

18 November 2022

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Sub: 13<sup>th</sup> Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting with Thailand –  
inputs for the preparation of the draft Agenda – reg**

This is to inform you that the 13<sup>th</sup> Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting with Thailand is scheduled to be held on January 2023.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Joint Trade Committee meeting was held on virtual platform on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The actionable points and the agreed minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> JTC meeting are enclosed for your reference.

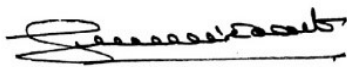
Department of Commerce seeks views / concerns / issues on the following points pertaining to services.

- International Competitive Bidding: India mentioned the non-tariff barriers being faced in some ASEAN countries including Thailand which put a condition in their International Competitive Building (ICB) tenders that the supplier company should be from OECD countries only. Thailand informed that it does not have any such system of preferences but there may be cases where some countries / entities are funding projects and the funding agencies have the ability to identify Terms of Preference and qualification of tenders of those specific projects. Thailand assured India to resolve the specific concern of India in any particular project where India wishes to participate.
- India underscored the potential in collaboration between India and Thailand in Services Sector and suggested establishing Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for cooperation in professional services such as nursing or accountancy. Thailand requested India to share the details on the possible service sector collaborations so that meetings can be arranged with agencies concerned.

In this regard, you are requested to kindly provide issues / suggestions / strategies on the above points related to Thailand.

Please share your valuable inputs and suggestions urgently by 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to [swaraj.singh@servicesepc.org](mailto:swaraj.singh@servicesepc.org); [dgdesk@servicesepc.org](mailto:dgdesk@servicesepc.org)

With best regards,



CA Sunil H Talati  
Chairman

**AGREED MINUTES OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE JOINT TRADE COMMITTEE  
BETWEEN INDIA AND THAILAND  
HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2020**

1. The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Joint Trade Committee (JTC) between India and Thailand was held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 through video conference. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Anant Swarup, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Head of Indian delegation and Mrs. Auramon Supthaweethum, Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Head of Thailand delegation. The list of official delegation of both sides is at Annex 1.
2. In their opening remarks, both the co-chairs acknowledged the importance of India-Thailand JTC for facilitating bilateral trade and investment between the two countries and conveyed their appreciation over its revival and the timely holding of the first meeting despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Both chairs expressed satisfaction over the trusted partnership between India and Thailand and the strong bilateral engagement under India's "Act East Policy" and Thailand's "Look West Policy". Both sides appreciated the expansion of bilateral trade in the recent years. India highlighted that in spite of both countries possessing strong manufacturing capabilities and complementarities in many potential sectors, at present their share in each other's trade is modest. Both sides agreed that being signatories to India - Thailand Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) and the ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), there is immense potential in enhancing the bilateral trade. Thailand briefed the meeting about their trade Centres located in major cities in India and the recent high-level delegation visits to India to encourage trade and business engagement. Both sides reiterated their commitment to promote and strengthen their economic partnership.
3. The Agenda adopted by the Joint Trade Committee is placed at Annex 2.

**Discussion on Trade and Economic Relations**

**Current Economic and Trade Situation of Thailand and India**

4. India stated that the bilateral trade between India and Thailand in the current Financial Year has registered substantial contraction due to the pandemic. India observed that while resilience of supply chains and revival of economy should remain a key priority, both sides must also focus on expanding the trade partnership to overcome the trade disruptions. India briefed the meeting on the reforms being undertaken under its Atmanirbhar Initiative (Self-Reliant India) in sectors such as agriculture, banking, insurance, logistics, energy, infrastructure, digital technology and healthcare to meet the challenges of the pandemic and invited Thailand to invest in India.
5. Thailand informed that though their economy is estimated to shrink about 7.7% in the current year due to COVID-19 Pandemic, they are hopeful of expanding their economy by 4.5% next year. Thailand briefed about the various initiatives being implemented under Thailand 4.0 policy aimed at transforming the country successively from "commodity-based economy" to "innovation production" and from "manufacturing" to "services" economy. The focus areas include upgrading of five existing industries namely Next-Generation Automotive, Intelligent Electronics, Advance Agriculture and Biotechnology, Food processing and Tourism and also promote additional five new industries namely Digital, Robotics and Automation, Aviation and logistics, Bio Fuels and Biochemicals and Medical Hub. Thailand expressed its willingness to partner with India to counter the challenges of pandemic including in production and distribution of vaccines.

## **Ways and Means to Enhance Bilateral Trade and Investment**

6. Thailand informed that in 2019, bilateral trade valued 12,153 million US Dollars, slightly declined from the previous year by 2.52 percent. From January – October 2020, Thailand and India trade valued 7,871.53 million US Dollars. As for investment, in 2019 total investment value between Thailand and India was 884 million US Dollars comprising of FDI from Thailand to India of 635 million US Dollar and FDI from India to Thailand of around 249 million US dollars. While Thailand invested primarily in Agriculture & food processing, Auto and Machinery part, India's investments were in Chemical, Automotive and Trading sector. Thailand underscored that both sides should facilitate smooth flow of trade to enhance the partnership.
7. Thailand informed the meeting about the Trade fairs being organized by Ministry of Commerce, Thailand via online and offline mode in Indian cities of Pune, Surat, Indore, Hyderabad, Chennai and New Delhi during June-September 2021 in partnership with Indian companies. Thailand also invited India to participate in their major exhibitions and fairs such as Bangkok Gems and Jewellery fair, food fair in Asia (THAIFEX-Anuga Asia) etc. via online or hybrid mode depending on the COVID-19 situation. India assured its participation in the trade promotion events and requested Thailand's business community to join exhibitions and fairs that are being organized by India. Both sides agreed to share the details of the trade promotion activities through the Missions.
8. India expressed its willingness to collaborate with Thailand in the health sector, including pandemic mitigation efforts.

