



กระทรวงการอุดมศึกษา วิทยาศาสตร์ วิจัยและนวัตกรรม  
Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation

Virtual Informal Dialogue  
with **Assoc. Prof. Dr Soranit Siltharm, Permanent Secretary,**  
**Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI)**  
29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 | 13.00PM – 14.00PM | Zoom Meeting Platform

rev 3



- I. Thanks to the MHESI and good wishes.
- II. Current priorities of MHESRI and activities by Dr. Soranit Siltharm
- III. Introduction about EABC
- IV. Proposed topics – from EABC:
  - A. Higher Education objective
  - B. Foreign Universities: Their roles and status as part of a Thailand
  - C. R&D: Means to stimulate R&D and R&D activity targets
  - D. European business role
- V. Next Actions and on-going engagement
- VI. Appreciation to Dr. Soranit Siltharm

# Thanks to the MHESI and good wishes



**Mr. Jan Bertil Eriksson,**  
EABC President



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# INTRODUCTION ABOUT EABC



The European Association for Business and Commerce in Thailand, is the unified voice of the European business community in Thailand. Our main mission is to advocate member interests, to support European business in Thailand and to promote Thailand as an attractive partner for trade and investment. EABC has become an influential business community with a long-standing and strong relationship with the Royal Thai government and the European Delegation in Thailand.



EU-ASEAN Business Council Mission on 17<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020



## EABC12WORKING GROUPS

Automotive

Food&  
Beverage

Healthcare&  
Pharmaceuticals

Cross Sectoral  
Issues (CSI)

Digital  
Economy/ICT

Tourism

Insurance

Intellectual  
Property Rights

Transportation&  
Logistic

Energy Efficiency

Rail&Road  
Infrastructure

SMEs

*“EABC is an official voice of European business in Thailand”*





## EABC BUSINESS CONTINUES

INFORMATION ABOUT GOVERNMENT MEASURES  
IN SUPPORT OF ON-GOING BUSINESS  
AND THE THAI ECONOMY  
(UPDATED REGULARLY)

**CLICK HERE TO ENGAGE WITH US ON THESE VITAL ISSUES**

### BUSINESS CONTINUES DURING COVID 19

As a service to members, EABC provides information about government support, kept up-to-date as best we can in a fast changing policy environment. EABC will also provide members' recommendations on changes to these support and relief measures, in order that they may best meet objectives. Please do be in touch with us at [advocacy@eabc-thailand.org](mailto:advocacy@eabc-thailand.org) with any concerns about coverage or terms of these measures, or recommendations you may have.

Engage with us on these vital issues by clicking at "Business Continues" below.

For more information: <https://www.eabc-thailand.org/about/business-continues/>



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## A. HIGHER EDUCATION OBJECTIVE



EABC supports Skills development and capacity building; education refocuses on life skills such as developing enquiring minds critical thinking, collaboration.

By reputation, parts of Thailand's education system rely on rote learning; advances towards life skills, soft skills, critical thinking etc are of interest and should be supported. Understanding how in the higher education sector.

EABC is keen to engage and support.



Advisory Council Second Meeting  
22 November 2019

Education: a long-standing issue of interest to EABC.

2nd EABC Advisory Council at EU Delegation. EABC Advisory Council provides engagement with European Business Community and EU member state mission.

Education is one of the key topics of discussion among European Chamber Presidents, senior Embassy Commercial Representatives and EABC.



