general types of offensive operations according to their purpose: to destroy, seize, or expel.

**Attack to Destroy.** The Royal Khorathidin army uses an attack to destroy on a key enemy combat formation or capability. The Khorathidin forces often focus this type of attack on the enemy force’s ability to sustain itself or exercise effective command and control. Therefore, the force attacks the logistics and C2 systems of the target entity.

**Attack to Seize.** The Royal Khorathidin army uses an attack to seize to gain control of and hold key terrain. The Khorathidin force seizes controls and is physically on the key terrain during this type of attack.

**Attack to Expel.** The Royal Khorathidin army uses an attack to expel to force the defender to displace from an area. The Khorathidin force uses this type of attack to deplete the enemy’s will to hold an area by exploiting a key vulnerability or capability.

**Defensive Operations.** The Royal Khorathidin army recognizes two general types of defensive operations The Maneuver Defense and the Area Defense.

**Maneuver Defense.** In this type of defense, the Khorathidin army uses fires and maneuver to destroy key components of the enemy’s combat system and deny enemy forces their objective, while preserving Khorathidin forces.

**Area Defense.** The Royal Khorathidin army uses an area defense to deny key terrain or hold a geographic area. The Khorathidin force uses complex battle positions to preserve combat power while creating opportunities to attack the enemy’s key combat system.

### Land Forces/Army Training and Readiness

The RKA conducts routine international training with the United States. This training consists of large-scale combat exercises and humanitarian relief exercises. Additionally, several U.S. Army National Guard units are paired with RKA units and conduct exercises annually with the same units. This builds a lasting camaraderie between the two units. The overall readiness of the RKA forces is high. Their similar equipment and ability to operate in a multi-national environment make them a cutting-edge force in South-East Asia.

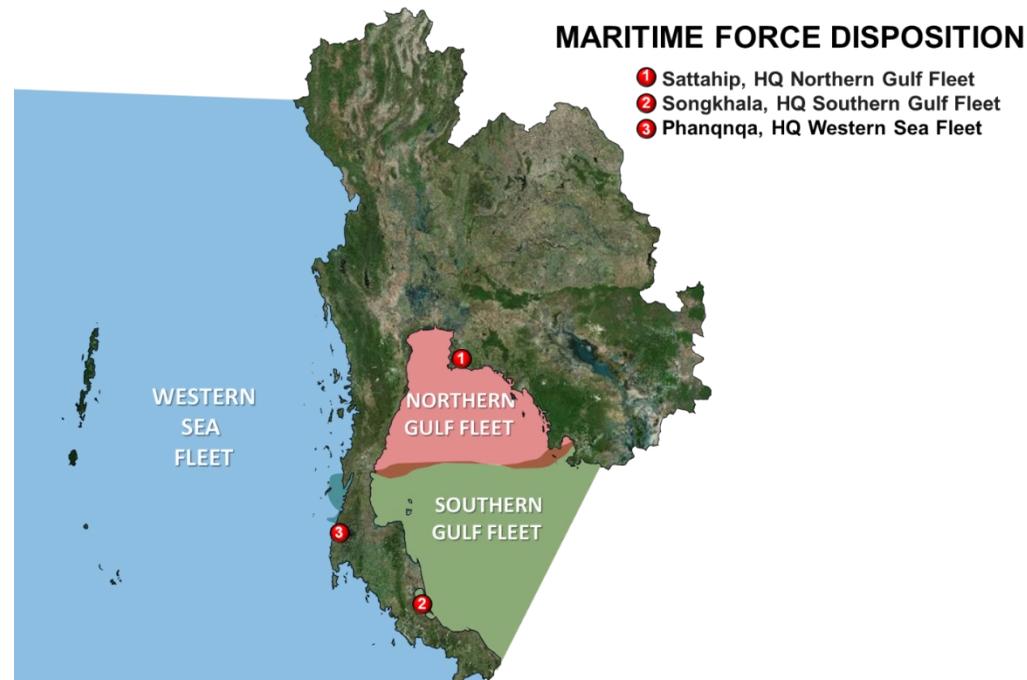
### Land Forces/Army Equipment and Weapons

The Royal Korathidin Army operates primarily tier 2 or tier 3 equipment, though some reserve units may be equipped with older variants. Active-duty equipment is well maintained. The active army readiness rate is estimated to be above 85%. (For further information see Force Structure and the Worldwide Equipment Guide)

## Maritime Forces

### Maritime Forces Size and Structure

The Royal Khorathidin Navy (RKN) currently consists of 71,000 Active personnel, (53,000 Navy personnel, 18,000 Marine Infantry). It is organized into three tactical fleets, which are the Western Sea Fleet, the Northern Gulf Fleet, and the Southern Gulf Fleet. There are 130 ships in the fleet. These include frigates, fast attack craft armed with surface-to-surface missiles, large coastal patrol craft, coastal minelayers, coastal minesweepers, and landing craft. The RKN also has one air and coastal defense command with an aircraft carrier and two air wings, and a medical command.



Map 4. Maritime Forces Disposition

### Royal Khorathidin Naval HQ

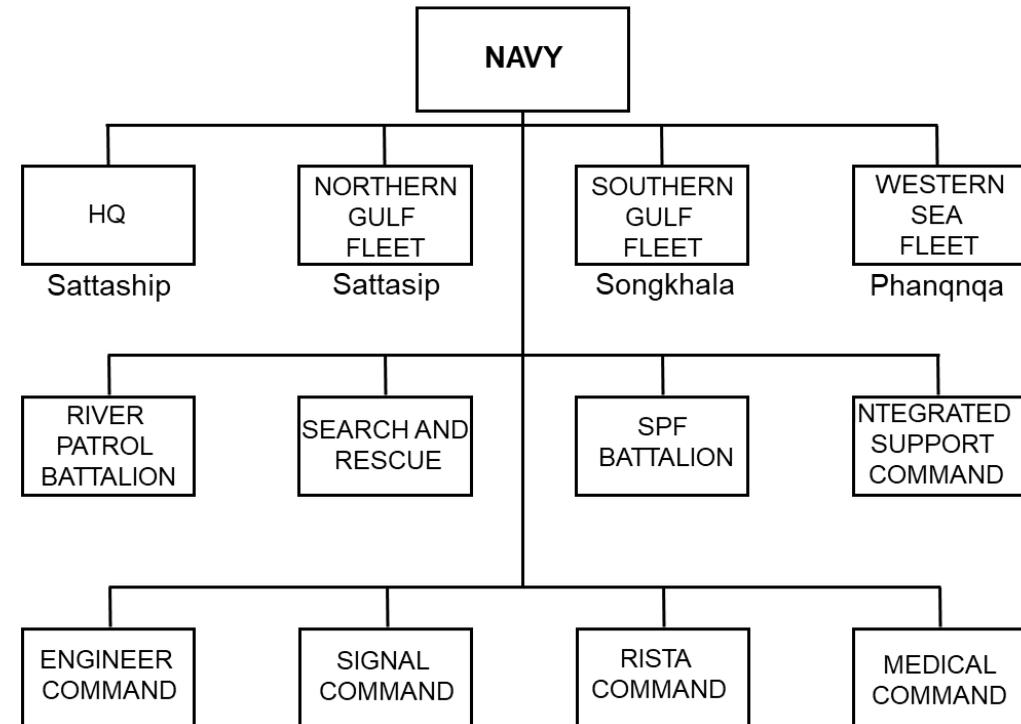


Figure 5. Naval HQ Command Structure

The Royal Khorathidin Navy is composed of three tactical fleets. It plays an important role in keeping the gulf trade routes open and in counter-narcotics operations. The naval headquarters is responsible for administrative functions. Tactical decisions are the primary responsibility of the fleet commanders.

### The Northern Gulf Fleet

The Northern Gulf Fleet is headquartered in Sattahip. It is responsible for the northern half of the Gulf of Thailand. The fleet consists of:



- 1x Submarine Squadron
- 1x Frigate Squadron
- 1x Helicopter Carrier Squadron
- 1x Riverine Squadron
- 1x Search and Rescue Detachment
- 1x SPF Company
- 1x Mine / Countermine Detachment
- 1x Coast Guard Squadron
- 1x Signal Command
- 1x Integrated Support Command
- 1x Medical Battalion

#### The Southern Gulf Fleet

The Southern Gulf Fleet is headquartered in Songkhala. It is responsible for the Southern half of the Gulf of Thailand. The fleet consists of:

- 1x Submarine Squadron
- 1x Frigate Squadron
- 1x Helicopter Carrier Squadron
- 1x Riverine Squadron
- 1x Search and Rescue Detachment
- 1x SPF Company
- 1x Mine / Countermine Detachment
- 1x Coast Guard Squadron
- 1x Signal Command
- 1x Integrated Support Command
- 1x Medical Battalion

#### The Western Sea Fleet

The Western Sea Fleet is headquartered in Phanqng. It is responsible for the Khorathidin territorial waters in the Andaman Sea, and the Khorathidin coastal waters. The fleet consists of:

- 1x Submarine Squadron
- 1x Frigate Squadron
- 1x Aircraft Carrier
- 1x Riverine Squadron
- 1x Search and Rescue Detachment
- 1x SPF Company
- 1x Mine / Countermine Detachment
- 1x Coast Guard Squadron
- 1x Signal Command
- 1x Integrated Support Command
- 1x Medical Battalion

#### The Royal Khorathidin Marine Corps

The Royal Khorathidin Marines have a long history of counterinsurgency and border security operations. They are comprised of the following units:

- 3x Marine Regiments
- 1x Artillery Regiment
- 1x Support Regiment
- 1x Reconnaissance Battalion
- 1x Amphibious Assault Battalion (AAV-7A1 and BTR-3E1)
- 1x Tank Battalion (Type 69-II MBT)
- 1x Engineer Battalion
- 1x Signal Battalion
- 1x Military Police Battalion
- 1x Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Company
- 1x Special Operations Task Force

#### Sea and Air Defense Command

The Sea and Air Defense Command is responsible for air defense and coastal artillery fires. It contains two primary operations centers that integrate fires. It consists of:

- 2x Air Defense Regiments (Type 74 and BOFORS)
- 1x Sea Defense Regiment (Type 59-I and GHN-45)
- 2x Operations Centers (that integrate fires)
- 1x Support Regiment

### Maritime Forces Doctrine and Tactics

The Royal Khorathidin Navy’s doctrine and tactics are centered on three primary tenets. The first is that it is a military force responsible for defending the nation’s territorial waters against foreign threats. The second is that it is a policing force responsible for counter narcotics, the prevention of the exploitation of resources and illegal trade. The third is diplomacy, where Khorathidin participates in international exercises and disaster assistance. These three tenets are the foundation of the Royal Navy’s doctrine and tactics.

The Royal Khorathidin Naval Operations include:

- Mine / Countermine
- Naval gun fire
- Insertion/extraction of SPF
- Defensive patrolling of coastal areas
- Riverine patrolling
- Counterdrug search and seizure
- Anti-smuggling and piracy operations
- Search and rescue
- Submarine operations
- Escort operations

### Maritime Forces Training and Readiness

The Royal Navy maintains an exceptionally high operational tempo while also training with international partners. The navy has conducted annual exercises with the U.S. for the past 20 plus years as well as with other international partners. Recent budget constraints have been focused elsewhere to ensure that a high level of naval training and readiness endures.

### Maritime Forces Equipment and Weapons

The Royal Khorathidin Navy maintains primarily tier 2 and tier 3 equipment. Its carrier is the only one in the region but is used for rotary wing aircraft only. The navy maintains an average operational readiness rate above 70%. The lower rate represents modernization efforts and ships in port for refitting. (For further information see Force Structure and the Worldwide Equipment Guide)

### Royal Khorathidin Air Force

#### Air Force Size and Structure

The Royal Khorathidin Air Force (RKAF) is made up of approximately 44,000 personnel and an estimated 215 aerial platforms. This includes attack, transport, and rotary wing aircraft. The Royal Air Force also maintains an unknown number of UAVs for reconnaissance. The total number of UAVs is thought to be more than 30.

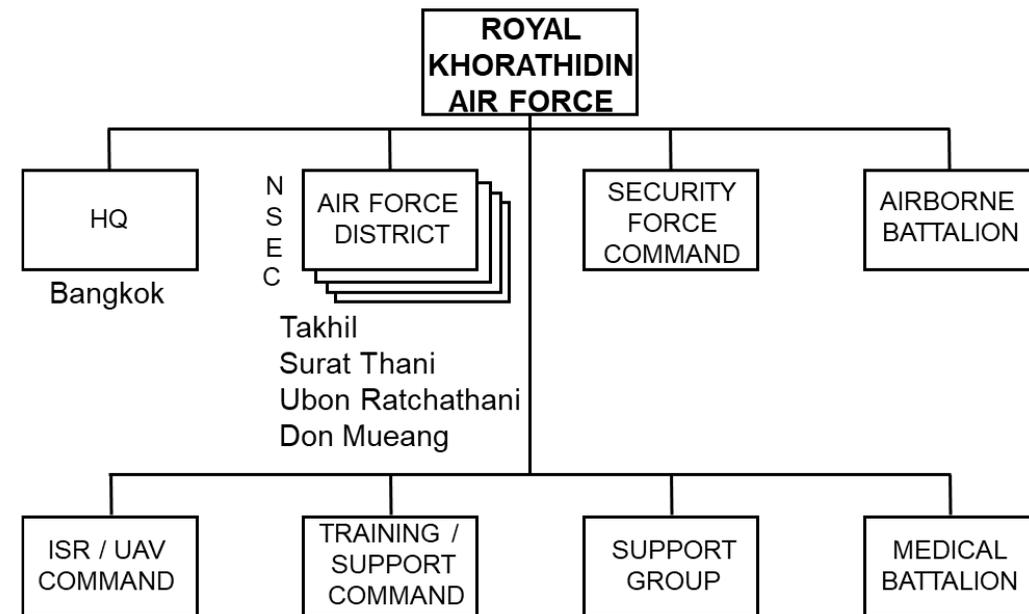
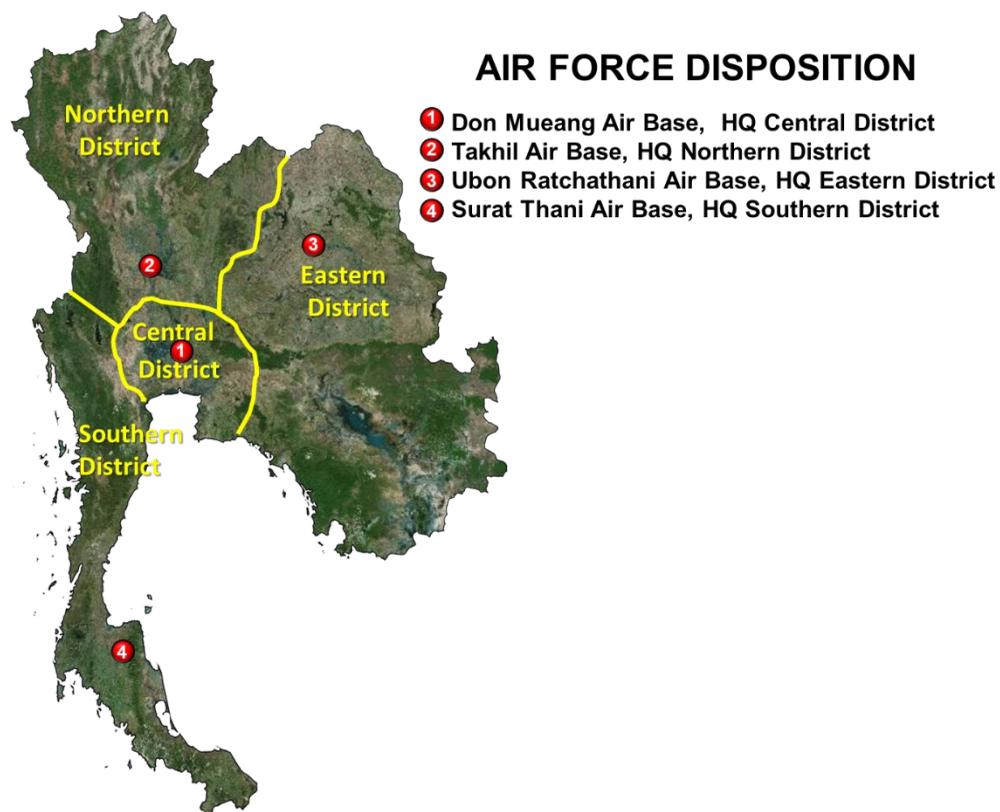


Figure 6. Khor Air Force Command Structure



The Royal Air Force air is organized into four districts aligned with the regional armies (Northern, Eastern, Central, and Southern).

The Royal Khorathidin Air Force is composed of four tactical air force districts or combat groups in the North, South, East and Central parts of the country. These air force districts are aligned with the army regional commands. The air force also contains a special purpose airborne battalion, ISR/UAV command, training and support command, search and rescue, and a medical battalion.



Map 5. Air Force Disposition

### Northern Air Force District

The Royal Khorathidin Northern Air District is responsible for providing transportation, logistics, close air support, and medical evacuation to the Northern Regional Army Command. Its headquarters is in Takhkil.

Units that report directly to the Northern Air District Commander:

- 1 Multirole (Fighter and Ground Attack) Squadron
- 1 Transportation Squadron
- 1 ISR / UAV Squadron
- 1 Helicopter Transport Squadron
- 1 Search and Rescue Detachment
- 1 Tactical Air Control Detachment
- 1 Integrated Air Defense Detachment
- 1 Medical Company
- 1 Signal Company
- 1 Refueling Company
- 1 Material Support Detachment

### Southern Air Force District

The Royal Khorathidin Southern Air District is responsible for providing transportation, logistics, close air support, and medical evacuation to the Southern Regional Army Command. Its headquarters is in Surat Thani.

Units that report directly to the Southern Air District Commander:

- 1 Multirole (Fighter and Ground Attack) Squadron
- 1 Transportation Squadron
- 1 ISR / UAV Squadron
- 1 Helicopter Transport Squadron
- 1 Search and Rescue Detachment
- 1 Tactical Air Control Detachment
- 1 Integrated Air Defense Detachment



- 1 Medical Company
- 1 Signal Company
- 1 Refueling Company
- 1 Material Support Detachment

### Eastern Air Force District

The Royal Khorathidin Eastern Air District is responsible for providing transportation, logistics, close air support, and medical evacuation to the Eastern Regional Army Command. Its headquarters is in Uban Ratchathani.

Units that report directly to the Eastern Air District Commander:

- 1 Multirole (Fighter and Ground Attack) Squadron
- 1 Transportation Squadron
- 1 ISR / UAV Squadron
- 1 Helicopter Transport Squadron
- 1 Search and Rescue Detachment
- 1 Tactical Air Control Detachment
- 1 Integrated Air Defense Detachment
- 1 Medical Company
- 1 Signal Company
- 1 Refueling Company
- 1 Material Support Detachment

### Central Air Force District

The Royal Khorathidin Central Air District is responsible for providing transportation, logistics, close air support, and medical evacuation to the Central Regional Army Command. Its headquarters is in Don Meuang.

Units that report directly to the Central Air District Commander:

- 1 Multirole (Fighter and Ground Attack) Squadron
- 1 Transportation Squadron
- 1 ISR / UAV Squadron

- 1 Helicopter Transport Squadron
- 1 Search and Rescue Detachment
- 1 Tactical Air Control Detachment
- 1 Integrated Air Defense Detachment
- 1 Medical Company
- 1 Signal Company
- 1 Refueling Company
- 1 Material Support Detachment

### Air Forces Doctrine and Tactics

The Royal Air Force's doctrine and tactics continue to develop based on their evolving mission from internal security to more international border security operations. Operations with the U.S. and the U.N. are prioritized within the Royal Air Force.

The Royal Khorathidin Air Force groups their operations into the following categories:

- Air Combat Operations
- Air Defense
- Air Lift
- Search and Rescue
- Specialized Operations
- Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance
- Base Defense
- Network/Cyber Defense (Harden Networks and Command and Control Nodes)
- Space Operations (Using Imagery for mission planning)
- Pilot Training

### Air Forces Training and Readiness

The Royal Air Force has a long history of training with U.S. and U.N. partners. The air force has well developed, professional academies that often share



rotating students and instructors with the U.S. They possess advanced computer-based pilot tactical trainers and maintain their aircraft to an average operational readiness rate of 75%. The high personnel readiness is due to the significant amount of time spent in training. A large percentage of conscripts that volunteer for the air force are eventually sent to other services for failing to meet their high standards.

