



Analysis of the Current Situation, Problems, and Countermeasures of Law Enforcement Cooperation between China and Thailand in Combating Transnational Crime

Guo Lian¹

Received: 25 June 2024 Revised: 26 July 2024 ACCEPTED: 31 August 2024

Abstract

With the continuous expansion of the world economy, trade, and personnel exchanges, the problem of transnational crime is gradually spreading on a global scale. As one of the countries with significant influence in Asia, Thailand has significant geographical and strategic advantages in Southeast Asia. With deeper cooperation between China and Thailand in various fields such as economy, society, and culture, transnational crime between the two countries has also increased. Therefore, it is of great necessity and practical significance for China and Thailand to deepen police cooperation, jointly combat transnational crime, and maintain social security and stability within their respective countries and regions.

This article attempts to focus on the law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand, explore the internal mechanisms of the two countries in the process of cooperating to combat cross-border crimes, analyze the main problems that exist, and further explore the favorable and unfavorable factors that affect the cooperation between the two countries in law enforcement, striving to find corresponding countermeasures and suggestions, and effectively ensure the smooth development of China Thailand law enforcement cooperation.

Keywords: Transnational Crime, Police Cooperation

¹ Doctor course, interdisciplinary study undergraduate major, interdisciplinary study, Thammasat University (Corresponding Author)



China and Thailand are friendly neighbors, with Yunnan Province of China facing Thailand across Laos, with a straight-line distance of only over 200 kilometers. After the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on July 1, 1975, their leaders exchanged frequently. The law enforcement cooperation between the two countries began in the late 1970s and played a leading role in China and other ASEAN countries. Over the past 40 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Thailand has played a positive demonstration and leading role in promoting the relationship between China and ASEAN. In terms of police cooperation, the two countries have shown the characteristics of continuously increasing strategic mutual trust, expanding cooperation areas, and increasing institutionalization.

1.The development process of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand in combating transnational crime

The cooperation between China and Thailand in police affairs is mainly carried out at three levels: the establishment of cooperation mechanisms under the China ASEAN "multilateral" cooperation framework, the "small multilateral" cooperation mechanism between China and the countries in the Lancang Mekong Basin, and the bilateral cooperation mechanism between China and Thailand.

1.1 Relying on the "multilateral" cooperation mechanism between China and ASEAN to carry out cooperation

Since the 1990s, China and ASEAN countries have held a series of dialogues and signed a series of documents and treaties to build political mutual trust and enhance bilateral relations, continuously enhancing bilateral and multilateral political mutual trust and expanding political cooperation. Among them, China and ASEAN countries have established multilateral cooperation mechanisms to combat transnational crime based on their common needs, such as the ASEAN and China Japan South Korea Ministerial Conference on Combating Transnational Crime, the ASEAN China (10+1) Ministerial Informal Conference on Combating Transnational Crime, the ASEAN China (10+1) Ministerial Informal Conference on Combating Transnational Crime, and the Drug Control Cooperation Mechanism between China and ASEAN countries. The mechanism for maritime cooperation between China and ASEAN to combat transnational crime and other conference mechanisms. As joint participants in this mechanism,



China and Thailand have cooperated under this cooperation mechanism, laying a solid practical foundation for both sides to carry out police cooperation.

1.2 Relying on the "small multilateral" cooperation mechanism between China and countries in the Lancang Mekong Basin to carry out cooperation

The initial stage of cooperation

In 1984, China joined the International Criminal Police Organization, marking the beginning of international law enforcement cooperation. To effectively control and combat the "Golden Triangle" drug problem. In May 1991, the meeting of senior drug control officials from China, Myanmar, Thailand, and the United Nations Drug Control Agency was held in Beijing, and the preliminary model for conducting multilateral international cooperation in drug control in the subregion was determined. In June 1992, delegations from the governments of China, Myanmar, Thailand, and the United Nations Narcotics Control Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control in Yangon, Myanmar, which determined to maintain high-level contacts in sub regional drug control cooperation. In October 1993, China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and the United Nations Drug Control Programme jointly signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Subregional Drug Control Cooperation in East Asia during the 48th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drug Control in New York, and the framework for sub regional drug control cooperation was basically formed. Between 1999 and 2001, China successively signed the Joint Declaration and Memorandum of Understanding on Future Bilateral Cooperation, including Drug Control Cooperation, with Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, elevating China's bilateral drug control cooperation with countries in the Mekong Sub region to a new level.

After entering the 21st century, the serious problem of global transnational crime has been widely recognized by the international community. Countries in the Lancang Mekong Basin have signed and reached various agreements to combat transnational crime and strengthen regional cooperation, including global multilateral treaties, regional multilateral treaties, and bilateral treaties between countries in the region. These treaties together form the legal basis for law enforcement cooperation between countries in the "sub region".



1.2.1 Rapid development period of cooperation

After the Mekong River tragedy, China, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand issued a joint statement on law enforcement and security cooperation in the Mekong River Basin in Beijing in 2011, officially announcing the establishment of a mechanism for law enforcement and security cooperation in the Mekong River Basin between China, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand. The establishment of a law enforcement and security cooperation mechanism in the Mekong River Basin between China, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand marks the beginning of a new chapter in China's law enforcement cooperation in the Lancang Mekong Subregion. As a result, police cooperation between countries in the subregion has become increasingly close, and exploration of police cooperation mechanisms in the region has begun. Police cooperation among countries has entered a period of rapid development.

1.2.2 Deep cooperation period

During this period, countries coordinated the establishment of a joint anti-drug action mechanism called the "Safe Shipping Route". In April 2013, in order to jointly combat drug crimes in the Mekong River Basin and promote regional security and stability, China, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand launched the first joint anti-drug operation on the Mekong River's safe waterway. The second China Laos Myanmar Thailand Joint Anti-Drug Action Track was organized by Thailand from January to March 2015. The Thai Anti-Drug Commission is the main functional department responsible for this joint anti-drug action, and the Thai Ministry of the Interior, Royal Thai Police Agency, Army, Navy, and Customs are joint participants in this action. In 2015, the Ping A Navigation Joint Anti-Drug Action invited Cambodia and Vietnam to join. The Ping An Airlines Joint Anti-Drug Action provides comprehensive and systematic training on laws, regulations, knowledge, and skills for employees in the shipping industry, enabling them to better detect drug smuggling activities and participate better in drug crackdown operations. (LMLECC, 2023)

1.2.3 Implementation period of the mechanism

On December 28, 2017, the Lancang Mekong Comprehensive Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation Center (hereinafter referred to as the Lancang Mekong Law Enforcement Center) was officially established. This is the first intergovernmental international organization for comprehensive law enforcement and security cooperation in the Lancang Mekong Basin, led by China. The aim is to respect the sovereignty and laws of various countries and



develop action plans based on the law enforcement needs of each member state. The center has gradually become a platform for coordinating prevention, combating transnational illegal and criminal activities, integrating intelligence and information exchange, special governance joint actions, and strengthening law enforcement capacity building in the Lancang Mekong region.

From joint patrol law enforcement to the "safe navigation channel" mechanism, and then to the establishment of the Lancang Mekong Law Enforcement Center, it can be said that police cooperation in the Lancang Mekong Sub region has shifted from bilateral or multilateral agreement-based police cooperation to systematic comprehensive law enforcement and security cooperation. A comprehensive framework has been established for coordinating and preventing transnational illegal and criminal activities, integrating warning information exchange, special governance joint actions, and strengthening law enforcement capacity building among countries in the Lancang Mekong region, providing a platform for cooperation among countries in the region and laying a solid foundation for future cooperation among countries in the region.

