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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**PM reassures top executives with strong commitment on creating an investment-friendly environment to enhance country's competitiveness**

Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha affirmed the government's commitment to foster an enabling environment for foreign direct investment, which is one of the principle forces for economic development and enhancement of country's competitiveness. PM revealed satisfied progress in advancing the regulatory environment to be more attractive with an aim to maintain Thailand's position as the most preferred investment destination.

Recently, a group of 33 top executives from leading multinational corporations as BOI appointed members of the Honorary Investment Advisors (HIAs) paid a courtesy visit to the Prime Minister. Prior to the courtesy call, the group attended HIA Business Meeting, hosted by the Board of Investment (BOI). The meeting provided investors an opportunity to share their views on how Thailand can constructively tailor its strategies to boost its international competitiveness in the midst of momentous economic rise in ASEAN. Issues including technology and innovation, ease of doing business, and human capital development were raised by the investors. Another topic of discussion was the vital role of investment promotion, which will help the country propelling to achieve its targets from recently launched initiative, Thailand 4.0.

The Prime Minister said "We have recognized the significant contribution of foreign investment in driving country's economic growth. The government therefore has worked very hard to create a favorable investment climate for all investors"

He addressed to HIAs that the government has always been and will continue to establish investment-friendly environment to support foreign investors. During the past two years, the government has been consistently advancing in the ease of doing business ranking, including effort to enact simpler regulations, proceed necessary amendments, and shorten required procedures to be more conducive to start and operate businesses.

HIA Business Meeting was held following the “Opportunity Thailand 2017”, an international seminar organized by BOI and chaired by the Prime Minister with a visionary goal to promote Thailand’s target industries, the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), and new BOI incentives package. PM firmly stressed the importance of strong partnership with public and private sectors, and the society in achieving sustainable development, the country’s competitiveness, economic growth, and fostering social innovation nationwide.

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