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THAILAND INVESTMENT REVIEW

Vol. 29 | No. 3 | March 2019



SMART CITY

A SOLUTION TO A MORE
LIVABLE FUTURE

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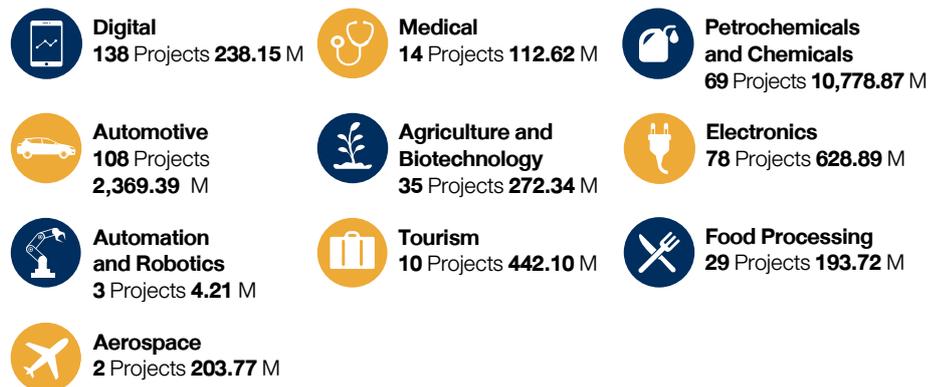


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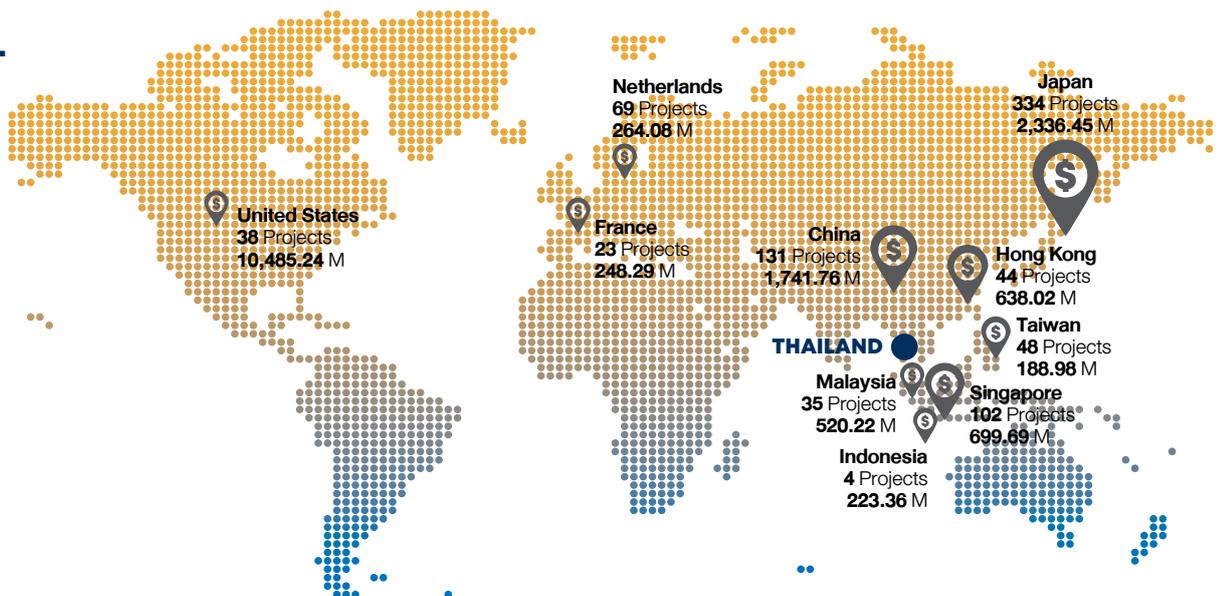
BOI NET APPLICATION January - December 2018



FOREIGN INVESTMENT BY TARGET SECTORS



FOREIGN INVESTMENT BY MAJOR ECONOMIES



Unit: US\$ (US\$ = 31.85 THB as of 21 January 2019)

Note: Investment projects with foreign equity participation from more than one country are reported in the figures for both countries. Statistics on net applications are adjusted whenever applications are returned to applicants due to insufficient information. For more details, please see link http://www.boi.go.th/newboi/index.php?page=Report_investment



THAILAND INVESTMENT YEAR: WHAT'S NEW?