1.3 Bilateral Police Enforcement Cooperation between China and Thailand

In addition to cooperation in "multilateral" and "small multilateral" areas, China and Thailand have also engaged in extensive bilateral cooperation in jointly combating transnational crime and ensuring the safety of navigation in the Mekong River. The bilateral law enforcement cooperation institutions between China and Thailand are mainly composed of law enforcement agencies at the national and regional levels, involving cooperation between administrative, law enforcement, judicial, and overseas agencies.

1.3.1 Responsible institutions and departments for law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand in combating transnational crime

1.3.1.1 At the national level

Firstly, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security and the Royal Thai Police Agency. The Chinese Ministry of Public Security and the National Police Agency of Thailand are the primary organizations for bilateral law enforcement cooperation at the national level between China and Thailand, and are also the main bodies responsible for specific matters related to bilateral law enforcement cooperation. Among them, the International Cooperation Bureau of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security and the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the Royal Thai Police Organization are responsible for undertaking the main bilateral



cooperation specific matters, in addition to other institutions such as police schools and immigration bureaus under the Chinese Ministry of Public Security and the Royal Thai Police. The above-mentioned institutions of China and Thailand carry out bilateral cooperation in law enforcement through signing legal agreements, joint law enforcement, information communication, and talent cultivation.

Secondly, foreign embassies (consulates).

The second national level organizational structure for bilateral law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand is the embassy (consulate) established between the two countries. The personnel responsible for carrying out bilateral law enforcement cooperation functions in the embassy (consulate) are the police liaison officers. The Chinese police liaison officers in Thailand are selected by the Chinese Ministry of Public Security and accept the leadership of the Chinese Embassy (Consulate) in Thailand. The Thai police liaison officers in China are selected by the Royal Thai Police Organization and accept the leadership of the Thai Embassy (Consulate) in China. The police liaison officers sent between China and Thailand have dual identities and responsibilities as police officers and diplomats. As police officers, their responsibilities include collecting and transmitting criminal intelligence, combating transnational crime, maintaining national and social security between China and Thailand. As diplomats, they enjoy diplomatic privileges and exemptions. The police liaison officers dispatched by China and Thailand communicate, cooperate, and connect with the law enforcement departments and related personnel of the countries where they work, cooperate with each other to combat cross-border illegal and criminal activities, protect the legitimate rights and interests of overseas citizens, and actively coordinate with the host countries to carry out law enforcement cooperation.

In recent years, China's police liaison officers stationed in Thailand have utilized their professional, direct, and efficient advantages to actively coordinate with Thai police agencies, effectively promoting efficient police cooperation between Chinese public security agencies and Thai police agencies in areas such as crime information sharing, joint investigations, joint actions, joint arrests, and repatriation of criminals (Wang, 2014). In May 2015, the first police consul of the Thai Consulate officially arrived at the Kunming Consulate to take office. After years of work, the Police Department of the Consulate General of Thailand in Kunming, as one of the law enforcement cooperation mechanisms



between China and Thailand, has played an important role in preventing and combating transnational economic crimes, drug crimes, and illegal immigration crimes. According to incomplete statistics, since 2018, the Police Department of the Consulate General of Thailand in Kunming has assisted in handling more than 30 transnational crime cases, mainly economic crimes, followed by illegal immigration cases. Especially during the epidemic, due to the closure of the Thai Myanmar border port, many Chinese nationals stranded in Myanmar chose to illegally immigrate to Thailand, and there were also cases of Thai nationals illegally immigrating to China during this period. Typically, in December 2019, the police consul of the Thai Consulate General in Kunming, after receiving the case coordination letter from the Public Security Department of Yunnan Province, asked the Thai police to assist in investigating three major economic crime suspects, including Ding Xiran, Ding Yongqiang and Gao Ping, from China, and with the cooperation of the Thai police, transferred the three suspects to China. The Thai police consul also personally transferred the 32 items temporarily detained by Gao Ping and others to the Chinese police.

Thirdly, the Ministry of Justice

The third national level organizational structure for bilateral law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand is the Judicial Assistance Bureau of the Ministry of Justice in China, and the Judicial Affairs Office of the Ministry of Justice in Thailand. The above-mentioned departments of the Ministry of Justice of China and Thailand mainly cooperate by approving each other's national law enforcement assistance applications. It specifically involves the approval of the arrest and transfer of cross-border suspect. The Ministry of Justice of China and Thailand is an important judicial assistance and guarantee unit for bilateral law enforcement cooperation between the two countries.

1.3.1.2 Regional level

The regional level organizational units for bilateral law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand mainly refer to local law enforcement agencies in China and Thailand, as well as local specialized law enforcement agencies established for bilateral law enforcement cooperation to combat cross-border illegal and criminal activities. Mainly including:

Firstly, cooperation with local general law enforcement agencies. In China, it refers to administrative agencies, public security law enforcement departments, etc. that are permanent and universal nationwide in provinces, cities (prefectures), and counties (districts). Specifically, it refers to



local governments at all levels, functional departments of public security bureaus (departments), and dispatched agencies (such as police stations). In Thailand, it refers to the administrative agencies at all levels of government, county, district, and township, as well as the branches and departments of the National Police Agency in various regions, including the Metropolitan Police Department, 9 local branches, and subordinate police stations in the administrative divisions of 77 provinces. Through the general law enforcement cooperation agencies mentioned above, China and Thailand carry out bilateral cooperation in law enforcement, such as police assistance and information and intelligence communication, when dealing with illegal and criminal activities with universal and routine characteristics.

Secondly, cooperation between local specialized law enforcement agencies. Local specialized law enforcement agencies are departments established to improve the effectiveness of combating regional specific illegal and criminal activities, mainly targeting regional specific illegal and criminal activities. In Thailand, the Royal Thai Police Service has established anti-immigration and illegal immigration centers and anti-human trafficking offices in various local police stations, with specialized departments for handling illegal and criminal activities in specific areas. In China, local government departments and public security organs establish temporary and long-term special law enforcement departments based on local actual needs. For example, the Yunnan Provincial Public Security Department has established specialized law enforcement agencies for regional cross-border illegal and criminal activities, such as the Investigation Center for Combating Cross border Illegal and Criminal Activities and the Water Patrol Corps. China and Thailand have effectively supplemented bilateral law enforcement cooperation in specific regions and fields through local general and specialized law enforcement cooperation agencies to carry out corresponding cooperation based on the threat of illegal and criminal activities faced by reality.

2. Basic guarantees for law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand

2.1 The high-level consensus of the police has laid the foundation for international law enforcement cooperation.

Since the 1990s, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security has signed a friendly cooperation agreement with the Royal Thai Police Service, forming a



consensus on jointly combating transnational crime and maintaining "sub regional" security issues, laying the foundation for bilateral law enforcement cooperation and providing planning and guidance. Since the 6th meeting of the Yunnan Thailand North Cooperation Working Group in 2017, under the framework of the Lancang Mekong Law Enforcement Cooperation Mechanism, the Yunnan Thailand Fifth Police District Cooperation Mechanism, and the Yunnan Police Academy and the Royal Thai Police Officer University Intercollegiate Cooperation Mechanism, the law enforcement departments of Yunnan and Thailand have jointly participated in the Mekong River joint patrol law enforcement and the "Safe Channel" joint drug clearance operation. The fourth and third police districts of Thailand, the Royal Police Department, the Royal Police Officer University, the Special Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, the Immigration Department of the Police Department, and the advisory delegation of the Minister of Justice visited Yunnan and held discussions and exchanges with the Yunnan Provincial Public Security Department; The public security organs of Yunnan Province have dispatched 26 working groups of 57 people to Thailand to attend meetings, carry out case handling tasks, and carry out inter school exchanges (Yunnan Provincial Public Security, 2021).

