

Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the delimitation of the maritime boundary between the two countries in the Gulf of Thailand, 9 August 1997

The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties")

Desiring to strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries,

Desiring to establish the maritime boundary between the two countries in the relevant part of their overlapping continental shelf claims in the Gulf of Thailand,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. The maritime boundary between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in the relevant part of their overlapping continental shelf claims in the Gulf of Thailand is a straight line drawn from Point C to Point K defined by latitude and longitude as follows:

Point C: Latitude N 07° 48' 00".0000, Longitude E 103° 02' 30".0000
Point C: Latitude N 08° 46' 54".7754, Longitude E 102° 12' 11".6542

2. Point C is the northernmost point of the Joint Development Area established by the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia on the Establishment of a Joint Authority for the Exploitation of the Resources of the Seabed in a Defined Area of the Continental Shelf of the Two Countries in the Gulf of Thailand, done at Chiangmai on 21 February 1979, and which coincides with Point 43 of Malaysia's continental shelf claim advanced in 1979.

3. Point K is a point situated on the maritime boundary between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, which is the straight line equidistant from Tho Chu Islands and Poulo Wai drawn from Point O Latitude N 09° 35' 00".4159 and Longitude E 105° 10' 15".9805.

4. The coordinates of the points specified in the above paragraphs are geographical coordinates derived from the British Admiralty Chart No. 2414 which is attached as an annex to this Agreement.¹⁵ The geodetic and computational bases used are the Ellipsoid Everest - 1830 - Indian Datum.

5. The maritime boundary referred to in paragraph 1 above shall constitute the boundary between the continental shelf of the Kingdom of Thailand and the continental shelf of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and shall also constitute the boundary between the exclusive economic zone of the Kingdom of Thailand and the exclusive economic zone of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

6. The actual location of the above Points C and K at sea and of the straight line connecting them shall, at the request of either Government, be determined by a method to be mutually agreed upon by the hydrographic experts authorized for this purpose by the two Governments.

¹⁵ For technical reasons, the chart is not reproduced.

Article 2

The Contracting Parties shall enter into negotiation with the Government of Malaysia in order to settle the tripartite overlapping continental shelf claim area of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Malaysia which lies within the Thai-Malaysian Joint Development Area established by the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia on the Establishment of a Joint Authority for the Exploitation of the Resources of the Seabed in a Defined Area of the Continental Shelf of the Two Countries in the Gulf of Thailand, done at Chiangmai on 21 February 1979.

Article 3

Each Contracting Party shall recognize and acknowledge the jurisdiction and the sovereign rights of the other country over the latter's continental shelf and exclusive economic zone within the maritime boundary established by this Agreement.

Article 4

If any single geological petroleum or natural gas structure or field, or other mineral deposit of whatever character, extends across the boundary line referred to in paragraph 1 of article 1, the Contracting Parties shall communicate to each other all information in this regard and shall seek to reach agreement as to the manner in which the structure, field or deposit will be most effectively exploited and the benefits arising from such exploitation will be equitably shared.

Article 5

Any dispute between the Contracting Parties relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled peacefully by consultation or negotiation.

Article 6

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification or approval, as required by the constitutional procedures of each country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Bangkok on this 9th day of August, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven in the Thai, Vietnamese and English languages. In the event of any conflict between the texts, the English text shall prevail.