Hosted by the Thailand Board of Investment (BOI), the “Thailand Investment Year – What’s New?” seminar was carried out with success on 4 March 2019. The event featured keynote speakers and panelists including the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, as well as the ministers and executives from five key government agencies which included the BOI, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, and Ministry of Industry. Attended by more than 2,000 business people, the event provides a comprehensive outlook of government policies and Thailand’s investment scheme in 2019 and beyond.

Thailand’s direction

In the opening session, H.E. General Prayut Chan-ocha, Prime Minister, reaffirmed the country’s direction in enhancing its economic competencies through the 20-year National Strategic Plan. The Prime Minister firmly believes that investment will continue to be the main economic driver and the government will fully support such growth through three umbrella concepts. First, through “Learning from the Past for Future Development”, Thailand will pay attention to the roots of its economy, culture, and society in order to ensure they are fully

integrated with technology and innovation to accommodate modern socioeconomic contexts. Second, “Adjusting the Present” will be achieved through government investments in infrastructure development in all dimensions in order to prepare for enhancing the capacity of industrial and service development on the global stage. Lastly, “Creating the New Future” will see Thailand actively supporting its local entrepreneurs and younger generation through promotions aimed at facilitating the adaptability and competencies of the business model in a disruptive market.

Robust economy

In addition to the Prime Minister’s overview of Thailand’s economic policy, the Deputy Prime Minister, Somkid Jatusripitak, also highlighted the continued robustness of the country’s economic situation. He revealed that the country registered 4.1% GDP growth in 2018 with low inflation of only 1%, while there was also an increase in spending from both the government and the private sector in the previous year. The growing tourism industry is reported to have contributed to almost 20% of the country’s GDP in 2018, while Thailand

COVER STORY

is also reported by the World Bank and Bloomberg to have performed well in its economic progress.

The Deputy Prime Minister also mentioned Thailand's strategic location amidst the rapidly changing global geopolitics landscape. On the one hand, China is implementing its policy known as the Belt and Road initiative (BRI) linking China to Central and South Asia and onward to Europe. In addition, the Greater Bay Area (GBA), which covers Hong Kong, Macao, Guangdong, and Shenzhen, is also another development priority of China. Both of these developments put Thailand in a geographically strategic location as a gateway to the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam) and the wider ASEAN region. On the other hand, the U.S. is now launching its new approach to Asia known as the Indo Pacific strategy, which places ASEAN and Thailand at its center. Meanwhile, Thailand is also

currently in the process of considering whether to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, with the Deputy Prime Minister also advising that the country should be able to join the agreement after the general election. Taking these new geopolitical developments into account, the Deputy Prime Minister foresees continued growth in Thailand's economy, which he firmly believes will see the country becoming a "Safe Heaven of Asia" for foreign investors.

Attractive investment incentives

Another highlight of the event was the unveiling of various new investment promotion measures. With the objective of making 2019 an opportune time for investors, Ms. Duangjai Asawachintachit, Secretary General of Thailand's Board of Investment, updated the assembled



audience and foreign investors with a presentation of the BOI's new measures in this respect, including Thailand Investment Year, Smart City Development, grassroots economy promotion, and tourism promotion.

For Smart City related activities, the BOI offers incentives for activities classified under one of the three following categories: 1. Smart City Development, 2. Smart City System Development, and 3. Smart Industrial Estate or Smart Industrial Zones business. Eligible activities are required to meet the Smart City standards of at least two of the following 7 aspects: 1. Smart Living, 2. Smart People, 3. Smart Governance, 4. Smart Economy, 5. Smart Mobility, 6. Smart Energy, and 7. Smart Environment (compulsory). An 8-year Corporate Income Tax (CIT) exemption will be granted for activities that qualify under all seven standards, while activities qualifying in fewer standards will receive a 5-year CIT exemption.

Apart from the launch of the BOI's new measures for 2019, a new online service under its "BOI Digital Transformation" initiative was also introduced. The service includes a search feature for the BOI's promotional privileges as well as a function notifying investors of their BOI application status. It is believed that these new measures and services will facilitate investment and attract even higher total investment values than in 2018. ■





SMART CITY: A SOLUTION TO A MORE LIVABLE FUTURE

With innovations and technology bringing about significant disruption to the various aspects of our lives over the past decade, citizens around the world are becoming ever more accustomed to the convenience of services and activities made available online or even on their phones. Urban development is another aspect of modern life that has undergone a period of innovation-driven change recently, with technology and data increasingly employed to combat the challenges of pollution, waste, and traffic congestion that all increase as cities grow. To ensure that urban growth also means improved quality of life for city dwellers, government and municipal leaders around the world are now exploring the process of transforming their urban areas into so-called “Smart Cities.”

