



INVESTMENT SERVICES CENTER
THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

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PRESS RELEASE

NO. 8/ 2010 (O. 4)

January 20, 2010

Thailand BOI sets positive outlook for 2010

80% surge in 2009 investment value shows investors' confidence

Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) begins the new year with positive outlook after the 2009 investment promotion applications value exceeds the target of Bt400 billion by 80%.

The total number of applications submitted to BOI from January to December 2009 is 1,573 projects, representing potential investment of Bt723.4 billion, the highest record in 40 years. This is 80% higher than the investment target of last year. The significant increase in investment applications is a result of the Thailand Investment Year 2008-2009 campaign which ended on December 31, 2009.

According to Dr. Atchaka Sibunruang, BOI Secretary General, the unexpected surge in potential investment value last year is considered a reassurance that Thailand remains an interesting investment destination in the eyes of foreign investors, despite internal and external hurdles, such as Map Ta Phut impasse and the global economic slowdown.

Four main sectors that are most attractive to foreign investors include services and public utilities, electronics and electrical appliances, agriculture and agricultural products and automobiles and parts respectively.

There are 709 projects in services and public utilities with potential investment value at Bt 430.8 billion. Most of the projects are related to alternative energy e.g. production of electricity from wind and solar energies as well as natural gas.

Meanwhile, there are 219 projects in electronics and electrical appliance industries, worth around Bt100.9 billion in potential investment value, applied for the investment incentives. These projects concentrate in manufacturing Hard Disk Drive (HDD), memory storage equipment, digital camera parts, car electronics and electronic products e.g. air-conditioners and refrigerators.

The agriculture and agricultural products attracted 212 investment projects worth around Bt66.8 billion in total potential investment value. The project will involve manufacture of fuel from agricultural products such as ethanol and biodiesel, and instant and processed food.

In addition, 217 projects in automobiles and parts, with potential investment value of Bt55.5 billion, plan to invest in the production of automotive parts and machinery and parts for Natural Gas Vehicles.

Last year 106 projects that applied for BOI investment promotion privileges are considered large projects (projects with minimum investment capital of Bt1 billion) with total investment value of Bt460.3 billion. Most of the applied projects are medium-sized projects (projects with minimum investment capital of Bt20-Bt 200 million) with total investment value of Bt52.6 billion.
