



Press Release

The Eastern Economic Corridor Policy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 22 November, 2017

9.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.

At Inner Santi Maitree Building,
Government House

This is the third meeting, 3/2017, of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Policy Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister. The meeting determined 4 issues as follows:

1. Development plans for personnel, education, research, and technology

During the first EEC committee meeting (5 April 2017), the committee agreed that personnel development is the most important aspect in achieving Thailand 4.0 and the development of the special Eastern Economic Corridor. The committee had instructed related parties to draft **“the personnel, education, research, and technology development plans”** that will operate in sync with other systems.

As for this meeting, the participants have approved the (draft) plans for the development of personnel, education, research, and technology (2017-2021)

4 Pillars of personnel development plan

- 1) **Improve human resources and education by market demand**, especially high income jobs for the general public, to reduce unemployment rate or problems of fresh graduates having to take low-skilled jobs
- 2) **Allow private companies to recruit directly from educational institutions** with the support from the government sector
- 3) **Cooperate with educational institutions and centers for technology from across the globe** and invite experts from industries in demand to work in Thailand or train Thai personnel.

- 4) Cooperate with world's leading private investors to produce skilled workers in industries that are in high demand in the region, particularly in aviation, automation and robotics engineering, tourism, and medical industries.

A budget worth 861.02 million Baht will be coming from the 2018 central government budget for urgent development plans with an aim to produce at least 150 master teachers in targeted industries, promote science, robotics, automation, and information system knowledge to at least 40,000 youths, and organize projects for leading institutions to provide new agricultural knowledge to at least 10,000 farmers.

The committee has agreed to seek opinions on the personnel development draft plan from institution communities in the EEC area for further improvement of intermediate plan (2019-2021).

2. Enticement of key investors and area preparation to support targeted industries

2.1 Enticement of key investors

The meeting participants acknowledged progress of the following:

- During January-September 2017, there were 104.164 billion Baht worth of investment in the EEC area that applied for BOI support. 67.8 billion Baht of those investments were in targeted industries.
- The meeting acknowledged the progress and investment plans of important projects proposed by Thai Airways-Airbus, Lazada/Alibaba, Air Asia, ST, Aerospace, Nissan, BMW, and Minor Group. The committee requested related agencies to expedite investments and report back to the committee on their progress.
- There has been a request to add the 11th targeted industry, which is National Defense. The Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Industry, Board of Investment, and Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand have been assigned to consider the request.

2.2 Announcement of supported zones for industrial activities

The meeting concluded the areas that will receive support for industrial activities in 2017 and planning in 2018 as follows:

- In 2017, Smart Park Industrial Estate in Rayong and Hemaraj Eastern Seaboard Industrial Estate 4 in Rayong; altogether 3,366 Rai, have been designated as supported zones for industrial activities in targeted industries.
- The committee acknowledged the plan that the first half of 2018, nine more zones; altogether 30,000 Rai, may be announced as new supported zones to cope with the EEC industrial expansion.

The meeting affirmed that the expansion will be within the industrial estate only. The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand is assigned to expedite and facilitate the progress with those wishing to open up new industrial estates for EEC investments, in order to achieve 50,000 Rai area within 5 years.

3. Progress on Eastern Economic Corridor in digital innovation (EECd)

The meeting participants acknowledged the development of Digital Park Thailand as follows:

- Layout for EECd in Sri Racha, Chonburi
- Investment format that involves joint investments with world's leading private organizations
- Plan for IoT institute establishment to support digital industry in the future, covering 40,000-square-meter area, including 30 Rai area for testing fields for unmanned ground vehicles and drones.

The meeting participants have made EECd a part of the EEC Project List to operate in accordance with criteria, procedures, conditions and procedures for a joint investment with private sector to improve the Eastern Economic Corridor. Related parties are urged to study the joint investment plan to expedite the process.

4. Follow ups on important basic infrastructures

The committee has agreed to put U-Tapao Aviation Repair Center Project, which is a collaboration among the Royal Navy, Thai Airways, and Airbus, as an urgent project and a project under EEC Project List, which will qualify for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in accordance with EEC regulations.

The meeting participants acknowledged the progress of basic infrastructures as follows:

4.1 High speed train, connecting 3 airports (expected to invite the private sector to jointly invest within February 2018, to finalize a selected company by July 2018, and to open for service by 2023)

4.2 Projects related to Eastern Airport City

- **Eastern Airport City** (expected to invite the private sector to jointly invest by May 2018, to finalize a selected company by October 2018 and to open for service by 2023)
- **U-Tapao Maintenance, repair and operations (MRO) Center**, a Royal Navy-Thai Airways-Airbus collaboration (expected to prepare the investment details by March 2018 and open the business by 2021)
- **U-Tapao Airport Development Program**, operated by the Royal Thai Navy, to prepare the area for Eastern Airport City. The project includes the construction of the second runway and taxiway under the framework of Eastern Airport City.

4.3 Projects related to seaport and rail system connecting 3 ports

- **Laem Chabang Port Project**, currently under an environmental study (expected to invite the private sector to jointly invest by June 2018, to finalize a selected company by October 2018, and to open for service by 2025)
- **Map Ta Phut Industrial Port**, currently under an environmental study (expected to invite the private sector to jointly invest by June 2018, finalize a selected company by September 2018 and open for service by 2024)
- **Sattahip Commercial Port Project**, currently constructing a ferry passenger building (expected to open for service by February 2019)
- **Dual-track railway project connecting 3 seaports** (expected to complete the study by 2019, finalize contractor by 2020, and open for service by 2023)
- **Seamless Operation for Transportation Project**, initially assigned to the Port Authority of Thailand to conduct studies and propose database linkage platform (expected to be installed by 2019)
- **ICD Project around Chachoengsao**, the EEC Policy Committee has agreed to start the study to reduce the ICD traffic in Lat Krabang (expected to finalize advisor by February 2018)
- Responsible agencies for the basic infrastructure projects are requested to add the use of para rubber as part of the construction material in the Terms of Reference (TOR)