The term smart city describes a concept rather than a defined technology. It is, therefore, hard to provide an exact definition. Despite the broad terminology, it is clear that an overarching element of the concept is the integration of digital technology across all key city functions. Perhaps the most concise definition is the one provided by the World Bank, which explained the concept of the smart city as “A technology-intensive city, with sensors and highly efficient public services, thanks to information that is gathered in real time by thousands of interconnected devices.” This article will explore how the concept of the smart city is applied in three different contexts, starting with a broad overview of the global picture, before focusing on the regional level in ASEAN, and finally

concluding with a look at the national context of Thailand.

Smart World

With the world’s urban population continuing to grow, the concept of the smart city is becoming increasingly relevant for governments around the world as they seek to manage their limited resources to meet increasing demands through the integration of technology and innovation. Europe is currently more urbanized than Asia, with 73% of European citizens now living in urban areas, compared to 48% in Asia, but urbanization is a global trend. While around 55% of the world’s population is living in an urban area or city, that figure is set to continue rising. According to the United Nations, it is estimated that

two-thirds of the global population will be living in cities by 2050.

Around the world, there are currently 28 megacities of more than 10 million inhabitants, with this number expected to reach 41 by 2030. Due to this seemingly relentless global urbanization, there is an increasing demand for cities that are efficient and smart. It is predicted by Persistence Market Research that the market value of the smart city will reach USD 1 trillion in 2019.

Amidst this global city development landscape, the IESE Business School has launched its fifth edition of the IESE Cities in Motion Index (CIMI). Ranking smart cities around the world, CIMI 2018 measures the sustainability of smart cities and the quality of life for their inhabitants. Based on nine smart

INDUSTRY FOCUS

city dimensions, the study indicates that New York, London, and Paris are among the world's top three smartest cities, while Singapore is among the leaders in Asia. The report also reveals that although megacities tend to receive higher scores on the index, being a megacity is not an essential condition of being developed into a smart city. Medium to small size cities like Amsterdam, Melbourne, and Wellington also performed well in the rankings with balanced scores against all dimensions.

Smart ASEAN

The region is driven by its urban economy as it is reported that most of the growth across ASEAN countries is contributed by cities. By 2030, the region is predicted to have 90 million people living in urban areas, while the middleweight cities with a population of between 200,000 to 2 million are expected to account for 40% of the region's growth, according to figures released by the ASEAN Secretariat. This rapid urbanization of ASEAN presents many challenges, such as congestion, poor water/air quality, poverty, rising inequality, and safety. In response, Singapore came up with the proposal to establish the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in 2018 with the aim of synergizing the efforts of member states in developing

their own Smart Cities. The network will serve as a collaborative platform where up to three cities in each member state will work together toward the common goal of smart and sustainable urban development.

Under the ASCN, ASEAN has established the ASEAN Smart Cities Framework which includes 6 development focus areas: civic and social, health and well-being, safety and security, quality environment, built infrastructure, and industry and innovation. These areas are identified in order for the region to reach three strategic objectives.

1. Competitive Economy: a Smart City should be able to provide inclusive opportunities for its people to achieve economic security while leaving no one behind. A digital and creative economy will also be focused on this objective as it is hoped to be the growth engine that will create more jobs and attract more investment to sustain itself.

2. Sustainable Environment: this objective is to ensure the long-term viability and accessibility of a healthy ecosystem as well as to enhance disaster resilience and mitigate climate change impacts.

3. High Quality of Life: this aspect focuses on the social, physical and psychological wellbeing of the city's inhabitants. The smart city should promote equal access to social infrastructures such as education, healthcare, public facilities, and other resources needed to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life.

