9 Things You Want to Know about Thai SMEs Internationally

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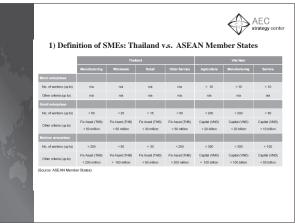
- 1. Thai definition of SMEs is different from 9 other members, we have only Size S and M while the rest classified them into Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises.
- 2. Thai SMEs hold great significance in Thai economy numbering 99.8% of total establishments (compared to other ASEAN members ranging from 88.8% to 99.9%) and providing 99.3% of total employment (compared to other members ranging from 51.7% to 97.2%)
- 3. International Trade Data of Thai SMEs (latest available for 2014; source: OSMEP)
 - 3.1 Export share of GDP of SMEs is 36.80 percent. The export share of SMEs to total export has declined over the last 5 years (2010-2014) accounting for 26.25 percent in 2014.
 - 3.2 In 2014 Total Thai exporting enterprises number 36,065 while 24,543 of these are SMEs. Total importing enterprises number 77,081 while 46,124 of these are SMEs.
 - 3.3 In 2014, the top 20 countries that Thai SMEs exported to account for 79.88 percent of their total exports with China, Japan and the U.S. as major markets accounting for 11.04, 9.56 and 10.51 percent; and positive growth rate of 10.78, 7.95 and 10.48 percent respectively. The top 20 countries that Thai SMEs imported from account for 88.72 percent of their total imports with China, Japan and the U.S. as major sources accounting for 27.90, 14.80 and 6.49 percent and growth rate of 10.14, -1.6, and -3.34 percent respectively.
 - 3.4 The top 3 export categories by value in 2014 are machinery; computer, electrical equipment and components; and vehicles and components. The top 3 export categories with the highest growth rate is jewelry; plastic and plastic products; and Machinery. The top 3 import categories by value are fuel, petroleum and petroleum products; electrical equipment and parts; and machinery. These categories of exports and imports are also major ones for their trade with ASEAN members.
 - 3.5 Trade of SMEs with ASEAN members in 2014
- 4. ASEAN: Strategic Goals, Desired Outcomes and Country Champion which Thailand will responsible for 2 categories: promote productivity (i) technology and innovation (ii) enhance market access and internationalization
- 5. The current SMEs promotion strategic plan of the Thai government is for 2012-2016 consisting of 4 strategies, 2 of which deal with international aspect. Strategy 2.3 emphasizes the cooperation at the special economic zone of border areas under the economic cooperation agreement with neighboring countries, while Strategy 3 sets out the formation of international cooperation network, and business alliances linking supply chains within the

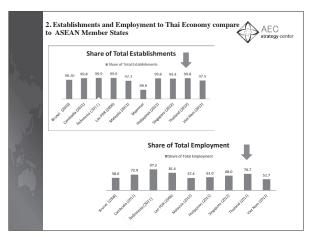
regional ASEAN level and at global level.

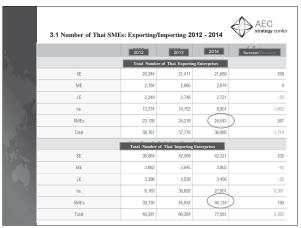
- 6. To undertake joint-venture with Thai SMEs, foreign investor should be well aware of the current BOI industrial promotion policy with following 6 main points:
 - 6.1 Promote investment that helps enhance national competitiveness by encouraging R&D, innovation, value creation in the agricultural, industrial and services sectors, SMEs, fair competition and inclusive growth.
 - 6.2 Promote activities that are environment-friendly, save energy or use alternative energy to drive balanced and sustainable growth 3. Promote clusters to create investment concentration in accordance with regional potential and strengthen value chains.
 - 6.3 Promote investment in border provinces in Southern Thailand to help develop the local economy, which will support efforts to enhance security in the area.
 - 6.4 Promote special economic zones, especially in border areas, both inside and outside industrial estates, to create economic connectivity with neighboring countries and to prepare for entry into the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).
 - 6.5 Promote Thai overseas investment to enhance the competitiveness of Thai businesses and Thailand's role in the global economy.
- 7. The industrial development vision of Thailand as laid down by the Ministry of Industry points to a major shift form the Age 3.0 of heavy industry driven by efficiency to the Age 4.0 of industry based on innovation from upstream to downstream toward sustainability in 3 dimensions of 1) economic--income, 2) social--wealth distribution and community well-being, and 3) environmental—environmental-friendly. The derived policy aims to strengthen SMEs and OTOP enterprises in 4 aspects: namely Digital Marketing/Technology, product/ production standard upgrading, promotion of new start-ups in regional areas with the establishment of SMEs/ OTOP incubation center, and provision of Fund/Venture Capital.
- 8. The target product group to be promoted for Thai SMEs to expand their market into ASEAN members are For Thai SMEs in ASEAN automotive, agriculture and energy, entertainment, tourism, wellness, telecommunication, lifestyle (product/service) and construction.
- 9. The government has set up service centers for the promotion of SMEs to facilitate exports, investment overseas and linking them along supply chain with large international companies. These include:

