



INVESTMENT SERVICES  
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MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **2010 FDI ENJOYS CONSTANT GROWTH** *JAPAN TOPS THE LIST WITH 35% RISE IN INVESTMENT VALUE*

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Thailand continued strong throughout 2010 with Japan as the largest investor with Bt100 billion investments value, or a 35 % increase over 2009. Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) this year will take more proactive approach to boost investment of both existing and new target investors.

According to the Minister of Industry Chaiwuti Bannawat, Thailand's FDI in 2010 experienced constant growth. The total number of projects that applied for investment promotion package was 865 projects, with total value of Bt236.03 billion. This represents 9.8% increase in the number of projects compared to 2009, which were 788 projects. However, the total investment value in 2010 dropped by 32.7% against the previous year's figure of Bt350.75 billion. The main reason for the difference is that most projects in 2010 were of medium-sized projects.

The largest investor, in terms of both project number and investment value, remains those from Japan. In 2010, 363 projects applied for investment promotion were by Japanese investors with a total investment value of Bt104.42 billion. The number of projects increased by 36.4% over 2009, which was 266 projects, while the total investment value increased by 34.9% from Bt77.38 billion in 2009.

Most investment projects from Japan went to the metal, machinery and transport equipment sector (156 projects, Bt46.61 billion), electronics and electrical appliance sector (66 projects, Bt33.29 billion), and chemicals, paper and plastic sector (52 projects, Bt8.1 billion).

"Despite Thailand confronted with several problems, from Map Ta Phut to political unrest and a labor shortage, foreign investors' confidence in Thailand remained high. Thanks to the country's strong economic fundamentals and its commitment to proactively solving the issues. We believe that Japanese investment in Thailand will continue to expand in 2011 due to the yen appreciation. Thailand remains one of the top investment destinations for Japanese investors," said the minister.

Mr. Bannawat said that total number of investment projects that applied for investment promotion from the Board of investment (BOI) in 2010 was 1,591 projects

with a total value of Bt447.4 billion, which surpassed the Bt400 billion target. The number of projects increased by 6.8% over the 1,489 projects recorded during 2009. In terms of value, 2010 investment value dropped by 29.8% compared to 2009, when it reached a 40-year record high of Bt638.1 billion.

This increase in the total number of projects clearly reflected investors' confidence in Thailand. Most of the investment came from medium-sized projects with investment values ranging from Bt0.02 billion to Bt0.5 billion, totaling 981 projects with a combined investment value of Bt0.13 billion.

For the year 2011 there are a number of negative factors that may affect Thailand investment, including fragile global economic recovery, social conflict, the baht appreciation, and interest increase. The Ministry of Industry has assigned BOI to take a more proactive approach in organizing investment promotion activities, such as road shows. Target markets will cover both traditional sources, Japan, the United States and Europe, and new sources like China and India. At the same time, investment promotion activities will be done both for foreign investors to invest in Thailand and vice versa.

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