

# TIR

**FEEDING  
THE WORLD  
THROUGH  
INNOVATION**



# CONTENTS

02

BOI NET APPLICATION

03

COVER STORY

05

INDUSTRY FOCUS

07

SHORT ARTICLE

08

COMPANY INTERVIEW

10

BOI'S MISSIONS & EVENTS

11

THAILAND ECONOMY AT-A-GLANCE

12

ABOUT BOI

## BOI NET APPLICATION

JANUARY-JUNE 2019



**TOTAL INVESTMENT**  
**758**  
Projects  
**US \$7,616.57**  
Million



**TOTAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT**  
**468**  
Projects  
**US \$4,818.89**  
Million

## FOREIGN INVESTMENT BY TARGET SECTORS

	<b>ELECTRONICS</b> <b>55</b> Projects <b>US \$971.68</b> Million		<b>AUTOMOTIVE</b> <b>40</b> Projects <b>US \$900.95</b> Million
	<b>PETROCHEMICALS &amp; CHEMICALS</b> <b>29</b> Projects <b>US \$395.91</b> Million		<b>TOURISM</b> <b>7</b> Projects <b>US \$268.63</b> Million
	<b>DIGITAL</b> <b>71</b> Projects <b>US \$158.61</b> Million		<b>AGRICULTURE &amp; FOOD PROCESSING</b> <b>32</b> Projects <b>US \$132.38</b> Million
	<b>BIOTECHNOLOGY</b> <b>3</b> Projects <b>US \$47.90</b> Million		<b>MEDICAL</b> <b>10</b> Projects <b>US \$33.17</b> Million
	<b>AUTOMATION &amp; ROBOTICS</b> <b>4</b> Projects <b>US \$24.23</b> Million		<b>AEROSPACE</b> <b>1</b> Project <b>US \$10.02</b> Million

## MAJOR FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Unit: US\$ = 30.54 THB as of 18 September 2019 (Bank of Thailand: Weighted - average Interbank Exchange Rate)

Note: Investment projects with foreign equity participation from more than one country are reported in the figures for both countries. Statistics on net applications are adjusted whenever applications are returned to applicants due to insufficient information.



**JAPAN**  
**114** Projects  
**US \$1,390.11**  
Million



**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**  
**81** Projects  
**US \$794.96**  
Million



**SWITZERLAND**  
**10** Projects  
**US \$374.69**  
Million



**HONG KONG**  
**32** Projects  
**US \$249.35**  
Million



**SINGAPORE**  
**57** Projects  
**US \$246.69**  
Million



**NETHERLANDS**  
**25** Projects  
**US \$179.60**  
Million



**TAIWAN**  
**27** Projects  
**US \$158.02**  
Million



**AUSTRALIA**  
**8** Projects  
**US \$105.44**  
Million



**SWEDEN**  
**4** Projects  
**US \$77.73**  
Million



**VIETNAM**  
**2** Projects  
**US \$58.45**  
Million

For more details, please see [www.boi.go.th](http://www.boi.go.th)



# LEVERAGING THAILAND'S FOOD INDUSTRY THROUGH AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

The food industry has long been considered one of Thailand's leading economic sectors and it is a key contributor to the Thai economy. The country's ample resources, combined with internationally recognized quality and safety standards, has enabled the food industry to play a dynamic role in the country's development, particularly in GDP growth and job creation. According to the National Food Institute (NFI) and National Statistics Office of Thailand (NSO), Thailand's food and agriculture industry generated approximately US \$30 billion in 2018, 5.7 percent of the country's GDP, and employed around 12.5 million people.

Thanks to its abundant supply of raw materials, Thailand is a leading producer and exporter of major food and agricultural commodities. Currently ranked 12<sup>th</sup> among food exporters worldwide, Thailand aims to become a top five food exporter within the next 20 years. Following strong growth in 2017 and early 2018, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) noted that the global economic slowdown in the second half of 2018 affected major economies. Nonetheless, Thailand's food industry has maintained its growth momentum due to increases in domestic demand for commodities and public infrastructure investments. The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) reported in the first quarter of 2019 that Thai agricultural production

grew 0.9 percent, improving from an increase of 0.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2018.

