



INVESTMENT SERVICES CENTER  
THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT  
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

555 Vipavadee Rangsit Road, Chatuchuck 10900 Tel. 0 2553- 8111, Fax : 0 2553-8222

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## Press Release

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### **6-month FDI reaches record growth of 66.5%, confirms investors' strong confidence**

Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) announced a significant increase of 66.5 percent in foreign direct investment value during the first six months of 2012 as compared to the same period last year. A total of 700 projects applied for investment promotion with a total value of Bt280 billion, confirming strong confidence in Thailand on the part of investors. In addition, the new BOI office in Mumbai will be opened in mid-August this year to attract Indian investment.

Mrs. Atchaka Sibunruang, Secretary General of the BOI, announced that foreign direct investment (FDI) from January to June 2012 reached Bt278.47 billion, an increase of 66.5 percent from Bt167.274 billion in 2011. There were 692 projects in the first half of year 2012, an increase of 32.5 percent from 522 projects in 2011.

Of the total investment applications, 59 percent were submitted by existing investors who desired to expand investment in Thailand, accounted for 409 projects with a total investment value of Bt185.519 billion. And the other 41 percent were new projects seeking promotion incentives, which accounted for 283 projects with a total investment value of Bt92.952 billion.

The investment promotion applications include medium, small and large investments valued at over Bt1 billion. During the first six months 36 large investment projects were approved, including Thai Airways International Public Company Limited; Nippon Steel Galvanizing (Thailand).Ltd, a steel grating manufacturer; FMC Chemicals (Thailand).Ltd, a chemical products trading firm; Panasonic Manufacturing, etc.

Over this period Japanese investors had the highest number of applications with 389 projects valued at Bt176.298 billion, an increase of 144 percent, followed by investors from

Singapore (69 projects worth Bt18.096, an increase of 9 percent), and Malaysia (17 projects, worth Bt11.352 billion), an increase of 156 percent) over the same period last year.

The industries with the highest investment value included metal products, machinery and transportation equipment with 240 projects valued at Bt108.882 billion; electronic and electrical appliances with 134 projects valued at Bt59.658 billion; service and public utilities with 130 projects valued at Bt42.705 billion; chemicals, paper and plastic with 97 projects valued at Bt27.331billion; and agriculture and agricultural products with 38 projects valued at Bt17.755 billion.

Mrs. Sibunruang said, "One of the goals of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) integration in 2015 is to encourage ASEAN members to attract more foreign investment. The strongly positive foreign investment trend in Thailand in the first half of this year is a clear proof of strong investor confidence in the country as a major investment destination in the region. The BOI believes that the total investment promotion applications this year will exceed the Bt630 billion target."

In the second half of this year, BOI will continue activities promoting investment from foreign countries. Road shows will be organized for Germany, France, China, and the USA, and a new BOI office will open in Mumbai, India, in mid-August of this year. The Mumbai office, which will be the BOI's 14<sup>th</sup> overseas office, will help promote investment from India to Thailand.

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