

**JFCCT-BOI Consultative Meeting**  
**Thursday 17 February 2020, 1330 - 1600 hrs.**  
**Kamonthip 1 Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, The Sukosol Bangkok**

**JFCCT Chairman's Remarks**

Dr Kobask Pootrakool Deputy Sec-Gen to the PM for Political Affairs

Khun Duangjai Asawachintachit, BOI Secretary General

BOI senior colleagues

Representatives from government agencies

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

The theme which JFCCT developed for this year for policy is:

**The Challenge Ahead: Stability, Reform, Competitiveness**

The value of **stability** is recognized for investments, trade and doing business generally. We all recognize the need for **reform**, something which allows for change for ease of doing business, for greater productivity, for liberalization of investment and in support of quality economic growth. The **competitiveness** of the Thai economy is what makes for better quality of life, for attractiveness and economic well being.

It is a privilege (a long standing BOI privilege!) in being able to share concerns and information in this annual event. It is very much appreciated and I thank again the Secretary-General of the BOI , K Duangjai Asawachintachit, for arranging not only this event but many interactions.

About three years ago the government recognized the need for fast track reform, a 'Guillotine' approach. In the words of the late and much admired Dr Deunden Nikomborirak:

“Cutting red tape and cumbersome administrative procedures can be a much less costly and more effective means to attract foreign investment than the conventional tax incentives that cost the country dearly each year”.

To realise Thailand 4.0 in our lifetimes means a faster pace of reform. A fast track method is needed and the Guillotine approach offers that.

We now must pay due respects and admiration to Dr Kobsak Pootrakool who as minister in the Prime Minister's office and now as Deputy Secretary General to the Prime Minister for Political Affairs has championed these reforms.

There are success stories with Bank of Thailand, SEC and 'Doing Business' ranking improvements.

But in spite of these considerable efforts, there reforms have slowed down. It is a great opportunity today to reconfirm our support for these efforts and understand how we can play a greater role of engagement.

All would agree that discussing the same issues in the same way with little forward movement is unlikely to achieve the desired results. We have tracked the progress of topics from the February 2019 session and at K Duangjai's invitation, the topics proposed by JFCCT are those which need attention, where we can all learn and benefit from progress made. Other topics have seen some progress.

The chart in the handout [shown on slide] is a summary from the February 2019 topics. We have tracked progress of each through to 15 January 2020.

Topic from 2019	Status – most still relevant, not necessarily all on BOI agenda	2020 Agenda
Smart visa	Revisions done; now Digital Freelancers under review;	
FBA – List 3 - services	Little movement, now 4 <sup>th</sup> change to List 3, additional change mooted	2020
Work Permit & Visa TM.30 etc Guillotine	List of WP&V issues TM.30/90 day reporting/TM.6 Guillotine mentioned, needs up-focus	2020 2020
Human Capital Dev – 39 professions	Include with FBA	
SME Support and Promo	SME taken up with OSMEP; held funding seminar	
Thailand in ASEAN	Clarified, general on-going point – context as TH as ASEAN chair	
Renewable energy	PDP released May 2019; translation being worked on ; met with MNRE; meeting with Energy planned	
Agriculture & Agritech	Little movement,	2020
IBC	95% resolved via TRD	
Digital Government	Meeting with DGA Jan 2020 -	
ADD FOR 2020	Competition policy	2020

The content today is also informed by two recent events – the agenda for the Investment Ecosystem Update at FCCT on 16 January and the World Bank’s Thailand Economic Monitor launch on 17 January where remedies such as higher productive and relaxations to support FDI are needed were shown as needed.

Again I would like to offer our sincere thanks to Dr Kobask Pootrakool and Khun Duangjai Asawachintachit for today’s event and for their outstanding commitments to the strengthening of the economy, its competitiveness and attractiveness and their engagement with the foreign business community.