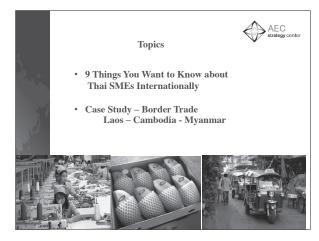
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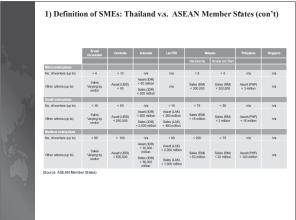


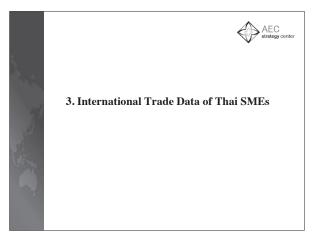


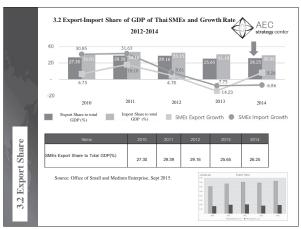


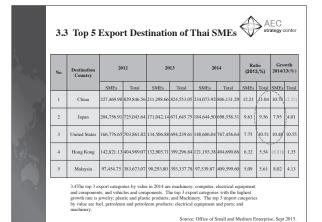


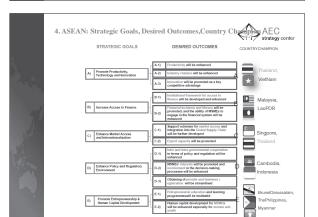


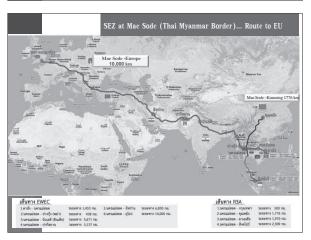


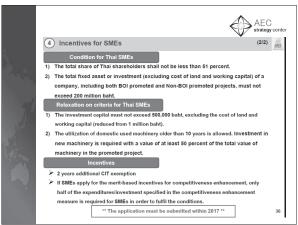


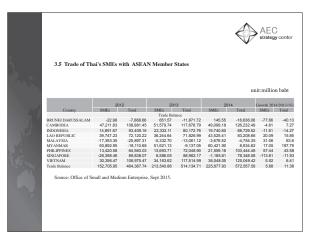


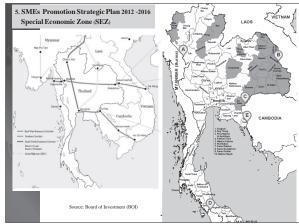


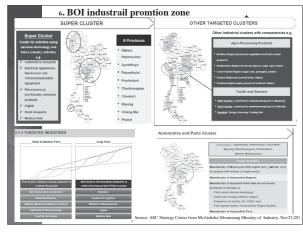


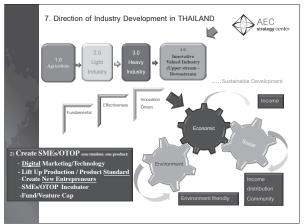


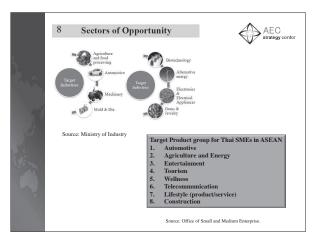


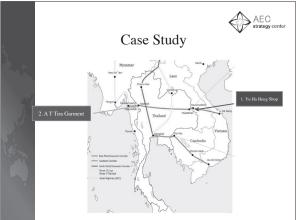


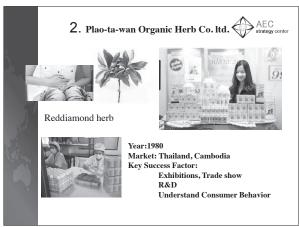
















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Department of Trade Negotiation: www.dtn.go.th One Stop Center Tel. 0-25120123

Board of Investment (BOI): www.boi.go.th Tel. 0-25338111.