## FROM AN AGRICULTURAL POWERHOUSE TO A LEADING FOOD INNOVATOR

As an internationally recognized supplier of a wide variety of food commodities, Thailand's agriculture and food processing sectors are highly competitive and have the capacity to produce innovative and high-value products at competitive costs. The Thai government's current areas of focus include sustainable resource management, product safety, logistics, research and development, and innovation. The NFI reports that in 2018, Thailand was the world's leading producer of cassava products





(91 percent of world exports), canned tuna (32 percent of world exports), and canned pineapple (35 percent of world exports). In addition, Thailand is the second largest exporter of rice (23 percent of world exports) and sugar (13 percent of world exports). The Kingdom is strategically positioned to become the region's food innovation hub due to its strong economic base, competitive workforce, strategic location, and expanding infrastructure.

### A GLOBAL FOOD INNOVATION HUB

In an era of ever-changing technological advances, new innovations, and consumer behavior trends, the food industry is being transformed by not only the macro-social shaping of demand, which has become more sophisticated than ever, but it is also affected by ongoing research and advocacy to improve nutrition and meet consumers' growing awareness of healthy living. To meet global shifts, Thailand has adopted national strategic roadmaps to foster innovation and boost productivity in the food industry. The NFI has implemented a 20-year National Food Industry Development Plan (2017-2036) to enhance the country's competitiveness, develop expertise, improve infrastructure, facilitate industry cooperation, and to create an enabling environment for Thai SMEs to connect with the global supply chain.



### OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT

#### Food Processing Segment

The food processing segment in Thailand has specialized expertise in producing functional foods, halal foods, packaged food, food seasoning and ingredients, processed seafood, and premium products. In 2018, processed food exports accounted for around 55 percent of the nation's total food exports. The Thai food processing segment is evolving in response to the demand for premium food products. There were over 10,000 food processing companies operating in Thailand in 2018, and the number will continue to grow. The main export markets for Thai processed foods are the United States, Japan, and the European Union.

#### Food Safety and Standards

The food industry in Thailand produces high-quality products that meet evolving global standards while simultaneously maintaining highly efficient approaches to food manufacturing and developing sustainable and environmental production practices. Therefore, Thailand's growing food industry presents tremendous opportunities for investors in numerous areas. High-potential areas for expansion include high-tech food ingredients, food seasoning, organic products, and dietary supplements.

### Strengths in R&D and Innovation

Thailand has a strong network of supporting organizations, supportive government policies, and attractive investment incentives and opportunities. To strengthen the competitiveness of Thailand's food industry and to shift from an industry-based economy to an innovative economy, the Thai government has identified the food and agricultural sector as one of the targeted industries under the Thailand 4.0 initiative. Thailand Food Innopolis, a global food innovation hub, was launched in 2016 at the Thailand Science Park to support food industry businesses with advanced technology, research and development, and industry links.



### ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

The BOI provides a range of tax and non-tax incentives for investors seeking to establish businesses focused on the manufacture or preservation of food, beverages, food additives or food ingredients using modern technology.

#### Tax incentives

Investors may apply for tax-based incentives like exemption from import duties on machinery and raw materials. Projects involving biotechnology, manufacture of active ingredients from natural raw materials, manufacture of medical food or food supplements, and product sterilization services may obtain up to eight years of corporate income tax exemption. Projects in the Food Innovation Industrial Zones (Food Innopolis) may also receive this exemption.

#### Non-tax incentives

Non-tax incentives include permission to bring in expatriates, permission to own land, and permission to take or remit foreign currency abroad.



# FOOD INNOPOLIS: ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

Thailand's rich natural resources and favorable climate make a strong performer in global food production. In fact, Thailand ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in global food exports, which contributes approximately US \$30 billion in 2018. This number is expected to increase by 10% in 2019, according to National Food Institute (NFI). The largest export markets in 2018 were to Asian countries. Neighboring Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam account for 15.1 percent of the total market. The next largest export markets are Japan (12.8 %), China (10.7 %), the US (10 %), Oceania (9.1 %), and Africa (9.1 %).

