

INVESTMENT SERVICES CENTER THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

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**Press Release** 

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## Bol hosts seminars on "NEW INVESTMENT PROMOTION STRATEGY FOR THAILAND'S SUSTAINABLE GROWTH"

Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) will host five seminars across the country to offer opportunities for business operators to express their opinions regarding the "New Investment Promotion Strategy for Thailand's Sustainable Growth".

The seminars will be conducted in Bangkok, Chonburi, Chiang Mai, Nakorn Ratchasima, and Surat Thani. The first one is scheduled for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok and is expected to attract 1,500 participants.

Mr. Udom Wongwiwatchai, the BOI's Secretary General, explained that the objective of the sessions being held in January and February of 2013 is to hear opinions and suggestions from the private sector, including both foreign and Thai investors, regarding the BOI's new investment promotion policy and measures.

For the upcoming seminar on January 14<sup>th</sup>, the morning session will include a presentation on the proposed 5-year investment promotion strategy (2013-2017) by the BOI's Secretary General, followed by a panel discussion on the topic, "Analyzing New Investment Promotion Strategy", led by Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee, Chairman of the Sub-committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan, and with Mr. Payungsak Chartsutipol, Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), Mr. Pongsak Assakul, Chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of

Thailand and Mr. Nandor G. von der Luehe, Chairman of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand(JFCCT) examining the proposed new investment promotion strategy.

The afternoon session will feature discussions on sector-specific policies and measures. The four sectors to be highlighted are 1.) agro and light industry (including textiles, ready-to-wear clothes, jewelry and accessories, furniture, lenses and spectacles, medical and science equipment, etc.); 2.) automotive products, machinery, mining, ceramics and metals; 3.) electronics and electrical appliances; and 4.) chemicals, paper, plastics, service and public utilities.

"The opinions and suggestions raised at the seminars will be included in the new investment strategy proposal to be presented to the BOI Board meeting, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr. Kitirat Na Ranong for consideration," said Mr. Wongwiwatchai.

Under the new promotion strategy, the BOI will focus more on investment that promotes a good balance between economic growth and social and environmental development, as well as a balance between the agricultural, industrial and service sectors. This includes the industries in which Thailand naturally has advantages over other countries as well as those where Thailand has the potential to become a manufacturing hub, such as food processing, rubber products, health care and creative businesses. It also includes industries related to future global trends, such as alternative energy, biotechnology and high-value-added services.

While basic incentives are minimized, BOI will offer additional incentives on company that have additional investment on research and development, human resource training and environmental protection. Moreover, BOI also will adjust its rules and regulations on non-tax benefits and services to improve business environment as well as to help facilitating investors to ease all related business procedures while encouraging Thai investors to invest more in other countries.

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