



The 5/2020 meeting of the Policy Committee of
the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Special Development Zone
on Friday, 18th December 2020
The Government House, Bangkok, Thailand

Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha on Friday 18 December 2020 chaired the 5/2020 meeting of the Policy Committee of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Special Development Zone at the Government House. The meeting took note of and considered progress in the implementation of the EEC as follows:

1. **The Development of the 5G network and the EEC Digital Park (EECd) project** The meeting considered the following guidelines to advance the utilization of 5G in order to promote investments in the development of 5G in the EEC:

(1) **Generate users of 5G in a systemic way** by encouraging the private sector and government agencies to work towards the installation of 5G in all the manufacturing plants or factories within the EEC (approximately 1000), all the hotels in the EEC (about 900), all the offices of government agencies, educational institutions, hospitals including small and medium-size enterprises. A pilot project to develop the 5G network will be undertaken beginning with the areas in the vicinity of Sattahip Naval Base, Utapao Airport and Aerotropolis, the Map Ta Put deep-sea port and Ban Chang district, Rayong province. The objectives are to allow the local communities to access the 5G network in order to improve their quality of life as well as to enhance security and strengthen digital infrastructures and the upgrading of industrial capacity.

(2) **Expedite the development of infrastructure for data management** by encouraging both the private and the public sector to adopt Cloud storage of information. The EECd is where the Data Center be set up. In addition, guidelines will be laid down and laws revised in order to enable the utilization of those information stored in the Cloud by both the public and private sectors that can made public for the purpose of establishing a Common Data Lake so that businesses and startups can draw on such information for business development such as in the fields of E-commerce, tourism, public health and medicine.

(3) **Develop the digital workforce** by supporting the private sector to jointly invest in the training of human resources, particularly producing 100,000 personnel possessing digital skills required by the private sector.

Moreover, the approach of the EECd project will be revised with the aim of making the EECd the main driver of the development of the 5G network by seeking cooperation with entities with experience in setting up innovation zones in other countries such as China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the EU. The EEC has been entrusted to be in charge of this project.

2. **The total of investment in the EEC**

The meeting was informed that the number of applications for investment promotion in the 11 months (January-November 2020) totaled 387 projects, **amounting to as much as 128 billion baht or about half of the total investment in the entire country.** 76 billion baht of these investments in the EEC comes from abroad, the majority of which are in the electronics, automobile and petrochemical sectors. To invite more investors, the Board of Investment (BOI) has been assigned to coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to relax on a trial basis the period of COVID-19 quarantine to facilitate and encourage potential investors who wish to come to Thailand to consider investment opportunities.

3. **Develop the plan to upgrade the agricultural sector in the EEC to ensure that incomes are at level comparable to the manufacturing sector.**

The meeting took note of the progress in the plan to develop the agricultural sector in the areas covered by the EEC. The plan will be demand-led, working in partnership with the agricultural and food industries in order to develop products that meet market demand. There will also be the application of a “technology push” to raise the quality and value of products. Importance will be given to five clusters–aquaculture, biological plants, medicinal plants and livestock with the aim meeting the need for value-added products and ensuring sustainable incomes for farmers. The agencies concerned were also assigned to adopt the plan as the framework for budget requests for the year 2022 with the primary objective of upgrading the agriculture sector by utilizing technologies to manufacture products that meet the demands of the market and raising farmers incomes to a level comparable with the industrial sector.