There is a huge investment opportunity to apply technology and innovation to improve labor efficiency and yield of the Agri-food sector. In fact, "One third of the Thai workforce participates in the agriculture and food industries, but these industries account for only 5.7 percent of GDP," said Assistant Professor Dr. Akkharawit Kanjana-Opas, Deputy Secretary of National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office (STI) and CEO of Food Innopolis, in an interview with BOI.

## ROOM FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Can Thailand maintain its position as a leading nation in agricultural and food supply? Thailand has a number of key advantages for food industry development and investment that, if harnessed, could propel the country's

growth in these sectors. Thailand is ideally positioned to be a leader in food production due to its abundance of natural resources—including rice, palm oil, cassava, and sugar—and its location in the heart of Southeast Asia. Thailand's membership in ASEAN and its positive relations with other Asian countries open a door to more than 640 million consumers. A complete transport infrastructure and services serves as economic gateways to the region. Thailand also boasts a skilled workforce that providing competitive advantage in terms of quality and cost.

It is essential for Thailand to leverage these valuable resources to produce value-added products that respond to mega trend and changing consumer behavior. R&D is a key to enhancing and maintaining competitive edge and developing the sustainability of the food industry. The government has designated the food industry as one of its targeted sectors, high-potential industries selected for investment and development promotion. To strengthen

Thailand's position as a global food supplier, the government created a food industrial park known as Food Innopolis to boost R&D and increase investment through science, technology and innovation.

## FOOD INNOPOLIS - ONE-STOP SERVICE WITHIN 24 HOURS

Food Innopolis is a global food innovation hub offering expertise in science, technology and innovation. It is located at Thailand Science Park, Pathumthani province, which is just 48 kilometers away from Bangkok. Food Innopolis is an innovation community center covering an area of more than 200 rai, and is fully equipped with excellent infrastructure, rental space for business purposes, and facilities for research, development and innovation. It is dedicated to meeting the needs of regional and global investors and facilitating their investment journey in the food industry in Thailand.

Apart from a food research center, it is providing consultation and coordination





across organizations in order to enhance ease of doing business, especially for foreign investors. “Whatever challenge a company is facing, just come to us, and we will resolve it within 24 hours.” said Assistant Professor Dr. Akkharawit Kanjana-Opas. Services available through the park include assistance in securing qualified human resources and expert advice on the laws and regulations of the food and drug industry in Thailand.

Strong collaboration with universities, advanced research institutes and large food companies is a key factor in attracting foreign direct investment, according to Assistant Professor Dr. Akkharawit Kanjana-Opas. A large pool of professional workers between public and private institutes within food research and development generally makes the ventures more attractive to foreign investors.

There are currently 36 investors collaborating with Food Innopolis. One third of the investors are from the Japanese food industry, who recognize Thailand’s potential and the opportunities available in food sector and a complete service in high technology equipment offered by Food Innopolis.

### ACTIVE COLLABORATION - A STRATEGY TO MOVE FORWARD

Improving ease of doing business in Thailand is a key focus for the food industry. Food Innopolis is partnering with both public and private sector networks around the country to disseminate advanced innovation technology to SMEs and start-ups, which account for more than 90 percent of the sector. To this end, Food Innopolis has created seven more extension sites through



partnerships with leading academic institutions, including Kasetsart University, Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, King Mongkut University of Technology Thonburi in Bangkok, Chiang Mai University, Khon Kaen University, and Prince of Songkhla University. Each of these extensions specializes in different area of research and innovation. For example, Kasetsart is specialized in food safety and functional ingredients while Prince of Songkhla is working to develop seafood and Halal foods.



To enhance the partnership, the Food Innovation and Regulation Network (FIRN) was founded in Bangkok through a collaboration between the Food and Drug Administration of Thailand, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Food Science and Technology Association of Thailand. FIRN functions as a central hub for communication and provides training for private sector companies, government agencies, start-ups and entrepreneurs interested in functional food.

