

Welcome to the third edition of the OECD Thailand Country Programme newsletter

The Thailand Country Programme, launched in May 2018, aims to help bolster Thailand's domestic reform agenda, support its transition to high-income status and bring the country closer to OECD standards and instruments. This edition highlights activities from March – May 2019.

>>> [More information on our work with Thailand](#) <<<<

OECD Ministerial Council Meeting



21-23 May 2019 - Paris, France

Mr. Thani Thongphakdi, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the annual [OECD Ministerial Council Meeting \(MCM\)](#) and the fifth High Level Meeting of the Governing Board of the OECD Development Centre in Paris. Mr. Thongphakdi contributed to the discussions by highlighting challenges faced by emerging economies on trade in the digital era. He also met with OECD Deputy Secretary-General Masamichi Kono to discuss overall OECD-Thailand co-operation, including the ongoing work of the four pillars of the **Thailand Country Programme**, coordinated by [the Global Relations Secretariat](#). DSG Kono expressed gratitude to Thailand for hosting the [Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum](#) in Bangkok in June 2019 and the [OECD Southeast Asia Regional Forum](#) in 2020.

Capacity Building Activities

Bilateral Seminar on Competition Policy and related meetings



27-31 May – Bangkok, Thailand

The OECD held a series of events on competition policy, which include the following:

- Two-day workshop for Thailand's **Office of the Trade Competition Commission (OTCC)** and the **Thai Judiciary**, co-hosted by the Thai Supreme Court. The participants discussed best practices on how to prioritise actions as well as how to engage with stakeholders in sessions dedicated to mergers, cartels and abuse of dominance.
- **Ninth OECD/KPC Competition Law Seminar for Asia-Pacific Judges** on *Main Challenges in Adjudicating Competition Law Cases*, co-organised by the Thai Supreme Court. Twenty-five Thai judges and another 25 participants from Asia-Pacific attended the Seminar. The topics covered economics in courts, judicial review, admissibility and probative value of economic evidence and presumptions and standard of proof for evidence.
- Dissemination of the Competition Law Implementation Program (CLIP) [OECD Competition Primers for ASEAN judges](#) in the [Thai language](#).

Experts from Australia; Hong Kong, China; Philippines; UK, the European Commission and the Chair of the OECD Competition Committee were among the lead speakers at the events.

Regulatory Reform Review of Thailand

2-4 April – Bangkok, Thailand



The OECD launched the process of the **Regulatory Reform Review of Thailand** with a **three-day capacity building programme** aimed at introducing Thai officials to OECD's Good Regulatory Practice. The programme was conducted under the direction of the Secretary-General of the Office of the Council of State (OCS). The Chair of the Constitution Drafting Committee, members of the Law Reform Commission and 60 OCS staff responsible for implementing regulatory reform in Thailand attended the workshop. Germany and Australia were the main country peers for this process.

[>> Read more about OECD's work on good regulatory practice](#)

Open and Connected Governance Review of Thailand

2-3 April – Bangkok, Thailand



The OECD participated in the [ASEAN Conference: Towards a Citizen-Centric Civil Service](#), co-hosted by Thailand's Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC). The Director of Public Governance launched the process of the [OECD Open and Connected Government Review](#) of Thailand at the conference, where representatives from nine ASEAN countries attended. The Review is the first of its kind to assess a country's public sector reform agenda from vis-a-vis the [OECD Recommendations on Open Government](#) and [on Digital Government](#). Peer reviewers from Greece and the United Kingdom provided their input and shared their experience during the interviews with Thailand's key stakeholders.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION ON THAILAND



The third volume of the [Multi-dimensional Country Review \(MDCR\) of Thailand](#) draws on the previous volumes's in-depth analysis and policy recommendations. This report focuses on northern Thailand, one of the most diverse and yet poorest regions of the country. It proposes a set of actions to support three transitions that Thailand needs to implement in order to move to the next level of development: 1) moving towards a more regionally balanced growth path; 2) simplifying multi-level governance; and 3) improving the management of water resource and risk management.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

12-13 June 2019	Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum	Bangkok, Thailand
23 – 25 June 2019	ASEAN Conference: Policy Dialogue on Starting a Business in ASEAN: Formalization of Micro enterprises and "Starting a Business" Task Force meeting (<i>within the framework of the Canada-OECD Project for ASEAN SMEs - COPAS</i>)	Bangkok, Thailand
1-4 July 2019	5 th ASEAN-OECD Good Regulatory Practice Network meeting and related events	Chiang Mai, Thailand

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