## B. FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES: Their roles and status as part of a Thailand

*(see background note)*

Restrictions on foreign universities

2017 policy – use of s. 44 – EEC location incentive

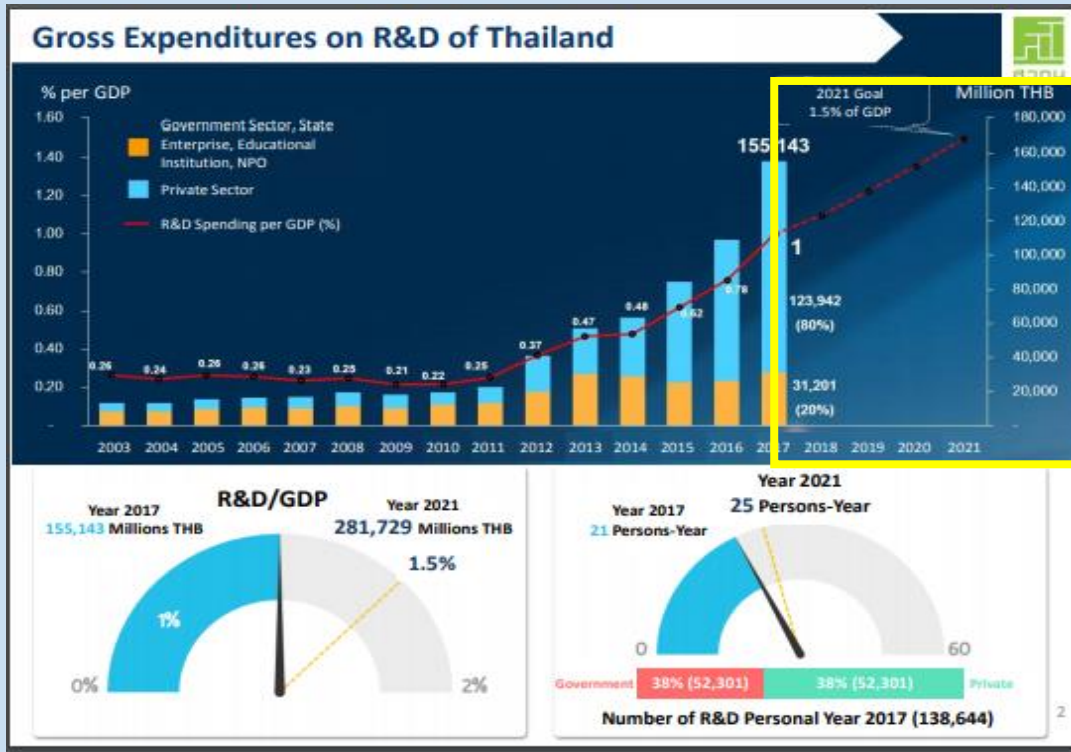
Carnegie – Mellon (CMU) / KMITL = CMKL. Seems two degrees – courses taught by CMU get CMU/CMKL Degree, those by KMITL get KMITL / CMKL degree.

Press August 2019 (Dr Somkid) – encouragement for foreign universities for EEC location

What is the policy? How can we engage?

**EABC would like to explore role and opportunity for establishment and collaboration for Foreign Universities in Thailand.**

## C. R&D: Means to stimulate R&D and R&D activity targets



Source: R&D Management  
in Thailand presentation by Dr. Narong Sirilertworakul,  
President of NSTDA presentation

- R&D spend in Thailand on R&D has been 0.7% - 1% of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in recent years. According to NSTDA, Thailand should have R&D spend at 1.5% by 2021.
- How the R&D spend is realized in industry is a model worth understanding more, for example how public sector PhDs are engaged.

**EABC would grateful to explore the current R&D activity and policy priorities to reach these targets as well as means to stimulate R&D & opportunity for European businesses in Thailand to engage.**

An Initiative Supported by the  
European Union



## D. EUROPEAN BUSINESS ROLE (a)

### General engagement

- The EU is Thailand's third largest trade partner (after China and Japan), accounting for 9.1% of the country's total trade; The EU is the second-largest investor in Thailand

### Many areas of collaboration- eg

- Automotive
- Foods
- Digital Governance/ Privacy - eg GDPR
- Innovation



**EABC would like to promote a closer collaboration with MHESI to boost technological innovation, education and skills in the economy across various sectors as well as to explore which means by which EU businesses can foster innovation and upskill human capital in Thailand.**

## D. EUROPEAN BUSINESS ROLE (b)



- Research and Innovation: Thai researchers are participating in close to 40 projects funded through Horizon 2020, the EU's largest research and innovation programme Thailand has established successful research and mobility programmes with Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Spain (Information Source: EU – Thailand Roundtable on Science, Technology and Innovation)
- In 2021, The EU a new framework program 'Horizon Europe' for Research and Innovation and that international cooperation will remain a cross-cutting priority for the EU research and innovation policy.
- The European Research Council (ERC) and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) will continue to offer funding opportunities for individual researchers who want to work in Europe.
- The new framework program will provide with new opportunities for cooperation between the EU and the main actors in Thailand in research and innovation, such as National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), the Thailand Science Park and the Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation.



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