### HOW COMPANIES CAN RECEIVE SUPPORT

In keeping with government policy encouraging expansion in high value-added food products, Food Innopolis is partnering with the Board of Investment (BOI), to promote investment in R&D for food production. Investors who promote food innovation business through leveraging useful resources of Food Innopolis can receive both tax and non-tax incentives. For example, investors can receive import duty

exemptions on necessary machinery, up to eight years of exemption from corporate income tax without cap, and a 50% reduction of corporate income tax for an additional five years. BOI also offers a package to entice foreign nationals to develop R&D in the food industry in Thailand in order to support an exchange of knowledge between local, regional and international food industry experts. Foreign investors developing R&D labs and other related services in the food products sector can receive incentives including the ability to own land and to receive support with visa and work permits to facilitate living and working in Thailand.

Government policy regarding this food innovation industry, combined with BOI incentives to attract foreign investment, will improve ease of doing business in the food industry, expedite a linkage between manufacturing and innovation, and support the development of personnel resources.



# MIE-THAILAND INNOVATION CENTER: A PROSPEROUS COLLABORATION

Thailand's food industry is welcoming foreign investors as it strives to enhance its capacity and rise to become one of the world's major high-value food exporters. Thailand is particularly interested in collaborations with other countries in terms of manufacturing technology, research, innovation and cross-border trading. Further collaboration with Japan, already one of Thailand's strongest trading partners, has positioned the food industries of the two countries for a bright and lucrative future.

## LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP

Japan has been one of Thailand's largest trading partners for decades, with a total trade value of US \$60.19 billion in 2018, an impressive 11.22 percent increase from the previous year. The two countries are each other's top trading partners in the food industry, with the National Food Institute of Thailand reports than an average of 13 percent of Thai food products have been exported to Japan over the last three to four years. The food trade value between the two countries is worth as much as US \$4.7 billion and is expected to grow.

## MOU BOLSTERS COOPERATION

Strong cooperation between Thailand and Japan has been developed on

all levels, ranging from collaboration between governments to exchange between SMEs. Agreements have been signed with local Japanese administrative bodies called prefectures, which can serve as hubs for innovative industry and technology.

Mie Prefecture is home to numerous advanced manufacturers. Its active manufacturing industries are a hub for a wide range of advanced technologies, including in food-related fields such as biotechnology, advanced plant breeding and agro-food. This innovative prefecture has collaborated with Thailand for years through the Ministry of Industry (MOI). In July 2018, BOI and Mie Prefecture took a step forward by signing a memorandum of understanding on close cooperation in food processing technology. This MOU initiated an expansion of Japanese investment in Thailand's food processing sector, as 30 Mie-based firms from diverse sectors invested in Thailand in 2018.

## THE MIE-THAILAND INNOVATION CENTER

The MOU, the first technological cooperation agreement between Japan and Thailand in food processing, resulted in the Mie-Thailand Innovation Center. The Center was officially opened

in November 2018 at Thailand's National Food Institute (NFI) in Bangkok. A food processing machine valued at US \$232,025 was transferred to NFI by Japanese firm Suehiro Epm Corp in order to support research and prototyping activities.

The Mie-Thailand Innovation Center aims to advance the quality, standards and innovative capabilities of the Thai food manufacturing sector. The partnership works to enhance Thailand's food industry through knowledge transfer, Thai-Japanese business networking, and human resources development based on curricula from the Mie Industry and Enterprise Support Center for HRD.

## WHAT'S NEXT

The Mie-Thailand Innovation Center will connect with the Industry Transformation Center (ITC), a government agency responsible for transforming Thai industry to align with the Thailand 4.0 model. The Center is an impressive example of how strong collaboration between two countries can create mutual benefit through knowledge and skills transfer. The relationship between Japan and Thailand will continue to grow and flourish through future investment and exchange.





# OTSUKA-PEOPLE CREATING NEW PRODUCTS FOR BETTER HEALTH WORLDWIDE



**MR.SHINSUKE YUASA**

•  
PRESIDENT OF  
THAI OTSUKA  
PHARMACEUTICAL  
CO., LTD.

Pakistan, the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. Thai Otsuka forecasts that the proportion of sales from exports is going to rise to 25% over the next few years, up from 15% now.

## **WHY THAILAND?**

According to Mr. Wattanachai Itsarasarak, BIV and CN Business Division Director, the key factor that drove the Otsuka Japan-Thailand joint venture is Thailand's strong demand and potential for future regional growth. Thai Otsuka has predicted that the market for medical foods and pharmaceuticals will rise due in part to the rapidly aging societies of Thailand and its neighbors.