To achieve these strategic regional outcomes, ASEAN governments are focusing on integrating a masterplan designed to enable governments to create and manage urban domains which will help to balance the outcomes in all three objectives

Smart Thailand

In line with the ASCN, Thailand endorsed Bangkok, Chonburi, and Phuket as its pilot cities within the network. The provinces in which these three cities

are located represent prime examples of how Thailand is in its process of transforming from a predominantly rural country into an increasingly urban one as the steady migration of the Thai population to urban areas shows no sign of relenting. According to Statista, while 39.95% of the Thai population resided in urban areas in 2007, this figure has gradually increased over the years with a reported 49.2% of Thailand's total population now living in urban areas and cities.

To address the issues of Thailand's continuing urbanization, the government appointed the National Smart City Steering Committee in 2016 to ensure the country followed a policy of smart urbanization. Chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, the committee integrated the talents and cooperation of three Ministries: Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, and Ministry of Energy. The committee has also launched the National Smart City Master Plan. Running from 2017 to 2021, the five-year roadmap aims to develop seven cities in the first year, eight cities in the second year, and 25 cities between the third and fifth year.

With the masterplan in place, Thailand is now seeking ways to finance the smart city models across the country. As the government is not in a position to achieve its objectives without external support, a number of investment opportunities have been opened up to companies and investors, allowing the private sector to play an active role in shaping the future of smart cities in Thailand. Activities in the smart city sector are eligible for the maximum incentive from the BOI of an 8-year corporate income tax exemption under the condition that such activities meet all 7 aspects of the BOI smart city measures, namely: 1. Smart Living, 2. Smart People, 3. Smart Governance, 4. Smart Economy, 5. Smart Mobility, 6. Smart Energy, and 7. Smart Environment. Activities qualifying in fewer standards will receive a 5-year CIT exemption. ■



SMART CITY IN THE CAMPUS: A CASE STUDY



In the past few years, the concept of “Smart Cities” has become one of the most discussed topics when it comes to innovation and urbanization. Last year, ASEAN agreed to launch the so-called “Smart City Network” in which every member state selected up to three pilot cities to be developed within the regional framework. Looking at the global picture, the Smart City concept has already gone beyond the development of actual cities or provinces. Universities around the world are now starting to opt into this tech-driven future by transforming their campus infrastructures along the smart city model.

For Thailand, Chulalongkorn University is known for its commitment to running a green campus in the heart of urban Bangkok. Recently, the university has made a concerted effort to develop its entire campus and surrounding area into more than just a green university. Known as “Chula Smart City”, the site is positioned as a smart city for society where big data is collected and shared in order to manage the campus’s energy and water consumption, transport, climate, and pollution.

In 2017, Chula Smart City was endorsed and sponsored by the Energy Policy and Planning Office, Ministry of Energy, which provided a 10 million baht fund to support further research and development. The university also had an opportunity to feature its smart city

development project in the Smart Cities – Clean Energy @ 6th TGBI Expo hosted by the Ministry of Energy and the Thailand Green Building Institute. Chula Smart City is now one of a number of Smart City development projects in Thailand with a core focus on the development of learning style, living style, and lifestyle.

Located in the heart of downtown Bangkok, Chulalongkorn University owns 455.7 acres of prime land in the Pathumwan district. The area is divided for three major functions, with 251.7 acres designated for education, 152.2 acres for commerce, and 51.8 acres for government rental. To integrate various functions of the university’s land, Chulalongkorn University adopted the notion of “Smart 5” in driving its site towards becoming a Smart City. The Smart 5 concept includes:

1. Smart Energy: the university uses advanced technology through its energy management program to assess demand for electricity in each unit, while also implementing solar roof panels on top of the faculties’ buildings as an alternative source of energy. Through these measures, the university is reported to have reduced its total energy consumption by 40% and its greenhouse gas emission by 30%.

2. Smart Mobility: as the university covers a large area in the center of Bangkok, efficient and effective connectivity between its faculties and the city’s mass



transit systems is essential. The university is now offering various options to enhance connectivity within the area and beyond including an electric and hybrid engine shuttle bus (CU POP Bus), bike sharing, EV car sharing, EV Tuk Tuk, and its latest E Scooter initiative. Recently, the university, in cooperation with Toyota Motor Thailand, has launched the “CU TOYOTA Ha:mo”, which is an ultra-compact electrical vehicle sharing service to enhance harmonious mobility network within the university.

3. Smart Community: with the university aiming to diversify its community through various activities, co-working spaces, gyms, and a public park have recently been included within the Chula Smart City to ensure inclusivity for all ages. The Internet of Things is also integrated into the site to facilitate the activities of users within the community, for example, reserving a library meeting room.