In December 2023, the Xishuangbanna Immigration Inspection Station invited delegations from Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai airports in Thailand to conduct the first exchange of immigration management business between China and Thailand airports in Jinghong City. Both sides conducted in-depth discussions on unblocking communication channels, strengthening information exchange, jointly promoting immigration management policies and regulations, strengthening port joint logistics cooperation, and working together to combat cross-border illegal and criminal activities such as terrorism, electronic fraud, gambling, and "three non" activities, and reached a preliminary consensus (Zhuang, Zhang, & Liu, 2023).

2.2 Continuously concluding treaties to provide legal protection for international law enforcement cooperation.

In terms of legal framework construction, both sides are exploring the construction of cooperation mechanisms while relying on various channels such as international conventions, multilateral and bilateral treaties to build a legal framework for cooperation. For example, in addition to joining international conventions such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational



Organized Crime in 2000, as well as multiple multilateral treaties, China has also signed the China Thailand Extradition Regulations and the Agreement on Judicial Assistance and Arbitration Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters with Thailand Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Thailand on the 21st Century Cooperation Plan, Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Drug Control Cooperation, Law on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between China and Thailand, Treaty between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Thailand on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, and Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on Cooperation in Preventing and Suppressing Human Trafficking. The signing of the treaty and memorandum of cooperation provides a political basis and legal basis for China and Thailand to combat transnational organized crime and economic crimes, and to establish China's anti-corruption mechanism.

From the time distribution and specific content of the bilateral legal treaties signed, it can be seen that the number of bilateral law enforcement cooperation treaties signed by China and Thailand is increasing, and the scope of cooperation areas covered by the treaties is gradually expanding, and the level of cooperation is gradually developing towards a higher level. Through the bilateral legal treaties on law enforcement cooperation signed between China and Thailand at different times, legal guarantees are provided for the smooth and sustainable development of bilateral law enforcement cooperation in multiple fields to combat transnational organized crime and economic crimes, which is also an important manifestation of bilateral law enforcement cooperation.

2.3 Provide police assistance.

Police resources are the material foundation for conducting law enforcement cooperation, and abundant police resources are conducive to supporting the development of bilateral law enforcement cooperation. Currently, the overall distribution of police resources in China and Thailand is characterized by uneven structural distribution. From 2013 to 2020, the budget revenue gap between the Royal Thai Police and the Chinese Ministry of Public Security was several times higher compared to the same period. (Liu, 2020) As the main department of Sino Thai law enforcement cooperation, the revenue of the public



security police department is the basic law enforcement resource of law enforcement cooperation, and its level determines the effectiveness of law enforcement cooperation executed by the public security police department. In order to address the drawbacks of structural uneven distribution, China and Thailand have launched a police resource assistance operation, which is another important manifestation of bilateral law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand. The specific manifestations of the police resource assistance operation carried out by China and Thailand are in two aspects:

2.3.1 Conventional police resource assistance mainly includes assistance in police equipment, police funds, police science and technology, and other aspects. In 2018, the Yunnan Provincial Public Security Department invested more than 400000 yuan to assist Thailand in building the Mekong River Joint Patrol Law Enforcement Command Center (Fifth Police District) for preventing and combating illegal crimes in the Mekong River (BasinThayer, Carlyle A, 2020). This achieved video connectivity between China, Myanmar, and Thailand, and established a regular video direct connection mechanism, greatly improving the efficiency of law enforcement cooperation and communication between China and Thailand (R.Bates Gill, 2023). With the common economic development of China and Thailand, the overall demand for conventional police resource assistance has decreased, and the scope of assistance in this field has gradually narrowed. Currently, China's police resource assistance to Thailand is concentrated in the field of police science and technology.

2.3.2 Special police resource assistance. Refers to unconventional police supplies that are urgently needed during special periods or situations. In the first half of 2020, with the spread of the COVID-19 in China and Thailand, the police law enforcement agencies of China and Thailand are short of police epidemic prevention supplies. In the early stages of China's fight against the epidemic, there was a serious shortage of some medical supplies. Thailand actively donated medical supplies to China after learning of China's difficulties in fighting the epidemic. Subsequently, when the epidemic occurred in Thailand, the Chinese public security department, the Chinese Embassy in Thailand, and others immediately donated a large amount of epidemic prevention materials such as medical masks, protective clothing, gloves, disinfectants, etc. to the Thai public security department free of charge, to help



the Thai law enforcement department maintain the safety of law enforcement personnel during the epidemic.

3. The main forms of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand in combating transnational crime

In recent years, China and Thailand have engaged in extensive police cooperation in combating transnational crime. Joint efforts to combat cross-border illegal and criminal activities are the longest lasting, most extensive, and most extensive cooperation projects between China and Thailand in police law enforcement. Police cooperation has become an important form of cooperation between the two sides in combating transnational crime and is the main content of bilateral police law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand.

The law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand mainly targets organized crimes such as telecommunications fraud, drug production and trafficking, cross-border gambling, criminal evasion, illegal immigration, trafficking and trafficking of women and children, as well as terrorism (Stefanie Kam, 2022). The law enforcement agencies of China and Thailand, in response to illegal and criminal activities involving each other in different regions, select corresponding law enforcement agencies based on the actual areas of illegal and criminal activities to carry out coordination, carry out bilateral law enforcement cooperation, and crack down on various cross-border illegal and criminal activities. For example, the Yunnan Provincial Investigation Center for Combating Cross border Illegal Crimes and the Thai law enforcement department fully utilize public security big data to focus on combating telecommunications fraud and cross-border gambling.

The Yunnan Provincial Public Security Department's Water Patrol Team and the Thailand Mekong River Law Enforcement Team have jointly patrolled and established mechanisms for water joint search and rescue, information exchange and sharing, joint response to emergencies, and emergency response to major epidemics. The Yunnan Provincial Public Security Department and the Fifth Police District of Thailand have established and improved a cooperation mechanism for drug law enforcement, and refined the implementation, execution standards, and norms of regional drug cooperation between China and Thailand based on local drug control characteristics, difficulties, and challenges



In recent years, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security has dispatched special working groups to Thailand multiple times to jointly handle various cross-border illegal and criminal activities with Thai law enforcement agencies. In addition, China and Thailand have launched special law enforcement cooperation against tourism crimes. The police cooperation between China and Thailand in combating transnational crime is mainly carried out through the following forms.

3.1 Resident Police Liaison Officer

Police liaison officers refer to the system in which a police agency of a country is dispatched to another country and maintains fixed contact with the police agency of the host country, collects criminal intelligence, and seeks police cooperation. The police liaison officer system originated in Europe in the 1970s. In order to combat drug crimes more effectively, European countries send police officers to each other for communication with the police agencies of the host countries, in order to strengthen direct communication and cooperation between the two sides in combating drug crimes.

China first dispatched police liaison officers to the United States in 1998. As of October 11, 2019, China currently has only 81 police liaison officers stationed in 46 foreign embassies and consulates in 41 countries worldwide.(Harbin Cyberpolice, 2019).The system of police liaison officers has effectively promoted police cooperation between China and countries in the Lancang Mekong Basin. At present, China has deployed police liaison officers in ASEAN countries such as Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Malaysia. In recent years, China's police liaison officers stationed in Thailand have utilized their professional, direct, and efficient advantages to actively coordinate with Thai police agencies, effectively promoting efficient police cooperation between Chinese public security agencies and Thai police agencies in areas such as crime information sharing, joint investigations, joint actions, joint arrests, and repatriation of criminals (Wei, 2016).

In May 2015, the first police consul of the Thai Consulate officially arrived at the Kunming Consulate to take office. As of 2024, three police consuls have been appointed to Kunming. After years of work, the Police Department of the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Thailand in Kunming, as one of the law enforcement cooperation mechanisms between China and Thailand, has played an important role in preventing and combating transnational economic crimes, drug crimes, and illegal immigration crimes. According to incomplete statistics,



since 2018, the Police Department of the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Thailand in Kunming has assisted in handling more than 30 transnational crime cases, mainly economic crimes, followed by illegal immigration cases. Especially during the epidemic, due to the closure of the Thai Myanmar border port, many Chinese nationals stranded in Myanmar chose to illegally immigrate to Thailand, and there were also cases of Thai nationals illegally immigrating to China during this period.