### Air Forces Equipment and Weapons

The Royal Air Force is equipped with tier 2 and tier 3 air platforms. They have a robust compliment of attack (approx. 122) and transport aircraft (approx. 54). A large amount of the equipment is U.S. made or from other western nations. This makes it easy for the Royal Air Force to integrate in U.N. exercises and operations. (For further information, see Force Structure and the Worldwide Equipment Guide)

### Paramilitary Forces

#### Government Paramilitary Forces

**Border Police.** The Border Police are located at checkpoints on the primary routes along the border. They are not well respected, and many have been caught taking bribes, allowing drug traffickers and illegal goods into Khorathidin. There is military oversight at some locations due to the high level of corruption. The Border Police are usually from the local area and are not as well paid as the military. This provides incentive for them to allow friends and family to conduct illegal border activities.

**Khorathidin Border Rangers.** The Khorathidin Border Rangers are a paramilitary force that train closely with the Royal Korathidin Army and the Royal Korathidin Marines. They are an elite light infantry force that work with the border police. They can engage in direct combat whereas the border police are strictly law enforcement and lack the weapons and training of engaging in direct combat. They are an elite force respected throughout Khorathidin.

**Khmer Police Force.** The Khmer Police hire only from within their own communities and the Khorathidin forces leave them to police their own

communities. They are considered the authority in the Khmer region and are a professional organization by Khorathidin standards.

### Non-State Paramilitary Forces

#### Guerrilla and Insurgent Forces

**Islamic State of Khorathidin (ISK).** The ISK is a large Islamic group in southern Khorathidin comprised of approximately 8-12,000 members. It advocates for the breakaway of the southern provinces and the establishment of a separate Muslim state. The group may have ties to international Islamic extremist groups, but most of the funding is likely coming from local contributions. The ISK enjoys strong popular support in southern Khorathidin.

**The Communist Movement of Khorathidin (CMK).** The CMK is the communist movement within Khorathidin. They number approximately 2-4,000 and advocate for the overthrow of the government and the establishment of a communist regime. They are funded through local contributions, and it is suspected that the Olvanan government also provides funding and weapons.

**Northern Hills Alliance (NHA).** NHA is an alliance of northern hill clans and villages primarily of Olvanan decent. There are thought to be 11 clans within the alliance, but their overall numbers are hard to estimate due to the remote locations of the villages and the extensive familial connects that are maintained. They are left out of nearly all benefits provided by the Khorathidin government and desire a separate country. Olvana is a likely funding source due to their heritage and the poverty that exists within their population.

#### Criminal Organizations

**Bangkok Weaver's Syndicate (BWS).** There are BWS-connected, organized criminal groups in more than three quarters of the provinces inside of Khorathidin. They operate like the old Chicago mafia and are active in both illegal as well as legitimate businesses. They are involved in international drug and trafficking, gambling, and local prostitution. They are one of the largest narcotic distributors in Khorathidin and have ties to the Rangoon Cartel in Bagansait, and the Dang Ma Gang in Sungzon.



**Devil's Motorcycle Club (DW).** The DW is an international criminal organization that spans the globe. Its activities are well documented in other countries. The DW presence in Khorathidin is small but growing. They are involved in drug smuggling and kidnapping for ransom operations. Their kidnap for ransom operations often target provincial level officials or family members. In recent years, several DW members have been executed in Khorathidin for smuggling large amounts of methamphetamines.

**European Trading Group (ETG).** The ETG is a European organized criminal organization that supplies heroin from Khorathidin to Europe. This group is strictly focused on heroin and is careful not to get involved in other criminal organizations' products, like methamphetamines. It is suspected that they pay "taxes" to the other criminal organizations within Khorathidin to continue doing business.

**Illegal Wildlife Trading.** Several organizations are involved in the illegal smuggling and selling of wildlife within Khorathidin. Many markets and online sites in Khorathidin offer smuggled wildlife like ivory, rhino (horns), tiger, and pangolins. Buyers consume these products in traditional medicines, luxury items, and some believe the items have certain religious or health benefits.

### **Private Security Organizations**

**Khorathidin Risk Solutions (KRS).** The KRS is an armed private security firm that provides executive protection and secure transportation to VIPs within Khorathidin. The KRS is often hired to protect both VIPs and their families against kidnapping for ransom. They have a good working relationship with the Royal Army and local police forces. KRS often hires at least 50% Khorathidin security personnel that ensures a cultural understanding and leverages local knowledge.

**Southeast Asia Security Group (SASG).** The SASG is an armed western security group that provides secure transportation for sensitive cargo to and from Khorathidin airports. This insured service prevents VIPs from having to transport sensitive or very expensive items themselves. They present a very

wealthy-looking western appearance and are not well liked by local officials or the military.

**One Security Associates (OSA).** The OSA is a western owned company that hires and trains a 100% Khorathidin force. They are unarmed, provide security to events, and are designed to provide a presence at these events to prevent the escalation of disagreements. They stand out due to their all-black and red uniforms.

### **Foreign Military Presence**

**U.S. Military Exchanges.** The U.S. military and the Khorathidin military conduct routine training exercises. The two countries also rotate students and instructors to develop a shared understanding of each other's militaries. U.S. military contractors are also present in Khorathidin conducting new equipment training and maintaining technical equipment.

**Foreign Embassies.** There are over 82 embassies in Bangkok, presenting a small foreign military presence from 82 countries. Khorathidin views diplomacy as essential to its future and participates in international U.N. exercises and operations. These include peacekeeping and disaster relief operations.

### **Nonmilitary Armed Combatants**

Khorathidin law allows people to obtain gun licenses for the purposes of self-defense, protection of property, sports, or hunting. The Khorathidin constitution states that it is every citizen's responsibility to defend the country. This sense of patriotism combined with the liberal gun laws are expected to result in many nonmilitary-armed combatants should Khorathidin face a foreign threat.

### **Unarmed Combatants**

The use of conscription results in many youths and elderly who would not likely be armed combatants. They would however be used for intelligence collection, the emplacement of obstacles, and deception operations. These unarmed combatants are expected to be a significant piece of the overall Khorathidin defense.



## Military Functions Overview

### Joint Capabilities (High)

The Royal Khorathidin Military Forces (RKMF) are exceptionally adept at joint and combined operations with the U.S. and U.N. forces. This is due primarily to their consistent participation in numerous exercises annually with western countries. The Royal Khorathidin Military Forces (RKMF) equipment is primarily from the U.S. or other European nations. This ensures integration and assists with training and support activities. There are routine exchanges with the U.S. of students and instructors. This builds camaraderie and a shared understanding of doctrine and tactics. Khorathidin is expected to maintain its joint capabilities at a high level into the near future.

### Command and Control (High)

The advanced communications systems and a well-established chain of command keep the Royal Khorathidin Military Forces (RKMF) command and control capability operating at a high level. The Defensive Technology Centre works with U.S. communications companies to obtain some of the most advanced digitized military systems available. The regional army commanders and fleet commanders operate freely and are not required authorization from higher levels to make decisions. This streamlines the decision-making process and makes for fast and flexible command and control.

### Maneuver (High)

The Royal Khorathidin Military Forces (RKMF) are one of the most advanced militaries in the region. Their modernization efforts, effective command and control, and numerous annual joint exercises have shaped them into the most elite force in Southeast Asia. Through decades of counterinsurgencies and border skirmishes they developed doctrine and tactics to fight as light infantry. They are developing a flexible mechanized doctrine for maneuver warfare in the varied terrain within the country.

### Air Defense (Medium)

The establishment of a separate Air and Sea Command within the Navy led to the integration of air defense and coastal fires. However, many of the air defense systems are old and the integrated air defense system requires modernization. The Royal Khorathidin Air Force maintains many aircraft that can be used as an aerial interdiction force to supplement the aging ground air defense systems.

### INFOWAR (Medium)

The Royal Khorathidin Army possesses both a full-time television and radio station. This allows the Royal Army to provide its narrative to the general population on a rapid basis. Each branch of the military also uses social media to provide their talking points to the population. The Khorathidin government maintains strict filters on internet use to prevent radicalization of the population by insurgent groups. The Khorathidin cyber capabilities focus on network defense and not on offensive capabilities outside of its borders.

### RISTA (High)

The Royal Khorathidin Air Force possesses a few advanced UAV systems. These include the Aeronautics Defense Dominator – a Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), and the RTAF U-1. These are relatively advanced UAV systems that can provide long range intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to Khorathidin forces. The Khorathidin ground forces consist of several specialized reconnaissance units in each of its regional armies which can infiltrate and collect information on the ground.

### Intelligence

**HUMINT (Medium).** The Royal Army has been unable to penetrate the insurgent networks in the southern portion of the country. There is no formal network or ways to establish one in this portion of the country. However, through interpersonal relationships and payments, HUMINT operations have been successful in the northern portion of the country and along the border. The Royal Army does not database or catalogue this to protect their sources. This



means that there is no long-range plan or formal method of handing off a source in the long term.

**OSINT (High).** The insurgent group's reliance on social media and the internet has provided the Khorathidin military and government an exploitable OSINT opportunity. The government filters and controls the internet to monitor insurgent groups' sites and social media accounts. This provides advanced warning of attacks and targetable information about insurgent whereabouts and activities.

**SIGINT (High).** The advanced technologies purchased from U.S. cryptologic companies have allowed the Khorathidin forces to develop a robust SIGINT capability. The Royal Khorathidin Military Forces (RKMF) are now one of the most advanced SIGINT countries in SW Asia.

**IMINT (High).** The Royal Khorathidin Air Force possesses several advanced UAV systems that fill its IMINT needs. Khorathidin's close ties to the U.S. allows for an automated sharing system of IMINT, which gives Khorathidin Military Forces (RKMF) access to the most advanced satellite imagery available.

**MASINT (Medium).** It is unknown if any of the Khorathidin UAVs have MASINT capabilities. It is assessed that most MASINT products come in finished form from the U.S. when needed.

#### Fire Support (High)

The Royal Army possesses some of the most advanced howitzers available. These include the U.S. M109 and the Israeli ATMOS 2000, which are self-propelled 155mm long-range artillery pieces. This, coupled with the Khorathidin Army's command and control capabilities, makes for an advanced fire support capability.

#### Protection (High)

The Royal Army employs a variety of advanced Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) as a means of protecting its light infantry from an armored force. Each regional army's engineer battalion possesses a variety of mechanized engineer

vehicles that can dig defensive positions. Radars, Electronic Warfare (EW), and Air Defense units provide protection from enemy air power.

#### Logistics (High)

Each of the regional armies has an integrated support command, which include armored vehicle recovery assets, U.S. logistics vehicles like the M911 Heavy Equipment Transporter System (HETS), and the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV). These assets and the fact that the Royal Army is composed of primarily light infantry units result in a highly effective logistics capability.

#### CBRNE (Medium)

Forces do not extensively train on CBRNE throughout the year. The CBRNE equipment is maintained and kept accessible, if needed. Some specialized units, like the CBRNE companies in the integrated support commands, have received the latest advanced robots that are capable of exploiting CBRNE devices without the risk to soldiers.

#### Research and Development Goals

Khorathidin's research and development is focused on the integration of armed UAVs and other fire support assets to automate the fires synchronization process. The intent is to automate the prioritization and synchronization for fires between assets through one operating system. Space operations remain an ambition of Khorathidin, but it competes with other modernization efforts for future funding.



## ECONOMICS

### Economic Overview

Khorathidin has experienced remarkable economic development over the last four decades. It has rapidly transitioned from a low-income to an upper middle-income country. Khorathidin is currently ranked the number 23 economy in the world in terms of GDP for imports and exports, and 84 when considering per capita income. This per capita ranking is primarily due to a transitioning labor force with jobs migrating from agriculture into the skilled labor markets (automotive assembly and integrated circuits). Khorathidin's economy is expected to continue with sustainable growth and increased poverty reduction efforts. This growth has occurred simultaneously across many social and economic areas. These include tourism, education, universal health care and a retirement system similar to the U.S. Social Security systems. The Khorathidin economy is expected to continue to adapt and shift more resources from agriculture to industry. The technology sector is anticipated to increase its expansion by 14% annually in the near-term. Overall, Khorathidin is expected to remain the socio-economic leader in the region in the near future.

### Economic Activity

#### Economic Actors

**The Royal Khorathidin Government.** The Royal Khorathidin Financial Ministry is responsible for setting the policies to ensure the fiscal health of the country. These fiscal policies have a direct effect on both the long-term financial security and the near-term increase in the prices of goods and services (inflation). The ministry uses the international markets and the Khorathidin Stock Exchange (KSX) to determine the value of its currency, but also maintains enough control to intervene in case of excessive volatility. Members of the government are also actively involved in the informal / illegal economy. The King of Khorathidin has formally blamed some of the deforestation on the greed of state officials. They are accused of profiting off illegal logging and the illegal timber trade. This is evident by the large areas of virgin forests that have been harvested despite having been granted national park protective status.

**The Republic of the Union of Bagansait.** The recent military coup in Bagansait has left the international trade arrangements with Khorathidin in question. Traditionally, Bagansait exports \$2.75B to Khorathidin annually. Khorathidin key imports from Bagansait include Petroleum Gas (\$1.67B), Corn (\$239M), and Refined Copper (\$190M). Khorathidin exports \$3.83B to Bagansait annually. The main Khorathidin exports to Bagansait include Refined Petroleum (\$295M), Flavored Water (\$236M), and Cement (\$97M). There are enduring trade arrangements in some industries due to the many coups and government changeovers that have occurred in Bagansait. The impact of the international sanctions on Bagansait may force some of these formal trade arrangements with Khorathidin to become less conventional.

**Olvana.** Olvana serves as one of Khorathidin's leading import and export partners. The Olvanan imports from Khorathidin include Synthetic Rubber (\$2.18B), Office Machine Parts (\$2.09B), and Fruits (\$2B). While some of Olvana's routine exports to Khorathidin include Multimedia / Broadcasting Equipment (\$3.15B), Computers (\$1.49B), and Coated Flat-Rolled Iron (\$1.25B). Over the last decade, Olvana has also had an on-off arrangement for the sale of arms and munitions with the previous governments of Khorathidin. This has resulted in the need for replacement parts and munitions, which drives an uncomfortable requirement for a continued arms trade with Olvana in the near-term.

**The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).** Most recently, USAID provided \$23 million dollars in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in rural areas of Khorathidin. Another \$27 million dollars is being provided to deal with the humanitarian and refugee crisis that resulted from the recent military coup in Bagansait. Thousands fled their homes in Bagansait for Khorathidin to avoid military prosecution for supporting the ousted government.

**The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a financial organization of ten Southeast Asian countries (South Torbia, Belesia, Gabal, Bagansait, Khorathidin, Sungzon, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore). It represents the most significant regional economic communities. The organization aims to accelerate economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and regional stability through active engagement with all nations. The ASEAN charter was signed in Bangkok, Khorathidin and remains a significant part of Khorathidin's foreign policy. Khorathidin has chaired ASEAN events and actively works within the ASEAN framework to promote prosperity and stability in the region.

**The Khmer Regional Economy.** While the Khmer region is not a major economic actor within Khorathidin it is an independent one worth mentioning. The Khmer region operates on a mostly informal economic system with independent loans from within the community. It has have established trade arrangements throughout Khorathidin for selling locally produced goods, but for the most part it is an independent economic community within the borders of Khorathidin.

**International Trade**

**International Exports.** The top exports of Khorathidin are office machine parts, integrated circuits, and motor vehicles. From an agricultural / raw material perspective Khorathidin is one of the leading exporters in rubber, select tropical fruits, prepared meats, starches, and dextrans. These products are exported to Khorathidin's top five export partners: Olvana, The United States, Japan, Bagansait, Sungzon, and Australia.

**International Imports.** The top exports of Khorathidin are crude petroleum, steel bars, integrated circuit components, precious metals, motor vehicle parts, and multimedia / broadcasting equipment. These products are imported from Khorathidin's top six import partners: Olvana, Japan, The United States, Sungzon, Bagansait, and South Korea.

**Khorathidin's Main Export Partners**

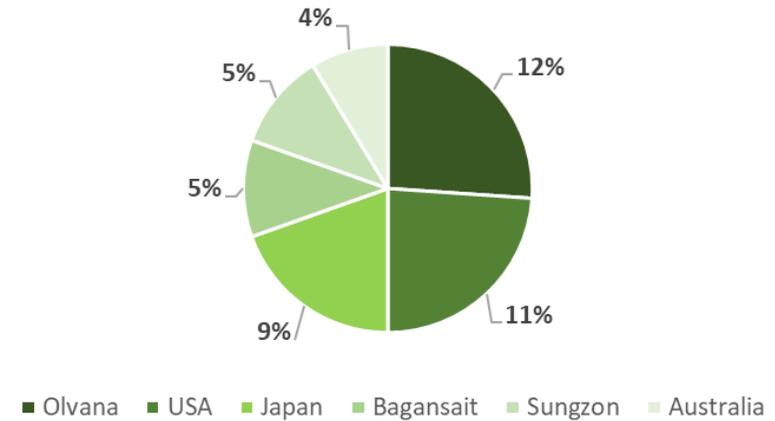


Figure 7. Khorathidin's largest export countries

**Khorathidin's Main Import Partners**

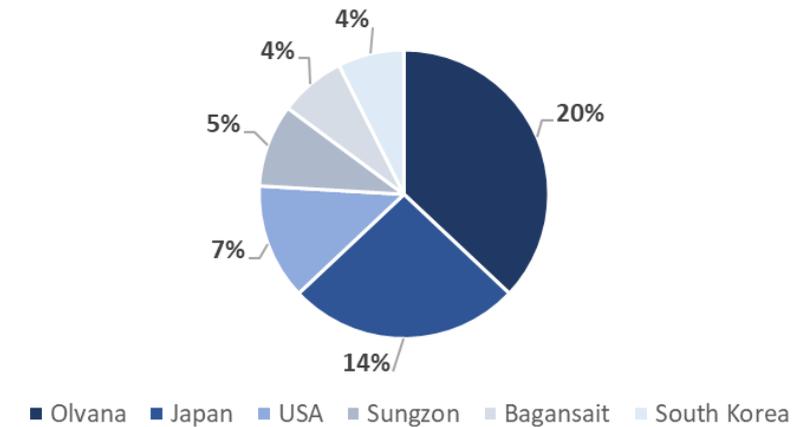


Figure 8. Khorathidin's largest import countries

**Military Exports/Imports.** Khorathidin’s arms imports are estimated to be \$132 million dollars annually. Khorathidin imports most of its military equipment from the U.S. and Olvana. Israel and a variety of European countries provide specialty equipment like unmanned aerial systems and engineer vehicles. Over the last ten years, Khorathidin has been forced to execute more economic diplomacy in the arms arena with Olvana. The U.S. had been the traditional supplier of weapons and equipment for the past four decades, but previous Khorathidin governments opened the door for Olvanan weapons sales. Currently, the U.S. has reestablished its dominance, but Khorathidin remains open to the Olvanan arms market and prefers a more balanced approach within the region.

**Manipulation/ Weaponization of Economic Activity**

Khorathidin relies on integrated circuit components, precious metals, and motor vehicle parts from Olvana to assemble many of their primary exports. This dependency on raw material imports for key components in their manufacturing process made Khorathidin vulnerable to manipulation by Olvana and neighboring Bagansait. The military junta in Bagansait recently increased their strip mining for Heavy Rare Earth Elements (HREEs), which are vital to the manufacture of key components in Olvana, which are then imported and assembled into western automobiles and integrated circuit products in Khorathidin. These complex regional economic relationships create tension between Khorathidin and its primary international military partners like the United States, NATO, and the UN.

