

**Remarks by the Director General of Bureau of Foreign Trade,
Minister of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ms. Jen-Ni Yang
at the 27th Joint Economic Cooperation Conference**

Date: 9:30AM, Wednesday, 27 June 2018

Venue: Taipei World Trade Center Club, 33rd Floor

Opening

Chairman of the Thailand Committee at CIECA Dr. Pan,
Wen-Whe,

Senior Vice Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries Mr.
Thawee Piyapatana,

Chairman of Thai-Taiwan Economic Cooperation Committee Mr.
Kriengkrai Thiennukul,

Acting Executive Advisor of the Board of Investment Mr. Seksan
Ruangwohan),

ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

On behalf of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, I would like to
extend my sincere welcome to the Thai delegation on its visit to
Taiwan.

New Southbound Policy and Taiwan-Thailand Bilateral Trade

Update

Thailand is an important trading partner of Taiwan's and
also a major partner under our New Southbound Policy. In 2017,
bilateral trade between our two countries under the New
Southbound Policy increased 15.58%, amounting to 10.76
billion US dollars. Thus, Thailand has become Taiwan's 12th
largest trading partner while Taiwan is Thailand's 11th largest.

Bilateral investment: According to BOI statistics, Taiwan's

cumulative investment in Thailand between 1959 and 2017 amounted to 14.48 billion US dollars, making Taiwan the 3rd largest investor in Thailand after Japan and the U.S. Taiwan's major investments in Thailand are in the electronics, rubber, steel, and chemical industries, which substantially contribute to employment in Thailand.

Outcome of the Joint Economic Cooperation Conference

The Joint Economic Cooperation Conference between Thailand and Taiwan has been held annually since 1989 and has been essential in maintaining bilateral economic cooperation and integration. In order to link "Thailand 4.0" with Taiwan's "5+2 Industrial Innovation Program", extensive discussions have been conducted on green energy (energy efficiency), smart manufacturing, smart transportation, ITC, and e-commerce in recent years with a win-win synergy.

Extensive Economic and Trade Cooperation

In order to strengthen bilateral industrial linkages, the 1st Taiwan-Thailand Industrial Cooperation Summit was held last year, during which we both agree to foster cooperation on food biotech, textiles, creative economy, smart machinery, ITC, etc. Successful examples include Taiwanese companies providing dyeing automation systems and equipment to Thai dyeing and finishing plants, while integrating with Taiwan's smart manufacturing technology in order to expand business to Thailand and ASEAN countries. The 2nd Industrial Cooperation Summit will be held tomorrow in Taipei and this year the main

topics will focus on food biotech, textiles, automation, and smart cities. Moreover, to strengthen bilateral industrial cooperation, both sides are planning to cooperate on smart city development in 7 pilot cities, including Bangkok, Chonburi (Pataya), and Chingmai.

Furthermore, to strengthen bilateral economic and trade ties, our government will hold the first “Taiwan Expo in Thailand” from August 30 to September 1 at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC). This exhibition aims to promote our high-tech and innovative industries by showcasing several sectors, such as green technology, medical technology, tourism, higher education, smart cities and “Taiwan Excellence” products, which are in line with Thailand’s current government policies such as “Thailand 4.0” and “Digital Thailand”. We sincerely invite you to attend this event and your participation would be much appreciated.

Enhancing Taiwan-Thailand Economic and Industrial Cooperation

We are aware of the Thai government’s “Thailand 4.0” and 10 target industries on next-generation automobiles, smart electronics, affluent agriculture, medical & wellness tourism, new generation biotechnology & food. In order to link “Thailand 4.0” with Taiwan’s “5+2 Industrial Innovation Program” and strengthen industrial linkages, industrial agencies from both sides have jointly drafted the “Taiwan-Thailand 10-Year Industrial Cooperation Roadmap”. This project will be implemented jointly through continued exchanges between government and private sectors to foster win-win outcomes.

Our business sectors, including manufacturing, services, and finance, are ready to utilize Thailand's regional and competitive advantages to continue their investments in Thailand. For example, one of the biggest sugar companies in Taiwan has invested 1 billion Taiwan dollars to set up a new factory in Thailand, a Taiwanese auto parts company has invested 2 billion Taiwan dollars in Thailand's automotive after sales maintenance market, and a renowned Taiwanese financial firm has invested 460 million US dollars in a major Thai financial group. These are some examples that demonstrate our entrepreneurial efforts to promote potential development and business opportunities in Thailand.

We hope Thailand can provide favorable incentives for investment and better investment protection to Taiwanese investors. We also hope that our two sides can actively promote renewal of the bilateral investment agreement (BIA) to protect both Thai and Taiwanese investors and their respective economic activities. We look forward to Acting Advisor Mr. Seksan relaying our concerns upon his return to Thailand so as to deepen the long-term strategic partnership between us.

Expectations and Conclusion

Both Taiwan and Thailand are export-driven economies. As Thailand's economy undergoes transformation, Taiwan's industrial technology and experience in SME development can serve as references for Thailand's industrial upgrading. I trust today's meeting can boost further opportunities for cooperation and interaction between Taiwan and Thailand.

In conclusion, I would like to wish this meeting every success and everyone here all the best in their health and future endeavors!

Thank you.