

Summary of the 7th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Enhancement of Business Environment in Thailand under the Agreement between the Kingdom of Thailand and Japan for an Economic Partnership (JTEPA)

10 March 2017

Economic Division
Embassy of Japan in Thailand

The Sub-Committee on Enhancement of Business Environment in Thailand under the Agreement between the Kingdom of Thailand and Japan for an Economic Partnership (JTEPA), where JAPAN proposes measures for the enhancement of business environment in Thailand to the Thai government, was held in Bangkok on 9 March. This was the 7th meeting of this sub-committee after March 2016.



In this Sub-Committee where private sector can participate, Mr. Shiro Sadoshima, Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Akihiko Uchikawa, Economic Minister of the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Hiroki Mitsumata, President of JETRO Bangkok and Mr. Shingo Sato, President of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce Bangkok (JCC), and the chairpersons of the sub-groups of JCC attended from the Japan side.

From the Thai side, Mr. Chokedee Kaewsang, Deputy Secretary-General of the BOI, and the representatives from nearly 30 related government agencies including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NESDB, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative (Royal Irrigation Department), Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Labour, Royal Thai Police (Immigration Bureau), Ministry of Finance (Revenue Department and Customs Department), participated in this Sub-Committee. The total number of the participants is over 90 which surpass the number of participants of last meeting.

The agenda discussed in this sub-committee consisted of two parts same as last year. One was of general nature including the mid- and long-term issues and the other was on specific issues.

The following issues were discussed in the session of general agenda and Thai side explained their activities.

1) Close dialogue in Investment Promotion and Industrial Policy

- 2) Enhancement of Business Environment (to ensure a consistent and highly transparent business environment to promote investment)
- 3) Human resources development policies toward more sophisticated industrial structures
- 4) Work on reducing risks which individual companies cannot address by themselves (water management and energy policy)
- 5) “Quality Infrastructure” Development and Enhancing Connectivity

In the session of specific agenda, various issues related to tax system, labor, customs and infrastructure issues were discussed. Clarification legal interpretation and uniform implementation of laws and regulations were discussed as a horizontal issue under this agenda. In particular, we had discussions which led to the clear and transparent interpretation about the procedure of Advance Tariff Ruling and the procedure of Visa and Work Permit for company trainees and student intern.

Before holding this Sub-Committee, Japan and Thailand held prior consultations as the last time to deepen mutual understanding on the respective issues. Consequently, we had effective discussions in this Sub-Committee and agreed to close cooperation between the two countries. The Embassy of Japan will make continuous efforts for the enhancement of business environment in Thailand, thereby establishing Win-Win relationship between Japan and Thailand.