**Economic Sectors**

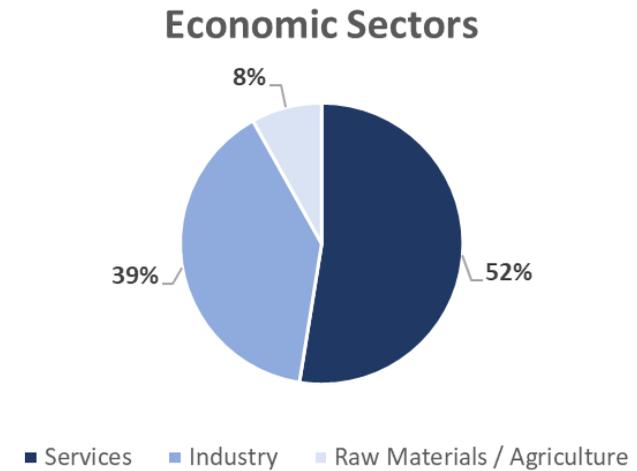


Figure 9. Economic sectors

**Raw Materials Sector / Agriculture**

**Agriculture.** The economic importance of agriculture has been declining in favor of the industrial sector over the past few decades. However, agriculture still represents half of the employed labor force. Khorathidin is the world’s second largest exporter of rice with annual exports worth approximately \$4.8B annually. In recent years, commodity pricing has varied greatly, which led to an unpredictable rice market. This was overcome in several regions of Khorathidin by the cultivation of organic rice, which is worth nearly three times as much as other types of rice. Khorathidin cultivates many other crops, but not on the scale of rice. These crops include cassava (starchy root vegetable), corn, kenaf (a fiber for rope and paper), cashews, mangoes, pineapples, rubber, coffee, sugarcane, longans (an edible fruit), and vegetables. Tobacco cultivation has drastically reduced over the last ten years due to restrictions and a sharp drop in demand.



**Forestry.** More than 37% of Khorathidin is covered in forests. Forestry remains a key economic sector and accounts for an estimated \$3.9B in exports annually. This equates to approximately 1.5% of all exported goods and services. After deforestation and unsustainable logging from 1960-2014, the government launched successful efforts to maintain forestry as a sustainable resource. The While the Khorathidini government claims forest growth over the last decade, illegal logging remains a challenge. A mature rosewood tree is worth \$8,200 dollars on the black market, which is equal to approximately half of middle-income annual salary. The legal forestry products for export are paper, fiberboard, furniture, and sawn lumber. The government is the only organization allowed to export unprocessed logs such a Teak, but very few of these legal exports are carried out each year.

**Fishing.** Khorathidin's fishing industry exports an estimated \$6B of fish or fish products annually. This represents approximately 20% of all food exports. There are more than 800,000 people employed in the fishing industry, which makes it the sixth largest employment industry. Khorathidin is the world's third-largest seafood exporter and the world's leading shrimp exporter. However, overfishing has become a major concern. The average small fishing vessel was able to catch nearly eight times as many fish in 1980 as they have been able to over the last decade. This overfishing is not just a business concern. Fish is the primary protein in the average citizen's diet and is estimated to be 70-80% of the overall protein that is consumed. Overfishing is a direct threat to a major food resource for the population.

**Oil and Natural Gas Extraction.** Khorathidin is an oil and natural gas producing country, but the domestic demand currently exceeds its extraction and production capabilities. Therefore, Khorathidin is a net importer of oil and natural gas. Additionally, one of Khorathidin's largest offshore natural gas fields is only producing one fifth of what it used to. Bagansait used to provide a significant amount of natural gas to Khorathidin via pipeline. This reliance on Bagansait was put under scrutiny due to the recent military coup in Bagansait and the resulting international sanctions. Khorathidin recently shut off natural gas

imports from Bagansait and increased its imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from various Middle Eastern countries. The increased cost of purchasing LNG at the high open market value is not considered a sustainable solution. Khorathidin's strategic oil reserves have dwindled to just 390 million barrels, which is a decrease of nine million barrels from the previous year. The Khorathidin government has increased its exploration, oil, and gas-infrastructure development efforts to seek a domestic solution for their energy needs.

**Mining.** The overall mining contribution to the GDP is approximately \$1.2B. Khorathidin's mining resources include tin, potash, gypsum, feldspar, fluorite, gemstones (rubies, sapphires, topaz, and zircon), lignite, lead, tantalum, and tungsten. There are also reserves of zinc, iron, gold, and copper. The Khorathidin government has focused on legislation to protect the environment and natural resources against the mining industry. Mining projects are subject to a variety of preventative and control mechanisms. Additionally, the government has emphasized that large scale mining should focus on resources that are used domestically, like gypsum, and not on export products. The intent of these policies is to conserve Khorathidin's mineral wealth and limit the exploitation of its resources for export and short-lived financial gains.

### Manufacturing and Industry Sector

**Energy Industry.** Khorathidin's declining natural gas reserves have necessitated a renewed focus on developing renewable energy to satisfy its increasing energy needs. There are currently several initiatives designed to reduce reliance on natural gas and coal for energy production. The goal of the new energy initiatives is for solar and bioenergy sources to provide 30% of the total energy production by 2037. The plan is expected to require a \$4.2B in investment in green technologies. These include solar, hydro floating solar, community biogas power plants, Smart grids/micro grids, and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). This will create a need for skilled labor and offers opportunities to workers being replaced by automation in other areas of the manufacturing industry. The Khorathidin government is expected to mandate



that foreign companies train and hire a specified number of local workers before they are allowed to develop these technologies within Khorathidin.

**Chemical Industry.** Khorathidin has one of the most well-developed chemical industries in Southeast Asia. It is a world leader in developing and producing chemicals derived from bio-feed stocks like sugar cane, molasses, and other natural products. Khorathidin is also one of the largest producers of bioethanol in Asia, producing 554.7 million gallons annually. Khorathidin has organized their chemical industry into four sectors: Bio chemicals and fuels; electronics manufacturing; Auto parts manufacturing; and general plastics. Overall, the chemical industry makes up 3% of all exports and 16% of all imports. The value of chemical industry exports is estimated to be \$2.7B a year and imports are worth approximately \$2.5B a year. The growth of the biochemical industry is expected to support the Khorathidin economy during its transition away from fossil fuels.

**Automobiles and Automotive Parts Industry.** The automobile industry in Khorathidin is the largest in Southeast Asia and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the world. Khorathidin produces more than two million cars and pickup trucks annually for 18 different foreign companies like Ford, GM, Toyota, BMW, and Mercedes-Benz. Automotive exports account for 12% of all Khorathidin's exports and are worth \$28B annually. Khorathidin has kept up with modernization and invested heavily in electronic vehicles and battery manufacturing. Domestically, there are 86,000 electronic vehicles registered in Khorathidin and the department of energy is forecasting that number to rise to 1.1 million by 2036 (with 691 charging stations). This long-term investment in electronic vehicles is designed to ensure Khorathidin remains the largest automaker in the region.

**Electric Appliances and Components Industry.** The Khorathidini electronics industry is worth \$55B annually. Khorathidin is the world's second largest exporter of air conditioners, data storage technology, and integrated circuits. Data storage and integrated circuits are critical to the producers of computers, smart phones, virtual reality headsets, internet-connected devices, and other wearable technologies. Khorathidin's early involvement with computer

component manufacturing has provided them with several technical advantages like advanced modular equipment, and factories design to change configurations rapidly. These competitive advantages have positioned Khorathidin's electronics industry to expand into future global markets.

### Services Sector

**Banking/Finance.** Khorathidin has 14 commercial banks and 11 foreign bank branches. There are also several specialized government savings, agricultural, farm credit, industrial and low-income housing mortgage banks. The combined assets of the five largest banks amount to \$380.7B. The central bank of Khorathidin is in Bangkok. It prints and issues banknotes and other security documents, provides banking facilities to the government and acts as the registrar of government bonds.

**Information Communications Technology (ICT).** Khorathidin's ICT sector is one of the fastest growing industries in the region and increases its contribution to the economy every year. Currently, it is estimated to contribute \$16.9B annually. Information Communications Technology hardware is the largest contributor worth approximately \$7.5B annually while the digital services industry continues an extremely high growth rate of 34%. The primary factors that drive the ICT market are tech friendly government policies, business transformation to digital services, and the anticipated expansion of new technologies (robotics, cloud services, smart devices, and big data).

**Professional Services.** The services sector accounts for 37% of Khorathidin's labor market, 52% of its economy, and an estimated 17 million jobs. Of this, professional services like architects, accountants, engineers, doctors, lawyers, IT professionals, teachers, and others are expanding to make up an increasing percentage of the sector. This represents a transition from a primarily agricultural labor force to a more professional one. The Khorathidin government has also expanded policies in the global trade sector to allow foreign companies to provide professional services within Khorathidin with the stipulation that 40% of their workforce must be trained Khorathidins. This promotes the training and expansion of a professional Khorathidin workforce.



**Tourism.** Khorathidin is host to an estimated 9-12 million tourists each year, which is worth an estimated \$289B. This makes tourism one of the largest contributors to the overall GDP. The primary sectors of tourism include medical, sports, culinary, cultural, religious, and animal (elephants) tourism. Most of the services and industrial sectors are dependent on tourism for their overall underlying growth. This number is expected to continue to increase with the stable political atmosphere and the continued development of international transportation hubs like airports and cruise ship destinations.

**Government Services.** The ministry of finance is responsible for overseeing taxation, government property, monopolies, treasury, public finance, and all revenue generating business, which are operated by the government. The policy office within the Ministry of Finance is responsible for fiscal policies, tax policies, investment policies, and coordinating with international financial institutions like World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

## Participation in the Global Financial System

### World Economic Organizations

**International Monetary Fund (IMF).** Khorathidin has been a member of the IMF since the mid-1940s and has been involved in numerous IMF programs. Khorathidin currently has access to \$3.2B in IMF funds, which is one of the largest accounts in Southeast Asia. The IMF recently opened a regional technical assistance office in Bangkok that will also assist neighboring countries like Sungzon and Bagansait. The IMF office offers technical advisers on projects including macroeconomic management, public financial management, and treasury management.

**World Bank.** The World Bank has supported Khorathidin projects in health, education, agriculture, telecommunications, infrastructure, resource management, energy, and public sector development for the past 70 years. The World Bank's first loan to Khorathidin was in 1950 to establish a railway that connected all regions, was vital to providing inland transportation, and facilitated foreign trade. Through their partnership with the World Bank, Khorathidin has

grown from a low-income, poverty-stricken country into a dynamic middle-income country. Khorathidin's relationship with the World Bank has advanced from strictly lending into advising on technical innovation and implementation.

**U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).** Most recently, USAID provided \$23 million dollars in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in rural areas of Khorathidin. Another \$27 million dollars is being provided to deal with the humanitarian and refugee crisis that resulted from the recent military coup in Bagansait. This led to hundreds fleeing their homes in Bagansait into Khorathidin to avoid military prosecution for supporting the ousted government.

**The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a financial organization of ten Southeast Asian countries (South Torbia, Belesia, Gabal, Bagansait, Khorathidin, Sungzon, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore). It represents the most significant regional economic communities. The organization aims to accelerate economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and regional stability through active engagement with all nations. The ASEAN charter was signed in Bangkok and remains a significant part of Khorathidin's foreign policy. Khorathidin has chaired events and actively works within the ASEAN framework to promote prosperity and stability in the region.

### Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Historically, Khorathidin has done extremely well at attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Inward FDI has been vital to economic growth and FDI stocks increased by 50% since 2022, which is considerably higher than the ASEAN average (excluding Singapore). Khorathidin ranks third in ASEAN for FDI destinations of funds and its FDI share has increased 11% in the last five years. Singapore, Japan, and the United States account for the bulk of Khorathidin FDI inflows with Singapore being the largest investor from ASEAN. The majority of FDI is focused on sectors with more research and development, higher wages, and skilled labor. FDI also supports sustainable resources and efficient energy uses that spread into other Khorathidin sectors.



### Economic sanctions

Unlike other ASEAN members, Khorathidin has not openly supported sanctions against the military junta in Bagansait. This reluctance to support the international sanctions against Bagansait has confused the U.S., U.N., and other countries in the region. It is assumed that the close ethnic ties between the two countries, the established trade arrangements, and the numerous previous coups in Bagansait have shaped the current Khorathidin response into a status quo situation. Khorathidin's civilian-led government also recognizes that despite efforts to purge conspirators, there remain military personnel that favor a military-led style of government. Khorathidin's decision to maintain a status quo and to remain silent on the sanctions against Bagansait is likely a strategic decision made in the hope that a neutral stance may promote the easing of regional tensions.

### Finance and Banking

#### Private Banking

**Banking System.** There are 14 domestic commercial banks, 11 registered foreign bank branches, and four foreign bank subsidiaries in Khorathidin. The Khmer region is an exception. It contains no formal banking and consists of only informal lenders. Of the 11 registered foreign banks, three are American banks (Citibank, Bank of America, and JP Morgan Chase). Khorathidin's largest commercial bank is in Bangkok and has assets currently totaling \$100B. The five largest commercial banks assets totaled \$492.6B. Khorathidin commercial bank's services include deposits, granting credit, foreign currencies exchanges, and bills of exchange. The commercial banks also provide credit guarantees, and instruments for financial risk management. Such instruments include interest-rate derivatives and foreign-exchange derivatives. All commercial banks also provide e-banking. As a part of the Khorathidin government's expanding technology initiatives, commercial banks have introduced biometrics, standardized QR codes for payments, block chain funds transfers, and electronic letters of guarantee.

**Stock/Capital.** The Khorathidin Stock Exchange (KSX) was established in July 1963 in the form of a limited partnership. It has since expanded under tight government regulations to become one of the largest and most trusted in the region. Currently, Capital stock is estimated to be worth \$1.7B. The tourism and export sectors were the primary contributors. The capital stock of the public sector increased by \$12.5B due to an increase in the disbursement of public investment on both equipment and construction. The private sector accounted for 67.7% of the Net Capital Stock with the remaining 32.3% being held by the public sector.

#### Informal Finance

Khorathidin's various alternative financial services include cooperatives, micro-saving groups, state village funds, and informal moneylenders. The Khorathidin government regulates the cooperatives, micro-saving groups, and the state village funds. The informal moneylenders are not regulated and provide an expensive alternative to rural households. These informal lenders are an essential component for the rural agricultural economy and the form of payment or funding may not be in the form of traditional money, but in bartered goods like seed or harvested rice.

#### Public Finance

##### Public Policy

Khorathidin has aligned their fiscal policy with three main goals. They are sustainable economic growth, near-term price stability (preventing short-term inflation), and long-term national financial security. This fiscal policy has a direct effect on both the long-term financial security and the near-term increase in the prices of goods and services (inflation). Khorathidin's financial ministry uses a flexible framework to target inflation and keep it at the appropriate level to ensure a stable financial system. Khorathidin uses a managed float exchange rate for its currency like many of the western democracies. Under this mechanism the international markets and the KSX determine the value of the currency, but the Khorathidini government still maintains the ability to intervene in case of excessive volatility.

### Taxation

Personal taxes are simplified in Khorathidin compared to neighboring countries. If an individual is in Khorathidin as an employee or conducting business, they are taxed on the same progressive scale as residents, 5-35%. The corporate tax is a flat 20% and the value added tax is 7%.

Table 2. Tax table

Type of taxpayer or income	Tax rate
<b>Salaries</b>	
Resident foreigners	Progressive rates from 5% to 35%
Non-resident foreigners	Progressive rates from 5% to 35%
<b>Other income</b>	
Resident nationals and foreigners	Progressive rates from 5% to 35%
Non-resident nationals	10%
<b>Capital gains tax</b>	
Resident nationals and foreigners	10%
Non-resident foreigners	10%
Rental income:	5% on Gross
Corporate flat tax:	20% on Net Profits

### Currency Reserves

Khorathidin’s global currency and gold reserves are estimated to be worth \$246 billion by the World Bank Group. According to the IMF definition, international reserves consist of the sum of the country’s foreign exchange, its reserve position in the IMF, its monetary gold reserves, and the United States dollar value of SDR holdings by its monetary authorities. (SDR - special drawing rights).

### Employment Status

#### Labor Market

Khorathidin’s labor force is estimated at 36.3-38.3 million. This is of the approximately 55.6 million adults who are eligible to work. Women make up 50% of the workforce and their role in professional jobs continues to increase. The labor force can be roughly divided in to three main sectors: Agriculture 49%; Service Sector 37%; and Industry 14%.

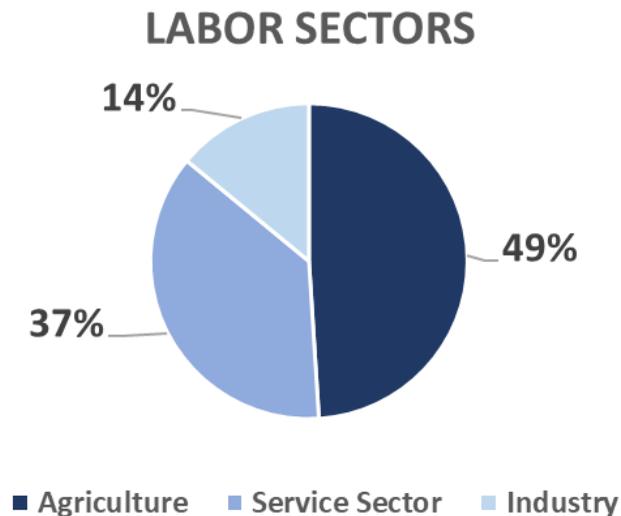


Figure 10. Labor market by sector

There are an estimated 1.3 million migrant workers registered in Khorathidin. The registered, legal migrant workers come from Sungzon and Bagansait, while most unregistered, illegal migrant workers likely are from Olvana.

#### Employment and Unemployment

Khorathidin has a low unemployment rate of approximately 0.9%, but most of the jobs are unskilled labor by western standards. The World Bank estimates that nearly one-third of the current Khorathidin workforce is in jeopardy of losing



their job to automation in the next 10-20 years. Khorathidin is currently adding between 2500-4000 industrial robots annually. At the current rate, the industrial workforces will lose nearly 75% of its positions in the next 10 years.

Table 3. *Illegal economic activity.*

## Illegal Activities

### Government-sponsored

Type of Illegal Activity	Estm. Annual Value
Drug trafficking	\$770-\$908M
Trading in contraband (Logging, Animals, Arms)	\$165-\$853M
Diesel oil smuggling	\$248M
Prostitution	\$2.8B
Trafficking in people	\$165M
Illegal gambling	\$3.7-\$7.7B
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$7.8-\$12.5B</b>

The King of Khorathidin has formally blamed some of the deforestation on the greed of state officials. They are accused of profiting off illegal logging and the illegal timber trade. This is evident by the large areas of virgin forests harvested despite having been granted national park protective status. Currently, a mature rosewood tree is worth as much as \$8,200 dollars on the current market, which equates to more than half an annual wage for a rural Khorathidin.

### Non-government-sponsored

The primary non-government sponsored illegal activities are drug trafficking, smuggling, illicit logging, trading of conserved species of plants and animals, trafficking in humans and activities such as prostitution, and gambling. This informal economy is estimated to be worth \$7.8-\$12.5B annually.

