



His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua

The date 5th of December was the birthday anniversary of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great. This date has continually been celebrated in Thailand and by Thai people around the world as the Thai National Day, as well as and Father's Day, in recognition of the dedication and perseverance that His Majesty the late King exerted towards Thailand's sustainable development, based upon the principles of reasonableness, moderation, and self immunity, which are collectively called the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP).

Today, the Royal Thai Government has shared Sufficiency Economy Philosophy as its home grown alternative development strategy with friends all over the world, including Sri Lanka, in the scheme called “SEP for SDGs”. Since the year 2017, community development pilot projects in 3 villages in Puttalam, Kandy and Polonnaruwa have been implemented under this philosophy. Apart from this, Sri Lankan people are among top three awardees of Thailand international training courses on numerous subjects, totalling 27 in 2019 alone.

Recognising that child development is instrumental for tomorrow's sustainability, this year the Royal Thai Embassy, in coordination with the Sri Lanka - Thailand Society, has donated a refurbished library and

computer equipment to Saliyarnala Maha Vidyalaya school near Anuradhapura, in order to support community-based learning. In 2019, the Embassy also donated a refurbished computer lab to Vajira Sri Children's Development Center in Kotte, as well as a refurbished library to Sri Gunananda Vidyalaya in Colombo, the latter of which was founded by a Thai prince while ordained in Sri Lanka in early 20th Century.

Ties between Thailand and Sri Lanka run deep. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship of our two countries. While longstanding, this is historically very recent.

Thais and Sri Lankan have known each other since ancient time through religious exchanges. Thailand adopted Theravada Buddhism from Sri Lanka over 800 years ago. In return, Thailand sent a sangha envoy to revive Buddhism in Sri Lanka around 300 years ago. These historic exchanges has resulted in long lasting goodwill among the two peoples, entailing constant people-to-people connection throughout the past millennium. To commemorate such excellent relationship, the Embassy has made a donation this year to Ranwella Temple in Koggala to restore the historic printing press donated by King Mongkut, the great great

grand father of the present Thai King, to Sri Lanka in 1862 to print Buddhist texts during the Buddhism Renaissance period under colonial rule.

The diplomatic and political relations between Thailand and Sri Lanka are excellent. During the past century 4 Thai Kings, including King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochao yuhua, the present King while being the Crown Prince, visited Sri Lanka. Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.) also visited the country in 2018.

On economic front, trade and investment between the two countries have been growing steadily. In this year just before the onset of COVID-19, the Royal Thai Embassy in Colombo and the Thai Trade Center in Chennai organised 'Top Thai Brands' trade promotion event in Colombo. The Embassy has been active to realise new investment projects, while the existing Thai companies in Sri Lanka have admirably braved the economic challenges and implemented a number of CSR projects to mitigate immediate economic hardship and to foster sustainable green growth and circular economy.

Thailand and Sri Lanka are on a firm ground to move ahead together for mutual benefit, based on our strongest historical bond lasting almost a millennium, and the people-to-people goodwill and affinity that has grown beautifully out of such bond.

Celebrating the National Day of

Thailand

Siam City Cement (Lanka) Limited extends our warmest wishes and heartfelt congratulations to the people of Thailand on their national day.



Economy Overview

As the second largest economy in Southeast Asia and the world's 19th largest manufacturer, the Kingdom of Thailand has consistently achieved robust economic growth thanks to the country's strong fundamentals and diverse industries. These same factors are also sources of resilience that allowed the country to recover quickly from the 2008 global financial crisis.

The Thai economy registered 1.6% growth in the fourth quarter of 2019. The overall economic expansion for the Thai economy in 2019 was projected in the range of 1.5 - 2.5%. Thailand's exports also declined by 2.7% in the same period.

Looking to the future, Thailand's economic development is set to follow a 20-year National Strategy Plan, with a vision of achieving security, prosperity and sustainability. The 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017 - 2021) was thus mapped out in line with the National Strategy Plan. The principles of the "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" continue to be a vital element of the 12th Plan, as they have significantly contributed to balanced and sustainable development in Thailand over many years.

