

Sharp Increase in Entrepreneur Investors Targeting Thailand
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Thailand is experiencing a boom in applications from entrepreneurs seeking to take advantage of the investor-friendly [Thailand Elite Residence Program](#). With the latest sales figures indicating a nearly 60% growth in the fiscal first quarter and a profit of more than THB 280 million (approximately USD 8.75 million), overall demand for the program is at an all-time high. Most noticeable, however, is the sharp uptick from entrepreneur applicants: the number of these applications increased by more than 60% year-on-year between 2016 and 2018.

Dominic Volek, Managing Partner and Head of Southeast Asia at global residence and citizenship advisory firm [Henley & Partners](#), says Thailand has established itself as a target destination for entrepreneurs and investors wanting to do business or get their start-up off the ground. “The steep growth trajectory of entrepreneur investors for the [Thailand Elite Residence Program](#) over the last three years is proof of Thailand’s growing reputation as not only a country of exquisite beauty and exceptionally high living-standards, but also a fantastic place to do business.”

Traditionally, Singapore has been the regional powerhouse for start-ups, owing to its business-friendly climate and impressive global access. However, Thailand is rapidly catching up due to its technology-driven infrastructure and a burgeoning innovation culture. While the country is perhaps better known as a top tourist destination, the Thai government has strongly supported start-ups for a number of years, attracting investment from local and overseas investors, easing regulations, and extending tax waivers for venture capital.

These efforts have paid off, with the ongoing popularity of the [Thailand Elite Residence Program](#) indicating that interest in the country now extends far beyond its beautiful beaches, fine cuisine, and rich culture. The latest figures show that there is increasing interest in Thailand from Chinese investors and entrepreneurs in particular – between 2016 and 2018, the number of Chinese applicants for the Thailand Elite Residence Program grew more than seven-fold. The program is also popular with Japanese and French nationals, who nearly tripled and doubled their number of applicants respectively from 2016 to 2018. Other nationalities that favor the residence program include American, Australian, and British nationals.

The surge in program applications is part of a wider global trend, with increasing numbers of entrepreneur investors seeking alternative residence or citizenship. Volek adds: “Globally, we are seeing more and more interest amongst high-net-worth individuals wanting to acquire alternative residence or citizenship as a means of diversifying their family’s opportunities and business interests and improving their quality of life. This is reflected in [Henley & Partners](#)’ powerful

overall growth in Southeast Asia, recording a nearly 50% year-on-year growth in the number of applicant submissions for both residence and citizenship programs from 2017 to 2018.”

Since [Henley & Partners](#) became the official global concessionaire, the [Thailand Elite Residence Program](#) has expanded dramatically and now has over 7,500 members. The first of its kind worldwide, the program is managed by [Thailand Privilege Card Co. Ltd](#) and offers applicants privilege entry visas, which include a wide range of VIP benefits. The program provides a multiple-entry visa to qualified applicants, allowing them to visit and reside in Thailand for a period of between five and twenty years, at a one-time cost of between THB 500,000 (approximately USD 16,000) and THB 2.14 million (approximately USD 68,000), depending on the option chosen. Benefits include airport limo services and lounge access, expedited immigration formalities, access to world-class healthcare services, dedicated concierge, and various privileges across hotels, shopping centers, golf courses, and more.

Henley & Partners caters to all clients interested in the program, either in person, via one of its offices globally, or virtually, via its online portal, thailandelite-direct.com.

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Notes to Editors

About Henley & Partners

Henley & Partners is the global leader in residence and citizenship planning. Each year, hundreds of wealthy individuals and their advisors rely on our expertise and experience in this area. The firm’s highly qualified professionals work together as one team in over 30 offices worldwide.

The concept of residence and citizenship planning was created by Henley & Partners in the 1990s. As globalization has expanded, residence and citizenship have become topics of significant interest among the increasing number of internationally mobile entrepreneurs and investors whom we proudly serve every day.

The firm also runs a leading government advisory practice that has raised more than USD 8 billion in foreign direct investment. Trusted by governments, the firm has been involved in strategic consulting and in the design, set-up, and operation of the world’s most successful residence and citizenship programs.

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