Table 4. *Table of economic activity*

Measure	Data	Remarks
GDP (Official Exchange Rate)	\$543.798 Billion	Estimated
GDP – Real Growth Rate	2.62%	Estimated
GDP – Per Capita (PPP)	\$17,000	Estimated
Gross National Saving	-3.5%	% Of GDP (Estimated)
GDP – Household Consumption	48.8%	Estimated
GDP – Government Consumption	16.4%	Estimated
GDP – Investment in Fixed Capital	23.2%	Estimated
GDP – Investment in Inventories	-0.4%	Estimated
GDP – Exports of Goods & Services	68.2%	Estimated
GDP – Imports of Goods & Services	-54.6%	Estimated
GDP – Agriculture Sector	8.2%	Estimated
GDP – Industry Sector	36.2%	Estimated
GDP – Services Sector	55.6%	Estimated
Labor Force	\$37.546 Million	Estimated
Labor Force – Agriculture	31.8%	Estimated
Labor Force – Industry	16.7%	Estimated
Labor Force – Services	51.5%	Estimated
Unemployment Rate	.99%	Estimated
Poverty Rate	9.9%	Below Poverty Line (Estimated)
Net Foreign Direct Investment	\$57.85 Million	Estimated
Foreign Direct Investment Received	\$183.45 Million	Estimated
Foreign Direct Investment Abroad	\$80.15 Million	Estimated
Budget – Revenues	\$69.23 Billion	Estimated
Budget - Expenditures	\$85.12 Billion	Estimated
Public Debt	41.9%	% of GDP (Estimated)
Inflation Rate – Consumer Prices	.7%	Estimated
Economic Equality/Inequality	36.4	Gini Index Coefficient

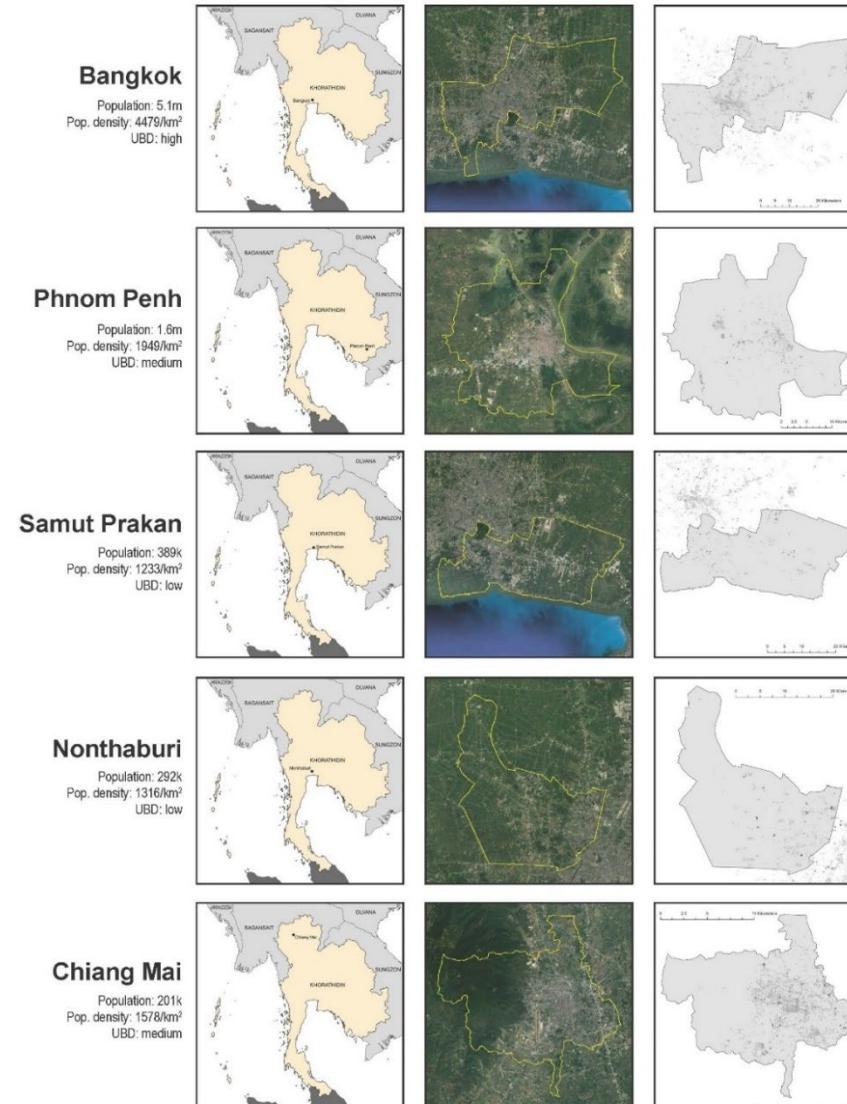
# INFRASTRUCTURE

## Infrastructure Overview

Located at the center of Mainland Southeast Asia, Khorathidin’s total surface area is approximately 198,120 square miles (513128.44 km<sup>2</sup>), with a population of almost 70 million. The infrastructure across Khorathidin has been a focus for investment over the last several decades and is seen as a critical factor in future economic growth. This has resulted in Khorathidin developing cities and urban areas. However, there is a divide between the quality and degree of modernization of infrastructure in urban areas when compared with rural areas. Even though the country has invested significantly into its infrastructure, Khorathidin still faces an infrastructure gap. Estimates indicate that if the rate of investment is not accelerated, the country could face an economic spending gap of \$100 billion within the next 20 years.

Development in the Tonlé Sap Basin has fallen behind the rest of the country, but investment and local economic growth is closing the gap. Rail lines within Khorathidin are primarily narrow-gauge railways. Khorathidin has a coastline of 1215.45 miles (3,148 km) with over 1544.41 miles (4,000 km) of waterways. The major ports include Bangkok, Laem Chabang, Ranong, Chiang Saen, and Chiang Khong. The Kra Isthmus in southern Khorathidin has long been considered as a possible site for a canal connecting the Gulf of Thailand to the Andaman Sea, creating an alternative to the Straits of Malacca. Olvana has shown a particular interest in the proposed development of such a canal, while countries like Himaldesh and Singapore have firmly opposed such a development.

Map 6. Bagansait major population centers



\*building footprint data are crowd-sourced, not all buildings are shown.

### Energy Sector

100% of Khorathidin’s population has access to electricity. Fossil fuels, particularly natural gas, meet most of Khorathidin’s power requirements. Khorathidin imports most of its oil and significant quantities of natural gas and coal. Energy from renewables has only recently begun to contribute significant amounts of energy. The country consumes approximately 133 Mtoe (million tons of oil equivalent). Khorathidin produces roughly one-third of the oil it consumes. It is the second largest importer of oil in the region. Khorathidin does produce natural gas, with reserves of approximately 52.83 trillion gallons (0.2 trillion cubic meters). Khorathidin trails Sungzon and Bagansait in coal production, and the lignite coal it produces is of mediocre quality. It must import coal to meet domestic demand, which is primarily for electricity generation. Natural gas-fired generation consists of 63% of the total electricity supplied, followed by coal and lignite as the second largest feedstock with a 19% share.

The Electricity Generating Authority of Khorathidin (EGAK) is a state enterprise, managed by the Ministry of Energy, responsible for electric power generation and transmission as well as bulk electric energy sales in Khorathidin. EGAK, established on 1 May 1969, is the largest power producer in Khorathidin, owning and operating power plants at 45 sites across the country with a total installed capacity of 15,548 MW.

Critics have challenged EGAK's monopoly position in Khorathidin's electrical energy market as a former energy minister and other government members are on the board. EGAK has been criticized as inefficient and an impediment to the development of renewable energy sources.

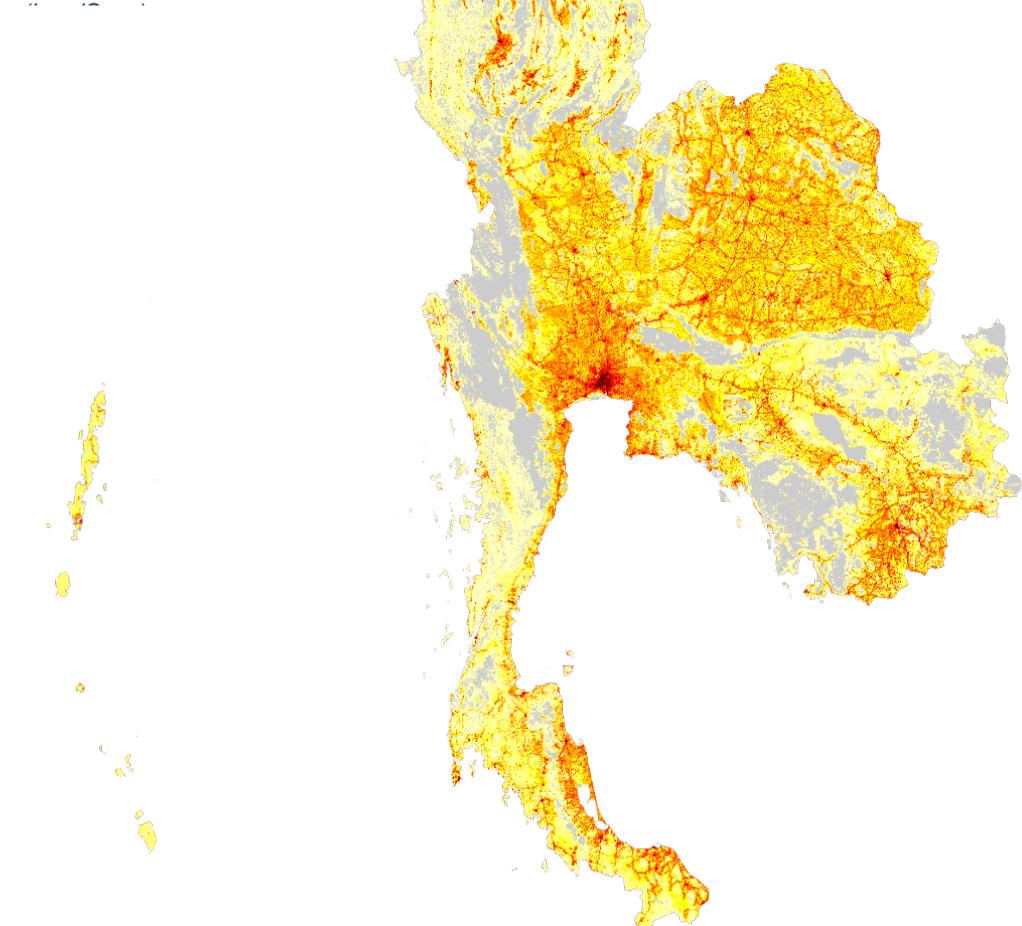
### Nuclear Power

There is currently no nuclear power generated in Khorathidin and there is no plan for nuclear power soon.

### Renewable Power

The Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency (DEDE) is a department of Khorathidin's Ministry of Energy. It is responsible for driving

Map 7. Population concentrations in red depicting Bangkok with highest population density



renewable energy production while reducing the nation's overall energy consumption. Khorathidin currently generates around 10% of its electricity from renewable sources, with a total energy generation capacity of 45,000 megawatts (MW). As of this year, renewable energy supplied about 15% of total power consumption in Khorathidin. The Khorathidin government is striving to develop

more renewable energy power plants over the next 20 years. The government's goal is to increase the proportion of renewable energy to 30% of total energy consumption.

Table 5. Power Plants in Khorathidin

Name or Location	Fuel Type	Capacity (MW)	Latitude	Longitude
Mae Moh	Coal	2400	18.29467	99.75569
Thap Sakae	Coal	3200	11.47546	99.59691
Thepha	Coal	2200	6.82835	100.96500
South Bangkok (Blocks 1-3)	Natural Gas	1691	13.62099	100.56059
Bang Pakong (Blocks 1-5)	Mix <sup>1</sup>	4385	13.49939	101.02344
Wang Noi	Mix <sup>2</sup>	2027	14.23763	100.77718
Korat Wind Farm	Wind	207	15.00258	101.44752
Laem Chabang Wind Farm	Wind	200	13.11124	100.91567
Bhumibol Dam	Hydro	749	17.24273	98.97222
Lam Takhong Power Plant	Hydro	500	14.80976	101.53914
Sirikit Dam	Hydro	500	14.80975	101.53915
Srinagarind Dam	Hydro	720	14.40517	99.12793
Vajiralongkorn Dam	Hydro	300	14.79971	98.59696
Lampang Solar Farm	Solar	90	18.38868	99.42314
Phitsanulok Solar Farm	Solar	90	16.80532	100.24206

<sup>1</sup> fuel oil, natural gas, diesel

<sup>2</sup> natural gas, diesel

## Water and Sanitation

### Water

There are 25 river basins in the country and Khorathidin's annual rainfall is around 67 inches (170.18 cm). Increasing population, urbanization, agricultural and industrial expansion is affecting the water quality of various water sources. Pollutants from human activities also contribute to the degradation of the water

quality. In addition, there is no clear policy for the management of drinking water sources so there is over-exploitation of the water that is available.

The primary sources for drinking water are from surface and ground water sources. The levels of untreated domestic sewage, industrial wastewater, and solid hazardous wastes have increased in surface water. Approximately one third of the surface water is of poor quality in Khorathidin and the surface water in the Northern Central and Southern regions are of the poorest quality. The largest source of groundwater is in the Lower Central plain surrounding Bangkok. That water is used to meet the region's water demands. Agricultural run-off pollutants, aquaculture, and sewage are polluting what groundwater is available.

The Central Plain has no large water reservoirs, and the region must rely on reservoirs created by hydro-electric dams in the country's lower, Northern region for water. The Northern region experiences long periods of drought each year leading to a decrease in water flowing into the dams. The extended durations of these droughts are affecting the production of rice. Khorathidin is the world's largest rice exporter, and the agricultural sector takes up 70% of the nation's total water supply.

### Sanitation

There has been significant progress in constructing wastewater treatment plants in Khorathidin over the past 20 years. In 2002, the government invested \$1836.72 USD in wastewater treatment systems and by 2003, 78 wastewater treatment plants were in operation, and six were under construction. The current capacity of wastewater treatment stands at 581.179M gallons per day (gal/d) (2.2M cubic meters per day (m<sup>3</sup>/d)); however, the actual amount of wastewater

being treated is only 195.324M gal/d (739,307 m<sup>3</sup>/d). It is estimated that only about 25% of domestic wastewater is treated, and the balance is discharged untreated into surrounding surface water sources. According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, 20% of wastewater treatment plants were operating well, 65% were fair, and 15% were operating poorly. The main causes of inefficiency include poor collection systems, limited budgets for operation and maintenance, lack of appropriately trained and experienced personnel, unclear legislation on wastewater treatment fees, lack of enforcement of standards, poor public relations, and insufficient public involvement.

## Transportation Architecture

### Road System

Khorathidin has more than 150,589.88 miles (390,026 km) of road networks, of which 98.5% are constructed of concrete or asphalt. 25585.45 miles (66,266 km) of Khorathidin's road networks consist of four national highways connecting Bangkok to the rest of the country and are designated as HWY 1(North), HWY 2 (Northeast), HWY 3 (central), and HWY 4 (South). In addition, A Bangkok – Chon Buri motorway (Route 7) now links the Suvarnabhumi airport and Eastern Seaboard.

### Public Transportation

For inter-city travel, public regular and air-conditioned buses are available. These buses run on a regular basis between Bangkok and provincial cities in Khorathidin. Three regional bus depots serve Eastern region destinations (Ekamai), northern and northeastern region destinations (Mor Chit), and the southern region (Sai Tai Mai). There are more than 4000 public vans operating on 114 routes from Bangkok. Other forms of road transport include tuk-tuks (three-wheeled motorcycle taxi), taxis (more than 80,000 registered nationwide), vans (minibus), motorbike taxis and songthaews (a passenger vehicle adapted from a pick-up or a larger truck and used as a share taxi or bus).

Bangkok has two mass rail transit systems: the BTS and the MRT. The BTS is an elevated train network that serves Bangkok's most congested business



Map 8. Highways and major roads

districts, including Silom and Sukhumvit. The MRT is a subway system that runs between Hua Lamphong (Central Train Station) and Bang Sue, and a Purple Line that runs between Khlong Bang Phai and Tao Poon.

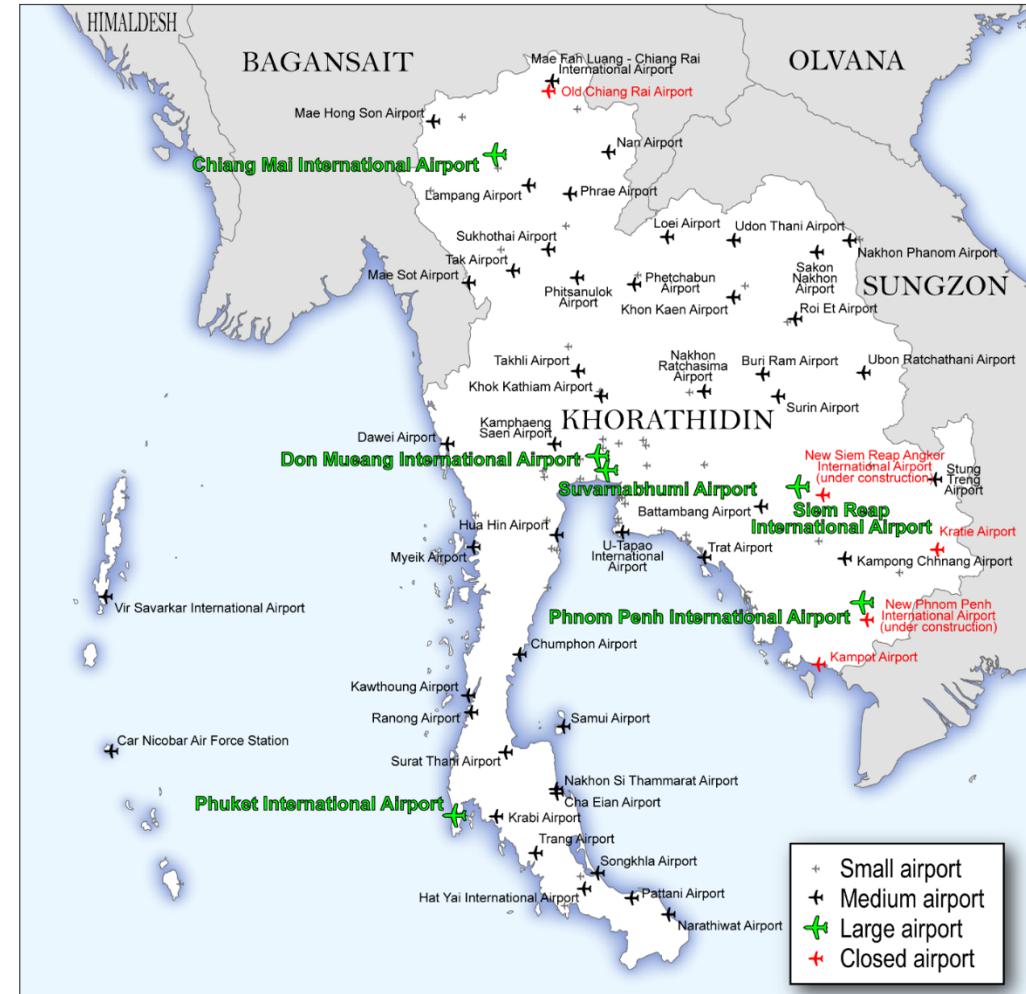
### Rail System

The State Railway of Khorathidin (SRK) operates all Khorathidin's national rail lines. Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong Station) is the main terminus of all routes. Phahonyothin and ICD Lat Krabang are the main freight terminals.



Map 10. Rail lines and gauges

SRK has 1740.16 miles (4,507 km) of track, all of it meter gauge except the Airport Link. Nearly all is single-track, although the higher volume areas around Bangkok are double and/or triple tracked. Rail transport in Bangkok includes long-distance services, and some daily commuter trains running from and to the outskirts of the city during the rush hour.



Map 9. Airports



### Air Transportation System

Khorathidin has 38 commercial airports, including eight international airports. The international airports are in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Phuket, Hat Yai, Krabi, Samui, and U-Tapao. The two largest airports are Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang. Both are in Bangkok. Suvarnabhumi is the country's primary international airport with a passenger capacity of 80 million and a cargo capacity of three million metric tons per year. Khor Airways International is Khorathidin's national airline providing both domestic and international flights.

### Maritime

#### Seaports

Bangkok Port is the largest port in Khorathidin and is located on the west side of the Chao Phraya River at the entrance to Prakanong Canal, Klongtoey District, Bangkok. The depth of the Chao Phraya River at this location is 27.89 ft. (8.5 m). The port is operated by the Port Authority of Khorathidin and handles approximately 1.5 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEU), or the equivalent of a 20-foot container, per year.

Laem Chabang handles approximately 6.9 million TEU per year and the port depth is 12 meters and is accessible 95% of the year. Currently, private companies handle four piers. Laem Chabang Port is situated at Tungsukhla Sub-District, Sriracha District, and Banglamung Sub-District of Chon Buri Province. Sriracha Harbour Deep Seaport can accommodate vessels up to 100,000 tons deadweight.

### Navigable Rivers

1. **Chao Phraya:** Chao Phraya is a major river and flows south to the Gulf of Thailand forming an alluvial plain in the central region producing rich farmland. Chao Phraya is an important waterway at 143.63 miles (372 km), as it provides a conduit for commercial traffic. It originates at the confluence of the Ping and Nan River at Nakhon Sawan.

2. **Mae Klong River:** At 145 km long, the Mae Klong River covers the western region of the country. It originates at Kanchanaburi in western Khorathidin at the confluence of the Khwae Noi and Khwae Yai and flows south into the Gulf of Thailand. Additionally, this river acts as major travel corridor connecting to hundreds of waterways, canals, and tributaries leading to different cities within the region.