Thailand 4.0

The country's path forward will follow an economic model called Thailand 4.0, which aims to unlock Thailand from several economic challenges and help the country break free from the middle-income trap. The economic model focusses on four objectives: economic prosperity, social well-being, raising human values, and environmental protection.

To achieve economic prosperity, the key drivers will be innovation, technology and creativity. The Thai government aims to raise research and development expenditure to 1.5% of the GDP, increase economic growth to annual rates of no less than 5% within five years, and boost national income per capita from US\$5,470 in 2014 to US\$15,000 by 2032.

To promote social well-being, the Thailand 4.0 model focusses on encouraging all members of society to reach their full potential, and reducing social disparity and income inequality. The economic model also aims to develop human capital by transforming cost-effective labour into a skilled workforce.

For environmental protection, Thailand will ensure that natural assets can produce their full economic potential on a sustainable basis. This includes the provision of clean air and water, and the resilient biodiversity needed to support

The ambitious sea transportation development plan for the economic zone includes expanding existing deep-sea ports. The Laem Chabang Port is expected to rank among the world's top 15 cargo ports and will serve as the Gateway to Southeast Asia. The Map Ta Phut Industrial Port will greatly expand its capacities to accommodate a higher volume of liquefied natural gas, from the existing 10 million tonnes to 62 million tonnes per year. Sattahip Commercial Port, Thailand's third deep-sea port, will be upgraded and modernised to become an international cruise and ferry port, meeting global standards and accommodating the region's growing shipbuilding and off-shore oil rig assembly industries.

food production and human health.

In applying the Thailand 4.0 Model, the Thai government has launched the SMART Visa. Designed to encourage highly skilled professionals to work or invest in the Kingdom. SMART Visas provide more benefits and privileges than any other type of visa issued by Thailand. This eliminates the need for a work permit, and also extends to spouses and children of those who qualify. SMART Visas are available for investors, executives, talented individuals, and those involved in start-up incubators and accelerators that are working in one of the 11 industries targeted by the Thai government.

Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC)

To entice more technology-driven investment into the country, the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) was established as a prime location for the world's top companies wishing to expand their investments in the Southeast Asian region. The new economic zone, which covers Rayong, Chon Buri, and Chachoengsao provinces, will receive heavy investment in infrastructure development both for improving the existing infrastructure and building new networks.

Conforming to the Thailand 4.0 Model, the new economic zone is envisioned as a modern metropolitan area, a competitive place for trade and investment, a base for regional transportation and logistics, a hub for human resources, a tourist attraction, and most importantly, a modernised gateway to Asia.

The ambitious sea transportation development plan for the economic zone includes expanding existing deep-sea ports. The Laem Chabang Port is expected to rank among the world's top 15 cargo ports and will serve as the Gateway to Southeast Asia. The Map Ta Phut Industrial Port will greatly expand its capacities to accommodate a higher volume of liquefied natural gas, from the existing 10 million tonnes to 62 million tonnes per year. Sattahip Commercial Port, Thailand's third deep-sea port, will be upgraded and modernised to become an international cruise and ferry port, meeting global standards and accommodating the region's growing shipbuilding and off-shore oil rig assembly industries.

Air transportation will also undergo similar intensive improvements. U-Tapao-Rayong - Pattaya International Airport, a cornerstone of the EEC, will be developed extensively with the aim to eventually reach a capacity of 60 million passengers per year. The Airport will serve as major transportation and logistics hub and will be linked with the Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang International Airports via high-speed trains, dual-track railways, and an expressway.

In parallel with the infrastructure development, the three provinces of Chachoengsao, Chon Buri and Rayong will be equipped with leisure and lifestyle facilities that rival any modern metropolis. Based on the philosophy of sustainable urbanisation, inhabitants in the economic zone will live in an environment that encourages a work-life balance with

thriving tourism and wellness industries.