4. Smart Security: the university ensures both the physical safety of those on the site and the online security of those using its smart features through the integration of technology and big data.

5. Smart Environment: in order to ensure a clean and green environment, technology such as air sensors, noise sensors, and rain detectors have been installed and implemented. The university is also recognized internationally for its waste management, earning first place for waste management in the UI Green Metric Ranking out of 619 institutions from 76 countries worldwide.

With the ambitious aim of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 70% in 10 years, Chulalongkorn University is not only as a beacon of dynamic public intellectualism, but also as a shining example of a smart city development in Thailand. In addition to benefiting its own students, Chula Smart City is also playing a significant role in moving both the local community and the country as a whole forward together into a smart future. ■

THAI GREEN BUILDING INSTITUTE: PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN BUILDING AND SMART ENVIRONMENT KNOWLEDGE ACROSS THAILAND

The conceptualization and growth of the Thai Green Building Institute

Following the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997, Thailand's economy rebounded to experience significant growth across a range of industries including the construction sector. Parallel to Thailand's revitalization of this sector, numerous countries across the world also began to acknowledge the need to invest both human and financial resources into the green building economy. In 1998, this resulted in the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) launching its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) 1.0 pilot project. In 2008, following several years of discussions between interest groups and industry stakeholders, Thailand followed suit with the Association of Siamese Architects and the Engineering Institute of Thailand joining forces to establish the Thai Green Building Institute under the Thai Green Building Foundation to enhance architectural and engineering standard of green building in Thailand as well as to foster research and development of the smart environment sector.

Officially registered in Thailand on 7 September 2010, the TGBI has become known as one of the country's most reputable agencies for the design and development of environmentally sustainable buildings. In addition, the TGBI has also developed its own standard for measuring sustainability and certifying green building designs. Having created a range of geographically

“We are committed to creating a world that will benefit the next generation of Thai citizens. By promoting green building and smart environment practices, we are determined to reducing waste, mitigating environmental impacts, and decreasing Thailand's reliance on expensive resources.”

Mr. Winyou Wanichsirirot,
Secretary & Committee
Thai Green Building Institute (TGBI)

contextual indicators that are in accordance with international standards, the TGBI provides certification for new and existing building. Operating the TREES standard (Thailand's Rating of Energy and Environmental Sustainability), the TGBI provides certification for a range of buildings including new constructions, existing buildings, 'core & shell' properties, and pre-new constructions. This has placed Thailand in the beneficial position of being able to certify its structures domestically.

A vehicle for empowering nationwide change

According to the World Green Building Council, the global construction sector must reach 'net zero carbon' emissions by



2050. Failure to do so will place significant strain on the collective responsibility of all signatories to reach their targets as pointed out in the 2015 Paris Agreement. In Thailand, the government has taken significant steps towards addressing this concern, most notably via the implementation of the 'Smart City' policy framework.

With the support of the Energy Policy and Planning Office, the TGBI launched Thailand's first smart city planning contest in 2016. The contest received numerous smart cities projects across Thailand competing against TREES smart city standard in 8 areas: 1. Smart Energy, 2. Smart Mobility, 3. Smart Community, 4. Smart Environment, 5. Smart Economy, 6. Smart Building, 7. Smart Governance and 8. Smart Innovation. The contest granted THB 10 million for the final 6 projects for further research and development. These awarded projects place significant focus upon



green energy and the creation of a safe environment (Smart Energy and Environment Platform). If implemented successfully, it is envisaged that the Smart City initiative will result in a marked improvement towards access for public services, energy consumption, and management of natural resources.

Mr. Winyou Wanichsirirot, Secretary and Committee of the Thai Green Building Institute, notes that: "A core focus of the TGBI is to minimize Thailand's overall environmental footprint. By ensuring that the protection of the environment is at the center of everything we do, we expect to see Thailand shining as a positive example for other ASEAN nations." By encouraging more developers to engage in 'green building', there is an expectation that the values of public space, urban sustainability and low-carbon lifestyles will become more common. Most importantly, according to the UN Environment Programme, greener building standards are also expected to contribute to a significant reduction in Thailand's overall carbon emissions. Current estimates suggest

that this could be as much as 304 kt of carbon dioxide equivalent per year.

How supportive is the BOI when it comes to Smart City?