3. **Mekong River:** Mekong, known as Mai Nam Khing in Khorathidin, is the seventh longest in Asia and 12th longest in the world, with a total length of 1,679.54 miles (4,350 km). The headwater originates in southwest Olvana and flows along the borders of Bagansait, Sungzon, and Khorathidin, before emptying into the Gulf of Thailand. This river contributes a major share of the fish resources for Khorathidin and is a major thoroughfare for transporting goods throughout the country. Where the river defines the border between countries, disputes have occurred as the river shifts its course during the seasonal flooding. However, to date these disputes have been adjudicated effectively through the Mekong River Accord (MRA).

4. **Bangkok waterways:** A major means of moving people and cargo around Bangkok consist of the Chao Phraya River, the Khlong (canal) Saen Saep, and the Khlongs of Thonburi. The Khlong Saen Saep connects the Chao Phraya River to Prachinburi Province and Chachoengsao. A portion of the canal is used for public transport by an express boat service in Bangkok. The 27.8 mile (72 km) long canal passes through 21 districts and is connected to more than 100 smaller canals that cuts across Bangkok from east to west. The Khlongs of Thonburi is a network of canals on the opposite side of the river. The khlongs are only six meters across, and therefore only narrow wooden boats can navigate through them.

5. **Bassac River:** is a distributary of the Tonlé Sap and Mekong River. The river starts in Phnom Penh and flows southerly, crossing the border into Sungzon. The Bassac River is an important transportation corridor between Khorathidin and Sungzon, with barges and other craft using the waters daily.



## Pipelines

### Petroleum

The Northeast Khorathidin Oil Pipeline is under construction. The pipeline runs from Sao Hai District, Saraburi Province, Khorathidin, to Ban Phai District, Khon Kaen Province.

### Natural Gas

The Malaysia–Khorathidin Joint Development Area is a 2799.24 mi<sup>2</sup> (7,250 km<sup>2</sup>) area in the Gulf of Thailand which was created to exploit the natural resources in the seabed claimed by both countries and to split the revenue. Both maintain their legal claims. A memorandum of understanding for the establishment of the joint development area and authority to administer the area was signed in February 1979. This was followed by an agreement in May of 1990.

Approximately 8.5 trillion standard cubic feet of gas reserves from twenty-two fields in the area have been discovered. Gas production from what is now known as the Cakerawala gas field began in 2005. The Yadana pipeline is a transboundary natural gas pipeline linking Bagansait's Yadana gas field to Khorathidin. Completed in 1998 with the support of Khorathidin through the Petroleum Authority of Khorathidin, the project was subject to controversy over human rights abuses against minority groups in Bagansait and environmental concerns in Khorathidin. This pipeline supplies about 25% of Khorathidin's natural gas demand.

### Water

Many homes in Khorathidin use ground or surface water for their main source of water utilizing holding tanks or sunken wells. However, in other homes water is supplied through a main water supply provided by the Local Waterworks Department. The Metropolitan Waterworks Authority of Khorathidin (MWA) provides a main water supply in Bangkok, Nonthaburi, and Samut Prakan. Outside of Bangkok, the Potable Waterworks Authority (PWA) is responsible for supplying water.

## Telecommunications Architecture

Telecommunications in Khorathidin consists of fixed-line telephones, mobile subscriber networks, along with fixed and mobile broadband. Telephone service was limited for most of the 20th century. In 1991, two private corporations were given concessions to build and operate telephone lines: TeleBang for the Bangkok Metro Region and Khor Telephone & Telecommunications (KT&T) for the provinces.

There are three fixed-line telephone operators in Khorathidin. There 5.5 million fixed-line subscriptions, but as mobile services increase, fixed-line subscriber numbers decline.

There are approximately 126 million mobile subscribers in Khorathidin operated and controlled by three major cell service providers. Mobile networks cover 97% of Khorathidin's population and approximately 50% of the population has access to most advanced cellular communications technology available. Bangkok and other large urban areas have universal advanced cellular telecommunications coverage. Rural areas are still mostly covered by latent cellular coverage, typically one to two versions behind.

Khorathidin obtained internet access in the late 1990s, the third country in Southeast Asia to do so. Currently, about 76% of the population has access to the internet. In the region Khorathidin only ranks behind Singapore, and South Torbia for fixed internet, speed at 206.81 Mbit/s. FTTH (Fiber to the Home) with speeds up to one Gbit/s is available in major cities, including Bangkok, Phuket, and Chiang Mai.

Khorathidin is one of the first markets to launch 5G in the Asia Pacific region, with commercial 5G services during Q1 2020, shortly after the conclusion of the country's 5G auction. The regulator, The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), has been instrumental in establishing Khorathidin as a leading 5G market in the region.



## Industry

### Food and Agriculture

Khorathidin is the world's second largest exporter of rice with annual exports worth approximately \$4.8B annually. Khorathidin cultivates many other crops, but not on the scale of rice. These crops include Cassava (starchy root vegetable), corn, Kenaf (a fiber for rope and paper), cashews, mangoes, pineapples, rubber, coffee, sugarcane, longans (an edible fruit), and vegetables. Tobacco cultivation has been drastically reduced over the last ten years due to restrictions and a sharp drop in demand. Forestry remains a key economic sector and accounts for an estimated \$3.9B in exports annually. This equates to approximately 1.5% of all exported goods and services. Khorathidin's fishing industry exports an estimated \$6B of fish or fish products annually. This represents approximately 20% of all food exports. There are more than 800,000 people employed in the fishing industry, which makes it the sixth largest employment industry. Khorathidin is the world's third-largest seafood exporter and the world's leading shrimp exporter.

### Oil/Gas

Khorathidin is an oil and natural gas producing country, but the domestic demand currently exceeds its extraction and production capabilities. Therefore, Khorathidin is a net importer of oil and natural gas. Additionally, one of Khorathidin's largest offshore natural gas fields is only producing one fifth of what it was in the past. Bagansait used to provide a significant amount of natural gas to Khorathidin via pipeline. This reliance on Bagansait was put under scrutiny due to the recent military coup in Bagansait and the resulting international sanctions. Khorathidin recently shut off natural gas imports from Bagansait and increased its imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from various Middle Eastern countries. The increased cost of purchasing LNG at the high open market value is not assessed to be a sustainable solution. Khorathidin's strategic oil reserves have dwindled to just 390 million barrels, which is a decrease of 9 million barrels from the previous year. The Khorathidin government has increased its exploration as well as oil and gas infrastructure development efforts to seek a domestic solution for their energy needs.

## Mining

Khorathidin's mining resources include tin, potash, gypsum, feldspar, fluorite, gemstones (rubies, sapphires, topaz, and zircon), lignite, lead, tantalum, and tungsten. There are also reserves of zinc, iron, gold, and copper. The Khorathidin government has focused on legislation to protect the environment and natural resources against the mining industry. Mining projects are subject to a variety of preventative and control mechanisms. Additionally, the government has emphasized that large scale mining should focus on resources that are used domestically, like gypsum, and not on export products. The intent of these policies is to conserve Khorathidin's mineral wealth and limit the exploitation of its resources for export and short-lived financial gains.

## Space

Khoracom is the name of a series of communications satellites operated out of Khorathidin and the name of the company that owns and operates the Khoracom satellite fleet and other telecommunication businesses in Khorathidin and throughout the Asia-Pacific.

## Defense Infrastructure

Chart on next page. Please see Military variable for more detailed information.



Table 6. Defense HQ locations

<b>Name or Location</b>	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
Don Mueang Air Base	Air Force	HQ Central District	13.91244	100.61190
Takhil Air Base	Air Force	HQ Northern District	15.27183	100.29573
Ubon Ratchathani Air Base	Air Force	HQ Eastern District	15.37513	104.87221
Surat Thani Air Base	Air Force	HQ Southern District	17.37673	102.79670
Bangkok Central Army HQ	Army	HQ, Central Army Regional Command	13.79554	100.52585
Nakhon Eastern Army HQ	Army	HQ, Eastern Army Regional Command	14.13552	101.38253
Phitsanulok Northern Army HQ	Army	HQ, Northern Army Regional Command	16.80079	100.29461
Nakhon Si Southern Army HQ	Army	HQ, Southern Army Regional Command	8.50314	99.95469
Sattahip	Maritime Force	HQ, Northern Gulf Fleet	12.66667	100.90000
Songkhala	Maritime Forces	HQ, Southern Gulf Fleet	7.21589	100.58215
Phanqna	Maritime Forces	HQ, Western Sea Fleet	8.57975	98.23652

## SOCIAL

### Overview

Khor social structure is rooted deeply in the Theravada Buddhism culture it shares with other Southeast Asian countries. Respect for elders, ancestors, and social courtesies are instilled at an early age as well as the hierarchical nature of families and decision-making. This identity permeates all layers of social construct, to include government authority.

### Demographics

#### Ethnicities and Languages

There are over 60 ethnicities recognized by the Khorathidin government. By far the largest group identify as Khor. The five most prominent ethnicities and their eponymous languages are:

**Khor.** Population: roughly 70 million. The main ethnicity of Khorathidin, Khor comprises 72% of the population and includes several related ethno-linguistic sub-groups. The Khor (also known as Khorat) population is concentrated along the central river plain and most densely in the capital city of Bangkok at the Chao Phraya River delta. Historically known as the Siam, the Khor entered Khorathidin in the 9<sup>th</sup> century from the Polynesian Islands (Austro-Asiatic) onto the mainland of what is now Olvana and then westward into modern-day Khorathidin. The area was previous settled by the Tibeto-Burmese peoples, which who remain in the eastern portion of Khorathidin as the Bamar people, who now mostly live in Bagansait.

**Khmer.** Population: roughly 17 million. The Khmer are also Austro-Asiatic and occupy the large swath of land in the Southeastern portion of Khorathidin. Khmer share many cultural traditions with the Khor.

Language	Script
Khor	ภาษาไทย
Khmer	ភាសាខ្មែរ
Lao	ອັກສອນລາວ
Malay	Bahasa Melayu
Karen	ကညီကျိာ် / K'nyaw

Table 7. Linguistic diversity in Khorathidin.

**Lao.** Population: roughly seven million. The Lao reside in northeaster Khorathidin and share tribal cultures with southern Olvana and Sungzon. The Lao language is mutually intelligible with Khor.

**Malay.** The Malay, an Austro-Asiatic culture, settled the southern tip of what is now Khorathidin in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and remain there today.

**Karen.** The Karen are of Sino-Tibetan ancestry, with origins from the mountainous, south-central portions of modern-day Olvana. The Karen were forced from their homes in Bagansait into Khorathidin, but many remain there and maintain a cultural connection with, and receive aid from, the Karen of Khorathidin.

#### Other Ethnolinguistic Groups

**Bamar.** The Bamar, or Burmese, people live in the far west of Khorathidin along the border with Bagansait and speak Burmese. The Bamar in Khorathidin generally hold an unfavorable view of both the Khor-centric government of Khorathidin and the junta ruling Bagansait. This political antagonism leads to border security issues in the form of blockades and demonstrations. The Khorathidin government has tried to improve relations with the Burmese-speaking population, but it remains an issue.

**Hill Tribes.** The so-called hill tribes of northern Khorathidin are a diverse group of ethnicities and share many cultural traditions with Olvanan ethnicities. The hill tribes speak many variations of Khor-Tai, Olvanan-Han, Khmu, and Wa.

**Andaman and Nicobar Archipelago Tribes.** The Andamanese peoples are the indigenous inhabitants of the contested islands of the Bay of Bengal, on the edge of the Andaman Sea, collectively known as the Andaman Islands. The various tribes lived there until the late 1800s without any contact from outsiders

Theravada Buddhism	93%
Islam	5%
Christianity	1.5%
Other (animism, Hindu)	0.5%

Table 8. Religious preferences

and maintained a hunter-gatherer culture virtually unchanged for over 20,000 years. The Andamanese tribes are animists and self-sufficient. The Nicobarese tribes live in the southernmost group of islands of the archipelago known as the Nicobar Islands. They speak Nicobarese, number roughly 30,000, and are mainly a Christian, matriarchal culture.

**Religions**

Most people actively practice Theravada Buddhism. The few Muslims are predominantly Sunni, and the Christians are from a variety of denominations.

**Education**

**Literacy.** 93%. Education and literacy rates in Khorathidin are equitable between the sexes.

**System.** Khorathidin provides free public education which is compulsory to age 14 (roughly ninth grade American equivalent) and optional for upper secondary (equivalent to senior high school). High school is focused on vocational certification. School begins in May and runs through the summer. The break between academic years is March through May.

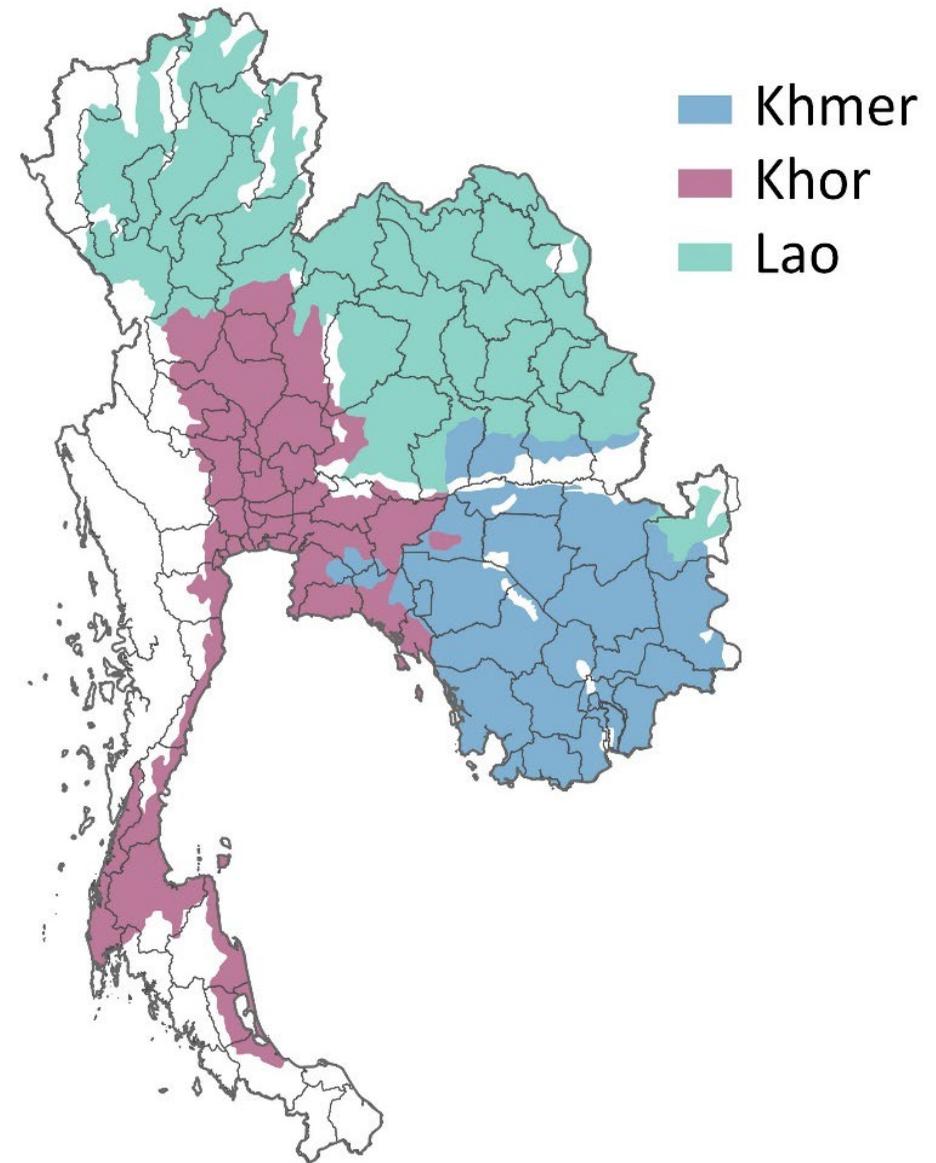
**Attainment.** 99% primary, and 75% upper secondary. At least 85% complete lower secondary (to age 14).

**Population Density**

**Overview**

Khorathidin’s population of nearly 94,000,000 is mostly rural, with 25% living in urban areas. Most live in the central wetlands where rice and other crops are grown.

The three largest ethnic groups generally reside in their historical regions of origin. See Map 11.



Map 11. The general location of the three largest ethnicities in Khorathidin



The population growth rate is +0.25% and declining. Khorathidin's population growth rate has declined over the last 50 years as prosperity has increased and fertility rates decreased. The median age in Khorathidin is 40 years.

### Urban Areas

Table 9. Largest cities in Khorathidin

City	Pop	Lat, Long	Notes
<b>Bangkok</b>	14M	13.7525, 100.4941	<i>The largest city in Khorathidin. Population within the city is 6 million, but the metropolitan area is over 14 million. Bangkok is home to an historic port economy and the largest population of Khor peoples.</i>
<b>Phenom Penh</b>	2.2M	11.5694, 104.9211	<i>With a metropolitan population of 2.2 million, Phenom Penh is the seat of the Khmer population in the far eastern portion of Khorathidin, near the border of Sungzon.</i>
<b>Siem Reap</b>	500K	13.3622, 103.8597	<i>Former French settlement and location of Angkor Wat, the remains of the ancient Khmer civilization. Though the city is only 250K people, the surrounding metro area is half of the province population of 1M.</i>
<b>Hat Yai</b>	400K	7.01666, 100.4666	<i>Traditional heart of Southern Khorat culture.</i>
<b>Chiang Mai</b>	131K	18.7952, 98.9986	<i>Urban hub in otherwise rural northern Khorathidin.</i>

### Rural Areas

75% of Khorathidin's population lives in rural areas where farming, fishing, and cottage industry are the main occupations.

### Population Movement

#### Internal Migration

Internal Migration is both long term (longer than 6 months) and short term. Most short-term migration is seasonal and related to agriculture. Long term migration is related to larger shift in the economy from the agriculture to industrial sectors. Urbanization outpaces urban-rural migration.

**Urbanization.** While Khorathidin is primarily a rural country, Bangkok and Phenom Penh are large cities. The urbanization that comes with growth in GDP is reflected mainly in Bangkok, which is an economic hub for ASEAN states and the world. Bangkok's relative wealth and separate governorship means a higher tax rate but larger tax base to support growth and development. As a result, the percentage of total population in the western half of Khorathidin that is urban has increased from 43% in 2010 to 51% in 2020.

Urbanization in the eastern half of the country is reflected in Phenom Penh and this urbanization increased from 20% in 2011 to 24% in 2021. Phenom Penh is growing at a rate of 22% over the last 5 years and projected to grow 35% over the next five. Its revenue opportunities are regional and lacking in the larger international investments Bangkok has enjoyed. Phenom Penh's infrastructure and provision of basic services is struggling to keep pace with its growth and may become a source for dramatic political change over the next seven years.

**Seasonal.** Temporary migration from the central basin and Bangkok to the north and northeastern parts of the country coincides with the rainy season. During the dry season, the reverse is true.

#### External Migration

##### Inbound

**Economic Migration.** Khorathidin is a haven for skilled labor immigration from other Asian nations. Sungzon, Olvana, and Bagansait have traditionally contributed most of the migrant workforce, with over 100,000 awaiting work visas or living in the country illegally. Laborers and people seeking social



benefits generally move from eastern Khorathidin to western where more opportunities lie.

**Forced Migration.** Khorathidin has been dealing with displaced Rohingya and Karen populations forced from Bagansait along the western border. Approximately 500,000 have resettled in western Khorathidin from these two groups. Several new laws aimed at improving treatment and provision of services to these refugees have been passed with oversight provide by social services and law enforcement.

### **Outbound**

**Economic Migration.** Very few people leave Khorathidin for work purposes. Emigration from Khorathidin among the educated class has decreased over the last few years.

**Forced Migration.** Khorathidin's government has established several task forces for combatting human trafficking. Approximately 8,000 underage sex workers are transported to and from the port cities around Bangkok every year.

## **Culture**

### **Dimensions of National Culture**

**Power Distance. High.** Power distance is the degree to which a society accepts that power is distributed unequally. People in societies with a high-power distance are more likely to be in accordance with a hierarchy where everybody has a place with no further justification. Khor culture emphasizes respect for societal standing and a reinforcement of the legitimacy of authority, rather than the questioning of it.