As infrastructure development in the EEC is underway, investment incentives will play an integral role in enticing foreign investment in the economic zone. Under the Eastern Economic Corridor Act B.E. 2561 (2018), companies operating in the economic zone will have their taxes halved for an additional period of five years. In addition, the National Competitive Enhancement Act for Targeted Industries B.E. 2560 (2017) provides a corporate income tax exemption for up to 15 years for eligible businesses in industries that are expected to contribute to Thailand's development.

Driving Economic Growth through Innovation

Thailand 4.0's New Engines of Growth initiative consists of two groups. The first is the upgrading of five existing industries: agriculture and food, tourism, automotive, electrical and electronics industries, and petrochemicals. The second one involves the development of six new sectors: automation and robotics, aerospace, digital, bioenergy and biochemicals, medical and healthcare, and the defense industry.

The model will be carried out by using science, technology, innovation and creativity to transform Thailand's rich biodiversity and cultural diversity from a comparative advantage to a competitive advantage. Thus, the government is concentrating on developing technologies that will become an essential base for the development of other high-value industries that will drive Thailand towards

a prosperous future.

Going Digital

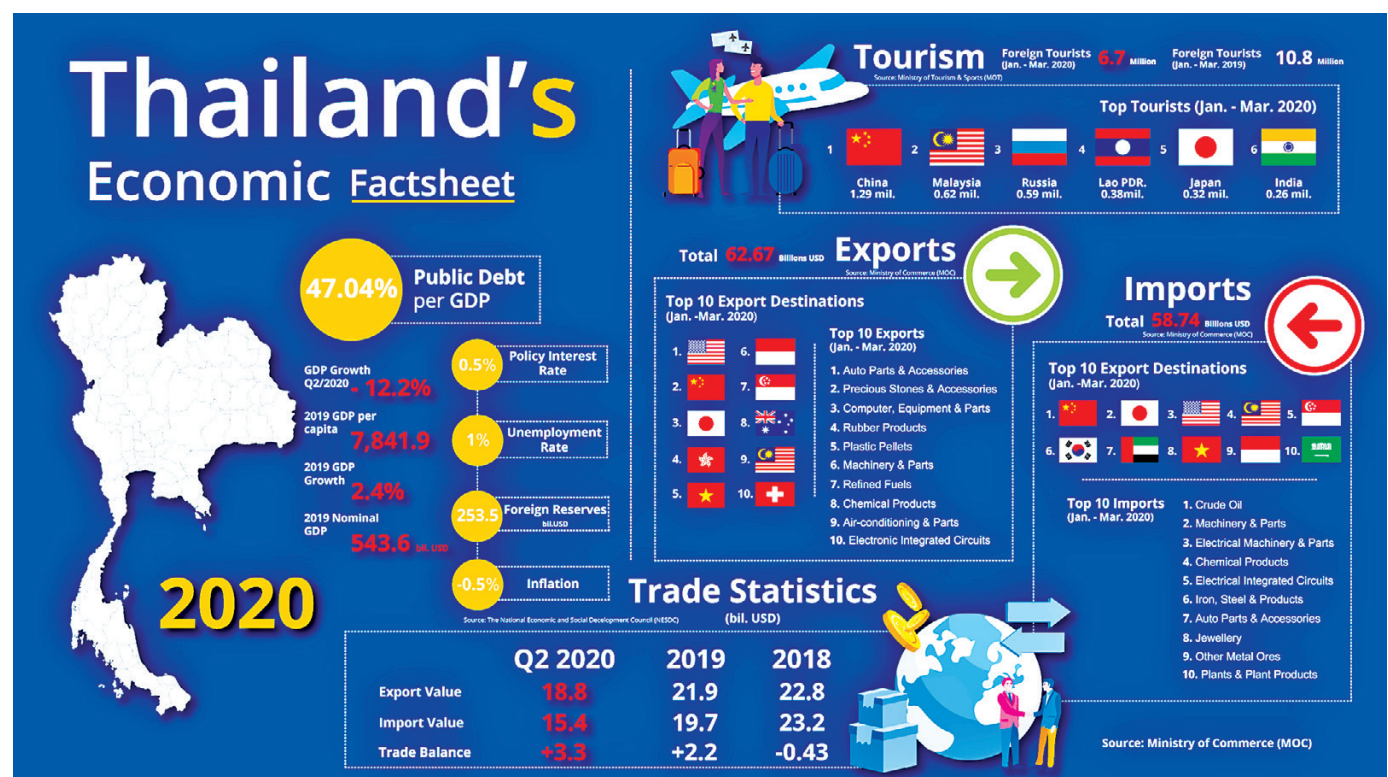
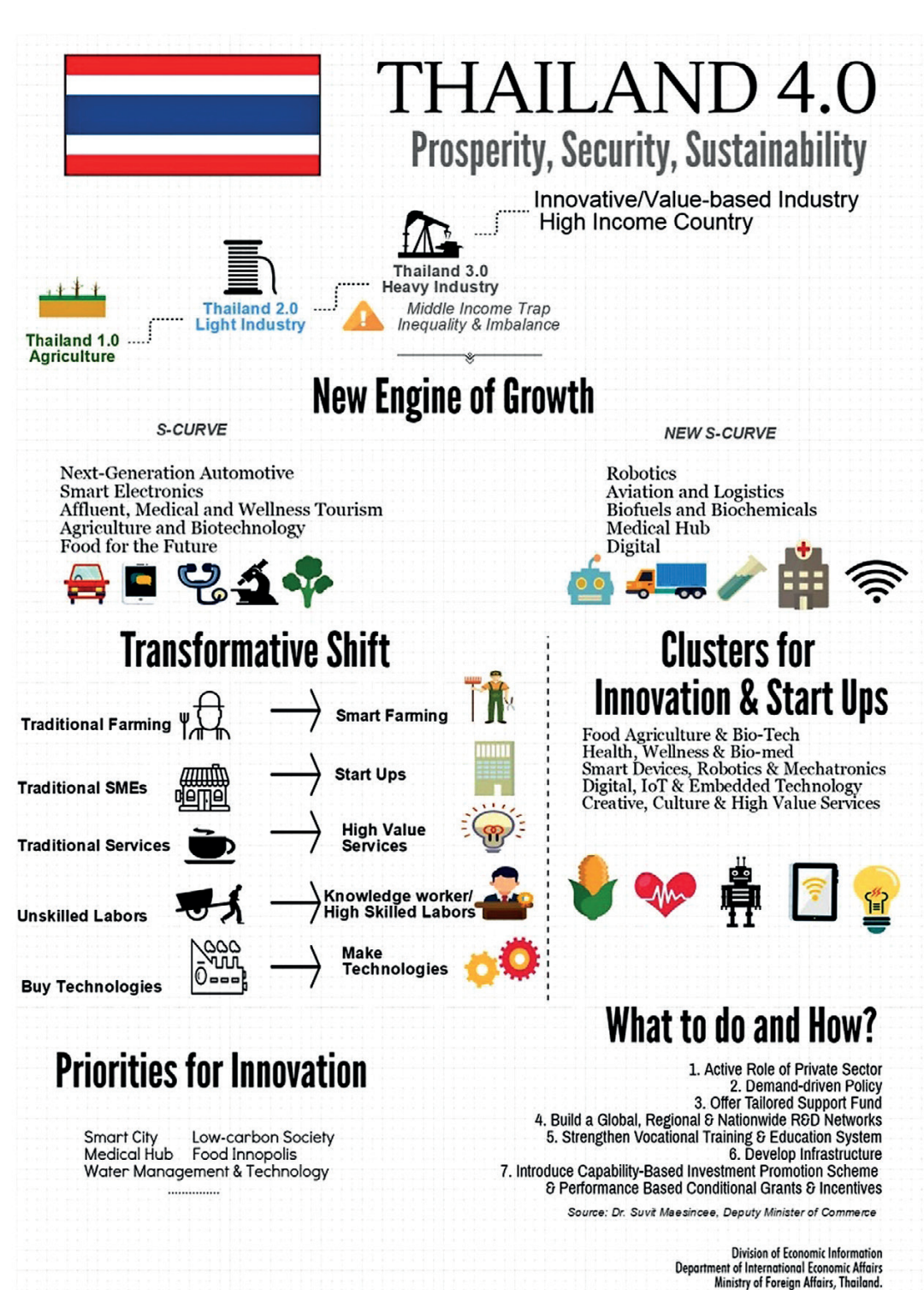
Thailand is stepping up to a new challenge of digital economy. The Thai government has laid out several initiatives to develop the digital economy by supporting the production of hardware, software, communication devices, and digital platforms for the industrial sector and financial services. In particular, the government will target investments in high-speed Internet access to support future industries, innovation, and e-commerce.