3.2 Providing and exchanging criminal intelligence information

Mutual exchange and exchange of criminal intelligence information is an important part of international law enforcement cooperation and the foundation for conducting international law enforcement cooperation. On the basis of establishing a sound system of talks and meetings, China and Thailand have good cooperation in information provision and exchange, which has become an important factor in cracking down on transnational criminal cases.

3.2.1 In terms of population information verification

The population information in transnational crimes includes the basic information of the suspect or victim, including nationality, name, gender, date of birth, photos, place of residence, marital status and family members. The information about the identity of foreigners is mainly held by the relevant competent authorities of their country of nationality. The acquisition and verification of such information can only be completed with the assistance and cooperation of the two countries. The determination of suspect sometimes requires searching, verification and identification based on the external characteristics described by victims, witnesses and even other accomplices. All of these require the suspect's country of nationality to provide basic identity information, including photos, in order to be accurately completed. Therefore, population information verification is an important part of international law enforcement cooperation.

3.2.2 In terms of sharing criminal leads

Timely discovery of criminal clues is an important condition for timely detection and investigation of criminal acts. In October 2022, during the work of the Water Brigade of Yunnan Provincial Public Security Department, a clue related to a major drug situation in southern Thailand was discovered. The clue was immediately reported to the Police Department of the Consulate General of Thailand in Kunming, and negotiations were held to inform the Thai law enforcement department of the clue. In a timely manner, the functions or



jurisdiction law enforcement departments that may be involved in the transit of drugs through Thailand were deployed to carry out anti-drug investigation work. Thai law enforcement agencies, based on our reported clues, collaborated with Cambodian police to crack one drug case in the waters near the Thai Cambodian border and seized 210 kilograms of heroin.(Yunnan Provincial Public Security. 2022) The Consulate General of Thailand in Kunming has sent a letter of gratitude. The cooperation between China and Thailand in drug control has formed a good trend of "from point to surface", and the cooperation areas have been effectively expanded.

3.3 Investigation cooperation

International investigation cooperation refers to the activities of mutual support and cooperation among police forces of various countries in implementing specialized investigation work and compulsory measures in order to effectively combat transnational crime, in accordance with international conventions, relevant treaties, domestic laws, and reciprocal commitments. Constrained by the principle of national sovereignty and independence, transnational criminal cases involve evidence within the territory of other countries, arrests of personnel, etc. In order to complete investigative tasks, the police of a country need to request assistance from that country. Therefore, investigative cooperation has become an important part of international cooperation and a concrete manifestation of the country's extraterritorial criminal jurisdiction. In the police cooperation to combat transnational crime, China and Thailand have adopted a cooperative approach of investigation and solved a large number of transnational criminal crimes. For example, in the joint anti-drug operation "Safe Shipping Route" carried out by China, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand, the four countries carried out joint investigation operations, which effectively promoted the success of the anti-drug operation. In the process of handling the "October 5" case, which shocked China and foreign countries, the Chinese police closely cooperated with the police of Laos and Thailand, and finally captured the suspect through investigation cooperation. This case can be said to be a typical case and model of investigation cooperation.

3.4 Joint arrest

Joint arrest refers to the activity in international police cooperation where two or more national police agencies jointly take action to apprehend and arrest criminals. In order to jointly fight against transnational crimes, China and Thailand have captured a large number of suspects in the form of joint arrests,



effectively cracking down on criminals and maintaining social stability. Joint arrest is an important form of police cooperation between China and Thailand. Yunnan Province of China and the Fifth Police District of Thailand signed relevant cooperation agreements on joint arrest, and conducted many efficient cooperation in the process of arresting suspect.

In mid-April 2021, the Yunnan Armed Police Border Defense Corps discovered a major drug trafficking clue related to Thailand during investigation. They immediately activated the joint disposal mechanism for major police situations, timely discussed the joint investigation of cases by the fifth police district of Thailand, and cooperated with the Thai side to carry out clue verification. Gradually, they identified the drug transit points on the Thai Myanmar border where the clues were pointing, and accurately determined the time of drug trafficking. Based on clues, the Fifth Police District of Thailand has successfully cracked two drug cases and seized 722 kilograms of methamphetamine tablets(Yunnan Provincial Public Security, 2021).The Fifth Police District of Thailand has sent a letter of gratitude. This case became the first major drug case jointly investigated by member units of the China Thailand mechanism since the establishment of the Mekong River Joint Inspection Mechanism. The joint anti-drug investigation and cooperation between the headquarters and the fifth police district of Thailand shifted from virtual to real.

3.5 Police transfer and repatriation of suspects

The transfer and repatriation of suspects refers to the form of police cooperation in which a police organ of a country transfers or repatriates suspect in its territory to foreign police organs during international police cooperation. In the international police cooperation in combating transnational criminal crimes, the Chinese police and Thai police have carried out efficient cooperation in the transfer and repatriation of suspect, and achieved good results.

In October 2019, the Thai National Immigration Bureau received a request for cooperation from the Chinese side, requesting the arrest of three fugitive Chinese suspects in accordance with the arrest warrant issued by the Chinese side. According to the Chinese arrest warrant and investigation of relevant personnel entering the country, Thai police learned that three Chinese suspects had indeed fled to Phuket. Therefore, they immediately launched a joint arrest operation with Tianjin police and successfully arrested the three fugitives. At present, three suspects have been placed in the cells of the Phuket immigration



office, and they will be sent back to their country to face legal sanctions. (Chongkittavorn, Kavi, and Anu Anwar, 2019)

In March 2023, the Chinese police, along with law enforcement agencies from Myanmar and Thailand, launched a joint crackdown on gambling and fraud crime zones located in the Myawadi area of Myanmar. Through the joint efforts and close cooperation of the police forces of China, Thailand, and Myanmar, not only have important strongholds of this transnational criminal network been successfully dismantled, but a series of work such as on-site control, evidence collection, and suspect identification have also been carried out to ensure that 800 Chinese nationals involved in fraud in the Miaowadi area are repatriated to Thailand (Today's headline, 2023).

3.6 Training and cooperation for police officers

In recent years, China has made important contributions in helping countries in the "sub region" to enhance their capacity building through conducting foreign aid training. In the training content for countries in the "sub region", police related training accounts for a considerable proportion. The content of police training covers multiple aspects such as large-scale activity security, drug control, national security, combating online fraud, counter-terrorism, and joint law enforcement in the Mekong River. At the same time, we will share and exchange the achievements and experiences of the Chinese police in the field of law enforcement with the Thai police.

According to the arrangements of the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Public Security and other departments in China, most public security colleges and universities have conducted external police training and held many sessions of police law enforcement cooperation training courses. The National Narcotics Control Office of China relies on Yunnan Police Academy, Xinjiang Police Academy, Fujian Police Academy, and other police education schools under the Education Headquarters of Thailand, including the Police Cadet School, Central Police Training Division, and Central Police Tactical Training Center, to carry out practical police law enforcement training. It plays an important role in improving the comprehensive quality and ability of law enforcement personnel in China and Thailand (Thailand's headlines, 2023).