Thailand is home to an unparalleled variety and quality of raw materials that facilitate its growth as a medical food producer. These natural factors, combined with Thailand's commitment to research and design, have enabled Thai Otsuka to become one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in Thailand. A talented pool of local Thai personnel also enhances Thailand as a premier investment destination for the medical food and pharmaceuticals industries. Manufacturing quality products at reasonable prices has allowed Thai Otsuka to succeed on both national and international levels.

Otsuka Group was founded in 1921 as a chemical compound factory in Naturo, Tokushima Prefecture, Japan, and has since grown and expanded into Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory Inc. Otsuka recognized the tremendous potential of the Southeast Asian market, with its growing number of patients looking for quality products at affordable prices, and made its first joint venture in Thailand in 1973. The venture was initially formed to import and sell intravenous (IV) solutions, and the company now enjoys approximately 40% of the market share for saline solution in Thailand. Moreover, Otsuka ranks among

the top producers of medical food, medical devices, and pharmaceuticals.

Thai Otsuka's portfolio focuses on medical food as a key driver of growth. In 2016, an investment of US \$44 million in a second saline and nutraceutical plant paved the way for growth in the Thai clinical nutrition industry. Thai Otsuka currently holds 20% to 30% of the total market share in the medical food industry in Thailand which is valued at US \$96 million in 2018. Otsuka is expanding operations in Thailand in order to create a regional production base to serve market opportunities in neighboring countries, such as the Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong,



Mr. Wattanachai also explained that supportive policies by the Board of Investment (BOI) were a key factor in Otsuka's decision to invest US \$44 million in building the medical food plant. Government policies designed to propel Thailand to the forefront of cutting-edge industries such as the food innovation industry create confidence in Thai Otsuka as it prepares for its next stage of growth in Thailand.

### EXCELLENCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH THAI MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Thai Otsuka has cooperated with Food Innopolis, a leader in food innovation, food science and business development in Thailand, on its mission to create new and high-quality products through continuous research and development. Through Food Innopolis, apart from BOI incentives, investors are also eligible for additional incentives, including 300% corporate income tax deduction for technology and innovation research and development expenses, as part of a supporting package from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation

Strong partnerships with Thai physicians from a leading university such as Siriraj and Ramathibodi hospitals has facilitated knowledge share and the transfer of new technology. Mr. Wattanachai discussed how collaboration with professors of clinical nutrition has advanced and differentiated the medical food products at Thai Otsuka. Customers have responded particularly positively to the tastes of products due to in-depth research, such as blind

**“Thai Otsuka’s portfolio focuses on medical food as a key driver of growth”**



taste tests, on consumer wants and needs. Five research-based products, including GEN-DM, NEO-MUNE, BLENDERA-MF, PAN-ENTERAL and ONCE PRO, have been listed on the Thai Innovation List by the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA). The formulae at Thai Otsuka have subsequently received recognition from many foreign pharmaceutical companies.

### VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Aging-related products and services are rising in demand and prominence as a result of the growing aging population in Thailand and neighboring countries. This trend creates enormous opportunities for Thai Otsuka, the only domestic medical food producer in Thailand. The total market value for medical food is US \$96 million and is expected to grow approximately 20% in the coming year, up from 15% last year. Thai Otsuka controls one third of the total market share for medical food, and Mr. Shinsuke Yuasa, president of Thai Otsuka, explained how Thai Otsuka is positioning itself to serve as a medical food production base for the Asian market. Mr. Yuasa noted

the great potential in exporting to ASEAN members and Middle Eastern countries, as exports are targeted to increase by 25% next year, up from 15%.

### ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT

The BOI recognizes the growing potential of the medical food industry and offers a wide range of tax and non-tax incentives for projects that align with national development objectives. Projects involving the production of natural extracts, active ingredients from natural raw materials, medical foods, medical supplements, or other knowledge-based activities focusing on R&D that enhance the country's competitiveness may receive a maximum of eight years of corporate income tax exemption without a limit on investment capital. Other incentives include exemption of import duties on machinery and raw materials. If fully utilized, these incentives will drive Thailand to become a strategic hub for food innovation both in Asia and globally, making Thailand the “Kitchen of the World”.



