

"Thailand" ^{No.} 10
What you need to know -

Transport
Infrastructure

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The European ASEAN Business Centre (EABC) is a European Trade Organisation contributing to improve the trade and investment environment for European companies in Thailand with an aim to see a larger number of European companies (especially SMEs) being established in Thailand and increased export and investment by European companies into Thailand.

The EABC supports trade advocacy by playing an important role as the independent voice of European business vis-à-vis Thai authorities. It also acts as a focal point for market information for European companies in Thailand, facilitating their market access.

Membership Benefits

- Be part of our substantial network in Thailand
- Increase your company exposure for a larger audience
- Dynamic networking opportunities
- Be part of European Working Groups to influence key policy development
- Benefit from high level contacts with Thai authorities and EU Member States
- Stay informed on current developments through our newsletter and News Alerts
- Participate in trade shows and fairs

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EABC
European Union's
window to
Thailand



The European ASEAN Business Centre in Thailand

Transport Infrastructure

Overview

Thailand, one of the founding members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), enjoys a strategic location as a gateway to Southeast Asia and the Greater Mekong sub-region. It is a privileged platform from which to trade with China, India and the countries of the ASEAN, which have a cumulative population of more than 500 million, GDP in excess of US\$700 billion and intra-ASEAN trade of more than US\$1 trillion per year.

With a tourism industry that generated more than 22 million visitors in 2012 and with increasing desire by major import and export industries to leverage its geographic uniqueness, Thailand has already moved quickly to develop its logistics and transportation systems and is expected to increase even more its efforts to improve them.

Transport and Logistics

According to the WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2012-13, Thailand ranks 49th overall in terms of infrastructure quality, with its logistics costs representing 15-18 per cent of GDP.

This leaflet is part of the EABC publication series on "Thailand" What you need to know. The information in this leaflet is provided for informational purposes only, and should not be construed as business or legal advice on any specific facts or circumstances.

Road System

Thailand's inland transportation infrastructure is road based, with a network of more than 250,000 km, of which 51,466 km are national highways. Four major national highways connect Bangkok to the rest of the country. With heavy use of the road network to transport goods and passengers among and within provinces, 86 per cent of Thailand's freight is transported by road. The quality of roads in Thailand ranks no. 39 out of 144 countries*.

Railroad Systems

Rail transportation is managed by the State Railway of Thailand (STR), a government agency responsible for rail infrastructure investment, freight and passenger services. It operates 4,119 km of railway with around 50 million passengers per year, representing 2 per cent of Thailand's total freight.

Direct railways connect Bangkok to destinations north, south, east, and west. Currently, international trains only run to Malaysia and Singapore, but railways will absorb the lion's share of the government's strong investment plan projected – over the next seven years – to improve Thailand's infrastructure and logistics systems. SRT plans to link by high-speed rail the north-eastern part of Thailand through Bangkok and on to southern Thailand within four years, and the north-eastern-Bangkok route will link up with a 480 kilometer high-speed railway in Laos, running north into southern China. Bangkok-southern line will be extended so that it can connect with Malaysia and Singapore.

Quality of railroad infrastructure ranks 65th out of 144 countries*.

Ports

With its geographical advantage, Thailand enjoys benefits from easy accessibility to all major ports in Asia's growing economies including China, India, and Japan. Domestically, water transportation represents 12 per cent of total internal freight, with waterways measuring 5,000 km.

Thailand has eight international deep-sea ports in operation, with four private ports permitted to handle container cargo. The country's main commercial ports are Bangkok Port, Laem Chabang Port and Sriracha Harbor Deep Seaport.

Quality of port infrastructure ranks 56 out of 144 countries*.

Airports Systems

Thailand's air transportation system includes 33 civilian airports, representing 1 per cent of Thailand's total domestic freight.

The Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok and the Phuket International Airport are the main airports hubs, but all other regions have their own airport with smaller sizes and capacities.

The Suvarnabhumi international airport is located 25 kms from central Bangkok with direct connections for passengers travelling to and from Bangkok. It was built to accommodate 45 million passengers and three million tons of cargo per year and to be used as an ASEAN regional aviation hub.

The Phuket International Airport is 32 kms from downtown Phuket and is the main airport hub for tourists visiting Thailand.

Chiang Mai International Airport is the gateway to Northern Thailand.

Commercial air services are provided largely by Thai Airways International and by six smaller low cost airlines focused on domestic routes.

Quality of air transport infrastructure ranks 33 out of 144 countries*.

*WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013.

For more information please visit
www.eabc-thailand.eu