Taking Yunnan Police Academy as an example, starting from 2002, commissioned by the National Narcotics Control Commission, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Commerce, Yunnan Provincial Public Security Department and other departments, Yunnan Police Academy fully utilizes its geographical



advantages to provide training for police officers in Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand. The training covers topics such as drug control, counter-terrorism, telecommunications fraud, criminal investigation, traffic management, and border control. Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation between Yunnan Police Academy and Royal Thai Police University in 2000, the two sides have sent mutual visits every year to carry out exchanges such as student exchanges, teacher assignments, and academic cooperation. Since 2002, the college has trained 54 law enforcement officers from Thai immigration, drug control, criminal investigation, economic investigation and other law enforcement departments. Since 2015, it has trained a two-year master's degree in law enforcement in the field of drug control. Thailand has accumulated a long period of experience and practice in cultivating law enforcement talents in combating drug crimes. China also regularly organizes relevant law enforcement personnel to study and exchange in Thailand. The quality of police personnel determines the practical level of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand. Therefore, training law enforcement personnel is an important action for bilateral law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand.

Therefore, the main mode of police law enforcement cooperation above is an important way for China, Thailand and even Southeast Asian countries to detect cases and seize suspect in transnational crimes. From the practical effect, the police cooperation between China and Thailand has concentrated the police forces of China and Thailand, and enhanced the ability of both countries to crack down on cross-border cases and seize suspect. Therefore, police cooperation is an effective way for China, Thailand and other countries in the Lancang Mekong Basin to investigate transnational criminal cases and maintain social security and stability in the region. The effective experience in contact and communication methods summarized and formed in the long-term police cooperation between China and Thailand and other Lancang Mekong countries is an important guarantee for China and Thailand and other Lancang Mekong countries to successfully solve cases and successfully arrest suspect.



4. The Problems Faced by Police Cooperation between China and Thailand in Combating Transnational Crime

China and Thailand have achieved remarkable results in various forms of police cooperation in combating transnational crimes. However, the two sides still face the following problems in police cooperation:

4.1 Serious interference from major powers within and outside the region

The primary issue facing China Thailand law enforcement cooperation is the involvement of major global and regional powers. In recent years, countries such as the United States, Japan, and India have strengthened their relations with ASEAN countries, especially key countries such as Thailand, in order to contain China's development or counter China. They have also continuously created conflicts and contradictions between China and Thailand, as well as between China and regional countries, seriously disrupting the development of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand. Global power intervention mainly refers to the policy measures and actions taken by the United States to participate in Southeast Asian affairs, including Thailand, in response to the political, economic, and security landscape in the region. On the one hand, the United States balances China's influence on Thailand through direct political, economic, and security cooperation with Thailand (Busbarat, 2016). Weakening Thailand's willingness to engage in law enforcement cooperation with China and reducing the interdependence between the two countries in law enforcement cooperation. The United States and Thailand have long been allies and have a direct and significant impact on Thailand's foreign security cooperation policies (Chachavalpongwan, 2011).

Especially in the field of security cooperation, the United States and Thailand have conducted direct cooperation in both traditional and non-traditional security fields. In 2012, the signing of the Joint Vision Statement of the Thailand US Defense Alliance between the United States and the United States further upgraded bilateral security cooperation, especially in areas such as national defense and law enforcement, with a strong willingness to cooperate. The United States exerts comprehensive influence on Thailand through these means, utilizing its organizational, systemic, and communication advantages in law enforcement cooperation to influence Thailand's attitude and actions towards law enforcement cooperation with China. On the other hand, the United



States constrains law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand through strategic actions towards Southeast Asian countries as a whole.

4.2 Constraints of national differences

The difference in national conditions is an important issue faced by China Thailand police law enforcement cooperation. From the actual operation of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand, it can be seen that bilateral and multilateral law enforcement cooperation between the two countries is constrained by the differences in national conditions between China and Thailand and China ASEAN.

There are significant differences between China and Thailand in terms of political systems, economic development levels, cultural beliefs, and other aspects, and the security needs of the two countries are not completely consistent. The non-traditional security threats they face are not entirely the same. Specifically:

Firstly, there are differences in law enforcement agencies between China and Thailand. When carrying out different types of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand, based on the jurisdiction of the law enforcement departments of the two countries in terms of cooperation matters, the specific cooperation between the two sides has not been able to determine a unified docking agency. From the perspective of the establishment of cooperation departments in China and Thailand, their functional authorities are not completely the same or even similar, and often require temporary allocation of cooperation units based on cooperation matters. The differences in law enforcement agencies have reduced the timeliness of cooperation between China and Thailand in the face of sudden cross-border illegal and criminal activities.

Secondly, there is a significant gap in the reserve of police resources between China and Thailand, and the ability to provide cooperation in law enforcement varies. China is ahead of Thailand in terms of police funding, police technology, and police equipment, and has better cooperation and implementation capabilities in police law enforcement. However, Thailand's comprehensive police resource reserves are insufficient, and its ability to engage in bilateral and multilateral cooperation is limited. It can only implement law enforcement cooperation in a small number of areas. The structural differences in the reserve of police resources have constrained the progress of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand in some areas.



Thirdly, the differences in security needs between China and Thailand result in different demands for police enforcement cooperation. In recent years, China and Thailand have faced many common security threats, and have also conducted a large amount of law enforcement cooperation based on these common security threats. However, the focus of security threats faced by China and Thailand is different. Different security threat focuses result in differences in the investment and support for law enforcement cooperation in the face of different security threat factors, which hinders the further transformation of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand towards a higher level of cooperation with a community with a shared future for mankind.

4.3 Obstacles arising from changes in cooperation methods

According to the past practice of cooperation between China and Thailand, in the process of joint investigation of cases between China and Thailand, the address of the suspect is generally provided by China, and then verified by the Thai police. If the suspect is suspected of illegal entry into Thailand or overstaying, he can be arrested directly, and then repatriated according to the Thai Immigration Law. However, the Royal Thai Police Agency has ordered that starting from 2019.

4.4 The suspect uses the provisions of the Nationality Law to evade the attack

According to China's nationality law, China does not recognize dual nationality. But in many countries around the world, dual or multiple nationalities are recognized. This has led many multinational suspects to use the nationality recognition regulations of different countries to evade crackdown. For example, in law enforcement practice, suspect often hold passports from other countries at the same time. Many Chinese suspects who have fled abroad will acquire the nationality of Myanmar, Malaysia, Canada and other countries by various means and enter Thailand with the passport of these countries. Therefore, when carrying out repatriation or extradition, Thailand can only comply with the relevant laws and regulations and deport or extradite the suspect to his country of nationality, which has also caused great obstacles and impacts on China Thailand police law enforcement cooperation.

In practice, it can only meet the needs of cooperation between China and Thailand in the investigation stage of combating transnational criminal offenses in criminal proceedings, and has not yet extended to the final stage of handling crimes in the future. Therefore, the police cooperation model between China and



Thailand in transnational crimes cannot meet the needs of cooperation between the two sides in the prosecution, trial, and enforcement of criminal offenses. In summary, in addition to police cooperation, China and Thailand also need other forms of cooperation to meet the objective needs of cooperation in the entire criminal proceedings. Therefore, in addition to police cooperation, China and Thailand also need to form a normative bilateral criminal justice cooperation agreement, which can meet the needs of cooperation in the entire criminal proceedings through improved criminal justice assistance.

4.5 The differences in domestic laws and international treaty reservations between the two countries create obstacles to cooperation

A typical example of this issue is the difference in extradition treaties between the two countries. According to Chinese domestic law, the extradition of Chinese citizens is prohibited. But Chinese domestic law stipulates that Chinese people who commit crimes abroad and violate Chinese laws can be prosecuted. According to Thai domestic law, Thailand does not prohibit the extradition of Thai people. In practice, this will cause Thailand to refuse extradition in accordance with the principle of reciprocity in international practice once a suspect from another country is captured. However, China also prohibits the extradition of its own citizens due to the provisions of its domestic laws, which makes the relevant suspect use this loophole to escape the attack.

Mr. Yi Suay Sae Su, a Chinese, has a wife named Nantika (Thai, residing at Tambon Wat Chan Moo 7 56/11). At 22:05 on August 31, 2019, at the time of the incident, Mr. Yi, who was doing business in Muang District, Phitsanulok Province, Thailand, killed Ms. Nantika. Afterwards, Mr. Yi fled from Thailand to China at 10:08 am on September 1, 2019.