### BELT AND ROAD SUMMIT 2019, HONG KONG

**10-12 SEPTEMBER 2019** Mr. Chokedee Kaewsang, BOI Deputy Secretary General, participated with more than 100 companies exhibited from over 55 countries. Mr. Chokedee presented on the topic, "Success through Belt and Road: Best Practice and Success Case Sharing." The presentation provided insightful information for investors looking to capture the tremendous potentials from economies along the Belt and Road, where Thailand is the golden bridge between China and ASEAN.



### WELCOME DELEGATION FROM INDIA TO THAILAND

**10 SEPTEMBER 2019** Mr. Narit Therdsateerakul, Deputy Secretary General of the BOI welcomed a group of Indian delegation led by H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador, Royal Thai Embassy, New Delhi, Republic of India. Mr. Narit presented on the topic, "Thailand's Investment Opportunities and Promotion Policies Update" and discussed on investment opportunities in the Thai Digital industry. Furthermore, Ms. Mukh Sriboonruang, Executive Director - Investment and International Affairs Group of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) provided an update on Infrastructure projects in the EEC. The Indian delegation were interested to invest in the Thai Digital Industry and the EEC.



### DATA GLOBAL BUSINESS MEETINGS, SOUTH KOREA

**24-27 SEPTEMBER 2019** Mr. Narit Therdsateerakul, Deputy Secretary General of the BOI, together with Ms. Vannipa Pipupchaiyasit, Director of the BOI office in Seoul met with leading Korean Digital and Startup companies, as well as companies in smart farming, biotechnology, advanced chemicals and educational institutes. Korean companies expressed keen interests to invest in Thailand, as the regional hub for CLMV, in particular the Digital and Smart Farming industries.



### LIFE SCIENCES: PHARMACEUTICAL, MEDICAL FOOD AND BIO INDUSTRIES SEMINAR, JAPAN

**4-5 SEPTEMBER 2019** Mr. Suthiket Thatpitak-Kul, Director of Investment Promotion Division 1 (Bio and Medical Industries) delivered a presentation at the "Life Sciences: Pharmaceutical, Medical Food and Bio Industries" seminar organized by Mr. Pariyes Piriymaskul, Director of the BOI Tokyo office and Ms. Patcharada Nawakawongkarn, Director of the BOI Osaka office. There were guest speakers at the seminar, including Dr. Patcharaporn Wongsu, Special Mission Expert at the Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences, Mr. Wittawat Viriyabancha, Pharmacist, Professional Level at the Thailand Food and Drug Administration and Mr. Shinsuke Yuasa, President of Thai Otsuka, presented at the seminar. The seminar attracted over 200 participants with the interests to invest in Thailand.



### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DIGITAL SECTOR IN THAILAND, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**8-14 SEPTEMBER 2019** Mr. Narucha Ruchuphan, Director of Investment Promotion Division 5 (Creative and Digital Industries) presented on the topic, "Investment Opportunities in the Digital Sector in Thailand" at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Russoft seminar. Russoft is the largest association of software developing companies in Russia with currently over 160 IT companies. The purpose of the association is to increase capabilities of the software industry in Russia by providing supports to software products and services developers. The seminar attracted over 70 potential Russian investors with interests to explore opportunities in the Thai Digital industry.



### CHINA-ASEAN EXPO 2019, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**21-24 SEPTEMBER 2019** Mr. Apipong Khunakornbodintr, Director of the BOI Guangzhou office, and a group of delegates attended the "China-ASEAN Expo 2019," with over 2,000 companies exhibited. The event attracted a large number of companies interested to invest in Thailand. Furthermore, on 21 September 2019, Ms. Tanita Sirisup, Director of International Affairs Division, attended the 16<sup>th</sup> CAEXPO Roundtable Meeting on Investment Cooperation, which coincided with the exhibition. During the meeting, ASEAN and China exchange information on investment policies under the topic: New Vision for China and ASEAN, New opportunities for Investment Cooperation.