## **Trade Related Issues**

### **Import Related Measures on Tyres, Colour Televisions, Air Conditioners, Natural Rubber, Cut Flowers and Cosmetics**

9. Thailand expressed its concern on the recent amendments by India in its import policy of tyres, colour televisions and air conditioners and its impact on the Thai industry and their business plans. Thailand sought information from India on the administrative procedures in applying for import licences and time period involved in clearing the application under the amended rules of tyres and colour television while seeking clarification for clearer classification of HS code of air conditioners with refrigerants and specify types of refrigerants prohibited for imports for conveying clear guidelines to their private sectors. Thailand also highlighted delay in issuance of import licenses of tyres and colour Television as well as requesting India to provide 6-12 months transition period for the implementation of the prohibiting imports of air conditioners with refrigerants since India did not notify the import prohibition measure in advance. Thailand reiterated that in case of environmental concern on refrigerants they strictly comply with obligation under the Montreal Protocol in gradually reducing the use of R-22 refrigerants.
10. India clarified that the above products have been only put under restricted category due to environmental concerns, to streamline the imports and to restrict the entry of poor quality third country products. India informed that the details of the licence application process are available on the website of Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and that the implementation of the licensing procedures is transparent and predictable. India also assured that if Thai side has any specific concern on pendency of applications that can be brought to notice.

11. Thailand requested India to lower the tariff on Natural Rubber (NR) and to remove the current port restrictions to facilitate their exports to India. India informed that the port restrictions are primarily introduced to ensure quality and Chennai and Nhava Sheva ports have testing facilities to check the quality of imports.
12. Thailand stated that India allows imports of cut flowers only through Chennai airport which is increasing the logistics and transportation costs of exports. India explained that the point of entry of the cut flower has been restricted to prevent the entry of exotic pests and to protect the bio security of the country. India has noted Thailand's request to allow Mumbai, New Delhi and Kolkata airports, in addition to Chennai as entry points and agreed to examine the request. Thailand requested India to relax the current registration requirements for imports of cosmetics to India. They also highlighted concern on high application fee, the short validity period of CDSCO registration and lack of provisions for online registration. India informed that the registration of cosmetic products is required as per the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, and the Act is equally applicable on imported as well as domestic products. India also clarified that the validity of registration is for three years from the date of its issue. India assured to recheck with the concerned authority on the validity period and the feasibility of setting up the online portal for registration.
13. Thailand highlighted that tyres, colour televisions, air conditioners, natural rubbers, cut flowers and cosmetics are major commodities of export to India and sought India's cooperation in facilitating smooth exports. Regarding Thailand's concern on trade related issues, India requested Thailand to send details through diplomatic channel which India will convey to the related agencies for consideration.

#### **Import Related Measures on Black Tea, Salt and Shrimp**

14. India requested Thailand to remove the quota on black tea to facilitate India's exports. Thailand informed that the quota has not been fully exhausted in the last three years and suggested India to utilize the FTA forums for tariff reductions.
15. India requested Thailand to provide the status and scope of the law which is under consideration on the importation of sea salt. Thailand informed that the regulation is currently in the public hearing phase and under the new law the import of salt will require registration and reporting to Thailand's Department of Foreign Trade (DFT). India highlighted that salt is a major commodity of export to Thailand and sought Thailand's cooperation in facilitating smooth exports.
16. India requested Thailand to remove the ban imposed by Thailand on import of shrimp from India and requested Thailand to expedite the virtual inspection of its shrimp export facilities, national disease control and surveillance system, so that the ban can be lifted and exports can be resumed. India also highlighted that they are currently exporting Shrimp to many parts of the world. Thailand assured that India's request for expediting the inspection of shrimp farm will be taken up with their Department of Fisheries.

#### **Market Access for Agricultural and Livestock Products**

17. India raised the issue of high tariff on bovine meat and requested Thailand to consider reducing the MFN duties/duties under the AITIGA similar to another ASEAN country that has reduced the duties on sugar for India under AITIGA last year. India stated that facilitating India's bovine meat exports will offer Thailand good quality bovine meat at competitive price which will be beneficial to Thailand's consumers. India also requested for an update on the information submitted in questionnaire, as advised by Department of Livestock of Thailand,

for granting approval to Indian abattoirs/processing centres for export to Thailand more than a year ago.

18. India further raised the issue of ban imposed by Thailand on Indian poultry products due to avian flu (HPAI) on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 for a period of 90 days and extended again in August and October. India informed that being a responsible member of OIE, India is prompt in notifying its status on outbreak to OIE and the HPAI status was also reported to OIE timely. India has already notified 'country free' status from HPAI to OIE. India requested that if ban on imports can be imposed on the basis of the notification to OIE, the easing of the ban should also be done automatically on the subsequent notification of HPAI free status to the OIE. India underscored that it is a large country and the outbreak was only limited to a small area. Thailand informed the matter can be discussed with Thailand's Department of Livestock Development.
19. India requested Thailand for early granting of market access for India's Kiwi fruit, Persimmon and Cherry Tomato. Thailand noted India's request and informed that they have sent the official letter to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare of India to request additional information and prioritizing the fruits for market access. The Thai side has not received the additional information from India. The Indian side stated that they will send the copy of additional information requested by the Thai side through the embassy. The Thai side also stated that they are currently in the process of reviewing the import rules and regulations for agriculture products from India.
20. Thailand requested India to consider market access for young coconut and fresh mangoes from Thailand and sought further information on relevant import rules and regulations. India suggested Thailand to submit the technical information on the PRA to enable them to process the application. India also agreed to provide the import related information of these two products as requested by Thailand.
21. Both sides agreed to encourage relevant Departments to hold the first meeting of the Joint Working Group under the MOU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture Science, Technology, and Economy between Thailand and India to discuss the technical market access and related issues for agricultural products further in the that meeting.