In this case, Thai investigators only learned of the clues to the case after Mr. Yi fled from Thailand to China at 11:00 am on September 2, 2019. The Thai court issued an arrest warrant for Mr. Yi Xiu and submitted the investigation documents to the prosecutor of Peninsular Prefecture. According to Thai law, in cases where there is an extradition request, the Prosecutor General serves as the intermediary coordinator.

The coordinator must coordinate with China based on their authority. It is obvious that according to the principle of non-extradition of Chinese nationals, China will not extradite Chinese citizens. According to the treaty requirements, the evidence and relevant documents should be transferred from Thailand to China in this case. The submission of such evidence and documents must comply



with the Criminal Judicial Mutual Assistance Treaty signed between China and Thailand, and then be heard in Chinese courts in accordance with Chinese law regarding the murder case that occurred in Thailand. As for whether the case can be prosecuted, or what conditions should be met for prosecution, the provisions of Chinese domestic law should be followed. Thailand also promulgated the International Criminal Justice Mutual Assistance Act in 1992, which applies to all countries.

The coordinator must coordinate with China based on their authority. Obviously, according to the principle of non-extradition of Chinese nationals, China will not extradite Chinese citizens. According to the treaty requirements, the evidence and relevant documents should be transferred from Thailand to China in this case. The submission of such evidence and documents must comply with the Criminal Judicial Mutual Assistance Treaty signed between China and Thailand, and then be heard in Chinese courts in accordance with Chinese law regarding the murder case that occurred in Thailand. As for whether the case can be prosecuted, or what conditions should be met for prosecution, the provisions of Chinese domestic law should be followed. Thailand also promulgated the International Criminal Justice Mutual Assistance Act in 1992, which applies to all countries.

There are still many criminal cases like this that occur between China and Thailand, but due to various reasons, they have not been ultimately resolved. Therefore, in addition to police cooperation, China and Thailand also need to form a normative bilateral criminal justice cooperation agreement, which can meet the needs of cooperation in the entire criminal proceedings through improved criminal justice assistance.

4.6 The depth and breadth of police cooperation between China and Thailand in transnational crime still have limitations

The China Thailand police cooperation model for combating transnational crime is an important way for China and Thailand to solve cases and seize suspect in combating transnational crime. The police cooperation between China and Thailand is carried out in the way of direct contact and communication between the police authorities of both sides, thus avoiding unnecessary procedures and links in transnational cooperation in combating criminal crimes between the two countries, and improving the efficiency of detecting cases and arresting suspect.



However, it should be noted that the current police cooperation model between China and Thailand is mostly formed through long-term practice, through case coordination or diplomatic channels, and has not formed a complete and standardized legal system from the level of normative system. Therefore, the police cooperation between China and Thailand in transnational crimes can only meet the needs of both sides in the investigation stage of combating transnational criminal crimes, and has not yet extended to the subsequent stages of review, prosecution, and trial. Especially in terms of evidence transfer, judicial confirmation, and witness appearance, both parties have not yet formed a standardized institutional mechanism. The police cooperation model between China and Thailand in transnational crimes cannot meet the needs of cooperation between the two sides in the prosecution, trial, and enforcement of criminal offenses. In summary, besides police cooperation, China and Thailand also need other forms of judicial cooperation to meet the objective needs of cooperation in the entire criminal proceedings. The police cooperation between China and Thailand in transnational crimes can only meet the needs of both sides in the investigation stage of combating transnational criminal crimes, and has not yet extended to the subsequent stages of review, prosecution, and trial. Especially in terms of evidence transfer, judicial confirmation, and witness appearance, both parties have not yet formed a standardized institutional mechanism. Therefore, the police cooperation model between China and Thailand in transnational crimes cannot meet the needs of cooperation between the two sides in the prosecution, trial, and enforcement of criminal offenses.

In summary, the police cooperation channels between China and Thailand in combating transnational crime have certain limitations and can only meet some of the needs of cooperation between the two countries in the investigation stage of combating transnational criminal crimes. There are still some deep-seated problems that need to be solved. The existing path of police cooperation cannot fully meet the cooperation needs of both parties in the prosecution, trial, and punishment execution stages in combating criminal offenses. In addition to police cooperation, China and Thailand also need other forms of judicial cooperation to meet the objective needs of cooperation in the entire criminal proceedings.



5. New challenges faced by law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand in combating transnational crime

With the rapid development of economic globalization and science and technology, while China and Thailand are developing rapidly in the context of peace and development, the security threats and challenges they face cannot be ignored. Especially in terms of security threats such as illegal activities, changes have posed challenges to law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand.

5.1 The diversification trend of illegal and criminal activities

Diversification of illegal and criminal activities is the primary challenge facing China Thailand law enforcement cooperation. Since the 1990s, the cross-border illegal and criminal activities faced by China and Thailand have become increasingly diverse.

In the first stage of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand, the common forms of cross-border illegal and criminal activities faced by the two countries are single, mainly drug crimes and weapon smuggling. After entering the 21st century, the forms of illegal and criminal activities faced by the two countries have been increasing day by day. From the early single form of drug crimes, it has developed into various aspects such as drug crimes, telecommunications fraud, economic crimes, cross-border gambling, crime evasion, kidnapping, human trafficking, tourism crimes, ecological environment crimes, etc., and various types of crimes have become intertwined and competitive, presenting a trend of diversification and complexity in crime. On the other hand, cross-border illegal and criminal activities have also shown a trend involving numerous countries. The common cross-border illegal and criminal activities faced by China and Thailand in the early days, including the perpetrators of illegal activities, the places where the illegal activities were carried out, and the locations of the victims, were generally limited to the countries between China and Thailand. But after entering the 21st century, cross-border illegal and criminal activities between the two countries have gradually expanded in scope, and the perpetrators of illegal and criminal activities have diverse nationalities. The implementation process of illegal and criminal activities involves multiple countries, and the perpetrators, crime locations, and victims are often scattered in multiple different countries. The types of cross-border illegal crimes and the diversification of countries involved have increased the difficulty



and cost of law enforcement, posing adverse challenges to the development of Sino Thai law enforcement cooperation.

5.2 The technological means of illegal and criminal activities are constantly upgrading

The continuous upgrading of illegal and criminal technology is an important challenge faced by China Thailand law enforcement cooperation. On the one hand, the upgrading of illegal and criminal technology. The upgrading of illegal and criminal technologies mainly manifests in the upgrading of internet information technology, anti-investigation technology, and crime equipment production technology. With the rapid development of technologies such as the Internet and communication, the progress of related technologies not only provides people with convenient and efficient living, but also provides more ways and convenience for criminals to carry out illegal activities. Criminals use various scientific and technological equipment to engage in illegal and criminal activities, which enhances the concealment of illegal and criminal activities. Through the Internet, they learn global police enforcement content and improve their own anti investigation skills. The upgrading of illegal and criminal technology has increased the difficulty for law enforcement agencies in China and Thailand to crack down on cross-border illegal and criminal activities. On the other hand, the upgrading of illegal and criminal means. Refers to the transformation and upgrading of the implementation methods of similar illegal and criminal activities, in order to avoid law enforcement by law enforcement agencies and more easily achieve the goal of illegal profits. The main manifestations of upgrading illegal and criminal means in specific criminal activities are:

Firstly, telecommunications fraud. The early telecommunications fraud methods were economic fraud, which involved intimidating victims to make illegal profits. At present, the means of telecommunications fraud have been upgraded and have become the use of counterfeit embassies and consulates abroad, foreign exchange purchasing agents, high-tech workers, and other means to carry out telecommunications fraud.

