

Thailand's Privileged Locality

Gateway to Asia:

Thailand enjoys a strategic location and serves as a gateway into the heart of Asia – home to what is today the largest growing economic market.

This country also offers convenient trade with China, India and the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and provides an easy access into the Greater Mekong sub-region, where newly emerging markets present great business potential.

Hub of the ASEAN:

On 8 August 1967, Thailand was one of the founding members of ASEAN and it has been instrumental in the formation and development of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). AFTA entered into force on 1 January 2010 for the six original ASEAN (ASEAN-6) members: Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Brunei thereby reducing import duties to zero; the so-called CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) will follow suit in 2015.

Thailand is ideally located at the crossroads of Asia, with the easy access to the region's dynamic markets. This includes its own booming domestic consumer market of 67 million people. Thailand has long been a proponent of the free and fair trade and its attractiveness as a practical production base for leading international companies is enhanced by a number of free trade agreements. Thailand thus apparently is certain to be a beneficiary of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which will enter into force in 2015.

In addition, Thailand also offers a range of the financial and non-financial tax incentives as well as guarantees for foreign investors including; reductions in personal income tax, exemption and/or reduction on import duties on certain products, increased deductions on assets, permits for foreign workers, permits for land ownership, government guarantees of export coverage, profits remittance, operational security and so forth.

QUICK STATS:

Thailand has the World's

- 15th largest agricultural output
- 17th largest manufacturing output
- 24th largest economy by purchasing power
- 20th largest trade in goods
- 23th largest industrial output
- 30th biggest export volume
- 32nd largest earnings from services and incomes
- 33rd largest economy
- 36th largest services output
- 19th most air travel
- 17th most tourist arrivals
- 13rd largest tourist receipts

Thailand is also the World's

- **9th Largest producer of cars at 2.5 Million units. This is an increase of 70.3% in 2011.**
- **Largest producer of rubber at 3.2 Million m/t.**
- 'Number One' producer of hard disk drives.
- 2nd largest producer of natural and synthetic rubber
- 5th largest producer of sugar
- 6th largest producer of rice
- 12th largest exporter of total food
- 'Number One' exporter of cassava
- 6th largest exporter of rice and grains
- 2nd largest exporter of sugar
- 15th largest producer of automotive components