#### **Amendment of the Customs Rules 2020**

22. Thailand discussed its concern on the recent amendment to the Indian Customs Rules, CAROTAR 2020 (Customs Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements Rules, 2020) which came into effect from 21 September 2020. They stated that CAROTAR 2020 creates unnecessary complexity and burden because most of requested information has to come from the exporting side which already appears on the AI Form. Therefore, Thailand requested India to consider reviewing the said Rules. Thailand reiterated that such practice should be limited to a small number and should be consistent with the provision on Verification under AIFTA. Therefore, the requested information should not go beyond the one required in the AI Form. For additional information which is not in the AI Form, India should request such information from the Issuing Authority of the Exporting country instead of the importer. Thailand also suggested India to establish determination guidelines for India's custom officials in granting preferential treatment to the importers in order to ensure uniformity and consistency in implementing the measures among Indian custom Ports. Thailand also requested India to arrange for a webinar with Thai stakeholders to explain the features of the new law and the legal requirements which could reassure the Thai business.

23. India informed that new rules notified by the Government of India have been issued to streamline the implementation process and in no way contradict or take away the preferential arrangement given in the Trade Agreements. Rule 8 of CAROTAR 2020 clearly states that in case of contradiction between the Rules and Trade Agreements, the Agreement shall prevail. CAROTAR 2020 also does not require an importer to seek cost details, which may be business confidential. India further informed that a detailed brochure on CAROTAR, 2020, along with some FAQs, has already been shared with Thailand. Indian Customs also agreed to arrange for an online seminar for Thai Stakeholders to explain the CAROTAR Rules 2020.

#### **Product Standard Related Issues**

24. Thailand expressed concern over the new quality control regulations of India, which mandate certification of the Bureau of Indian standards for import of 27 chemical and petrochemical products. Thailand highlighted the difficulties faced in arranging the inspections and certifications of the sample products within the stipulated period of 90 to 180 days especially during the pandemic time. They also pointed out the high cost and the complex process involved. Thailand suggested India to consider relaxing the procedures, expand the time period allowed to obtain the BIS certificate to one year or allow mutually accepted quality standards or inspection practices. India informed that these standards are put in place due to the hazardous nature of the chemicals and are applicable for both the importers as well as domestic manufacturers equally. India welcomed Thailand's suggestion to make the certification process more trade facilitative and requested to provide the same in writing for examination in consultation with the concerned Department.
25. India raised the market access barrier faced in auto industry due to the Thai authority's insistence on local test of vehicle parts in addition to the UNECE approval status of the product. India highlighted that both the countries are signatory to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 1958 Agreement and test results showing compliance with UNECE regulations should be sufficient for allowing market access. Thailand informed that it has two regulatory authorities for automotive products in Thailand namely Department of Land Transport and Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI). TISI has developed 89 standards on Automotive Products, consisting 19 compulsory and 70 voluntary standards referring to UN regulations keeping the infrastructure and environment concerns of Thailand. Thailand took note of India's concern and assured to take it up with the agency concerned.
26. India raised the issue of non-acceptance of test reports of Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) of India for electrical equipment in Thailand. The laboratories stipulated by Thailand are CESI, Italy, KEMA, Holland; Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA), Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) which is adding to the product cost. Thailand informed that the Conformity assessment procedure of the TISI is based on ISO/IEC 17067 Conformity Assessment-Fundamentals of Product Certification and Guidelines for product certification schemes which consist of testing and on-site audit of quality control system and is applicable on Thai and foreign manufacturers equally. It further explained that TISI accepts test reports from its designated laboratories and the criterion for designation has been prescribed publicly. Thailand further requested India to send an official request for registration of CPRI as an accepted laboratory in Thailand.

#### **Pharmaceutical Issue**

27. India requested Thailand to remove the mandatory requirement of local Bioequivalence (BE) study in Thailand and requested Thailand to accept BE results which have been accepted by other regulated markets. India submitted that local BE study is an expensive process and can cost USD 70000 to USD 120000/product depending on product specifications. Thailand

informed that the requirement of local BE is to ensure effectiveness and safety of drugs. In case of public health emergency, Thailand Food and Drug Administration (FDA) accepts the BE reports from foreign institutes and laboratories that meet the standard requirement as prescribed by Thailand FDA. Thailand further informed that ASEAN countries are looking for MRA on BE study report and that an ASEAN listed BE centre will be created by 2022. Thailand suggested India to use the ASEAN forum for further engagement and cooperation on this matter. India also expressed concern over the long time around 10-18 months taken by Thai FDA for issuing the license to allow export of medicines and requested to expedite the registration process.

