

# THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

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#### **Press Release**

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### BOI reveals total applications for the first two months of 2014

## Automotive – Petrochemical – Infrastructure continuously expand investment

BOI has revealed the number of investment promotion applications in January and February 2014, and has found that some investors have decided to hold on their investments to see the future development of the political situation in Thailand. This has resulted in a decrease in number of projects and in investment value. Meanwhile, investors in many industries remain confident, and have continued to apply for the investment promotion privileges. These sectors include automotive industries, petrochemical industries, and services and public utility. For Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), although the total number of FDI has decreased, it was found that many countries have expanded their investments as compared with the same period last year.

Mr. Udom Wongviwatchai, secretary general of the Board of Investment of Thailand, revealed that the number of investment promotion applications of the first two months of 2014 (January  $\circ$  February) totaled 188 projects , with a total valued of 63,100 million baht,a decrease of 46 % and 58 % respectively, compared to the same period last year).

Some industries, however, continued to expand their investment to the level of 10,000 million baht-scale projects. Among them were petrochemical, paper and plastic, which had a total value of 22,500 million baht; the automotive, auto parts and machinery industries, with a total value of 17,400million baht; and services and public utility, with a total value of 13,500 million baht.

"Some investors may have decided to closely monitor the current political situation in Thailand, and this is why they have decided to delaytheir investment plans," explained the secretary general. "But there were also a number of investors, including those of large-scale projects that applied for investment promotion. Some groups of investors keep expanding their investments in Thailand. At the same time, there is no sign of withdrawal or moving out from Thailand to other countries."

Mr.Udom added that this year the BOI has also initiated a couple of measures to attract investment, such as Eco car Phase 2, for which investors need to place their submission by the end of March 2014. Some investors have already submitted their applications. Another measure is investment promotion for SMEs, which will expire at the end of this year.

#### Overall FDI declines, but many countries still expand investment

I Mr. Udom mentioned that the total number of FDI investment projects has decreased, with 121 projects having applied for the promotion at the value of 47,296 million baht . , a decrease of 40% and 43 % respectively compared to the same period last year.

Japan still ranks number one as foreign investor, with 61 projects and a total value of 17,379 million baht , a decrease of 42% and 63%, respectively compared to last year's record

However, there were a number of countries for which investment value increased significantly, including the USA, with 9,761million baht in investment value, up from 778 million baht; Singapore, with 2,195 million baht, up from 1,103 million; Hong Kong, with of 2,128million baht, up from 1,412 million baht; and China, with 1,461 million baht, up from 722 million baht.

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