The BOI currently offers a range of incentives for companies engaged in the green building economy and the Smart City development scheme. This includes an 8-year corporate income tax exemption for activities accomplished all BOI's Smart City components including Smart Living, Smart People, Smart Governance, Smart Economy, Smart Mobility, Smart Energy, and Smart Environment. Activities qualifying in fewer standards will receive a 5-year CIT exemption. If fully utilized, these incentives have the potential to propel Thailand's technological capacities well beyond neighboring countries. This would simultaneously provide significant environmental protections, nudging Thailand towards becoming even more environmentally sustainable.

With an ever-growing awareness and focus on issues of environmental



sustainability, there is set to be continued growth within the green building sector for the foreseeable future. As climate change debates continue to dominate the international agenda, there will be further pressure on cities to implement innovate mitigation solutions. As such, it will be incumbent on organizations such as the TGBI to further socialize the concept of environmental sustainability and to make it a fundamental premise of building design. ■

NEWS BITES

Smart City Thailand Take-off: On 11 March 2019, the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA), in collaboration with the Energy Policy and Planning Office (EPPO) and the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning (OTP), launched the Smart City Thailand Take-off event in the Ballroom of Park Hyatt Hotel, Bangkok. The Smart City Thailand Take-off event served as a platform from which to share the country's major achievements in smart city development, including the announcement of the criteria and process for smart city proposal evaluation, the launching of the Smart City Thailand logo, and the call for all existing and new cities to submit their smart city proposals. The government plans to further develop 30 smart city zones in 24 provinces in 2019 as the next step towards achieving its target of 100 smart cities in 77 provinces by 2022.

Chiang Mai Smart City 2020: On 16 March 2019, Mr. Pailin Chuchottaworn, Deputy Minister of Transport, chaired the opening ceremony of the Chiang Mai Economic Forum 2019. At the event, he also gave a special speech entitled "Chiang Mai Smart City 2020" in which he outlined Chiang Mai's role as one of Thailand's first seven Smart Cities. The Ministry of Transport is currently driving the development of transportation networks for Thailand's Smart Cities which has already brought about a massive transformation. This includes high-speed trains, a double-track rail network, and various regional rail system projects. In line with the Chiang Mai Smart City development, the ministry has initiated various projects in order to support its transportation system for the future. Such initiatives include, for example, the Chiang Mai Mass Transit System project, the Den Chai-Chiang Rai-Chiang Khong double-track rail project, and the Chiang Mai Airport expansion project.

BOI'S MISSIONS AND EVENTS



On 28 February 2019, Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, led a delegation from Hong Kong on a visit to Thailand where they joined the Thailand-Hong Kong Strategic Partnership seminar. On this occasion, Ms. Duangjai Asawachintachit, Secretary General of the Thailand Board of Investment, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Mr. Peter Wong, Regional Director of South East Asia and South Asia, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council on exchanging investment opportunity information and organizing activities to boost economic cooperation between the two economies. H.E. Mr. Somkid Jatusripitak, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, was also present and gave a special speech in the seminar.



On 13 March 2019, Ms. Duangjai Asawachintachit, Secretary General of the Thailand Board of Investment, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Mr. Huh Sung-Moo, Mayor of Changwon City, the Republic of Korea, on the subject of cooperation in organizing activities to promote investment and business between the two countries. As part of the visit by the Korean delegates, a number of activities were held, including a seminar to introduce Thai investment promotion policies as well as Thailand's automotive industry, business matching activities with Thai businessmen, and a meeting with the executives of relevant agencies such as the Federation of Thai Industries, Thailand Automotive Institute and automotive parts producers from Thailand.



On 28 February 2019, Mr. Chokedee Kaewsang, Deputy Secretary General of the Thailand Board of Investment, welcomed Mr. Nguyen Ba Cung, Deputy Director General, the Foreign Investment Agency of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, along with officials from the Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment. The representatives joined the meeting to discuss investment promotion policies. After the discussion, the Vietnamese delegates met with Thai investors to discuss their interest in the steel processing, energy, petrochemical and processed food industries in Vietnam.



On 1 March 2019, Ms. Bonggot Anuroj, Deputy Secretary General of the Thailand Board of Investment, welcomed a delegation from Osaka, Japan, representing the products and services for the elderly care sector. The meeting took place at the Department of International Trade Promotion, the Ministry of Commerce, with Ms. Bonggot Anuroj giving a special lecture on investment promotion policies in the medical device manufacturing industry. A business matching activity was also held for both Thai and Osaka entrepreneurs.