### **International Competitive Bidding**

28. India mentioned the non-tariff barriers being faced in some ASEAN Countries including Thailand which put a condition in their International Competitive Bidding (ICB) tenders that the supplier company should be from OECD countries only. Thailand informed that it does not have any such system of preferences but there may be cases where some countries/entities are funding projects and the funding agencies have the ability to identify Terms of Preference and qualification of tenders of those specific projects. Thailand assured India to resolve the specific concern of India in any particular project where India wishes to participate.

### **Fishing Vessels Sailing Issue**

29. India requested Thailand to reduce the advance reporting time for fishing vessels sailing from Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands to Thailand from the present 72 hours to 24 hours and reduce the verification time of 24 hour to 3 hour, in view of geographical proximity of A&N Islands to Thailand and the potential for seafood product export from A&N Islands to Thailand. India further informed that in this regard, the Department of Fisheries, Thailand had raised a few queries on which the response has already been conveyed by the Indian side. Thailand informed that their Department of Fisheries is currently considering the request from India.

### **Free Trade Agreement Related Issues**

30. Thailand informed that the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA) contains Tariff Reduction Schedule (TRS) in HS 2007 while AIFTA Product Specific Rules (PSRs) are in HS 2002 except for textile products for which PSRs are in HS 2007. While India uses HS 2017, Thailand uses HS 2007 for TRS and HS 2002 for PSRs. As a result, some Thai exporters are not being able to utilize the privileges under the AIFTA in exporting their products to India. As an interim solution, Thailand requested India to accept CO Form AI indicated in both HS 2007 and HS 2017. Further, Thailand also requested to expedite the transposition of TRS and PSRs and the need to include the same in the AITIGA review agenda. India informed that HS 2002 is recognized for the purpose of rules of origin which are notified as per the Customs Act and the preferential treatment of the tariff line is determined by these customs notifications. For filing an electronic bill of Entry, latest HS 2017 is used. Further, India extended assurance for full support and cooperation if any Thai exporters are facing problem in this regard.
31. India sought Thailand's support for immediate commencement of review of ASEAN-Indian Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) to align the text with modern trade practices which would promote trade between India and ASEAN countries including Thailand. Thailand assured to support India for the AITIGA review with a view to further liberalizing and facilitating trade between ASEAN and India and added that AITIGA is having one of the lowest market access among the FTAs in ASEAN+1. Thailand also informed that currently ASEAN Secretariat has already drafted the scopes and objectives of AITIGA Review and circulated among ASEAN member states for consideration.

32. India suggested for creation of an institutional mechanism to exchange preferential trade data on regular basis by both sides for monitoring of effective utilization of the FTAs viz. AITIGA and India-Thailand EHS and agreed to send a written request. Thailand also requested India to push this matter under ASEAN – India Meeting.

#### **Economic Cooperation on Textiles and Services**

33. India highlighted the potential existing in mutual cooperation in the Textile sector especially in man-made fiber. India suggested both sides to organize a buyer seller meet for the interaction of the Industry to explore the opportunities in the sector.
34. India underscored the potential in collaboration between India and Thailand in Service sector and suggested establishing Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for cooperation in professional services such as nursing or accountancy. Thailand requested India to share the details on the possible service sector collaborations so that meetings can be arranged with agencies concerned.

#### **Other Matter**

35. Thailand stated issue of interpretation of Harmonized Code of Fret Gold Sheet 99.90% Pure Gold (with Frame) and artificial Flower Coated with 99.90% Pure Gold exported by Pranda Jewelry Company. They informed that previously the said products were imported to India under the HS Code 7114.19.40 and were able to enjoy duty free privilege under AIFTA. However, recently, Precious Cargo Customs Clearance Centre Mumbai identified certain products as HS Code 3926.40.39 which is subjected to 18 percent import duty as plastic products. Thailand sought clarification from India on this matter. India requested Thailand to provide details and further information in written through diplomatic channel.

#### **Date and Venue for Next meeting**

36. Both sides agreed to hold next meeting at mutually convenient time.



**12<sup>th</sup> meeting of India-Thailand Joint Trade Committee**  
**4<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 13.00 - 15.00 hrs (India Time) or 14.30 - 16.30 hrs (Bangkok Time)**

**List of Indian delegation**

S.No.	Name	Designation	Ministry/Department
<b>Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b>			
1	Mr. Anant Swarup	Joint Secretary & co-chair for JTC meeting	Department of Commerce, FT(ASEAN) Division
2	Ms. Indu C. Nair	Director	Department of Commerce, FT(ASEAN) Division
3	Ms. Sangeeta Saxena	Director	Department of Commerce, Trade Policy Division (Services)
4	Mr. Anurag Goel	Under Secretary	Department of Commerce, FT(ASEAN) Division
5	Mr. Rohitashv Kumar Bansal	Assistant Director	Department of Commerce, FT(ASEAN) Division
6	Mr. Krishnender	Assistant Section Officer	Department of Commerce, FT(ASEAN) Division
<b>Other Ministries/Departments/Organisations</b>			
7	Mr. S. Inbasekar	Director	Ministry of External Affairs
8	Mr. Sushil Satpute	Director	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
9	Mr. D.K. Madan	Director	Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals
10	Dr. J. Micheal Raja	Assistant Director (E)	Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Plant Protection Division
11	Mr. Anirudh Udaykar	Livestock Officer	Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying
12	Dr. Tarun Kumar Singh	Fisheries Research & Investigation Officer	Department of Fisheries
13	Dr. Sumit Garg	Deputy Secretary	Department of Pharmaceuticals
14	Ms. Mandeep Sangha	Joint Commissioner	Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (International Customs Division)
15	Mr. Gaurav Singh	Deputy Secretary (TRU-I)	Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (Tax Research Unit)
16	Mr. Ananth	Deputy Secretary	Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs
17	Mr. Dibyalok	OSD (TRU-I)	Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (Tax Research Unit)

