

Summary of the 8th 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)

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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 8 March. This was the 8th meeting of this sub-committee after March 2017.



In this Sub-Committee where private sector can participate, Mr. Shiro Sadoshima, Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Noboru Sekiguchi, Economic Minister of the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Hiroki Mitsumata, President of JETRO Bangkok and Mr. Isao Kuroda, Vice 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, Ms. Duangjai Asawachintachit, Secretary-General of the BOI, Ms. Bonggot Anuroj, Deputy Secretary-General of the BOI, and the representatives from nearly 30 related government agencies including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Education, Office of the National Water Resources, 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 Thai participants is over 90 which is about the same 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 issue including the mid- and long-term issues and the other was on specific issues.

The following issues were discussed under the session of general agenda and the Thai side explained current situation, recent developments and their efforts on each issues.

1) Close Partnership and Dialogue on EEC Development

- 2) Enhancement of Business Environment (to ensure a consistent and highly transparent business environment to promote investment)
- 3) Human resources development
- 4) Disaster risk reduction (including flood countermeasures)

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

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