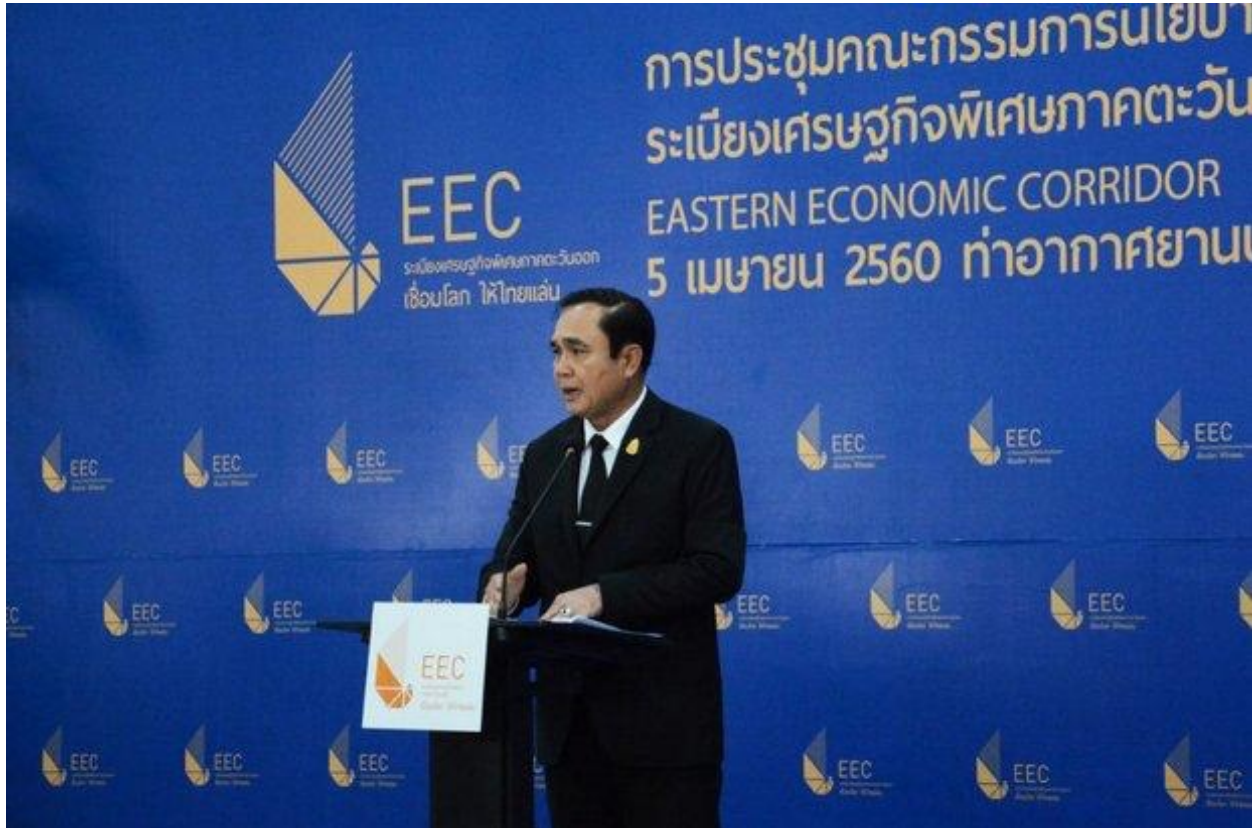


SUNPLAY NEWS - Thailand's EEC Act Now Official

Keeping you updated with key investment news from Thailand's dynamic new commercial hub and fast-expanding lifestyle & investment destination

EEC Act in force after long delay

by Lamonphet Apisitniran, Bangkok Post Business



*Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has made numerous speeches and appearances in an effort to boost the EEC.
(Photo by Ministry of Foreign Affairs)*

The much-awaited Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Act was finally published in the Royal Gazette Monday after a seven-month delay.

The act should build up investor confidence in Thailand, said Suphan Mongkolsuthee, chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI).

"Foreign and local investors were waiting for clarity on the new law. Now that the law has been published, investors can move forward with their investment and business plans," he said. Mr Suphan said.

Mr Suphan said the FTI expects to see growing investment in Thailand now that the EEC regulations are on stable ground.

"This year will be the year of real investment in the country," he said.

The 2018 EEC Act is effective today and consists of 73 sections defining policy in the corridor, with plans to utilise land plots for sustainable development and integrate related infrastructure and utilities to connect all areas, both inside and outside of the corridor.

The Act, passed by the National Legislative Assemble in February, covers city planning for the EEC and rules governing expats working there, while facilitating direct investment through a range of incentives.

EEC ACT

Details of the 2018 Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Act

SECTION 6

The EEC spans three provinces – Chachoengsao, Chon Buri and Rayong. Other surrounding provinces will be issued in a future royal decree.

SECTION 10

The EEC has to set up a committee, chaired by the prime minister, including the deputy prime minister and a vice-chairman. Moreover, the committee has to meet with ministries, Budget Bureau, NESDB, Bol and high-ranking specialists.

SECTION 11

The EEC committee has the responsibility to develop the EEC, approving layout for land plot utilisation, making investment conditions for the private sector and defining the EEC's special economic zones.

SECTION 39

The S-curve projects comprise 10 targeted industries: next-generation cars; smart electronics; affluent, medical and wellness tourism; agriculture and biotechnology; food; robotics for industry; logistics and aviation; biofuels and biochemicals; digital; and medical services.

SECTION 49

EEC investors that are juristic persons and foreigners have rights for land plots in special economic zones without any approvals following the Land Code of Conduct.

SECTION 52

Rental areas in EEC provinces are meant to develop and support the 10 targeted industries, allowing rental contracts of less than 50 years and renewals of up to 49 years.

Source: The Royal Gazette

BANGKOK POST GRAPHICS



The much-touted EEC scheme was approved by the cabinet in June 2016, and is aimed at reviving the success of the Eastern Seaboard Development Project, which began in the early 1980s.

The EEC scheme spans 110,168 rai, covering 30 existing and new industrial zones, while the government expects investment value of 1.7 trillion baht in three eastern provinces -- Chachoengsao, Chon Buri and Rayong.

The corridor's 10 targeted industries include next-generation cars; smart electronics; affluent, medical and wellness tourism; agriculture and biotechnology; food.

New S-Curve industries planned for the corridor include robotics for industry; logistics and aviation; biofuels and biochemicals, digital; and medical services.

According to the EEC Office, the corridor last year accounted for 46% of all investment applications, valued at 296 billion baht, submitted to the Board of Investment.

After the EEC act has been implemented, the government will push five infrastructure projects, including a high speed railway to connect three airports - Don Mueang, Suvarnabhumi and U-tapao - valued at 200 billion baht.

The third phase of the deep sea port at Map Ta Phut is valued at 11 billion baht, while phase three of Leam Chabang port is valued at 150 billion. The government expects to create an aviation maintenance, repair and operations hub with a value of 200 billion baht.

The EEC scheme is forecast to boost the country's GDP growth to 5% a year, creating more than 100,000 jobs and generating income exceeding 450 billion baht annually.

The long-term goal of the project is to help Thailand escape the middle-income trap.



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