The Smart Cities initiative will initially see the transformation of Phuket, Chiang Mai, and Khon Kaen provinces, as integrated digital technology, energy and transport hubs, which will bring about a positive socio-economic impact for residents. Other cities in Thailand will eventually be included in the initiative in the future.

Another project called Digital Park Thailand will support technology transfer and the creation of digital innovations; such as, mobile applications, data centres, and the 'Internet of Things' products. Located on a 250-acre plot of land in Chon Buri province, Digital Park Thailand will become a vibrant digital innovation hub and a competitive digital community, as well as a destination for global digital players and innovators to invest, work, learn and play. The project will also see Thailand become a data hub for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) offering ultra-high-speed broadband infrastructure, international submarine cable stations, data centres, and satellite earth stations.

The country's path forward will follow an economic model called Thailand 4.0, which aims to unlock Thailand from several economic challenges and help the country break free from the middle-income trap. The economic model focusses on four objectives: economic prosperity, social well-being, raising human values, and environmental protection.

To achieve economic prosperity, the key drivers will be innovation, technology and creativity. The Thai government aims to raise research and development expenditure to 1.5% of the GDP, increase economic growth to annual rates of no less than 5% within five years, and boost national income per capita from US\$5,470 in 2014 to US\$15,000 by 2032.



A few steps in Thailand - Sri Lanka bilateral relations



Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.) paid an official visit to Sri Lanka in July 2018.



Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai offered Royal Kathina Robes graciously bestowed by the King of Thailand to the congregation of monks at Shree Jayashekharamaya, Colombo, in November 2018.



Ambassador Chulamanee Chartsuwan opened the 'Top Thai Brands' Trade Promotion Event during 6-8 March 2020 at BMICH



Printing press, a donation by King Mongkut in 1862, at Ranwella Temple, Koggala, prior to the restoration funded by donation from the Embassy



Mr. Nandana Ekanayake, Chairman of Siam City Cement (Lanka) Limited, at the launch of a waste management project with H.E. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Insee Cement, the largest Thai investor in Sri Lanka, has implemented numerous CSR projects, ranging from waste management, mangrove and coral replantation, to drug awareness programmes, and confiscated cocaine burning.



Donation of refurbished library and computer equipment to Saliyamala Maha Vidyalaya school near Anuradhapura, October 2020.



Experts from Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) conducted workshops in a village in Polonnaruwa, February 2020.



Thai Boxing Show at 'Top Thai Brands' event .



Investors from Thailand visited Sri Lanka to discuss a largest greenfield sugar development project with an envisaged FDI of USD 400 million.



Thai Embassy's stall at 'Top Thai Brands' event, highlighting sufficiency economy philosophy.

BEST WISHES ON THE

National Day Of Thailand





Buddha

Dharma

Sangha

Buddhist Devotion Summarized



SU-ENCO

SUTECH ENGINEERING COMPANY LTD OF THAILAND

SUTECH SUGAR

SUTECH SUGAR INDUSTRY (PVT) LTD OF SRI LANKA



Celebrating



Years of creating

DELICIOUS MOMENTS

Norfolk Foods (Pvt) Ltd.

No. 142, Katuwana Industrial Estate, Homagama, Sri Lanka.

