Outlook
On the rights of ethnic minorities; Today, Unesco and the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Thailand are organising a panel discussion on the impact of the legal status of hill tribes. The panel will also discuss the rights of ethnic minorities.

The panel will explore the implications of the current situation for the cultural and physical survival of hill tribe people, as well as examine new amendments to the nationality law, which aim to remedy its deficiencies.

The speakers will include Karn Sermchaiwong, who is a lawyer who has worked on minority issues. He is also a committee member of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand and specialises in minority and displaced people. Dr David A. Feingold is the international coordinator for HIV and trafficking programmes at the Office of the Regional Adviser for Culture at Unesco. Amanda Flaim is a PhD candidate in development sociology at Cornell University and a statistical analyst for Unesco.

Tuenjai Deetes, a former senator, is secretary-general of the Hill Area and Community Development Foundation. Chutima Morlaekul (Miju), an Akha herself, is an expert on legal status and minority rights. Miju has conducted valuable research for the Unesco Highland Citizenship Project.

Quinton Quayle, British ambassador to Thailand and Laos, will open the event with introductory remarks.

The panel is today at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand, Phloenchit Road, at 8pm. Call 02-391-0577 ext 510 for more details.