



For Immediate Release

Celebrating 25 Years of ASEAN-India Relations “ASEAN-India Expo and Forum” Unveils the New Epicenter of Opportunities

The Royal Thai Government has entrusted the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) to collaborate with related ministries and agencies as well as the member countries of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Republic of India, to organise the grand celebration of the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations. The upcoming **ASEAN-India Expo and Forum**, scheduled from August 2-5, 2017, at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, serves to connect, stimulate, and expand the opportunities in trade, investment and tourism between the participating nations while promoting mutual prosperity in terms of economy, politics, society, and culture.

Mrs Apiradi Tantraporn, Minister of Commerce, chaired the press conference on **“ASEAN-India Expo and Forum: Strategic Economic Partnership & Connectivity”**, taking place today (July 21, 2017) at Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel Bangkok. Also featured was a “Mini-Talk” jointly participated by Mrs Vannaporn Ketudat, Deputy Director General of MOC’s Department of International Trade Promotion, and Mr Sanan Angubolkul, Chairman of Thailand-India Business Council and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trade of Thailand representing the private sector. Mr Sanan, who is chairman of Srithai Superware Public Company Ltd., will also be one of the honourable speakers at the upcoming forum.

Reflecting on the background of the event, the Commerce Minister revealed that ASEAN and India commenced their official trade relations as Dialogue Partners in 1992. Twenty years later in 2012, the two Asian partners upgraded their relations onto the platform of Strategic Partnership. Today, ASEAN and India together have jointly created a complete and highly-potential Regional Value Chain that has a lot of rooms to grow, thanks to their abundant natural resources, sources of raw materials, and the enormous collective population of more than 2 billion.

“In line with Thailand’s 4.0 policy in moving the country towards sustainable prosperity, ASEAN-India Expo and Forum is set to underline Thailand’s prominent role as the hub of the region and hence increase opportunities in business, trade, investment and tourism between Thailand and ASEAN as well as Thailand and India. At the same time, it is expected to help strengthen strategic

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Ministry of Commerce
Royal Thai Government

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partnerships between India and the ten ASEAN nations as the four-day forum and exposition will provide a perfect platform for reputed entrepreneurs and new players from ASEAN and India to polish their business potential and connect with regional partners. Most importantly, it will also offer the golden opportunity to attract business and investment even from outside the region,” Minister Apiradi said adding: “On this occasion, Thailand’s Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha and India’s Minister of Commerce and Industry Mrs Nirmala Sitharaman, are scheduled to preside over the opening ceremony and give keynote speeches.”

ASEAN-India Expo and Forum will be organised under the concept of “Strategic Economic Partnership & Connectivity”. The event comprises two main activities – the Forum and the Expo. The Forum, running from August 3-4, will feature a series of roundtable and panel discussions on economy, trade, investment, and tourism, by key players from throughout ASEAN, India, and beyond.

On August 3, distinguished speakers include such authorities like Mrs Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Thailand’s Minister of Tourism and Sports; Mr Ramon M. Lopez, the Philippines’ Secretary of Trade and Industry; Mr Pan Sorasak, Cambodia’s Minister of Commerce; Mr Rolf-Dieter Daniel, president of European Association for Business and Commerce in Thailand; and Mr Mukund Cairae, CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (Middle East and Asia-Pacific). On August 4, there are wellknown names like Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP; Shri Nongthambam Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur, India; Dato Ramesh Kodammal, Co-Chairman of ASEAN-India Business Council; Mr Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Thai Ambassador to India; and Mr Prinn Panitchpakdi, Managing Director of CLSA Securities (Thailand). The discussions will welcome more than 500 participants in the audience from ASEAN and Indian government and private sectors.

The Expo, running from August 2-5, 2017, 10.00 to 20.00 hrs., comes under the concept of **“Creative and Digital”**, showcasing the high potential of ten ASEAN nations and India in three zones: Country Pavilions, Corporate Brands, and more than 250 booths offering exciting products and services. The display area will cover the entire surface of Queen Sirikit National Convention Center’s Plenary Hall, the 2nd Floor of Hall C, and the Atrium where cultural performances are to be presented. Admission is free and more than 12,000 visitors are expected.

At Thai Pavilion in the expo zone, Thailand will be showing off its high potential products and services that are renowned in the world market, e.g. “Seven Thai” or Thai Animation Characters, Fashion & Home Decor, Agricultural Products and Foodstuff, including Health & Wellness products.

Apart from the Expo and the Forum, the ASEAN-India commemorative event will also include One-on-One meeting and Business Matching sessions for business executives from participating countries, and a special Young Entrepreneurs Networking activity exclusively for emerging entrepreneurs from ASEAN and India to meet up, exchange information, inspiration, and knowledge, between themselves.

ASEAN-India Expo and Forum is organised by the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand in collaboration with Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Board of Investment of Thailand, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau, the SUPPORT Arts and Crafts International Centre of Thailand (Public Organization), the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade of Thailand, and the Federation of Thai Industries.

ASEAN-India Expo and Forum is scheduled to be held on August 2-5, 2017, at Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok. For more information, please visit www.ASEAN-INDIAexpo.com

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