## KEY ECONOMIC FIGURES

GDP  
(2018)**US \$506.2**  
BILLIONGDP PER  
CAPITA  
(2018)**US \$7,462**

## GDP GROWTH



## INVESTMENT GROWTH



## EXPORT VALUE GROWTH

UNEMPLOYMENT  
2018\***1.1%**HEADLINE  
INFLATION  
2019\***1%**

Source: NESDB

\*Forecast under Source: NESDB, add Bank of Thailand

## MARKET PROFILE 2018

POPULATION  
**69.6**  
MillionMINIMUM WAGE  
PER DAY  
THB **325**\$ APPROXIMATE  
**US \$10.5**

Source: United Nations and Ministry of Labor

## CLMVT ECONOMY AT-A-GLANCE



Source: IMF, International Trade Statistics, UNCTAD, World Bank Data 2018

## POPULATION

**242**  
Million

## GDP GROWTH

**8.2%**

## FDI

**52**  
US \$ BillionIMPORT  
FROM THE WORLD**12.7%**  
(540 bil. US \$)EXPORT  
FROM THE WORLD**9.9%**  
(535 bil. US \$)

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

Source: WEF, IMD and World Bank

THAILAND IS THE EASIEST CLMVT COUNTRY TO DO BUSINESS.

LEAST TIME  
TO SET UP BUSINESS**4.5** DAYSHIGHEST RATING:  
WORLD BANK EASE OF  
DOING BUSINESS 2019**27<sup>TH</sup>**FEWEST  
PROCEDURES **5** STEPSHIGHEST SCORE:  
WORLD ECONOMIC  
FORUM COMPETITIVENESS  
INDEX**38<sup>TH</sup>**

## EXPORT FIGURES

EXPORT VALUE  
JANUARY-JUNE 2019**125,446.3**US \$  
MILLION

## TOP 10 INDUSTRIES

Motorcars and Parts  
\$13,987.9  
Share 11.15%Computers and Parts  
\$8,916.8  
Share 7.11%Precious Stones  
and Jewellery  
\$7,392.4  
Share 5.89%Rubber Products  
\$5,571.5  
Share 4.44%Plastic Beads  
\$4,767.1  
Share 3.8%Chemical Products  
\$4,045.7  
Share 3.23%Refined Fuels  
\$3,801.4  
Share 3.03%Electronic  
Integrated Circuits  
\$3,738.2  
Share 2.98%Machinery  
and Parts  
\$3,703.8  
Share 2.95%Air Conditioner  
and Parts  
\$3,164.8  
Share 2.52%

## TOP 10 MARKETS

USA  
\$16,326.7  
Share 13.0%China  
\$14,055.4  
Share 11.2%Japan  
\$12,561.6  
Share 10.0%Vietnam  
\$6,252.2  
Share 5.0%Hong Kong  
\$5,858.5  
Share 4.7%Malaysia  
\$5,385.4  
Share 4.3%Australia  
\$5,028.5  
Share 4.0%Indonesia  
\$4,539.1  
Share 3.6%Singapore  
\$4,488.9  
Share 3.6%India  
\$4,166.7  
Share 3.3%

Source: Ministry of Commerce

## EXCHANGE RATES

(Data as of 18 September 2019)

\$	£	€	¥	¥
THB	THB	THB	THB	THB
<b>30.7</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>

Source: Bank of Thailand  
Note: Baht/ 1 Unit of Foreign  
Currency - Average Selling Rates.  
JPY currency is for 100 Yen

## TAX RATES

Source: The Revenue Department

CORPORATE INCOME TAX:	PERSONAL INCOME TAX	VAT	WITHOLDING TAX
<b>20%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>1 - 10%</b>

## BOI OVERSEAS OFFICES



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## ABOUT BOI

The Office of the Board of Investment (BOI) is the principle government agency that operates under the Prime Minister's Office for the purpose of encouraging investment in Thailand. We at the BOI serve as the professional contact points for investors, providing them with useful investment information and services. We offer business support and investment incentive to foreign investors in Thailand, including tax and non-tax incentives. A few non-tax incentives include granting land ownership to foreigners and facilitating visas and work permits. Besides serving the needs of overseas investors, we also offer consultation services to Thai investors who are interested in investment opportunities abroad.



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