18	Mr. N. Varun Koundinya	Senior Technical Officer	Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (Tariff Unit)
19	Mr. Pankaj Kumar Singh	Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Textiles
20	Mr. Ranjit Kumar	Scientist-C, CMD-I	Bureau of Indian Standards
21	Dr. Shine Kumar C.S.	Deputy Director	MPEDA
22	Mr. Tarun Bajaj	Director	APEDA
23	Mr. Murali Krishna	Director (FAC)	Pharmexcil
<b>Embassy of India in Thailand</b>			
24	Mrs. Alpana Dubey	Deputy Chief of Mission	
25	Mr. Manoranjan Sahu	Attache (Eco. & Com)	
26	Mr. Anil Singh	Attache (ESCAP/Com)	

## **List of Thai Delegation**

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### **Ministry of Commerce**

#### **Department of Trade Negotiations**

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mrs. Auramon Supthaweetham   | Director-General (Head of Delegation)  |
| 2. Mrs. Aumaporn Futrakul       | Executive Director of Asia, Africa and Middle East Bureau                    |
| 3. Mr. Surinthorn Sunthornsanan | Director of RoOs Division and<br>Acting Trade Officer Expert Level           |
| 4. Mrs. ApachneeRukskul         | Director of South Asia Division,<br>Bureau of Asia, Africa and Middle East   |
| 5. Mr. Jakthorn Veerapan        | Trade Officer, professional Level,<br>Bureau of Trade in Goods               |
| 6. Mr. Tasorn Piyakesin         | Trade Officer, Practitioner Level,<br>Bureau of Asia, Africa and Middle East |
| 7. Ms. Dujpetch Phutthabucha    | Trade Officer, Practitioner Level,<br>Bureau of Asia, Africa and Middle East |
| 8. Ms. Napasakorn Suwanraksa    | Trade Officer, Practitioner Level<br>Bureau of Asia, Africa and Middle East  |

#### **Department of International Trade Promotions**

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 9. Mr. Chairat Liengkajornkiet | Trade Officer, Senior Professional Level                                      |
| 10. Ms. Satsaphat Chuenreudee  | Trade Officer, Professional Level,<br>Office of Overseas Market Development 1 |

#### **Department of Foreign Trade**

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| 11. Ms. Jintana Jiamsubutr | Trade Officer, Professional Level |
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### **Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy in New Delhi**

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 12. Miss Saithong Soiphet | Minister Counsellor (Commercial) |
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### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

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|------------------------------|--|
| 13. Mr. Cheevindh Nathalang  | Director of South Asia and Central Asia Division |
| 14. Mr. Tanpong Wongboongird | Attache, South Asia and Central Asia Division    |

### **Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives**

#### **Department of Fisheries**

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 15. Mr. Kriengkrai Jirapitigul | Fisheries Biologist, Senior Professional Level |
| 16. Ms. Nalinee Uysuan         | Fisheries Biologist, Practitioner Level        |
| 17. Ms. Jitpisut Sanboonpeng   | Fisheries Biologist, Practitioner Level        |
| 18. Mr. Ungoon Sriwattanakul   | Fisheries Biologist                            |

#### **Department of Agriculture**

19. Mrs. Waranya Malee                      Agricultural Research Officer, Senior Professional Level  
20. Mrs. Jiraporn Suntonvipat                      Agriculture Research Officer

**Department of Livestock Development**

21. Ms. Photchana Sakrasaer                      Veterinary Officer, Professional Level  
22. Ms. Rawinnipa Phiphatpanukoon                      Veterinary Officer, Professional Level

**National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards**

23. Ms. Rujira Janaram                      Plan and Policy Analyst, Senior Professional Level  
24. Ms. Surisa Noiin                      Plan and Policy Analyst, Professional Level

**Ministry of Industry**

**Office of Industrial Economics**

25. Mr. Chalee Khansiri                      Senior Plan and Policy Analyst  
26. Ms. Sujirapha Harnsawas                      Senior Plan and Policy Analyst

**Thai Industrial Standards Institute**

27. Mr. Narit Lerkmoung                      Standards officer, Senior Professional Level

**Ministry of Finance**

**Department of Customs**

28. Ms. Ratanaporn Suppharoj                      Customs Technical Officer  
29. Mr. Danai Kraikroot                      Customs Technical Officer, Professional Level

**Board of Investment**

30. Ms. Sasirataon Chantchupongs                      Investment Promotion Officer  
    Ms. Bongkot Jittanoon                      Investment Promotion Officer

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### **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

**THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE JOINT TRADE COMMITTEE (JTC)  
BETWEEN INDIA AND THAILAND  
ON 4 DECEMBER 2020 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE  
on 13.00-15.00 Hrs (Indian Time) or 14.30 – 16.30 HRS. (Bangkok Time)**