Secondly, kidnapping and virtual kidnapping. Before 2013, cross-border kidnapping cases that occurred between China and Thailand were simple kidnappings, which were actually real kidnappings. The distribution of participating members was relatively concentrated, and the amount of money obtained by kidnappers was limited. The number of activities carried out was



limited, and the efficiency of illegal profits was low. In recent years, with the upgrading of criminal technology, kidnapping has given rise to virtual kidnapping. Targeted virtual kidnapping and fraud targeting the families of international students and tourists, taking advantage of time differences and inconvenient communication both domestically and internationally. Thirdly, drug crimes. In the early days, cross-border drug crimes between China and Thailand had a single channel for drug production and trafficking. Currently, the means of cross-border drug criminal activities between China and Thailand have been upgraded, with diverse channels for drug production and trafficking, and an increase in intermediate trading links for cross-border drug production and trafficking. In summary, the continuous upgrading of illegal and criminal technologies and means has improved the efficiency of criminals in illegally profiting, posing challenges for the cooperation between the law enforcement departments of China and Thailand.

5.3 The decrease in the cost of illegal and criminal activities

The relative decrease in the cost of illegal activities is another important challenge facing China Thailand law enforcement cooperation. The cost of illegal activities mainly includes time cost, labor cost, economic cost, and risk cost. From the perspective of time cost, the overall time spent by criminals engaged in illegal activities in China and Thailand has decreased compared to the past. On the one hand, the popularization of communication technologies such as the Internet and the upgrading of modern transportation methods have significantly reduced the time for transmitting information on cross-border illegal and criminal activities, as well as the transportation of personnel and materials. On the other hand, the improvement and upgrading of illegal and criminal methods have shortened the time required for crime preparation and achievement, reducing the entire process from planning crime to committing crime and obtaining illegal benefits. From the perspective of labor costs, the process of illegal and criminal activities carried out by criminals in China and Thailand, especially emerging criminal members, has gradually simplified.

The cross-border virtual kidnapping, telecommunications fraud, and economic crimes that occur in China and Thailand have consumed less manpower compared to traditional forms of crime. In the process of development, illegal criminal organizations have shifted from the need for personnel quantity to the demand for quality, resulting in a relative decrease in labor costs. From the perspective of economic costs, due to the decrease in costs



such as time and labor, the expenses required by criminals to engage in illegal activities in China and Thailand have decreased, such as information transmission expenses and distribution expenses, ultimately leading to a decrease in the economic costs of illegal activities. From the perspective of risk cost, the illegal and criminal activities between China and Thailand are constantly upgrading in terms of technology and means, and the anti reconnaissance ability of illegal criminals is becoming stronger. Special research is conducted on the law enforcement methods and content of China Thailand law enforcement cooperation, deliberately avoiding the signing of mandatory law enforcement cooperation agreements between China and Thailand, in order to minimize the possibility of being arrested, Reduce the risk and cost of committing illegal and criminal acts. In summary, illegal criminal organizations and their personnel pose challenges to the timely and efficient handling of regional illegal and criminal activities in Sino Thai law enforcement cooperation by reducing the time, manpower, economic, and risk costs of illegal activities.

6. Countermeasures and Reflections

In order to address the current problems and challenges, the author believes that we can deepen cooperation in law enforcement between China and Thailand from the following three aspects.

6.1 Establish a long-term mechanism for stable bilateral and multilateral cooperation in law enforcement between China and Thailand

The cooperation mechanism is an institutional guarantee that affects the effectiveness of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand. Improving the long-term and stable mechanism of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in law enforcement between China and Thailand is a fundamental construction measure needed to face the current problems and challenges of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand.

6.1.1 Increase the timeliness period of cooperation mechanisms.

Currently, China and Thailand have formed various police enforcement cooperation mechanisms, which are manifested in the form of bilateral and multilateral police enforcement cooperation mechanisms, and in the content of dialogue, early warning, information exchange, joint law enforcement and other police enforcement cooperation mechanisms. Under the existing mechanism of law enforcement cooperation, China and Thailand have



carried out active and rich cooperation. However, due to the shortcomings in the timeliness of the Sino Thai police law enforcement cooperation mechanism, especially the bilateral mechanism, the time limit set by the basic legal treaty of the cooperation mechanism is often short. Once there are changes in the cooperation relationship between the two countries or interference from major powers, the police law enforcement cooperation mechanism with poor timeliness and short cycle is easily facing termination. A shorter treaty term will have a negative impact on the effectiveness and sustainability of the law enforcement cooperation mechanism. Therefore, establishing a sound long-term and stable mechanism for law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand is conducive to increasing the duration of the legal cooperation mechanism, providing long-term guarantees for law enforcement cooperation, and promoting the implementation and guarantee of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand over a longer period of time.

6.1.2 Promote the docking of bilateral and multilateral law enforcement cooperation mechanisms.

Currently, China Thailand police law enforcement cooperation has been based on specific coordination actions between bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, and a large number of police law enforcement cooperation actions are supported by both bilateral and multilateral mechanisms. However, the bilateral and multilateral docking of police enforcement cooperation actions does not mean that the police enforcement cooperation mechanism has achieved bilateral and multilateral docking. From the current situation of the construction of China Thailand law enforcement cooperation mechanism, it can be seen that China Thailand law enforcement cooperation has not yet formed a complete bilateral and multilateral docking mechanism. The prerequisite conditions for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in joint law enforcement actions are relatively complex, the scope of cooperation is limited, and external interference factors have a significant impact. Establishing a sound mechanism for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in law enforcement between China and Thailand is conducive to simplifying and refining the prerequisites for coordinating bilateral and multilateral actions in law enforcement between China and Thailand, expanding the scope of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in law enforcement between China and Thailand, reducing external interference from major powers and other third parties, and better responding to non-traditional security threats in the region.



6.2 Accelerate the signing and improvement of mandatory law enforcement cooperation treaties

The law enforcement cooperation treaty is the legal basis for China and Thailand to carry out law enforcement cooperation, and it is the detailed rules and standards that regulate the specific implementation of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand. The more comprehensive the law enforcement cooperation treaty is, the more binding the content is, and the more the law enforcement cooperation between the two countries can translate the cooperation intention, treaty and other paper content into concrete implementation of cooperation.

6.2.1 Promote the signing of legally binding police enforcement cooperation treaties

Currently, the number of law enforcement cooperation treaties signed between China and Thailand is constantly increasing, with increasingly diverse fields involved. However, from the specific provisions of the signed law enforcement cooperation treaty, the provisions of the treaty with mandatory binding force are limited. Except for the extradition treaty and other legal treaty texts signed between China and Thailand, which involve more provisions on mandatory binding force, the remaining majority of law enforcement cooperation treaties have very few provisions on mandatory binding force, mainly expressing support for cooperation intentions, future cooperation efforts, and norms related to law enforcement cooperation actions. Accelerating the signing of a legally binding law enforcement cooperation treaty between China and Thailand is conducive to strengthening the implementation effect of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand, ensuring that law enforcement cooperation is carried out within the prescribed scope, clarifying the scope and focus of law enforcement cooperation actions, promoting the formation of a common sense of security responsibility between China and Thailand, and providing legal protection for the development of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand to a higher stage.