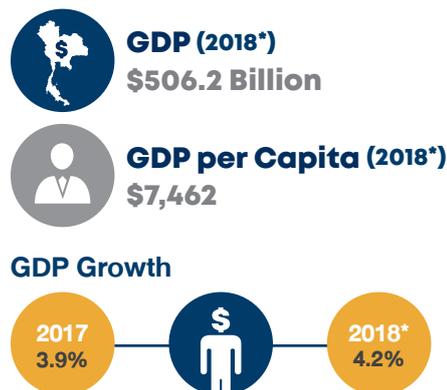
During 20-21 February 2019 in Piacenza, Italy, the BOI Paris Office organized an investment promotion activity at the REFRIGERA SHOW 2019, an exhibition of products and technologies in the refrigeration industry. Mrs. Cherdchan Arunrat, Director of the BOI Paris Office, led a team of BOI representatives to the exhibition where they had a chance to meet some of the represented companies, including those from the digital and intelligent electronics industries.



During 27-28 February 2019, the BOI Sydney Office organized an investment promoting activity at the Higher Education Conference 2019. Australia's largest national educational conference, the event was organized by Universities Australia in Canberra, Australia. In the conference, Ms. Netnapa Pukdeerux, Director of the BOI Sydney Office, also joined the BOI exhibition booth to share information on BOI investment promotion measures, the special investment promotion incentives in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), and other investment opportunities in Thailand.

THAILAND ECONOMY-AT-A-GLANCE

Key Economic Figures



Note: *Estimated value | Source: NESDC

Market Profile (2018)



International Competitiveness



Logistics Performance Index

2016: 45th
2018: 32nd

Global Competitiveness Business

2017: 40th
2018: 38th

World Digital Competitiveness Ranking

2017: 41st
2018: 39th

Time to set up business : 4.5 days

Source: World Bank, WEF and IMD

Export Figures

(January - December 2018)

Export value (USD million)

Jan - Dec 2017 : 236,694.18

Jan - Dec 2018 : 252,486.40

Year-on-year Growth : 6.7%

Top 10 Export Markets

Rank	Value (USD Million)	YoY Growth	Share
China	30,175	2.3%	12.0%
US	28,016	5.4%	11.1%
Japan	24,942	13.0%	9.9%
Vietnam	12,958	11.8%	5.1%
Hong Kong	12,524	1.8%	5.0%
Malaysia	11,627	12.4%	4.6%
Australia	10,778	2.6%	4.3%
Indonesia	10,069	13.9%	4.0%
Singapore	9,416	13.6%	3.7%
Philippines	7,898	13.7%	3.1%

Top 10 Exports

Goods / Products	Value (USD million)	YoY Growth	Share	Goods / Products	Value (USD million)	YoY Growth	Share
1: Motor cars and parts	28,952	7.1%	11.5%	6: Refined fuels	9,316	29.7%	3.7%
2: Computers and parts	19,752	6.8%	7.8%	7: Chemical products	9,180	23.0%	3.6%
3: Precious stones and jewellery	11,978	-6.6%	4.7%	8: Electronic integrated circuits	8,334	0.8%	3.3%
4: Rubber products	11,024	7.5%	4.4%	9: Machinery and parts	8,202	8.3%	3.2%
5: Plastic beads	10,330	19.1%	4.1%	10: Steel and steel products	6,253	12.5%	2.5%

Source: Ministry of Commerce

Exchange Rates

(Data as of 21 January 2019)



Source: Bank of Thailand

Tax Rate

Corporate Income Tax: 0 - 20%

Personal Income Tax: 5 - 35%

VAT: 7%

Withholding Tax: 1 - 10%

Source: the Revenue Department

ABOUT BOI

The Office of the Board of Investment (BOI) is the principle government agency that operates under the Prime Minister's Office for the purpose of encouraging investment in Thailand. We at the BOI serve as the professional contact points for investors, providing them with useful investment information and services. We offer business support and investment incentive to foreign investors in Thailand, including tax and non-tax incentives. A few non-tax incentives include granting land ownership to foreigners and facilitating visas and work permits. Besides serving the needs of overseas investors, we also offer consultation services to Thai investors who are interested in investment opportunities abroad.

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