- Agenda Item 1:  
(13.00 – 13.10)**      **Opening Remarks for the 12<sup>TH</sup> JTC Meeting between India and Thailand**
- Indian Side: Mr. Anant Swarup, Joint Secretary, FT (ASEAN) Division, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India
  - Thai Side: Mrs. Auramon Supthaweethum, Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce of Thailand
- Agenda Item 2:  
(13.10 – 13.15)**      **Adoption of the Agenda**  
The Parties may wish to consider and adopt the agenda. *(India to lead)*
- Agenda Item 3:  
(13.15–13.35)**      **Discussion on Trade and Economic Relations**
- 3.1 *Current Economic and Trade Situation of Thailand and India*  
The Parties may wish to exchange views on their current economic and trade situation and review the bilateral trade between Thailand and India.  
*(India to lead)*
- 3.2 *Ways and Means to Enhance Bilateral Trade and Investment*  
The Parties may wish to discuss and exchange views on ways and means to enhance trade and investment between Thailand and India.  
*(Thailand to lead)*
- Agenda Item 4:  
(13.35 – 14.35)**      **Trade Related Issues**  
The Parties may wish to discuss the following issues:
- 4.1 Import Related Measures on following goods;
    - 4.1.1 Tyres, Colour Televisions, Air Conditioners, Natural Rubber, Cut Flowers and Cosmetics *(Thailand to lead)*
    - 4.1.2 Black Tea, Salt and Shrimp *(India to lead)*
  - 4.2 Market Access for Agricultural and Livestock Product
    - 4.2.1 Bovine Meat, Poultry, Strawberry, Kiwi fruit, Potato, Lemon, Persimmon, Okra, Brown rice and Cherry Tomato *(India to lead)*
    - 4.2.2 Young Coconuts and Fresh Mangoes *(Thailand to lead)*
  - 4.3 Amendment of the Customs Rules 2020 *(Thailand to lead)*
  - 4.4 Product Standard Related Issues;
    - 4.4.1 India's New Standard on Chemicals and Fertilizers *(Thailand to lead)*
    - 4.4.2 Additional tests for vehicles & parts *(India to lead)*
    - 4.4.3 Non-recognition of Indian Test Certificate *(India to lead)*
  - 4.5 Pharmaceutical Issue *(India to lead)*
  - 4.6 International Competitive Bidding *(India to lead)*
  - 4.7 Fishing Vessels Sailing Issue *(India to lead)*
  - 4.8 Free Trade Agreement Related Issues
    - 4.8.1 HS Code Transposition under ASEAN-India FTA *(Thailand to lead)*
    - 4.8.2 AITIGA Review *(India to lead)*
    - 4.8.3 Mechanism for regular exchange of preferential trade data *(India to lead)*
  - 4.9 Economic Cooperation *(India to lead)*

**Agenda Item5:  
(14.35 – 14.40)**

**Other Matters (if any)**

The Parties may wish to discuss other issues.(Thailand to lead)

**Agenda Item 6:  
(14.40 – 14.45)**

**Date and Venue of the Next Meeting**

The Parties may wish to discuss the date and venue of the 13<sup>th</sup> JTC Meeting between Thailand and India(India to lead)

**Agenda Item 7:  
(14.45 – 14.50)**

**Adoption of the Report**

The Parties may wish to consider and adopt the report.(India to lead)

**Agenda Item 8:  
(14.50 – 15.00)**

**Closing Remarks**

- Thai Side: (Mrs. Auramon Supthaweethum, Director-General of the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce)
  - Indian Side: Mr. Anant Swarup, Joint Secretary, FT (ASEAN) Division, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India
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Department of Commerce  
FT(ASEAN) Division

Follow up on action points of the 12<sup>th</sup> Joint Trade Committee meeting between India and Thailand held virtually on 04<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

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S. No.	Action Point	Stakeholder Ministry/ Department/ Division
1 (Para 14)	India requested Thailand to remove the quota on black tea to facilitate India's exports. Thailand informed that the quota has not been fully exhausted in the last three years and suggested India to utilize the FTA forums for tariff reductions.	Since India was unable to exhaust its quota on black tea, industry was asked on 05.12.2020 for further details. No response was received.  <b>Concerned EPCs are requested to provide latest status on the matter.</b>
2 (Para 15)	India requested Thailand to provide the status and scope of the law which is under consideration on the importation of sea salt. Thailand informed that the regulation is currently in the public hearing phase and under the new law the import of salt will require registration and reporting to Thailand's Department of Foreign Trade (DFT). India highlighted that salt is a major commodity of export to Thailand and sought Thailand's cooperation in facilitating smooth exports.	Thailand introduced a licensing requirement on import of salt on 28.06.2021. We have requested our industry on 04.10.2021 to flag the issue, if any. But, we have not received any issues from industry.  <b>Indian Chambers of Commerce &amp; Industry is requested to provide impact of this notification.</b>
3 (Para 16)	India requested Thailand to remove the ban imposed by Thailand on import of shrimp from India and requested Thailand to expedite the virtual inspection of its shrimp export facilities, national disease control and surveillance system, so that the ban can be lifted and exports can be resumed. India also highlighted that they are currently exporting Shrimp to many parts of the world. Thailand assured that India's request for expediting the inspection of shrimp farm will be taken up with their Department of Fisheries.	After several requests from Indian side, Thai authorities carried out a virtual audit of India's shrimp disease control system during 14-17 February 2022. Subsequently, in June 2022, Thailand has nullified the temporary suspension of <b>Whiteleg shrimp</b> ( <i>Penaeus vannamei</i> ), its Carcass or any part in form of frozen raw shrimp originating and coming from the India <b>only for the production and export from Thailand</b> . However, the temporary suspension still continues