**Individualism vs. Collectivism. Highly Collectivist.** Khor culture, as well as Khmer and Lao cultures, value in-group and familial loyalty, a stance often reflected in their politics. Relationships are non-confrontational, and shame is avoided. Business relationships flow from personal ones.

**Uncertainty Avoidance. Slightly High.** This dimension describes a culture's tolerance for ambiguity. Khor people generally avoid ambiguity. This is demonstrated in Khorathidin's strict laws and in-group norms. Change does not occur for its own sake and policies are designed to avoid the unexpected.

**Long-Term vs. Short-Term Orientation. Short-term.** Khor people are normative in behavior, valuing tradition over innovation to handle the challenges of the future.

**Indulgence vs. Restraint. Vague.** The various cultures of Khorathidin make "scoring" this dimension difficult. This dimension measures the degree to which people in a society control their impulses. Concepts like sacrifice and delayed gratification are elements of this dimension.

**Competitiveness vs Consensus. Consensus-seeking.** Khor, Khmer, and Laotian peoples are not competitive or assertive. It is this consensus seeking behavior that has allowed disparate ethnicities to live peacefully among one another for centuries.

### **Cultural Norms and Values**

Khor, Khmer, and Laotian people respect their elders and hold authority in esteem. Friendliness and social custom are given precedence over efficiency and expedience. Deference to one's elders in decision-making, physical space, and time are prioritized. Persons of younger age or of lesser status bow and place their hands together as a greeting of respect to elders and higher standing members of society. The lower the head and higher the hands, the more respect is shown.

### **Centers of Social Power**

Khor culture traditionally incorporates the patron-client paradigm, in which two persons form and maintain strong interpersonal bonds over time, in relationships. The patron-client relationship can influence the distribution of decision-making and the political landscape. Typically, the client role provides services to the patron in exchange for protection or advocacy. People are



simultaneously clients to some and patrons to others. The entirety of Khorathidin society is an elaborate network of this organic, bi-lateral proposition.

### Communication

#### Traditional Methods and Symbolism

Khor culture is high context, i.e., Khors speak indirectly, implicitly, and use social context to convey meaning. Speakers provide room for participants to avoid embarrassment. Khor people smile often and nod. Non-native speakers should be mindful that compliant gestures do not necessarily indicate agreement, rather pleasantness.

The Khor, Khmer and Lao all speak softly and do not use profanity unless with intimate friends. They observe the personal space of one arm’s length and do not accept touching between the sexes in public.

Eye contact is avoided, and heads are lowered in respect to elders and people of higher status.

As is common in Buddhist cultures, the head is sacred and to touch the top of another’s head is extremely rude. The feet are profane; do not show the bottom of them. Women should never touch monks.

#### Role of Technology and Media

While there is still a great divide between provincial rural life and modern urban sensibility in Khorathidin, the role of mass media, especially the internet and social media, has closed the gap. Rural populations are exposed to the relative sexual liberalism in cities and the younger adopt these new norms. This can be a source of social friction between younger and older generations in these rural, agricultural societies.

### Social Impact of OE Hazards

#### Disease

Dengue Fever, HIV/AIDS, and Zika virus are the most common diseases in Khorathidin and reflect the tropical climate of the nation. Bangkok has a

reputation as a town of promiscuity. AIDS ravaged the gay community and the current infection rates are 1.1%, making Khorathidin highest among Asian nations in AIDS prevalence.

### Natural Disaster

Khorathidin is susceptible to coastal flooding during tsunamis and torrential flooding during the monsoon season. During these disasters, poor public sanitation, casualties, and disease can create humanitarian crises.

Category	Statistic		
<i>Primary Languages (%)</i>	Khor-Tai (Official, 90%)		
	English (Secondary, 30%)		
	Khmer (20%)		
	Lao (7%)		
	Karen (2%)		
	Malay (2%)		
<i>Ethnic Groups (%)</i>	Khor 72%		
	Khmer 17%		
	Lao 7%		
	Malay 2%		
	Karen 1%		
	Other Tribal 1%		
<i>Major Religions (%)</i>	Theravada Buddhism 93%		
	Sunni Islam 5%		
	Christian 1.5%		
	Other (animism, Hindu) 0.5%		
<i>Literacy Rate (Older Than 15 in %)</i>	93%		
<i>Age Distribution (%)</i>	Age	Male	Female
	0-14	8%	7%
	15-64	35%	37%
	65+	5%	8%
<i>Median Age</i>	40 years		
<i>Population</i>	94 Million		
<i>Annual Growth Rate</i>	0.25%		
<i>Birth Rate Per 1,000 People</i>	10		
<i>Death Rate Per 1,000 People</i>	8		
<i>Urban Population (%)</i>	30%		
<i>Annual Urbanization Rate</i>	50% in western, 24% in east.		
<i>Infant Mortality Rate Per 1000 Live Births</i>	7.4		
<i>Life Expectancy At Birth (Years)</i>	77		
<i>Major Diseases In OE</i>	Dengue, HIV/AIDS, Zika virus		



## Human Rights

The government of Khorathidin is authoritarian and military. Over successive coups, the iterative juntas have increased arrests, intimidation tactics, and harassment of citizen activists. Freedom house scores Khorathidin low on political rights and low on civil liberties.

Freedom of the press is not generally observed. Publications critical of the junta are often met with arrests and investigations into the media. The influence of social media has exacerbated this problem. The junta has taken increasingly severe measures against social media influencers.

## INFORMATION

### Information Overview

#### Onset of Information Age

YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok have gained popularity among Khorathidin internet users. Despite stiff competition from other social media sites, Facebook and YouTube remain the country’s key platforms. Khorathidin is also moving towards Olvanan-based social media platforms such as WeChat, Sina Weibo, and Tencent QQ.

#### Contemporary Situation

Khorathidin is the most advanced country among the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in terms of rolling out 5G technology. Digitalization has increased in the daily lives of the average consumer. This transition arose from the growing rate of the country’s internet penetration and increased smartphone penetration rate. The Khorathidin 4.0 economic model emphasized digitalization as part of the country’s development and has led many sectors to adapt to this plan.

### Information Industries

#### Information Products

##### News Media

Public Company Limited (PCL) formerly known as the Mass Communication Organization of Khorathidin (MCOK), is a Khor State-Owned public broadcaster. It owns and operates several radio and television stations in Khorathidin and based in Bangkok. At present, PCL runs seven national, one international, 52 provincial, one district radio station, two television channels and two satellite television channels. Major television stations are owned and controlled by the Royal Khor Army, Public Company Limited and the Khorathidin Government.

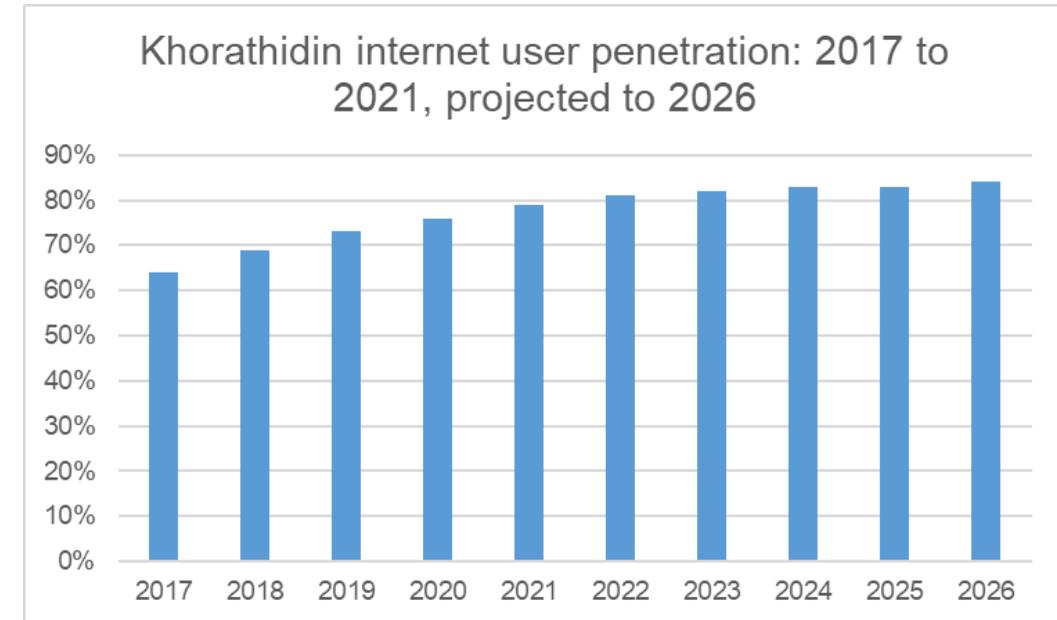


Table 11. Khorathidin internet market penetration

### Entertainment Media

Khorathidin has a well-developed mass media sector (especially by Southeast Asian standards). The entertainment industry consists of movies, TV shows, radio shows, news, newspapers music, books, and magazines. Television is by far the most popular medium. Almost 80% of the population is estimated to rely on television as their primary source of news.

The Khor government and the military have long exercised considerable control over radio and TV stations. During challenging periods of the government and military-run administrations, both domestic and foreign media, suffered from increased restrictions and censorship of which were sometimes subtle or sometimes overt. Khorathidin has one of the most sophisticated systems of digital surveillance in Southeast Asia.



## Social Media

Khorathidin is among the leading social media countries in Southeast Asia. Not only is Facebook widespread, but also the Japanese instant messaging service line. Social media in Khorathidin began with Hi5 and Myspace before the introduction of Facebook and YouTube. The social media platform Facebook ranked first among the leading social media networks as of February 2022, and the number of Facebook users reached near 50.8 million in 2020.

Social media has evolved and is now an integral part of the Khor's daily life. With increased internet and smartphone penetration rates, Khors became more active online through other platforms such as Instagram, Twitter and most recently, TikTok. Despite stiff competition from other social media sites, Facebook and YouTube remain the country's key platforms. Khors are also moving towards Olvanan-based social media platforms such as WeChat, Sina Weibo, and Tencent QQ.

## Information Services

### Financial Institutions

Khorathidin's central bank is planning new policy guidelines for the banking sector and moving towards a digitalized banking system. The Central Bank of Khorathidin will control Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC), whereas cryptocurrencies are usually decentralized, and cannot be regulated by a single authority.

### Medical System

Khorathidin digital transformation developments are fragmented . The Khor Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has several projects to update the agency to become completed digitized. The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) has implemented a policy working with government agencies (Food and Drug Administration (FDA), The Medical Council of Khorathidin, The Pharmacy Council and the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC)). This collaboration will develop and issue guidelines for telehealth services.

The FDA's digital system and procedures are based on five "S" principles: Speed, Safety, Satisfaction, Supporter, and Sustainability. All Khor citizens enjoy universal healthcare coverage through the Universal Coverage Scheme (UCS). This policy aims to deliver healthcare coverage and benefits to the entire Khorathidin population.

### Khmer Region - Health Care

The Khmer Region does not have a system that provides health protection to the entire population. Healthcare is free but only for its poorest residents. As with most health systems, you can only access public healthcare if you pay a monthly tax. Most high income and some middle-income people seek medical treatment abroad for complex or emergency cases. There are many charges for services, and when supplies are unavailable in hospitals the patient must purchase them on the open market. Each province in the Khmer Region has a separate budget and receive different amounts of humanitarian aid.

### Legal/Criminal Records

Khorathidin has a relatively high crime rate compared to other countries in Asia. Khorathidinis are generally law-abiding people but drug trafficking, drug abuse, theft, petty crime, and occasionally serious crimes remain a concern. The court system consists of three levels of courts: local, appellate, and The Supreme Court. All cases must commence in local courts, with some exceptions. In general, the law stipulates that all court proceedings be conducted in open court and in the presence of the defendant. The legal system is a statutory law system, primarily based on written law passed by legislature. The primary sources of law include the Constitution (which is the supreme law) and legislation, such as Codes and Acts, decrees and custom. The process of enacting laws is complicated, time consuming, and requires several procedures to process. Khorathidin is a constitutional monarchy and has extremely strict laws under which people can receive long prison sentences for insulting its monarchy.



### Navigation (Global Positioning)

Khorathidin is one of the first countries and client of Olvana's satellite navigation network, designed to challenge the dominance of the American GPS array. Olvana's National Radio stated a \$274M agreement to promote the use of its company in Khorathidin's public sector was signed in Bangkok. The purpose of this system is disaster relief, power distribution and transport, among other areas. The government of Olvana's push in Khorathidin is a strategic move to promote technological dependence and extend its influence through state-owned media.

### Electromagnetic Spectrum Management

The Institution of Spectrum Commons in Khorathidin manages use of the EM spectrum within Khorathidin. Khorathidin has a working group that represents EM Spectrum management bi-annually at ASEAN conferences to settle issues pertaining to cross-border bleed over of emissions.

### Information Distribution

The Khorathidini government and military have significant control over radio and TV stations. Internet censorship is conducted by the Royal Khor Police and the Communications Authority of Khorathidin. However, the government is attempting to keep pace with technology as its citizens switch to mobile, digital communications. The government is exerting more control over content through internet service providers (ISPs).

### Internet

Due to the predominantly rural population, internet penetration in Khorathidin is at 76 percent. However, scarce Internet access is in contrast with an impressive penetration rate of social networks and smartphone penetration is significantly higher than the direct access to the internet. Khorathidin was the first to establish the latest generation of digital cellular service in Southeast Asia. Booming industries, such as tourism and retail, are experiencing significant openings as visibility via online media provides greater marketing opportunities for remote businesses. Khorathidin companies have used social media to not

only promote and publish their services, but also as part of their business strategies, targeting the international audience.

### Television

Television is the most popular form of media among Khors. Almost 80% of the population use television as their primary new source. Television was also the advertising medium with the highest share of ad spending. However, this sector is being dominated by digital providers and internet television is becoming increasingly popular. The Communications Authority of Khorathidin oversees television broadcasting.

### Radio

Khorathidin has over 200 AM stations, 300 FM stations, and five shortwave broadcasters. The Communications Authority of Khorathidin oversees all radio licensing and broadcasts.

### Print

Printed media consumption has declined in recent years since the demand for creating content has shifted towards mobile devices and tablets. This is especially so for the younger generation, for whom printed media such as newspapers and magazines were not as popular as they are for the older generation. In contrast to television, newspapers in Khorathidin are subject to little governmental supervision. Readers have a choice of numerous papers, ranging from sensationalist mass-circulation dailies to newspapers specializing in coverage of political and business.

### Telephone/Telecommunications

There are three fixed-line telephone operators in Khorathidin. There 5.5 million fixed-line subscriptions, but as mobile services increase, fixed-line subscriber numbers decline.

There are approximately 126 million mobile subscribers in Khorathidin operated and controlled by three major cell service providers. Mobile networks cover 97% of Khorathidin's population and approximately 50% of the population has access



to most advanced cellular communications technology available. Bangkok and other large urban areas have universal advanced cellular telecommunications coverage. Rural areas are still mostly covered by latent cellular coverage, typically one to two versions behind.

### Postal/Carrier

Communications Authority of Khorathidin (CAK) is responsible for the country's mailing and telegraphing by providing postal services, delivering registered or express mails and parcels across Khorathidin. The mail service is generally reliable, efficient, and cheap to send packages and parcels. Most commercial shipper have branches in major tourist centers.

### Oral Communication

As the concept of 'face' underpins interactions, Khors tend to have an indirect communication style and avoid giving flat-out refusals. Keeping interactions amenable, they will often smile or nod. Hand gestures, hand signs, and body language are part of Khorathidin's culture and represent how people think in general. If they are well acquainted with one another, bluntness is accepted. In dealings with individuals of higher social status, Khors are cautious and will be polite and indirect.

### Satellite

The Khorathidin Government is considering a proposal to build its own Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Satellite. Organizations from South Torbia, Donovia and the U.S. have provided information in support of the project. The purpose of the satellite project is to provide space-based SSA from low-Earth orbit to ensure the security of Khorathidin space interests as well as its airspace. The Khorathidin Space Agency is in Bangkok and Chonburi provinces. It has responsibility for remote sensing and technology development satellites. Khoracom is the name of a series of communications satellites operating out of Khorathidin and the name of the company that owns and operates the Khoracom satellite fleet. Additionally, Khoracom owns and operates other telecommunication businesses throughout the Asia-Pacific.

### Internet of Things (IOT)

There have been substantial amounts of investments from media enterprises into digital platforms, pushing the media sector to digitalize to convey more content to consumers. Internet speed has kept up with demand in Khorathidin. Khorathidin cyberspace has become militarized and deeply politicized. The IOT provides the government another means of surveillance of its citizens.

### Information Cohorts

Khorathidin is engaged in selective filtering in the social, political, and Internet tools areas. Websites are blocked by Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and/or IP address. oversight.

### Generations

Generation X, sometimes called the Xers or Gen X, were born 1964-1980 and in Khorathidin grew up in a period of uncertainty. In Khorathidin, Generation X experienced political instability with terrorism in some rural parts of the country and transitioned with the government as it changed from a parliamentary system with civilian rule to military takeovers and again to civilian rule. Younger generations may be more individualistic and familiar with the concept of organizational change and appreciate Western management concepts.

In 2021 Generation Z internet users spent an average of 12 hours and five minutes using the internet per day. Traditional media such as TV, radio and print represents only 35% of total media consumption for Millennials, whereas those media constituted over 60% for non-Millennials. Millennials spend twice as much time as others on news media and social media.

### Media Engagement/Perception

U.S. mass media has influenced three dimensions of Khorathidin society: lifestyles, social problems, and value conflict. Khorathidin's lifestyles has been impacted the most as there were less effects on social problems and value conflict. Khorathidin ranked television and videos as having the most impact on Khorathidin society. The present movement of U.S. mass media to Khorathidini society is further facilitated by the Khor government, which actively



participates in acquiring international news and information such as financial and scientific. Private business firms also import film Media, news, magazines, and other types of media from the U.S.

### Presence/Activity in Cyberspace

Khorathidin has witnessed a troubling shift toward censorship, surveillance, and suppression in cyberspace. Surveillance is now accepted by citizens in Khorathidin. Cyber warfare capabilities have been integrated with other military forces and with support from the masses.

Social media has turned into an absolute digital panopticon. Cyber surveillance by the military and the masses has continued to jeopardize an already vulnerable Khorathidin democracy.

### Ethnic Minorities

Ethnic minorities are prevalent in rural areas, which are also frequently behind urban areas in internet accessibility.

### Khmer Region's Education

Males and females differ in terms of schooling completion and employment. Several decades of political and social unrest caused by the French occupation and the Sungzon dealt a severe blow to the education system and left it in a state of disintegration. The government initiated a series of reforms including large school construction and several scholarship programs to increase education access for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

### Information Suppression

#### Government Censorship

Khorathidin cyberspace has become militarized and deeply politicized. The constitution granted Freedom of speech in 1997. Mechanisms have strict *lèse majesté* laws, and exercises those to keep political activism of any sort in check.

### Public (popular) Censorship

Fear of being monitored has led many independent journalists and bloggers to “self-censor” out of fear of government reprisals.

### Cyberspace

The Communications Authority of Khorathidin actively blocks Khorathidin ISPs from accessing websites it deems offensive. Pornography sites and political sites particularly those having to do with the separatist movements. However, the government occasionally allows these for a to operate and requires members to identify to gain information and surveil critics of the government. Users are required to register their identities using their national number.

### KHORATHIDIN: GOV'T-CENSORED INTERNET CONTENT

- Political websites
- Social Media
- Int'l media
- Video-sharing platforms
- Broadcasting media
- Pornographic websites
- Online gambling



## PHYSICAL

### Physical Environment Overview

Khorathidin's terrain is a wildly diverse ecosystem with high mountains to the north, a central plain, dense forests, and a northwestern upland plateau. A long chain of mountains extends from the far north along the western border with Bagansait, down through the isthmus and to the Malay Peninsula. The central plain is a lowland area created by the country's principal river system, the Chao Phraya River, and its tributaries, which feed into the delta and the Bay of Bangkok. In the northeastern part of the country the Khorat Plateau, a region of gently rolling low hills and shallow lakes drains into the Mun River, which is part of the Mekong River system. The Mekong River flows along the northeastern border empties into the South China Sea and includes a series of canals and dams. The Chao Phraya and Mekong systems are central to Khorathidin's economy by supporting rice cultivation and providing waterways for the transport of goods and people. The features of the Malay Peninsula are long coastlines, offshore islands, and mangrove swamps.

