



INVESTMENT SERVICES CENTER
THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

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Press Release

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4th JTEPA meeting improves investment climate

Water management plan assured

A meeting between the Thai government sector and the Japanese business sector held in connection with the Japan Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement (JTEPA) has been effective in improving confidence in Thailand among Japanese investors.

The meeting, chaired by Thailand Board of Investment Secretary General Mrs Atchaka Sibunruang covered a number of topics of concern to Japanese investors. Key discussion topics included facilitation by Thai government agencies to streamline and reduce obstacles related to investment's rules and regulations within the framework of JTEPA. Related government agencies also reassured Japanese business of Thailand's water management plan.

The BOI and the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) provided an update on progress of the implementation of government's water management plan as well as the rehabilitation and prevention mechanisms, the participating Japanese representatives expressed satisfaction with the measures described and requested updates on each stage of their implementation.

BOI has also reported the progress of actions held to solve and reduce problems as requested under JTEPA framework, and attention was also given to new issues raised by participants. In the meeting, Japanese representatives proposed to streamline registration procedures of Thai patent and the catastrophe insurance policy for the first

time. Other issues considered included the relaxation of customs procedures and rules related to foreign workers to help reduce labor shortages, the setting of compulsory standards for specific products, and the extension of annual import duty exemption quotas for certain metal products used by the automobile industry. Representatives from the agencies concerned assured investors that measures were in place to reduce container traffic congestion at Lat Kra Bang terminals, the Bangkok Port and Laem Chabang Deep Sea Port.

Progress report was provided by the BOI on collaborative programs for seven cooperation projects, which are: 1) Trade and Investment Promotion for “Kitchen of the World” project; 2) Japan-Thailand and Japan Steel Industry Cooperation Programme; 3) Automotive Human Resources Development Institute Project; 4) Initiatives for Enhancing Energy Conservation; 5) Value-Creation Economy; 6) Public-Private Partnership; and 7) Textile and Apparels Cooperation. Thailand also needs more support from Japanese in some areas, an Automotive Human Resources Development Institute Project (AHRDIP), for example.

Japanese investors have shown strong interest in the BOI’s liaison office. Between 2010 and 2012, 296 Japanese companies have sought investment information and advice from the office, with the machinery, automotive and auto parts, electronics and electrical appliances industries, among others, especially attractive to potential investors.