		<p>for other shrimps like Banana shrimp, Brown Tiger Prawn, Tiger prawn, and Blue shrimp.</p> <p><b>MPEDA and EP(MP) Division, DoC are requested to provide updates in the matter.</b></p>
4 (Para 17)	<p>India raised the issue of high tariff on bovine meat and requested Thailand to consider reducing the MFN duties/duties under the AITIGA similar to another ASEAN country that has reduced the duties on sugar for India under AITIGA last year. India stated that facilitating India's bovine meat exports will offer Thailand good quality bovine meat at competitive price which will be beneficial to Thailand's consumers. India also requested for an update on the information submitted in questionnaire, as advised by Department of Livestock of Thailand, for granting approval to Indian abattoirs/processing centres for export to Thailand more than a year ago.</p>	<p><b>APEDA and DAHD is requested to provide latest status on progress in the matter</b></p>
5 (Para 18)	<p>India further raised the issue of ban imposed by Thailand on Indian poultry products due to avian flu (HPAI) on 5th May 2020 for a period of 90 days and extended again in August and October. India informed that being a responsible member of OIE, India is prompt in notifying its status on outbreak to OIE and the HPAI status was also reported to OIE timely. India has already notified 'country free' status from HPAI to OIE. India requested that if ban on imports can be imposed on the basis of the notification to OIE, the easing of the ban should also be done automatically on the subsequent notification of HPAI free status to the OIE. India underscored that it is a large country and the outbreak was only limited to a small area. Thailand informed the matter can be discussed with Thailand's Department of Livestock Development.</p>	<p>The product is under ban continuously. Mission has shared a notification dated 26.08.2022 from Department of Livestock Development, Thailand regarding of continuation of ban on import or transit of Poultry or Poultry Carcasses from Republic of India for further 90 days from 4 September onward. DHAD and Mission has taken up the issue with Thai authorities.</p> <p><b>DAHD is requested to provide latest updates in the matter</b></p>



6 (Para 19)	India requested Thailand for early granting of market access for India's Kiwi fruit, Persimmon and Cherry Tomato. Thailand noted India's request and informed that they have sent the official letter to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare of India to request additional information and prioritizing the fruits for market access. The Thai side has not received the additional information from India. The Indian side stated that they will send the copy of additional information requested by the Thai side through the embassy. The Thai side also stated that they are currently in the process of reviewing the import rules and regulations for agriculture products from India.	<b>Department of Agriculture is requested to provide latest updates in the matter</b>
7 (Para 25)	India raised the market access barrier faced in auto industry due to the Thai authority's insistence on local test of vehicle parts in addition to the UNECE approval status of the product. India highlighted that both the countries are signatory to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 1958 Agreement and test results showing compliance with UNECE regulations should be sufficient for allowing market access. Thailand informed that it has two regulatory authorities for automotive products in Thailand namely Department of Land Transport and Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI). TISI has developed 89 standards on Automotive Products, consisting 19 compulsory and 70 voluntary standards referring to UN regulations keeping the infrastructure and environment concerns of Thailand. Thailand took note of India's concern and assured to take it up with the agency concerned.	<b>Mission is requested to provide latest status in this matter.</b>
8 (Para 26)	India raised the issue of non-acceptance of test reports of Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) of India for electrical equipment in Thailand. The laboratories stipulated by Thailand are CESI, Italy, KEMA, Holland; Metropolitan Electricity	Ministry of Power has submitted a request to Thai authorities on for acceptance of CPRI as approved testing laboratory in Thailand.  <b>Mission and Ministry of Power are</b>

	<p>Authority (MEA), Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) which is adding to the product cost. Thailand informed that the Conformity assessment procedure of the TISI is based on ISO/IEC 17067 Conformity Assessment-Fundamentals of Product Certification and Guidelines for product certification schemes which consist of testing and on-site audit of quality control system and is applicable on Thai and foreign manufacturers equally. It further explained that TISI accepts test reports from its designated laboratories and the criterion for designation has been prescribed publicly. Thailand further requested India to send an official request for registration of CPRI as an accepted laboratory in Thailand.</p>	<p><b>requested to provide an update in the matter.</b></p>
<p>9 (Para 27)</p>	<p>India requested Thailand to remove the mandatory requirement of local Bioequivalence (BE) study in Thailand and requested Thailand to accept BE results which have been accepted by other regulated is an expensive process and can cost USD 70000 to USD 120000/product depending on product specifications. Thailand informed that the requirement of local BE is to ensure effectiveness and safety of drugs. In case of public health emergency, Thailand Food and Drug Administration (FDA) accepts the BE reports from foreign institutes and laboratories that meet the standard requirement as prescribed by Thailand FDA. Thailand further informed that ASEAN countries are looking for MRA on BE study report and that an ASEAN listed BE centre will be created by 2022. Thailand suggested India to use the ASEAN forum for further engagement and cooperation on this matter. India also expressed concern over the long time around 10-18 months taken by Thai FDA for issuing the license to allow export of medicines and requested to expedite the</p>	<p><b>Mission and Department of Pharmaceuticals are requested to provide updates in the matter.</b></p>

	registration process.	
10 (Para 28)	International Competitive Bidding India mentioned the non-tariff barriers being faced in some ASEAN Countries including Thailand which put a condition in their International Competitive Bidding (ICB) tenders that the supplier company should be from OECD countries only. Thailand informed that it does not have any such system of preferences but there may be cases where some countries/entities are funding projects and the funding agencies have the ability to identify Terms of Preference and qualification of tenders of those specific projects. Thailand assured India to resolve the specific concern of India in any particular project where India wishes to participate.	Industry had not provided any specific details further.  <b>Concerned EPCs are requested to provide inputs in the matter, if any.</b>
11 (Para 34)	India underscored the potential in collaboration between India and Thailand in Service sector and suggested establishing Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for cooperation in professional services such as nursing or accountancy. Thailand requested India to share the details on the possible service sector collaborations so that meetings can be arranged with agencies concerned.	Mission has taken up the service sector issues were shared with Thai side.  <b>Mission is requested to provide updates in the matter.</b>

