

**JFCCT-BOI Consultative Meeting**  
**Thursday 7 February 2019, 1330 - 1600 hrs.**  
**Lad Prao**

**JFCCT Chairman's Remarks**

Khun Duangjai Asawachintachit, BOI Secretary General

BOI senior colleagues

Representatives from government agencies

Members of the JFCCT; other members of the foreign business community.

We are privileged, due to a long tradition of close collaboration with the Thailand Board of Investment. In particular for many years the Secretary-General has championed trade and investment with Thailand and has been open and welcoming of our recommendations through dialogue and engagement. You have, Khun Duangjai, with your staff, listened and appreciated and acted.

We really thank you.

Close consultations between the Government and the private sector are very welcome and are important for policy development, understanding and support.

The Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand, (JFCCT), is the umbrella organisation for 33 foreign chambers of commerce, foreign Business Associations in Thailand, with some 9,000 end member companies. 2019 will mark our 43rd year of supporting foreign business in Thailand.

JFCCT and the entire foreign business community reflect a large pool of talent, commitment to Thailand and a positive regard for enhancements to doing business, transfer of skills, capacity building and other ways of raising economic

and social prosperity. We will propose, with your blessing, a follow up in say August or so.

Today businesses from any chamber, even where not a JFCCT member, can be present and engage.

On Monday of this week, we had the great honour of an audience with His Excellency the Prime Minister who described government achievements, policies, issues and challenges. His Excellency also remarked on how JFCCT and its members had provided much through dialogue and understanding, including policy recommendations and asked that we continue to support in this way. He specifically referred to today's session, so we will do our best to put forward constructive and useful recommendations. I mention three developments:

- 1) 'Doing Business' enhancements, the push to be able to support Thailand 4.0 with a digital government and skills enhancement are all important.
- 2) Many targeted promotions, the new IBC and other policies in support of the nation's grand vision are worth of support, including large scale transformations which the EEC heralds.
- 3) The Smart Visa programme and the recent changes which you have described show how attuned BOI is to actual requirements.

We are delighted to have been able to be part of these positive developments. There are however to be sure many challenges ahead with reforms needed.

Secretary-General and esteemed representatives from government agencies, we thank you again for the opportunity to engage in these valuable consultative meetings.