### Terrain

The mountainous North deep river valleys and uplands that border the central plain. A series of rivers, including the Nan, Ping, Wang, and Yom, unite in the lowlands to form the Chao Phraya watershed. These natural features make it possible to grow several different types of crops, including wet-rice farming in the valleys and shifting/seasonal, focused cultivation in the uplands. The forested mountains contain some of the world's most valued hardwoods, including teak, but have shrunk to less than 30% of Khorathidin's total area.

The Northeast region contains the dry Khorat Plateau and low hills. The short monsoon season brings heavy flooding in the river valleys. the Northeast has a long dry season mostly covered in sparse grasses. Mountains surround the plateau on the west and the south, and the Mekong River makes up most of the eastern rim.

### Physical Environment Data

Measure	Data	Remarks
<i>Land Area (km<sup>2</sup>)</i>	714,845.84	Includes inland water
<i>Land Border (km)</i>	3,979.85	Borders Bagansait to the N.W., Sungzon to the East, and Indonesia to the South
<i>Coastline (km)</i>	9,137.99	
<i>Highest elevation (m)</i>	2,572.00	Mount Inthanon
<i>Lowest Elevation (m)</i>	0.00	Coastal
<i>Arable (cultivated) Land (%)</i>	55.85%	The majority is along the Mekong River
<i>Permanent Crops (%)</i>	48.95%	
<i>Permanent Pasture (%)</i>	6.98%	
<i>Irrigated Land (%)</i>	47.57%	
<i>Forested Land (%)</i>	34.02%	Tropical evergreen, Coniferous, Swamp (fresh water & Mangrove), Mixed Deciduous
<i>Urban Areas (%)</i>	0.16%	

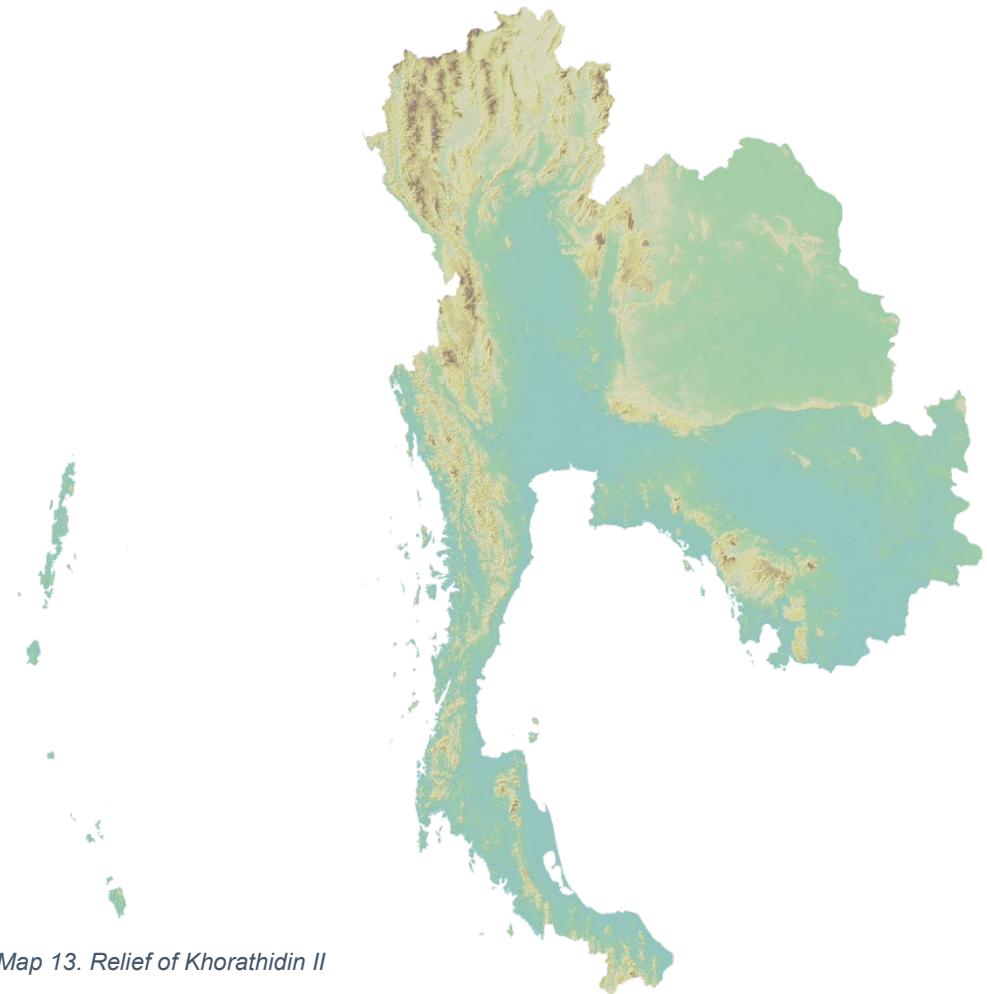
The Central region is a basin that contains most of the rice fields of Khorathidin. The area is fed by the Chao Phraya River and its tributaries. The capital city of Bangkok is the industrial and economic center of the Khorathidin economy and is seated the southern edge of the region. It lies at the top of the Gulf of Thailand and the delta of the Chao Phraya system. The complex irrigation system developed for wet-rice agriculture in this region provides the necessary

economic support to sustain significant population centers. Here the relatively flat terrain facilitates inland water and road trade routes.

The Malay Peninsula consists of rolling hills, north-south running mountains, and dense tropical forest. It is the home of coconut plantations, tin mining, and tourism, tied directly to this area's distinctive climate and terrain. The peninsula



Map 12. Relief of Khorathidin I



Map 13. Relief of Khorathidin II



borders the Andaman Sea to the west, the Gulf of Thailand to the east, and Malaysia to the south.

The southern, low-lying plain features the Tonlé Sap basin, the lower Mekong River floodplains and the Bassac River plain. It is surrounded by mountain ranges to the north, east, in the south-west and south. Additionally, there is a southward-facing cliff stretching for more than 200 miles (320 kilometers) from west to east and rising to heights of 600 to 1,800 feet (180–550 meters). This cliff marks the southern limit of the Dânggrêk Mountains.

## Bodies of Water

### Coastal

Khorathidin's west coast meets the Andaman Sea and the south-central coast, and the eastern shore of the Malay Peninsula meets the Gulf of Thailand. The Strait of Malacca lies between the Indonesian island of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula linking the Andaman Sea to the South China Sea. Phangnga Bay lies on the western coast of the Malay Peninsula, near the island of Phuket. The Gulf of Thailand contains Mae Klong Bay, which reaches the mouth of the Chao Phraya River near Bangkok.

### Major Lakes and Reservoirs

**Bueng Boraphet:** is the largest lake and freshwater swamp in central Khorathidin and is located east of Nakon Sawan and south of the Nan River. This body of water covers an area of 55,352 acres (224 sqkm) during the monsoon season and will shrink considerably during the dry season.

**Bueng Si Fai:** is a freshwater oxbow lake formed by the Nan River in central Khorathidin and located in Nai Mueang Subdistrict, Mueang Phichit District, Phichit Province. It is regarded as an important source of freshwater fish breeding and habitat for variety of bird species. It is considered a shallow lake, due to the depth of about 4.9 - 6.6 ft. (1.5–2 m) only. This lake has a border with the four sub districts of Mueang Phichit District. Originally, Bueng Si Fai was more than 3,952 acres (15.99 sqkm). However, due to the opening of the Sirikit Dam it has been reduced to only 2,094 acres (8.47 sqkm). It is the fifth-largest freshwater lake in Khorathidin.

**Cheow Lan Lake:** is in the center of the Malay Peninsula and in Khao Sok National Park in Surat Thani Province. It is a 45,715 acre (185 sq/km) manmade lake, created by the construction of Rajjaprabha Dam by the Electricity Generating Authority of Khorathidin (EGAK) as a source of electricity in 1987.

**Nong Han Lake:** is a naturally occurring lake located in the far northeast corner of Khorathidin and northeast of Sakon Nakhon. The lake covers an area of 30,938 acres (125.2 sqkm), ranges from 6.56 to 32.81 ft. (2 - 10 m) in depth and is the largest natural lake in the northeast.

**Kwan Phayao Lake:** is a manmade lake in Phayao Province, northern Khorathidin. Shaped like a crescent moon, Phayao Lake is the largest freshwater lake in the northern region and the fourth largest in the country, with a depth of 4.9 ft. (1.5 meters) and covers an area of about 4893 acres (19.8 sqkm).

**Songkhla Lake:** is Khorathidin's largest inland body of water. It is a coastal lagoon produced by sandbar formations and is located on the southern Malay Peninsula, and with a small inlet connecting it to the Gulf of Thailand. Lake Songkhla is made up of three smaller lakes, Thale Noi (6,919 acres or 28 sqkm), Thale Luang (193,434 acres or 782.8 sqkm) and Thale Sap Songkhla (43,491 acres or 176 sqkm), these are inter-connected by narrow channels. Thale Sap Songkhla has a mixture of fresh and brackish water, Thale Luang is mostly fresh water, and Thale Noi, which is the furthest from the Gulf of Thailand, is fresh water only. The lakes are shallow with an average water depth of 3.94 - 4.27 ft. (1.2 -1.3 m) during the dry seasons but may rise as much as a meter during the winter wet season. Thale Sap is known for fish, shrimp, and crab production.

**Tonle Sap Basin:** Is in southeastern Khorathidin and consists of a Tonle Sap reservoir in the depression of the Cambodian plain fed by three main tributaries and then drained by the Tonle Sap River, which ultimately feeds into the Mekong River. During the rainy season, the flow of the Mekong River is high and reverses the flow of the Tonle Sap River pushing large amounts of water into the reservoir and raising its levels nearly 33 ft. (10 m). This inflow of water



increases the overall surface area from 965.26 square miles (2,500 sqkm) to as large as 6177.63 square miles (16,000 square kilometers). The flooding and receding in this area create a very biodiverse environment for many different species of fish, birds, reptiles, and mammals. This fishery provides the main source of protein and income for the peoples of this region.

### Major Rivers & Canals

**Chao Phraya:** Chao Phraya is a major river and flows south to the Gulf of Thailand forming an alluvial plain in the central region producing rich farmland. Chao Phraya is an important waterway at 143.63 miles (372 km), as it provides **Tonle Sap River** a conduit for commercial traffic. It originates at the confluence of the Ping and Nan River at Nakhon Sawan.

**Mae Klong River:** At 145 km long, the Mae Klong River covers the western region of the country. It originates at Kanchanaburi in western Khorathidin at the confluence of the Khwae Noi and Khwae Yai and flows south into the Gulf of Thailand. Additionally, this river acts as major travel corridor connecting to hundreds of waterways, canals, and tributaries leading to different cities within the region.

**Mekong River:** Mekong, known as Mai Nam Khing in Khorathidin, is the seventh longest in Asia and 12th longest in the world, with a total length of 1,679.54 miles (4,350 km). The headwater originates in southwest Olvana and flows along the borders of Bagansait, Sungzon, and Khorathidin, before emptying into the Gulf of Thailand. This river contributes a major share of the fish resources for Khorathidin and is a major thoroughfare for transporting goods throughout the country. Where the river defines the border between countries, disputes have occurred as the river shifts its course during the seasonal flooding. However, to date these disputes have been adjudicated effectively through the Mekong River Accord (MRA).

**Bangkok waterways:** A major means of moving people and cargo around Bangkok consist of the Chao Phraya River, the Khlong (canal) Saen Saep, and the Khlongs of Thonburi. The Khlong Saen Saep connects the Chao Phraya

River to Prachinburi Province and Chachoengsao. A portion of the canal is used for public transport by an express boat service in Bangkok. The 27.8 mile (72 km) long canal passes through 21 districts and is connected to more than 100 smaller canals that cuts across Bangkok from east to west. The Khlongs of Thonburi is a network of canals on the opposite side of the river. The khlongs are only six meters across, and therefore only narrow wooden boats can navigate through them.

**Bassac River:** is a distributary of the Tonlé Sap and Mekong River. The river starts in Phnom Penh and flows southerly, crossing the border into Sungzon. The Bassac River is an important transportation corridor between Khorathidin and Sungzon, with barges and other craft using the waters daily.

**Tonle Sap River:** The Tonle Sap River flows through Southeast Khorathidin and ultimately feeds into the Mekong River. During the rainy season, when the flow of the Mekong River it at its height, it reverses the flow of the Tonle Sap River, temporarily changing it from a tributary to a distributary river. This change in flow pushes large amounts of water into the Tonle Sap reservoir and raising its levels nearly 33 ft. (10 m).

### Vegetation

Historically, Khorathidin was largely covered with forests but now only about a quarter of the land is forested. There are mangrove forests on the coast, coniferous forests at the higher elevations on the mountains, deciduous forest dominating the landscape in the north including significant stands of naturally occurring teak. Mixed rain forest occurs in the south and on mountain slopes in the north. Parts of southern Khorathidin are covered with evergreen tropical rainforest. Mangrove forests thrive on the coast and mouth of the deltas. Bamboo, palms, rattan, and many kinds of ferns are also common. Where logging has taken place, and the clear cuts not quickly replanted, a secondary growth of grasses, and shrubs have typically taken over. The main crops are rubber trees, tobacco, sugar cane, and cotton. In 1989, the Khor government enacted a ban on logging to curb deforestation.

### Agriculture

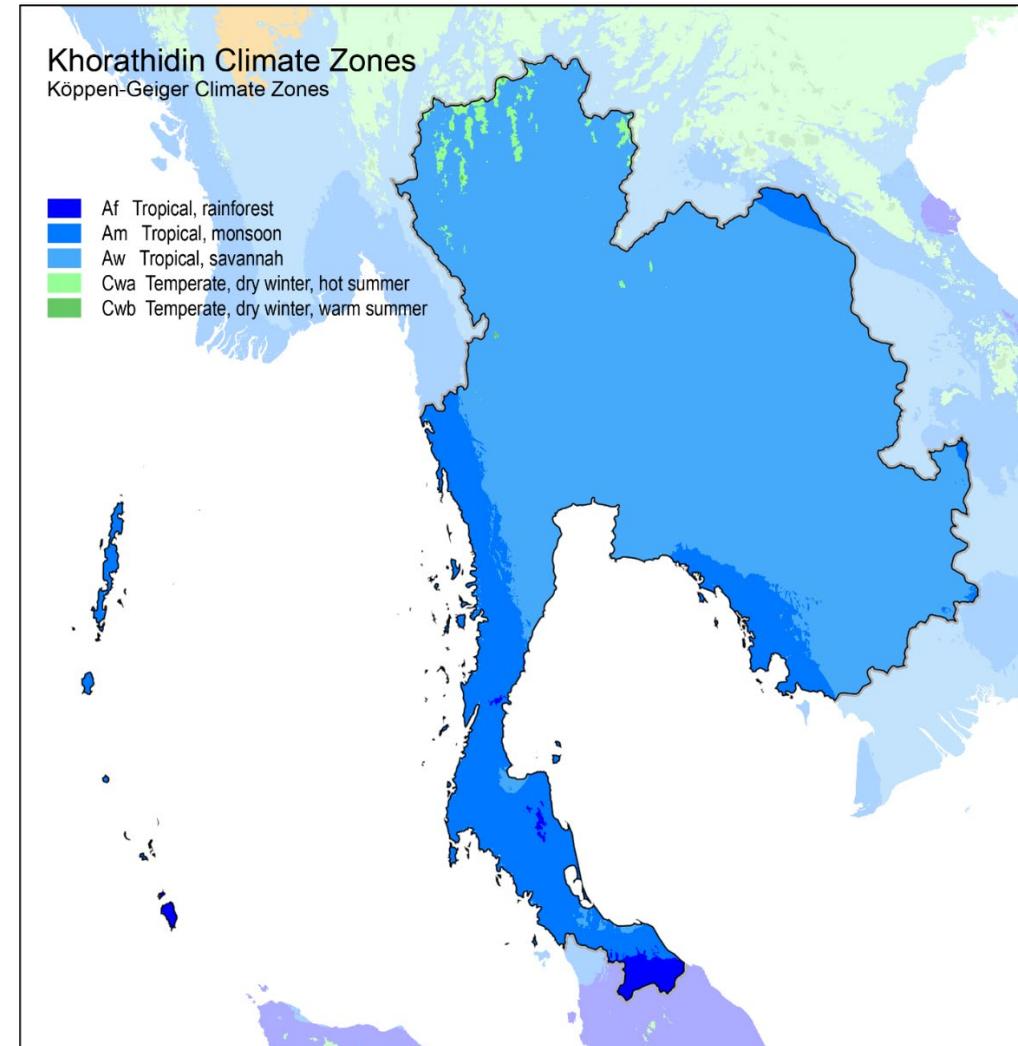
Khorathidin is the world’s second largest exporter of rice with annual exports worth approximately 4.8B annually. Khorathidin cultivates many other crops, but not on the scale of rice. These crops include Cassava (starchy root vegetable), corn, Kenaf (a fiber for rope and paper), cashews, mangoes, pineapples, rubber, coffee, sugarcane, longans (an edible fruit), and vegetables. Tobacco cultivation has been drastically reduced over the last ten years due to restrictions and a sharp drop in demand. Forestry remains a key economic sector and accounts for an estimated 3.9B in exports annually. This equates to approximately 1.5% of all exported goods and services. Khorathidin’s fishing industry exports an estimated \$6B of fish or fish products annually. This represents approximately 20% of all food exports. There are more than 800,000 people employed in the fishing industry, which makes it the sixth largest employment industry. Khorathidin is the world’s third-largest seafood exporter and the world’s leading shrimp exporter.

### Climate and Weather

The climate of Khorathidin is tropical, with three distinct seasons. The hot season lasts from March to mid-May where temperatures can reach above 100°F. This is followed by a rainy season due to the southwest monsoon, which lasts from May until October and is characterized by movement of warm, moist air from the Indian Ocean to Khorathidin, causing abundant rain over most of the country. The northeast monsoon is a dry and relatively cool season from October until February bringing cold and dry air from Olvana over most of the country. Temperatures can reach 32°F in the north and northeast but along the coast and in the south, the temperature during this period remains very warm.

On average, Khorathidin receives between 47 to 63 inches (119.38 - 160.02 cm) of rainfall annually. The windward sides of mountains such as in Ranong Province on the west coast of southern Khorathidin and eastern parts of Trat Province will almost triple the amount of annual rainfall by receiving nearly 180 inches. The driest areas are found in the central valleys and the northernmost

portion of south Khorathidin where average annual rainfall is less than 47 in (119.38 cm).



Map 14. Köppen-Geiger climate zones



## Seasons Overview

	Temp Coldest (F)	Temp Hottest (F)	Precip. (In./day)	Days of Rain	Wind (Average in miles per hour)	Humidity
Mar - May	78	95	2.7	22	7.26	95% - 100%
May - Oct	78	93	6.95	90	6.58	95% - 100%
Oct - Feb	70	89	2.2	18	6.38	80% - 93%

Table 12. Seasonal chart

## Hazards

### Events

Khorathidin is prone to natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, tropical storms, and forest fires. Earthquakes below 6.0 magnitude are not uncommon.

### Disease

Due to the variations in the ecosystem and socioeconomic backgrounds, diseases effect the populations differently based on their physical location. However, the most prevalent diseases found in Khorathidin are listed below:

**1) HIV/AIDS:** Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a deadly disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is spread primarily through unprotected sex, contaminated blood, and from an infected mother to her unborn child during childbirth or through breastfeeding. HIV interferes with the body's ability to fight infections by damaging the immune system.

**2) Zika Virus:** Zika virus is transmitted primarily by *Aedes* mosquitoes. Symptoms are generally mild and include conjunctivitis, fever, rash, joint pain, muscle pain, malaise, or headache. Most people infected with Zika virus do not develop symptoms but if symptoms do occur, they last for 2–7 days. Infection during pregnancy may cause infants to be born with microcephaly and other congenital malformations, known as congenital Zika syndrome. Infection with

Zika virus is also associated with other complications of pregnancy including preterm birth and miscarriage.