**No. 20/1/2022-FT(ASEAN)**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Commerce and Industry**  
**Department of Commerce**

Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: 13<sup>th</sup> Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting with Thailand – inputs for the preparation of the draft Agenda-reg**


This is with reference to the 13<sup>th</sup> Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting with Thailand at Joint Secretary level scheduled to be held in January 2023.

2. The 12<sup>th</sup> Joint Trade Committee meeting was held on virtual platform on 04<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The actionable points of 12<sup>th</sup> JTC were circulated to concerned Ministries/Departments after the meeting for appropriate action. The copy of agreed minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> JTC meeting is **enclosed** for reference. Also, a tabular chart showing the current status of action points and updates required from concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations is attached as **annexure**.

3. The concerned stakeholders are requested to provide the following information with regard to the upcoming 13<sup>th</sup> India-Thailand JTC meeting:

- (i) Update/status on action points of 12<sup>th</sup> JTC meeting as highlighted in enclosed tabular chart.
- (ii) Note of Brief on issues pertaining to concerned Ministry/Department/Organisation which need to be raised in the upcoming 13<sup>th</sup> JTC meeting.

4. The concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations are requested to provide the requisite information/inputs latest **by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. A copy of the inputs may be forwarded through email to [usasean2-doc@gov.in](mailto:usasean2-doc@gov.in) and [moc\\_ftca@nic.in](mailto:moc_ftca@nic.in).

  
(Rohitashv Kumar Bansal)  
Deputy Director  
Tel: 23039762

E-mail: [usasean2-doc@gov.in](mailto:usasean2-doc@gov.in)

Encl.: As above.

To

1. Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi
5. Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

6. Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
7. Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
10. Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
11. Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
12. Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
13. Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Ayush Bhawan, B Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi
14. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, North Block, New Delhi.
15. Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Jeevan Deep Building, Sansad Marg, New Delhi.
16. Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Transport Bhawan, New Delhi.
17. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
18. Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Block-14, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
19. Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan, New Delhi.
20. Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Transport Bhawan, New Delhi
21. Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi
22. Director General, Directorate General of Trade Remedies, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi
23. Joint Secretary (South), Ministry of External Affairs, Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhawan, New Delhi
24. Joint Secretary, Plantation Division, Department of Commerce, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
25. Joint Secretary, EP(MP), Department of Commerce, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi
26. Commissioner Customs, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, North Block, New Delhi.
27. Director General, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), 565, Anandapur, Ward No. 108, Sector-1, Plot No. 22, ECADP, Kolkata – 700107.
28. Drugs Controller General of India, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, Government of India FDA Bhavan, ITO, Kotla Road, New Delhi -110002.
29. Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Bangkok, Thailand.
30. Chairman, APEDA, 3rd Floor, NCUI Building 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi – 110016.
31. Chairman, MPEDA, MPEDA House, P.B.No.4272, Panampilly Avenue, Panampilly Nagar P.O, Kochi-682036, Kerala
32. Director General, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), Niryat Bhawan, Rao Tula Ram Marg, Opp. Army Hospital Research & Referral, New Delhi – 110 057
33. Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), The MantoshSondhi Centre, 23, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003
34. Deputy Secretary General, FICCI, Federation House, 1, Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110001.
35. Director General, Pharmexcil, 101, Aditya Trade Centre, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038

36. Director General, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India, The Capital Court, 6th Floor, Olof Palme Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110 067.
37. Director General, Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association, PHD House, 4th Floor, Siri Institutional Area, Opp. Asian Games Village, New Delhi – 110016.
38. Executive Director, SIAM (Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers), Core 4 B, 5th Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003
39. Executive Director, EEPC INDIA, Vandhna, 4th floor, 11 Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi
40. Executive Director, CHEMEXCIL, Jhansi Castle (4th floor), 7-Cooperage Road, Mumbai-400039.
41. Executive Director, CAPEXIL, Vanijya Bhavan, International Trade Facilitation Center, 3rd Floor, 1/1 Wood Street, Kolkata-700016
42. Executive Director, SHEFEXIL, International Trade Facilitation Centre 1/1 Wood Street, 2nd Floor, Kolkata 700 016, India.
43. Director General, Services Export Promotion Council, 6-A/6, 3rd Floor, NCHF Building, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110049
44. Executive Director, TEXPROCIL, Engineering Centre, 5th floor, 9-Mathew Road, Mumbai-400004
45. Executive Director, SRTEPC (Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council), Resham Bhawan, 78, Veer Nariman Road, Mumbai
46. Secretary General, Apparel Export Promotion Council, Apparel House, Institutional Area, Sector-44, Gurgaon-122003
47. Executive Director, Spices Board India, 'Sugandha Bhavan" N.H. ByPass, Palarivattom, P.O. Cochin-682025, Kerala
48. Executive Director, Council for Leather Exports, No.1, Sivaganga Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034.
49. Secretary, Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, #84-B, South Raja Street, TUTICORIN - 628 001, Tamilnadu, India.