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PRESS RELEASE

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**Thai public-private sector's cooperation sets to boost
human resource and skill development in EEC**

In a concerted effort to support the government's Thailand 4.0 initiative, Thai public and private sectors have joined force in promoting human resource and skill development in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) to best support growing business activities in targeted industries.

In making EEC the catalyst for the transformation into Thailand 4.0, the government has well recognized it is necessary to promote skill development to meet the rising demand for high-skilled workforce in the 10 target industries, including next-generation automotive; smart electronics; affluent medical and wellness tourism; agriculture and biotechnology; food for the future; automation and robotics; aviation and logistics; biofuels and biochemical; digital industry; and medical hub.

Considering the increasing demand for specific skill sets and expertise, the government has encouraged investors to cooperate with local educational or training institutes in training and educating young graduates to reskill workforce.

In support of such policy, Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) has provided an encouraging measure by topping up the normal investment incentive package with additional incentives. This means investors in the targeted industries located in designated areas in EEC that have cooperation with educational institutes to develop human resource will be granted up to 13 years of tax holiday.

Meanwhile, in its 5-year plan (2018-2022), the Eastern Economic Corridor Office (EECO) plans to educate and train as many as 115,626 people, especially vocational education graduates, by 2022. To support this, a special center was set up to work with concerned organizations on reskilling and skill development in Chonburi, Chachoengsao and Rayong.

In response to the government's skill development plan, many organizations, both in the government and private sectors, have signed agreements on human resource development in EEC in recent months. The EECO has recently signed MOUs with the Office of Vocational Education Commission, the Office of Higher Education Commission and the Office of Board of Investment to jointly promote skill

enhancement in the areas of research, innovation, and technology development in EEC. Following this is a similar cooperation between Thammasat University and the Federation of Thai Industries, aiming to promote research and human resource development. In addition, the Office of EECO has signed similar MOU with a number of private companies in promoting skill development and education.

With the government's commitment to human resource development and cooperation from the private sector, Thailand will have sufficient high-skilled workforce to support the rising demand in targeted industries. More importantly, investors will have greater access to a large pool of high-skill talents.

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