

Press Release

TAI collaborates with Reed Tradex to organize a notable seminar of the year
Automotive Summit 2017 “Driving toward Automotive Industry 4.0”
Drive EEC; the new industry zone, to investor

Succeeding the policy to move forward future automotive industry 4.0, Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) and investment measure

June 5th, 2017 – Bangkok – Dr. Nattapol Rangsitpol, Member of the Board of Directors, Acting President of Thailand Automotive Institute (TAI), refers the major automotive industry policy of the government which conforms to TAI’s mission of supporting government’s project. Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) is the project that currently needs every sector to support and reify, rapidly, because it is drawing foreign investors. EEC is a strategy under the Thailand 4.0 policy with the objective to enhance the Eastern economic zone, “World-Class Economic Zone” which serves the investment of super cluster and targeted industries. These will drive economy in the next 20 years and replace the existing Eastern Seaboard. It is forecasted that the investment in EEC will be able to boost economic expansion for 5% per year on average with over 1.5 trillion baht during the first 5-initial year. In this regard, there will be investments in those 10 targeted industries for 0.1 trillion baht. This project will attract tourists for over 10 million persons, yearly, and generate at least 0.45 trillion baht per year for national income. According to the data of the Board of Investment of Thailand (BOI), it reveals that there are more investors who are interested in EEC due to its readiness. During 2015-2016, there are investors who applied for investment promotion through many projects in 3 provinces: Chachoengsao, Chonburi and Rayong with total value at 0.287 trillion baht. In Q1 2017, the total application of targeted industries has value at 0.016 trillion baht. After the completion of infrastructure development and legislation of EEC ACT, a number of investor will increase. It is expected that a total value of application for targeted industries in EEC area will be 0.15 trillion baht.

Dr. Nattapol adds that “the first initial 5-year (2017-2020) is the investment of infrastructure and supports 10 targeted industries in order to conform Thailand 4.0 policy which includes future automotive industry in the existing industry group or the First S-Curve, Smart Electronic Industry and Aviation & Logistics industry in the group of New S-Curve. This will enhance quality of transportation by connecting domestic and regional areas. As a result, this will be the center of transportation and logistics of ASEAN in the future. At present, foreign investors are interested for investment. The government expects that this attracts investment greater than 1.9 trillion baht from private sector. Many leading automotive manufacturers such as Toyota, Nissan and BMW are all interested in this project.

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TAI's view point for automotive industry 4.0 and adjustment of auto parts manufacturer for the future

Dr. Nattapol gives viewpoint of automotive industry 4.0 and suggests auto parts manufacturer to adjust and move forward to electric vehicle (EV), “We are going to 4.0 which is an era of integration of production by connecting in form of the Internet of Things (IoT)”. Thus, auto parts manufacturer has to be ready and accepts new technology; initially, as well as knows his own expertise that is able to produce EV parts, mainly. For example, Thai operator is expert in metal forming which can further from metal casting and molding to motor or other parts framing by using the existing machine. If operator has to produce complicated parts, he needs to buy new machine and technology as well as automatic system. Nowadays, BOI issues investment promotion measure for facilities, tax except measure for machine of auto parts production, R&D for EV parts promotion and other financial supports, etc.

“Ministry of Industry and other related organizations are working on the EV production supporting policy and determine to finish this as soon as possible. From the cabinet’s resolution on March, it agrees in Ministry of Finance’s measure for special rate of excise tax for Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV). This excise tax rate is decreased 50% from the normal rate while Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) will be charged for this tax rate only 2% from 10%”.

The progress of National Automobile and Tyre Test Center – the supporting EEC

Dr. Nattapol reveals that the National Automobile and Tyre Test Center is in the Phase I, proving ground of tire testing R117, which will be completed at the end of this year in order to prepare for installing equipment and ready to open for operation at the beginning of 2018. For other 7 proving grounds, they will be opened for full operation in 2019. This center is located at Chachoengsao and it is one of 3 pioneering projects of EEC. It delivers convenience of automotive standard testing and relevant automotive product as well as advice of product innovation development and related technology as One Stop Service.

TAI collaborates with Reed Tradex to organize Automotive Summit 2017

This year is the 5th collaboration between TAI and Reed Tradex Co., Ltd. to organize Automotive Summit. From last year, it focused on the preparation of Thailand for being the world and environmentally-friendly automotive production center. It received a good response and had many interesting topics along with experts who shared knowledge and viewpoint. According to the post report, it indicated that there were participants from auto parts manufacturer and car maker for 43%. There were 70% of participants who were from R&D unit, academic institute, government agency, local REM manufacturer and public. The other 30% were from Europe and ASEAN. The event had promoted and generated knowledge, made understanding human resource in all automotive industry sector and

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furthered mission of TAI. This year, Automotive Summit 2017, has organized by the concept of “Driving toward Automotive Industry 4.0” under the event of Manufacturing Expo 2017. It is one of significant events of automotive industry in ASEAN that delivers knowledge of future automobile, innovation and designing of future automobile, technology and automotive standard testing as well as adjustment of operator in order to overtake production 4.0; according to the government’s future automotive development policy. This supports operator for competitiveness in ASEAN region, as well. The event is held during June 21st – 22nd, 2017 at Bitec.

The first day highlight, Dr. Uttama Savanayana, Minister of Industry presides over the opening ceremony and delivers keynote in the topic of “Eastern Economic Corridor, Working Together for the Future of Thai Automotive Industry”. Special guest speaker from Applus IDIADA Group, specialist in the proving ground designing, addresses keynote in the topic of “Proving Ground – More than Testing”. This is an important factor for Thai automotive industry development into sustainability and increases competitiveness. It is not only automotive testing but also generating knowledge, skill development and furthering to future automotive development. There are other distinguished speakers, for example, Managing Director & CEO from BMW Manufacturing (Thailand) Co., Ltd. presents the topic of “Technology & Innovation for the Future Mobility”, Regional President – ASEAN from Robert Bosch Automotive Technologies (Thailand) Co., Ltd. presents “Innovation in Powertrain”

Dr. Nattapol adds that standard testing is important; especially, environmentally-friendly. This leads to the 2nd day highlight. There are world-class speakers from many organizations; for instance, the speaker from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH presents “Future of Vehicle Efficiency in Thailand”, Global Head of E-Mobility from TÜV SÜD (Thailand) Limited presents the topic of “Battery Testing and EV Homologation Go Global Markets”, Director, Sales & Marketing, Business Development from Delta Electronics (Thailand) PCL. presents “Smart and Green Manufacturing for Automotive Industry” and President & CEO of AAPICO Hitech PCL. presents “Application of Technology in Automotive Automation”.

These are partial highlights. There are over 10 world-class speakers who are ready to share knowledge of automotive industry and move Thai operators towards automotive industry 4.0 in the future. There are booth displays of sponsors which are opportunities for attendees to see and close up automotive testing tools. This event would not be made possible without support from major sponsors such as Ford Sales & Service (Thailand) Co., Ltd., Continental Automotive (Thailand) Co., Ltd., Robert Bosch Automotive Technologies (Thailand) Co., Ltd. and ADT Systems (Asia Pacific) Co., Ltd. along with many parties.

For more information

Please, contact Thailand Automotive Institute (Marketing, Public Relations and Foreign Affairs)

Tel. 02-712-2414 ext. 6301, 6302 E-mail: marketing@thaiauto.or.th