Tel : 0112 857340 / 0112 895440 | Fax : 0112 857341

www.norfolk.lk



National Day of Thailand

5 December 2020



Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor: Southeast Asia's New Engine of Growth



Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) is arguably the most ambitious connectivity project in mainland Southeast Asia, and has the potential to connect the Asia Pacific region with the Indian Ocean Rim and beyond.

From the Eastern Seaboard to the Eastern Economic Corridor

Thailand has long benefited from its strategic location at the heart of mainland Southeast Asia to drive its economic development. During the 1980s, the Thai government initiated the "Eastern Seaboard" project, to fast track national economic development and promote growth of industry, manufacturing, and exports. The Eastern Seaboard went on to become one of the region's resounding success stories, resulting in large foreign investments in the automotive industry, manufacturing, petrochemical and heavy industries at Map Ta Phut, as well as logistics and shipping at Laem Chabang. Between the 1990s and 2000s, Thailand's exports grew from USD 30 billion to 70 billion, mainly to Southeast Asia, Japan, Europe and the US.

The start of the 21st century has been marked by a dramatic shift in the global economic landscape: the rapid rise of China and India, and the emergence of mainland Southeast Asia as an investment destination. To capitalise on this reality, the Thai government initiated the EEC, building upon the success of the Eastern Seaboard, with the vision of creating a next-generation "growth area" to realise the "Thailand 4.0" strategy to promote sustainable economic growth based on the so-called "New S-Curve" industries with research, innovation, and the digital economy at their core.

The EEC project includes three main activities:

- Upgrading of Thailand's transport and logistics infrastructure in order to provide a solid connectivity platform to link the EEC region with markets of the Asia Pacific, the Indian Ocean Rim, and beyond
 - Establishing areas of concentration for investments in the "New S-Curve" industries, such as "EECI" to promote innovation, and "EECD" to promote the digital economy. A new EEC Office has been established to facilitate investments and provide novel incentives in addition to those offered by the Board of Investment (BOI)
 - Creating areas for sustainable economic and social development through the use of new and environmentally-friendly technologies to enhance quality of life.
- A number of major global firms have established and expanded investments in the EEC area to take profit from the new incentives under the EEC Act with new rules on land ownership to generous tax and non-tax measures. Since its launch in 2016, the EEC has already attracted over USD 53 billion of investment promotion applications.

New Infrastructure for New Industries

The highlight of EEC plans for upgrading transportation and logistics infrastructure are the three "flagship" infrastructure megaprojects:

- High-Speed Rail linking Bangkok's international airports at Don Mueang and Suvarnabhumi with the emerging aerospace

Thailand has long benefited from its strategic location at the heart of mainland Southeast Asia to drive its economic development. During the 1980s, the Thai government initiated the "Eastern Seaboard" project, to fast track national economic development and promote growth of industry, manufacturing, and exports. The Eastern Seaboard went on to become one of the region's resounding success stories, resulting in large foreign investments in the automotive industry, manufacturing, petrochemical and heavy industries at Map Ta Phut, as well as logistics and shipping at Laem Chabang.

hub at U-Tapao International Airport.

Construction by a consortium of Thai, Chinese and Japanese contractors will soon start. When completed by 2025, this will seamlessly link Bangkok with the future "Aerotropolis" at U-Tapao

- Upgrading of the Laem Cha Bang deep sea port (Phase 3) to handle cargo capacity of 18.1 million TEU a year using the automated system and advanced full-scale services
- Developing U-Tapao International Airport and its "Aerotropolis" where investments in aerospace and aviation related industries are promoted. The Thai government has been in discussions with major international aerospace firms to develop aircraft maintenance and related facilities.

This USD 650 billion upgrade is being undertaken through public-private partnership, and will support the EEC's vision of becoming ASEAN technological, manufacturing and service hub with strong connectivity to its neighbours, the ASEAN region, and beyond.

