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THAILAND

Five foreign semiconductor companies now employ about 7,700 workers in Thailand. National Semiconductor, which opened in October, 1973, has 4,500 workers on its payroll. In 1981 National produced 68% of Thailand's integrated circuit output. Eighty percent of its product - in 1980 - were finished chips. Data General, a leading manufacturer of small computers, produces chips for its own consumption. It employs 500 assembly workers in Thailand. The finished product, representing 3.7% of Thailand's chip production in 1981, is shipped to Hong Kong for inspection.

Signetics, based in Silicon Valley but gradually being integrated into its parent firm, Philips, started operations in Thailand in 1980. It employs 1,600 and produces 27.8% of Thailand's chips. Sixty-five percent of its circuits were finished goods in 1980.

Synertek, the merchant semiconductor subsidiary of Honeywell, also opened a Thai facility in 1980. Presently, it employs 300 Thai workers, but it has plans to expand. In 1981, reportedly, its product only represented .5% of Thailand's integrated circuit production.

Sidtha International, which was awarded promotional privileges in 1979, plans to employ 809. It will supply circuits to an affiliate in India which will manufacture video recorders. Sidtha is 85%-owned by the World Government of the Age of Enlightenment Trust (headquartered in Switzerland), 10% Thai-owned, and 5%-owned by Indian interests.

Thai integrated circuit exports, which grew rapidly during the late 1970's, have leveled off with the current recession:

	Quantity (million units)	Value (million Baht)
1977	171.1	1,144.1
1978	254.7	2,157.9
1979	314.1	2,903.1
1980	618.8	6,156.8
1981	592.5	6,144.8

Because chips are assembled from imported materials and components, those exports exaggerate the foreign exchange earnings generated by the industry. The Thai Finance Ministry has released a study showing that 63.03% of chip export earnings pay for associated imports. Of the remaining 36.97%, 1.67% goes for local raw materials and 35.30% for local value added:

Raw Materials	1.67
Chemicals and Gases	0.79
Packaging	0.07
Electricity	0.81
Value Added	35.30
Depreciation	2.01
Wages	17.65
Profits	15.64

It is interesting to note that profits are counted as earnings of foreign exchange, and that they almost equal wages. (**Bangkok Bank Monthly Review**, June, 1982)

SINGAPORE

General Electric and Dutch-owned Philips, the two largest electronics employers in Singapore, began laying off workers this October. GE's clock radio and tape recorder division laid off 250, primarily foreign and junior employees, from its 3,000-strong workforce, due to slow demand. Philips laid off 3% of its workforce, in part due to government encouraged automation.

Hewlett-Packard, which employs 2,300 in Singapore, has started awarding shares in the company to workers with ten years service. More than 300 workers, 60% of H-P's original workforce, are receiving ten shares worth US\$40 each. (**Singapore Straits Times and Business Times**, October 1982)