**3) Hepatitis A:** A viral disease that interferes with liver function spread through fecal contaminated food and/or water.

**4) Hepatitis E:** A water-borne viral disease that interferes with liver function commonly spread through fecal contamination of drinking water.

**5) Typhoid fever:** A bacterial disease spread through fecal contaminated food and/or water or through contact with sewage.

**6) Malaria:** An illness caused by single-cell parasitic protozoa *Plasmodium* and transmitted to humans via the bite of the female *Anopheles* mosquito. Parasites delivered via mosquito bite multiply in the liver attacking red blood cells.

**7) Dengue fever:** A mosquito-borne viral disease generally associated with urban environments with symptoms that include the sudden onset of fever and severe headache.

**8) Yellow fever:** A mosquito-borne viral disease with symptoms that range from influenza-like or in rare instances develop into severe hepatitis and hemorrhagic fever.

**9) Japanese Encephalitis:** A mosquito-borne viral disease associated with rural areas. Acute encephalitis can progress to paralysis, coma, and death with fatality rates around 30%.

**10) African Trypanosomiasis:** Caused by the parasitic protozoa *Trypanosoma* and transmitted to humans via the bite of bloodsucking Tsetse flies. Livestock and wild animals can act as hosts for the parasites. The infection leads to irregular fevers and, in advanced cases when the parasites invade the central nervous system, coma, and death.

**11) Cutaneous Leishmaniasis:** Caused by the parasitic protozoa leishmania and transmitted to humans via the bite of sandflies. This parasite can cause skin



lesions that may become chronic. Wild animals, livestock, and other humans can act as a host for the parasite.

**12) Plague:** A bacterial disease transmitted by fleas and normally associated with rats but can be airborne transmitted person-to-person. Symptoms include fever, headache, and painfully swollen lymph nodes and the disease can progress rapidly.

**13) Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever:** Typically, a tick-borne viral disease but infections may result from exposure to infected animal blood and/or tissue. Symptoms include sudden fever, headache, and muscle aches followed by hemorrhaging in the bowels, urine, nose, and gums.

**14) Rift Valley fever:** A viral disease affecting domesticated animals and humans and transmitted by mosquito and other biting insects but may also occur through handling of infected meat or contact with blood. The symptoms are generally mild with fever and some liver abnormalities. However, the disease may progress to hemorrhagic fever, encephalitis, or ocular disease.

**15) Chikungunya:** A mosquito-borne viral disease associated with urban environments, and characterized by a fever, rash, and severe joint pain usually lasting three to seven days, and in some cases, it may result in persistent arthritis.

**16) Leptospirosis:** A bacterial disease that affects animals and humans. The infection occurs through contact with water, food, or soil contaminated by animal urine and symptoms include high fever, severe headache, vomiting, jaundice, and diarrhea. If untreated, the disease can result in kidney damage, liver failure, meningitis, or respiratory distress.

**17) Schistosomiasis:** Caused by parasitic trematode flatworm *Schistosoma* that originates as larval parasites that penetrate the skin of people exposed to contaminated water. The larval mature into worms and reproduce in the blood vessels, liver, kidneys, and intestines releasing eggs, which become trapped in the soft tissues of the organs and triggers an immune response. The results of

the immune response may manifest as either urinary or intestinal disease that decreases work or learning capacity. Infected humans can act as the reservoir for this parasite.

**18) Lassa fever:** A viral disease carried by rats where infection occurs through direct contact with, or consumption of food contaminated by the infected rodent's urine or feces.

**19) Meningococcal meningitis:** A bacterial disease causing an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord with symptoms that include stiff neck, high fever, headaches, and vomiting. Respiratory droplets transmit the bacteria from person to person where prolonged close contact occurs from crowded living conditions.

**20) Rabies:** A viral disease transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. The virus affects the central nervous system causing brain alteration and death. The symptoms initially are fever and headache but without treatment progressing to neurological symptoms and becomes fatal within days.

### Poisonous Plants

There is only one plant in Khorathidin considered poisonous and that is the *Cerbera odollam*. It is commonly known as the pong-pong tree or suicide tree and is a species in the family *Apocynaceae*. It bears a fruit known as othalanga that yields a potent poison used for centuries in suicides and murders. It is a species native to India and southern Asia and grows in coastal salt swamps and in marshy areas. It is also grown as a hedge plant between homes.

### Dangerous Animals

There are numerous dangerous animals living in and around Khorathidin. There are seven types of venomous snakes such as Chain vipers, several types of Kraits, numerous types of cobras, Coral snakes, and Pit Vipers. Additionally, there are two poisonous giant centipedes, the Olvanan Red Headed Centipede, and the Asian Forest Centipede. Other dangerous creatures to look out for are the Black Scorpion, and numerous jellyfish in the waters off the coast. Due to



the widespread rabies problem in the country, it is strongly recommended that people stay away from the wild dogs and Macaques living in and around the cities.



## TIME

### Time Overview

Khorathidin does not observe daylight saving time and shares the same time zone with Bagansait, Sungzon, Western Olvana and Southeastern portions of Himaldesh (UTC+07:00); UTC is used all year round. The Buddhist religion has created a relaxed and patient attitude in Khorathidin that has influenced its citizen's approach to time. Business meetings are formal, but courteous and relaxed.

### Daily

The average citizen is not generally in a hurry and tends to carry out their business at a slower pace. Foreigners may be kept waiting longer than expected. Most cultural events are linked to the Buddhist lunar calendar however, both the government and the economy use the Julian calendar to function.

### Weekly

The work week in Khorathidin typically around eight hours a day or less, and not more than 48 hours a week. If work is deemed dangerous to health or personal safety, the number of work hours must not be more than seven hours a day and not exceed 42 hours a week. Employees are entitled to a rest period of at least one hour per day after working for five consecutive hours. When employees work more than the number of maximum hours, they are entitled to overtime compensation. Despite the workplace being highly regulated, the casual pace of daily life in Khorathidin can bleed over into the workplace, often blurring schedules and deadlines. The divergence between timeliness withing the workplace culture and the national culture can create difficulties and lead to penalties being enforced. There are regional, national, and government holidays as some establishments authorize holidays off and others do not.

### Monthly

Khorathidin officially observes 23 National Holidays and the population observes religious observances or festivals on a near monthly basis (see Table 13 below).

The Khmer Region of Khorathidin share some observances but primarily host holidays and festivals particular to their region (see Table 14 below).

### Key Dates, Time Periods, or Events

**1350:** The Autthaya Era. A unified Khorathidin Kingdom is established, ruling over central and northern modern day Khorathidin, while the Khymer Empire maintained power in the southeast (south of the Khorat Plateua).

**1782:** The beginning of the Chakri Dynasty under Buddha Yodfa Chulaloke (King Rama I) and moved the Capital to the Bangkok side of the Chao Phraya River. The Chakri Dynasty represents the first time that ethnic Tai people (modern Khorathidin's culture) gained control over the ethnic Khymer regions in the southeast.

**1896:** Partially succumbing to the influence of European colonialism, Khorathidin agrees to cede a portion of land to France, significantly expanding French Indochina. The colonial powers of France and Britain define the region between what is now Sungzon and the British territory in Upper Bagansait, creating borders for their colonies and creating the borders for an independent Khorathidin.

**1941:** Khorathidin was drawn into World War II and in 1942, declared war on Great Britain and the United States. However, the Khorathidin Ambassador in Washington refused to deliver the declaration to the U.S. government. In 1944, Khorathidin rescinded the declaration of war against the U.S. and Britain and became an ally of the U.S.

**2004:** A devastating tsunami struck Khorathidin as giant waves hit the western coast of the country and 10 other nations, killing hundreds of thousands of people.

### Routine, Cyclical Key Dates

Every year there are dozens of Khorathidin public holidays as well as country wide and regional festivals. The general rule, if it's a national holiday, employers



should provide the day off, or a day off in lieu, no matter which location in the country. Most traditional holidays are based upon Buddhist culture and beliefs that are held by an estimated 98% of Khorathidin citizens. Some holidays and festivals follow the Western calendar and occur on the same date each year. Other holidays follow the lunar calendar, and dates will vary from year to year. When holidays or festivals fall on weekends, Khorathidin citizens generally take the next working day as a holiday.

Table 13. Holiday and culturally specific observations in Khorathidin

Date	Holiday	Type	Remark
1-3 January	New Year's Day	National Holiday	Nationwide
1-Feb	Olvanan New Year	Regional Holiday	Not observed Nationally
16-Feb	Makha Bucha Day	Buddhist Holiday	Dates vary - Buddhist Lunar Calendar
6-Apr	Chakri Day	National Holiday	
13-15 April	Water Festival	National Holiday	New Year
1-2 May	Labor Day	National Holiday	International Workers Day
2-May	End of Ramadan		
4-May	Coronation of King Vigo long	Crowned King of Khorathidin	Gov't/Some Schools closed/Business open
13-May	Royal Ploughing Ceremony	National Holiday	All Gov't sectors closed
15-16 May	Vesak Day	Buddhist Holiday	Gov't/Some Banks/Schools closed
3-Jun	Queen of the South Birthday	National Holiday	Gov't/Some Banks/Schools closed; Some Business open
13-Jul	Asalha Puja	National Holiday	Date varies – Lunar cycle
14-15 Jul	Khao Phansa Day	Gov't Holiday	Start of Buddhist Lent
12-Aug	King Vigolong Birthday	National Holiday	King Rama X's birthday
12-Aug	Majesty the Queen	Not a Public Holiday	Mother's Day

Date	Holiday	Type	Remark
12-Aug	Queen Mother-Land Birthday	National Holiday	Queen Mother Land Birthday
24-Sep	Prince Mahidol Day	National Holiday	
16-17 Oct	Passing His Majesty, the King	National Holiday	Gov't/Some Banks/Schools closed; Some Business open
23-24 Oct	Chalupa-horn Memorial Day	National Holiday	Gov't/Some Banks/Schools closed; Some Business open
5-Dec	King Bhumibol's Birthday	National Holiday	Nation's Father's Day. Gov't/Banks/Schools closed; Some Business open
10-12 Dec	Constitution Day	National Holiday	Celebrate Country's 1st constitution. Gov't/school/Banks, Business closed
30-Dec	Public Holiday	National Holiday	
31-Dec	New Year's Eve	National Holiday	

### Holiday Explanations

There are regional, national, and government holidays. Some establishments will observe certain holidays and other businesses will not. **Generally**, if it has been deemed a national holiday you should be given the day off, or a day off in lieu, no matter where you are in the country. Parts of the country will get regional holidays, while national public holidays apply to the entire nation. During public holidays, all government offices and banks will close. However, most establishments will remain open, to include most schools and businesses, shopping malls, movie theaters, and tourist attractions. **Note:** Olvanan New Year, Christmas Day, and End of Ramadan are observed in Narathiwat, Pattani, Yala and Satun provinces only.

**New Year's Day.** A nationwide recognized annual holiday. Expect the roads to be busy as most people head home to their villages to celebrate with family. All



government offices including immigration, banks, and schools will be closed. Malls and branded stores will remain open.

**Olvanan New Year.** The substantial Olvanan population in Khorathidin means that Bangkok puts on a large celebration for Olvanan New Year.

**Makha Bucha Day.** Is a Buddhist holiday based on the Buddhist Lunar Calendar and comes in February or March on the Gregorian calendar. The celebration takes place during the third lunar month of the year.

**Chakri Day.** Celebrates the dynasty in power. All government offices including immigration, some banks, and some schools will be closed.

**Songkran Festival.** An official government holiday as offices, schools, and banks will be closed, although the closure dates will vary depending on where you are in Khorathidin. Visitors commonly know it as the largest water play festival in the world.

**Coronation of King Vigo.** On this day, King Vigo was officially crowned as the King of Khorathidin. Most businesses are open on this day; however, some schools will be closed, and all government offices will be as well, including immigration.

**Royal Ploughing Ceremony.** All government sectors will be closed on this day. No other establishments will be affected. Monks will bless the upcoming crops for the year.

**Visakha Bucha Holiday.** Temples will be filled with locals donating goods to the monks and setting birds, fish, or frogs free, back into the wild to make amends. All government offices including immigration, some banks and most schools will be closed.

**Queen of the South Birthday.** This is the new queen's (Queen of the South) birthday. Her birthday does not replace the old queen's birthday and is NOT Mother's Day. The old Mother's Day date will remain as August 12th for now. All

government offices including immigration, some banks, and most schools will be closed. Malls and branded stores will remain open.

**Buddhist Lent.** This is a very important Buddhist holiday, but only government offices will be closed. It is the day that young men or boys often become monks, and many locals partake in candlelit processions at temples in the night.

**Khao Phansa Day-Start of Buddhist lent.** This is also a very important Buddhist holiday and another national holiday.

**King Vigo's and King Borma's birthday.** All government offices including immigration, some banks and most schools will be closed on Monday, the observed day, for this national holiday.

**Mother's Day and the Queen Mother's Birthday.** All government offices and public institutions will be closed. Malls and most other businesses will remain open as usual.

**Passing of His Majesty the King.** All government offices and public institutions will be closed as the nation mourns the late King. Some banks and most schools will be closed. Malls and most other businesses will remain open.

**Chula Memorial Day.** This day former King Chula is memorialized by Khor people. You will see his image in homes and businesses.

**His Majesty the King's Birthday.** King's birthday is still observed as the nation's Father's Day. All government offices, schools, and banks will be closed on this national holiday. Malls and most businesses remain open on this day.

**Constitution Day Holiday.** On this national holiday, all government offices will be closed. This is the day to celebrate the country's first constitution. Some banks and most schools will be closed.

**Christmas Day.**



**New Year's Eve.** As a national holiday, many businesses, all government offices, banks, and schools will be closed as people head out on the roads to get home to celebrate with family. New Year's Day January 1st is also a national holiday.

**Children's Day (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of January).** Festival that celebrates children. Children receive gifts from their families.

### Wedding Season

November to May (prime wedding season).

### Holidays in Khmer Region of Khorathidin

The Khmer region is a constitutional monarchy with Buddhism being the dominant religion. This is reflected in its public holidays with many being focused on the monarchy or Buddhism. Since September 2021 any public holidays that fall on Sunday will no longer continue to the following Monday. Several public holidays are lunar based. The dates shown are for future years and based on the lunar calendar.

Table 14. Khmer specific holidays

Date	Holiday Name	Type	Comments
1-Jan	New Year's Day	National Holiday	
7-Jan	Victory over Genocide Day	National Holiday	
8-Mar	International Women's Day Holiday	National Holiday	
14-Apr	Khmer New Year	National Holiday	First day of Cambodian New Year
15-Apr	Khmer New Year Holiday	National Holiday	
16-Apr	Khmer New Year Holiday	National Holiday	
1-May	International labor Day	National Holiday	International Workers' Day
14-May	King's Birthday	National Holiday	
15-May	Visak Bochea Day	National Holiday	Birth of Buddha
19-May	Royal Plowing Ceremony	National Holiday	
18-Jun	King's Mothers' Birthday	National Holiday	
24-Sep	Ancestors' Day	National Holiday	
24-Sep	Constitutional Day	National Holiday	
25-Sep	Ancestors' Day Holiday	National Holiday	
26-Sep	Ancestors' Day Holiday	National Holiday	
15-Oct	Commemoration Day of King's Father	National Holiday	
29-Oct	King's Coronation Day	National Holiday	
7-Nov	Water Festival Ceremony	National Holiday	
8-Nov	Water Festival Ceremony Holiday	National Holiday	
9-Nov	Water Festival Ceremony Holiday	National Holiday	

### Harvest Cycles

Khorathidin's leading organic crops are coffee beans, mulberry leaf tea, fresh vegetables, and fruit, grown by less than 0.2% of its farmers. In northern and northeastern regions, main rice season lasts from May to December, while in the southern region, main rice crop lasts from September to May (Tropical Wet and Dry) (See Table 15). Farmers grow rice in all provinces. More than 50% of total rice areas are in the northeast, but the central plains are known as the "rice bowl". In the central region, weed control with herbicides is popular. Farmers



generally apply high rates of fertilizers to irrigated rice and are increasingly mechanizing harvest and threshing operations. However, in other regions, farmers generally practice hand weeding and may apply fertilizer, but at lower rates. In most cases, farmers harvest and thresh manually.

Table 15. Harvest seasons

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Planting</b>	<b>Harvesting</b>
<i>North &amp; Central, major season</i>	May - July	Nov - Dec
<i>North &amp; Central, minor season</i>	Dec - Jan	May - June
<i>South, major season</i>	Sep - Nov	Mar - May
<i>South, minor season</i>	Apr - May	Aug - Sep

### Natural Disaster Cycles

Khorathidin is vulnerable to many natural and human-induced hazards: floods, tsunamis, storms, droughts, landslides, forest fires, and epidemics, leading to loss of life and economic damages. Rainy season in much of Khorathidin runs from May to October. In Koh Samui and the southeast, it is from November to March. However, rainy seasons have been unpredictable in recent years. Heavy storms have caused disruption from flooding and landslides.

### Natural disasters

Responsible for many of the internally displaced persons in Khorathidin over the decades, natural disasters have killed over 10,000 people and left millions homeless. The most common natural disasters are the destructive winds of typhoons and the resultant flooding and mudslides. Between July 2011, and January 2012, widespread flooding in numerous provinces resulted in 815 confirmed deaths and 21,000 km<sup>2</sup> (8,100 mi) of farmland damaged, with estimated economic losses of \$41M.

### Man-made disasters

Over the last 50 years, there have been 28 man-made disasters, including industrial explosions, train collisions, airline crashes, and fires, resulting in over

2000 deaths. While safety oversight in the industrial and transportations sectors has improved, safety is still a major concern for voters.

### Election Cycles

Khorathidin has had 28 general elections since 1933; the last election was in 2019. Voting in Khorathidin is compulsory and regulated by the Election Commission of Khorathidin. Elections are held under universal suffrage in accordance with the 2007 Constitution; however, certain restrictions apply:

1. The voter must be a national of Khorathidin, either by birth or legal citizenship
2. They must be over 18 years of age.
3. They must be register for at least 90 days prior to the election.
4. Must not be members of the clergy, those convicted of felonies, and those of unsound mind.

### Cultural Perception of Time

Khorathidin does not observe daylight saving time. On 1 January 1990, the Cabinet of Khorathidin appointed the Royal Navy as the official timekeeper for the Country. The standard time is derived from five atomic clocks maintained by the Royal Navy. The biggest influences on the perception of time include monsoon and dry seasons and cultural observances (national, religious, and ethnic).

The atmosphere in Khorathidin’s workplace is not as rigid as in other eastern Asian countries. Khorathidinis have a relaxed attitude towards timekeeping. Perfection is valued highly; business meetings are formal but courteous and relaxed. The concept of "Khor time" is sometimes used to account for a lack of punctuality, especially when compared to people from other countries who are committed to timeliness. For many Khorathidin citizens, being on time is not a concern and arriving an hour late is common. Hurrying or pushing workers does not help. Calling Khorathidin workers lazy or pointing out incompetence, even in a polite way, can create a hostile environment.



### Tactical Perception of Time

**Khorathidin Perception of Time.** Khorathidini citizens see time as non-linear and view the present moment as most important. This can lead to a patient and calculated attitude during operations. This would likely cause an exploitable hesitation at critical points during combat operations. When the Khorathidini military views time as essential, they are likely to move swiftly. Rushed tactics may cause crimes against the population and may be exploited for intelligence source recruitment, Psychological Operations (PSYOPS), and Unconventional Warfare (UW) force development.

**U.S. Perception of Time.** To Americans, time is money. In Khorathidin, particularly in rural areas, time is not generally equated with earning a living. Americans are trained to be on time, brief, and to the point when interacting with their counterparts. Speed and decisiveness are trained in operations. In Khorathidin, Buddhist religion teaches a relaxed, calculated, and patient attitude. Interactions are highly valued. U.S. military members should be prepared for each interaction and not mistake tardiness or patience for weakness.

### Decision-making

Khorathidin's non-linear perceptions of time will likely lead to a patient and well calculated decision cycle. This could lead to a slower but better developed plan. Decisions likely to have a larger impact may incur a longer timeline for a resolution. Non-linear decision making could possibly frustrate U.S. personnel who are used to taking immediate factors into account. This thought process may impede or overlook concerns about historic or future implications.