## Where Is Your Home

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For many, especially Chinese, western countries are equal to utopian countries. They are always eager to migrate to those countries such as the United States, the UK and Canada, for the sake of a higher living standard, a better future or a more superior education. A few years ago, the tragedy where about 50 people from Fujian died from suffocation in a closed container sailing to England made it crystal clear that Chinese have 'Western-mania'.

I, however, if free to choose, would like to live in a non-western country-Thailand has many advantages which Hong Kong and western countries lack. Thailand is a developing country. Ordinary people are poor. There is no comparison between people. You will find it comfortable to live there. But in Hong Kong, owing to the high living standard, people are so materialistic that brand name products seem to be essential. You may be looked down upon simply because your handbag is not a Louis Vuitton.

Since the exchange rate between Hong Kong dollars and Thai Baht is about 1 to 5, I will be a millionaire in Thailand. Being wealthy like Li Ka Shing, I could do many things that cannot be done in Hong Kong. I could live in an enormous villa and travel around Thailand everyday as though I was having a never-ending holiday.

Another attraction is the friendly people. Poor as the Thais are, they can live happily. Unlike Hong Kong people, there is always a bright smile on their faces. Hong Kong people just want to make unlimited money, that's why they feel stressful. Thais are contented with what they have, so they lead a happy life. I am sure I would be affected by their happiness.

Compared with the United States or Europe, Thailand is not far away from Hong Kong at all. It takes only 2 hours by air from Thailand to Hong Kong. I could visit my family and friends more frequently and certainly, they could do the same. Also, the air fare is much cheaper. Flying from Hong Kong to Europe at Christmas, for example, costs almost \$10000, which is the income of an ordinary white collar man. Due to the high price and time, I would hardly meet my family and friends face to face.

Thailand is free from discrimination. Many western people discriminate against Chinese by assaulting them. I do not need to worry about when I would be hit on the street. I would get along with the Thai well.

Having mentioned plenty of benefits of Thailand, would you be attracted to live there? If not, where is your ideal home? Anyway, I would like you guys to remember that spirit is much more important than material possessions. With this principle, you can have an ideal life, no matter where you live.

Teacher's Feedback: Good points made. I couldn't think of so many good things

about Thailand until I read this article. (Miss Lai Ming Lee)

Food For Thought: How can you make Hong Kong be your ideal home?