6.2.2 Further Improve the Implementation Rules of Police Enforcement Cooperation Treaties

The Implementation Rules of the Sino Thai Law Enforcement Cooperation Treaty are the standards and norms for law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand in various fields. The more comprehensive the implementation rules are, the more legal basis there is for



China and Thailand to carry out law enforcement cooperation, and the cooperation process will be smoother and more efficient. From an overall perspective, the existing legal treaties on law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand have established a comprehensive legal framework for law enforcement cooperation, and there are rich branches within the legal framework that need to be improved in terms of implementation details. The existing legal treaties on law enforcement cooperation with relatively complete implementation rules are mainly in the fields of extradition, combating drug production and trade, judicial assistance and arbitration. Based on the problems and challenges faced by law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand, the implementation rules of legal treaties on law enforcement cooperation in these areas alone cannot meet the current cooperation needs. There is only a macro level expression of intention to cooperate and a declaration of establishing formal cooperation in law enforcement in areas such as combating organized crime, asset recovery, integrity of the criminal justice system, and global corruption in the field of law enforcement cooperation. There are no norms, standards, or specific implementation rules for cooperation, which is not conducive to the implementation of current law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand in relevant fields.

Next, when signing a law enforcement cooperation treaty, China and Thailand should further improve the implementation rules of the law enforcement cooperation treaty based on existing cooperation needs and the urgency and importance of specific areas of law enforcement cooperation.

6.3 Continuously consolidating and developing the foundation of the new international order system

Currently, the international order system dominated by hegemonic powers such as the United States is undergoing profound evolution and significant transformation. The national entities, carrier institutions, and operational models of international law enforcement cooperation are all part of the international order system. Therefore, as part of the international order system, China and Thailand cannot independently exist in law enforcement cooperation without the global international order system. Faced with issues such as interference from major powers and the "China threat theory" that hinder cooperation in law enforcement between China and Thailand, we must continue to consolidate and develop the foundation of a new international order



system, and promote the formation of a new international order system for a community with a shared future for mankind.

6.3.1 Continuously consolidate and develop the new international order system, and establish a solid foundation for cooperation in politics, economy, culture, security, and other aspects.

Firstly, we need to strengthen political mutual trust between China and Thailand, while also strengthening political mutual trust with neighboring countries and global powers, gradually enhancing the general level of political mutual trust in the international community from point to surface. A generally high level of political mutual trust provides a prerequisite for regional and even global cooperation.

Secondly, to consolidate the common economic interests of China and Thailand, strengthen the connection of global economic common interests, promote common economic prosperity and development, narrow the wealth gap, and strengthen the economic interests foundation of the new international order system.

Thirdly, promote the exchange of Chinese and foreign cultures, create conditions for creating a cross-cultural international cooperation environment that is mutually inclusive and understanding, create a "harmonious but different" international social and cultural atmosphere, and provide a cultural foundation for achieving a multicultural community with a shared future.

Fourthly, consolidate the security relations between China and Thailand, regional security relations, and global security relations. Through the combination and connection of bilateral and multilateral security cooperation, gradually achieve a security community between China and Thailand, a regional international security community, and a human security community. Through progressive and overlapping security cooperation, ultimately promote the establishment of global universal security relations.

Therefore, promoting political mutual trust, economic mutual benefit, cultural exchange, and security cooperation on a global scale is conducive to strengthening the basic conditions of the new international order system in all aspects.



6.3.2 Actively build a new type of international cooperation relationship and strengthen the position of responsibility in the new type of international cooperation relationship.

The previous international order was led by major powers, based on the pursuit of maximum power and interests, lacking a universal sense of responsibility. Under the condition of no international responsibility, security cooperation such as law enforcement between countries is based on the pursuit of power and interests. The cooperation between one country and another in law enforcement does not exclude the harm to the interests of other countries. This is also the international institutional reason for the long-standing interference of major powers and the "China threat theory" that cannot be eliminated. Under these conditions, there are significant limitations and conflicts in the number of cooperative members and the scope of cooperation. Countries such as the United States, India, and Japan, in pursuit of their own power and interests, do not exclude the suppression and restriction of law enforcement cooperation between China and Thailand. This also poses direct or indirect hidden dangers and obstacles to promoting a broader global security cooperation relationship. Strengthening responsibility plays a crucial role in the new type of international cooperation, not only in safeguarding one's own power and pursuing common interests, but also in maintaining regional security and development, and promoting the security, stability, and prosperity of the international development environment. Promote the gradual formation of a new type of law enforcement cooperation relationship between China and Thailand, a cross-cultural community with a shared future for mankind, and further promote the transformation of law enforcement cooperation relationships between neighboring countries and even global countries. Accelerate the construction of a new international order system and the early formation of new international security cooperation relationships.

7. Reference

Busbarat, P. (2016). "Bamboo Swirling in the Wind": Thailand's Foreign Policy Imbalance between China and the United States. *Contemporary Southeast Asia, 38*(2), 233 - 257.

Chachavalpongpun, P. (2011). Competing diplomacies: Thailand amidst Sino-American rivalry. In D. Singh (Ed.), *Southeast Asian Affairs 2011* (pp. 306–320). Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.

Chongkittavorn, Kavi, and Anu Anwar. (2019). Strengthening US Relations with ASEAN: A Critical Element of the US Indo-Pacific Strategy. East-West Center. Retrieved from https://www.jstor.org/stable/re_srep24998.

Gill, R. B. (1991). China looks to Thailand: Exporting arms, exporting influence. *Asian Survey*, 31(6), 526–539.

Harbin Cyberpolice. (2019). *Looking back on the achievements of international cooperation in public security since the establishment of the People's Republic of China in the past 70 years*

Kam, S. (2023). China. *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses*, 8(1), 12–26.

Liu, J. L. (2020). Construction of the legal mechanism for China-ASEAN legal digital currency cooperation. *Journal of Yunnan University (Social Sciences Edition)*, 19(2), 137–144.

LMLECC. (2023). *Lancang-Mekong Integrated Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation Center: "Major events"*. Retrieved from http://www.lm-lesc-center.org/pages_79_218.aspx

Prasirtsuk, K. (2017). An ally at the crossroads: Thailand in the US alliance system. In M. Wesley (Ed.), *Global allies: Comparing US alliances in the 21st century* (pp. 115–132). ANU Press.

Research Report (2023). [M] Beijing: Social Science Literature Publishing House.

Reynolds, C. J. (2019). Policing and banditry. In Power, protection and magic in Thailand: The cosmos of a southern policeman (pp. 85–114). ANU Press.

Thailand's headlines. (2023). *Thai Immigration Bureau police arrest three Chinese fugitives involving up to 700 million yuan*.

Tan, T. (2017). Path analysis of China's leading international public goods supply in the Mekong sub-region: A case study of the Mekong River Union of China, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand taking patrol law enforcement as an example. *Journal of Tongji University (Social Science Edition)*, 28(4), 49–58.

Thailand's headlines. (2023). *Thai Immigration Bureau police arrest three Chinese fugitives involving up to 700 million yuan*.

Today's headline.(2023). *More than 800 Chinese nationals involved in gambling fraud in Myawadi, Myanmar the employee was sent back to the country*. Retrieved from <https://kan.china.com/article/3674033.html>

Wang, X. D. (2014). Liaison officer for general affairs abroad: A business card for China to go global. *People's Public Security Daily*, p. 4.

Wei, Z. Z. (2016, February 3). Foreign police liaison officers in action. *People's Daily*.

Yunnan Provincial Public Security Department International Cooperation Bureau. (2021). *2021 International Cooperation Report*.

Yunnan Provincial Public Security. (2022). *The data is sourced from the Water Patrol Brigade of Yunnan Provincial Public Security Department*.

Zhang, G. H., & Yi, L. Z. (2020). Construction of the "the Belt and Road" national police cooperation blue book [M]. Chengdu: Southwest Nantong University Press.

Zhuang, G. T., Zhang, Y. D., & Liu, W. W. (2023). Thailand Blue Book – Thailand research.



Zhou, F. Y. (2019). Opportunities and challenges of China-Thailand cooperation docking the "the Belt and Road." *Contemporary World*, (07), 69–74.

Zhou, F. Y. (2020). Thailand's cognition and response to the Indo-Pacific strategy: The geophysical balance strategy of "middle countries." *Research on the Nanyang Issue*, (02), 71–90.