

Remarks by
H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi,
Ambassador of Thailand to India
at the Mobile Association Summit 2018
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Mr. Bhupesh Raseen, Chairman of Mobile Advisory Committee

Mr. Bhawan Kumari, President of Mobile Advisory Committee

Ladies and gentlemen,

Greeting

- It is an honour to participate in “The Mobile Association Summit 2018” today. The theme of “Harmonizing Growth of Mobile Devices in India” has inspired me to think of the role of mobile phones which has been substantially developed from a device for making phone calls or taking selfies, to one that links us with the immense potential of digital technology and Big Data.

- **Digital technology and Big Data are new drivers for the Indian and global economies.** Many high-tech algorithms can link and translate information from all sectors into value-added and reliable resources of information. And through smart phones, we all can easily access this information through applications on a mobile’s screen.

- **The growth of the mobile devices business in India reflects the improvement of the quality of life of Indian people and vice versa.** It is a vicious circle. It is evident that the number of people who can access and utilize digital services to facilitate their daily activities is increasing. For example, JIVI Mobiles sells 4 Lakh units per month. So I strongly believe that people who work in the mobile phones sector are important enablers in shaping a better future for a New India.

Thailand 4.0 and Opportunity for Indian Mobile Devices Business

- As Ambassador of Thailand, I wish to inform you that digital technology and innovation are now also playing a very important role in Thailand. We are working to drive the country’s digital transformation and utilize innovation to free the country from the middle income trap to become a high income country. **Thailand’s digitization journey begins with “Thailand 4.0”, derived from Industry 4.0, a developmental model to transform our economy towards a value-based and innovation-driven economy.**

- Through “Thailand 4.0”, the Thai government aims to enhance the capacity of technology and innovation in the country by attracting foreign investment through development of the Eastern Economic Corridor or EEC, which is a newly-created special economic zone. The EEC has a combined area of more than 13,000 square kilometres, with the set goal to facilitate and attract investment in 10 innovative targeted industries, **including the sectors of intelligent electronics and digital.**

- While “Make in India” is at the heart of the transformation of the Indian economy, “Make in Thailand by India” for India, ASEAN and the world, may also be an option for Indian mobile devices business to achieve its next phase of growth. The EEC awaits you.

- I would like to elaborate on reasons for choosing Thailand as your investment destination. **First, ranked 26th in Ease of Doing Business, Thailand offers a friendly setting for foreign investors.** In terms of investment promotion for mobile devices business, we have a “Digital Park” which is a flagship project of the EEC that offers **maximum privileges for investment in digital clusters including computer hardware and smart devices.** Thailand also provide platforms for technology and knowledge transfer among Thai government agencies and foreign investors called the “Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation” or “EECi”. EECi will create an innovation environment that benefits all industries and communities in the area, by providing facilities such as laboratories and field laboratories, analysis centers, pilot plants and demonstration plants to those who participate in the programme. The technology and knowledge will be shared and transferred to the business and to local communities. The EECi awaits you.

- **Second, Thailand has a perfect location to be a strategic hub for foreign investors to export their products to the Indo-Pacific and the world.** We are a product of globalization. Furthermore, the achievements of the economic integration of our region, the ASEAN Community, has facilitated the movement of goods and service professionals among the 10 ASEAN Member States of 635+ million people. Moreover, ASEAN is currently promoting the Digital Economy, including e-commerce, digital integration, innovation, Smart Cities and facilitative trade architecture. This will spur the growth of digital services in the region and a huge demand for smartphones. By the way, Thailand is also the location of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Challenges and Future of Mobile Devices

- The growth of the Digital Economy, however, has brought many challenges for societies across the world. When substantial digital information has been seamlessly connected to all providers and users across borders, the issues of digital security and digital governance of the Digital Economy, domestically and internationally, are yet to be fully understood and clarified. I believe that the Mobile Association can be a strong player to help tackle these challenges to shape a better future of the Digital Economy.

Conclusion

- In conclusion, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Mobile Association for its success in organizing “the Mobile Association Summit” today. I would also like to thank Mr. Bhupesh Raseen, Vice President-Corporate Affairs of JIVI mobiles, who called on me to express interest to invest in Thailand.

- The Royal Thai Embassy in New Delhi always stands ready to welcome Indian investors, especially those who are in mobile devices sector, to explore the potentials of our country and our region, especially through the Eastern Economic Corridor or EEC. We are also committed to support Thai businesses in India towards their successful business ventures, and if any Indian businesses may want to find possible Thai partners, we may be able to help. Indeed, a prosperous and inclusive future is within the reach of all of us. So, stay connected and go digital.
