

【Thailand】

ASEAN and India Regional Office (AIRO) News Pick Up No. 1

Media coverage of Thailand's Ride Hailing Service

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1. Introduction

Ride-hailing service has become a major movement worldwide and an interesting topic for researchers in the field of transportation and traffic. In fact, the Eastern Asia Society for Transportation Studies (EASTS) has established an International Research Group (IRG) entitled "Challenges of Mobile Ride-Hailing Applications in Asian Countries: Their Impacts on the Local Transportation Market" and is soliciting papers on the theme of "Mobility on Demand in Asia" ^(Note 1).

As for the movement of Ride Hailing Service in Southeast Asian countries, there are Grab which is based in Singapore and Gojek which originated in Indonesia and so on. In Bangkok where AIRO is located, it is possible to hail a Grab Taxi or Grab vehicle using the Grab app. As it is the time of less traffic congestion due to COVID-19 in Bangkok, the selected Grab cab or vehicle will arrive at the designated location within 15 minutes. In addition, you can also choose to pay with a credit or debit card linked to the Grab app or cash, and you are able to travel to your destination indicated by the app before boarding, without the need for verbal explanations or negotiations with pre-informed service fees in Bangkok, where language is one of problems. This is an extremely effective means of transportation.

There was a report that the Ministry of Transport, Thailand's transport authority, has come up with a new policy regarding such a ride hailing service.

2. Summary of media coverage of the Ride Hailing Service in Thailand

The following summary is a broad translation of the

Bangkok Post report ^(Note 2) by AIRO.

- The Thai government has approved a proposed regulation that would allow the use of private cars for app-based car-delivery services, that had not been allowed so far.
- This is a boon for Grab Taxi drivers, who have been providing the service for years without any legal backgrounds.
- Thailand's Transport Minister H.E. Mr. Saksayam said that although cab dispatch apps are gaining popularity, current laws and regulations do not allow private cars to carry passengers, nor do they allow private cars to be registered as cabs.
- According to the minister, the Department of Land Transport (DLT) will prepare a draft on how to implement the new regulation within a month and publish the finalized regulation in the official gazette after holding a public hearing ^(Note 3).
- Once the regulations are published, companies that provide cab dispatch services using the app will need to apply for and receive licenses to operate the service, according to the report.
- It will expand the options for consumers to use cabs and support drivers who use their own cars to legally provide the services, a deputy government spokesman said.
- The following is a summary of what the deputy government spokesman of Minister of Transport said.
 - ・ Vehicles that can be registered for cab dispatch service should be with no more than seven seats.
 - ・ Specifically, they are classified into small cars (Nissan: March, Toyota: Vios, Honda: City, etc.),

medium cars (Toyota: Altis, Honda: Civic, etc.), and large cars (Honda: Accord, Toyota: Fortina, etc.).

- Only one driver can be registered per a private vehicle, and vehicles that are more than 9 years old cannot be used.
- The vehicle must have a certification using communication equipment and electronic systems which is approved by DLT.
- Drivers must have the proper driver's license, pass criminal background check by the Thai police, and use cab dispatch apps approved by the Ministry of Transportation.
- Transport authorities are planning to monitor the

service to ensure passenger's safety.

- For small and medium-sized vehicles, the service charge for the first 2 km shall not exceed 50 THB. After the first 2 km, the service charge shall not exceed 12 THB per km.
- For large vehicles, the service charge is limited to 200 THB for the first 2 km, and shall not exceed 50 THB per km thereafter.
- When the vehicle is not moving, the service fee is 3 THB per minute for small vehicles and 10 THB for large vehicles.

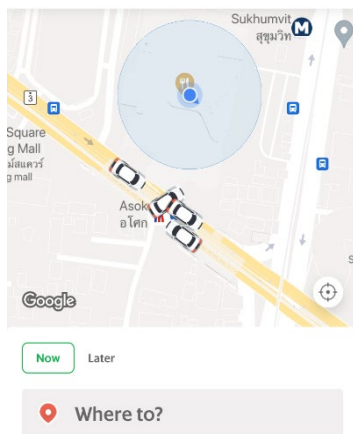


Image 1: Grab Taxi booking screen

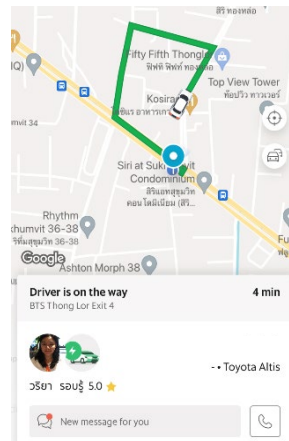


Image 2: Grab Taxi dispatch notification screen



Photo 1: Grab Taxi being dispatched.

3. AIRO's activities on Ride Hailing Service

This report conveys the direction of the Thai transport authority's policy on the Ride Hailing Service. However, AIRO does not have a full understanding of the Thai cab system and the significance of this policy at this moment. Therefore, AIRO would like to use this news report as a springboard to collect relevant information and conduct research on the comparison of cab systems in Thailand and Japan and the significance of this policy.

References

- (Note 1) Call for Papers in EASTS IRG
<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/asian-transport-studies/call-for-papers/mobility-on-demand-in-asia>
- (Note 2) Bangkok Post (May 26, 2021) New rule makes GrabCar legal
<https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/new-rule-makes-grabcar-legal2121587>
- (Note 3) As of June 30, 2021, the enforcement of this law has not been confirmed.