Smart Industries, Smart Cities

The EEC aims to bring innovation to improve the quality of living, through "7 Smarts" solutions – Smart Mobility, Smart People, Smart Living, Smart Economy, Smart Governance, Smart Energy and Smart Environment. The overall plan is to create a "Livable Smart City" for its residents and investors where technological integration, low carbon emission, a circular economy, and access to good public healthcare and education will not only create an environment suited for innovation, but also for sustainable living.

The EEC's plans to create a hub for innovation (EECI) is already taking shape in Wang Chan Valley, with the creation of a world class international research institution – KVIS. It is envisioned that the Valley will be the core for the development of the region's smart living environment.

The Digital Park Thailand (EECD) is also moving ahead after Thailand's 5G spectrum auction was settled in February 2020. This will spearhead the country's adoption of 5G as Thailand aims to be the first ASEAN country to harness such technology, and support the country's digital technology development while aiming to attract digital businesses, particularly e-commerce and related logistics services.

One very relevant area for future development is biomedicine, which will complement Thailand's strong public health system, ranked 6th in the 2019 World Health Care Index. It is foreseen that the EEC will further develop research and development capabilities in genomic science through the new ambitious venture "Genomics Thailand" genome sequencing center, and advance Thailand's role as the region's medical hub.

With 2 million skilled workers already in the EEC area, the Thai government aims to further enhance the productivity of its workforce to be ready for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), by promoting cooperation with foreign partners, such as Carnegie Mellon University (USA), Les Roches Institute (Switzerland) Pearson Education (UK) and Kosen College (Japan) to develop international-standard curriculum to reskill and upskill laborers to meet the needs of the industries.

Southeast Asia's New Engine of Growth

The Asia Pacific, and Southeast Asia in particular, is expected to continue its rising trajectory in the coming decades. Being one of the world's most connected regions, it is well suited to take advantage of new opportunities emanating from the growth of the digital economy and e-commerce. Thailand's EEC project is envisioned as Southeast Asia's hub for the new growth industries of the future, while providing an environment supportive of innovation and manufacture of the new products of the future. With plans for new infrastructure and new incentives to support further investments, the EEC will be the most attractive area in which to invest and do business for those with a future looking perspective.

For further information, visit the EEC website <https://www.eeco.or.th/>


- WISHES -
FOR
THAILAND National Day
MAY YOUR LIVES BE FILLED WITH PEACE & WEALTH
Bischoff Gamma Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd.
The Art of Fabric
SEETHAWAKA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE, AVISSAWELLA
WWW.BISCHOFFGAMMA-LANKA.LK
INFO@BISCHOFFGAMMA-LANKA.LK


Warm wishes for the
National Day to HRM King Maha Vajiralongkon & the Kingdom of Thailand
from
Sri Lanka Thailand Business Council
<https://www.facebook.com/SLTBC/>
077 7752788


SIAM HOUSE
Authentic Thai Cuisine
SINCE 1993
No. 17, Melbourne Avenue
Colombo 4.
Tel: 2595966

Departure Public Concourse
Bandaranaike International Airport
Katunayake

No. 293, Ashokarama Road,
Andiambalama
Katunayake
www.siamhouse.lk

With Best Compliments
From
BENJARONG (PVT) LTD
Warmest Felicitations on the National Day of
The Kingdom of Thailand


SIAM HOUSE
Authentic Thai Cuisine
SINCE 1993
No. 17, Melbourne Avenue
Colombo 4.
Tel: 2595966

Departure Public Concourse
Bandaranaike International Airport
Katunayake

No. 293, Ashokarama Road,
Andiambalama
Katunayake

From top to bottom, a whole-of-society effort has been the key to prevention.

A close-up photograph of a light blue ceramic bowl filled with a stir-fried dish. The main ingredient is squid, cut into rings and showing a distinct cross-hatched texture. It is mixed with various vegetables, including green bell peppers, red bell peppers, and shredded green onions. The ingredients are coated in a dark, glossy sauce. A large green leaf and a slice of orange are used as garnishes on the left side of the bowl.

For inquiries and reservations call 011 249 1945