



Opening Speech and Keynote Address (Video Recording)

"Thailand's Economic Reopening and Enhancing Competitive Advantage"

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Thailand's post-Covid-19 economic outlook

- The prolonged conflict between Russia and Ukraine since February 2022 is a crucial factor affecting high global inflation, suppressing living standards worldwide. To tame inflation, tighter monetary policy will be inevitable, however, in case of Thailand, a modest rate hike may be required to protect economic growth.
- Thai government will continue to support the economy through fiscal and monetary policies with close coordination among economic agencies. For maximizing utilities subject to a sizable budget allocated, targeted fiscal support has been implementing to lessen impact to the highly affected groups.
- For the recent economic growth, according to the NESDC, Thai economy expanded 2.5 percent YoY in the second quarter of 2022, and increased from the previous quarter as a consequence of substantial exports and the revival of tourism. On economic forecast, the Ministry of Finance has projected Thailand economic growth in 2022 to be 3.5 percent due to a strong domestic demand which is well supported by a recovery of the tourism sector after COVID-19.

Economic Policies to Support the economy

- The 1 trillion Baht emergency loan decree expired last year. Currently, another 500 billion Baht amount still exists and it would be effective until the end of the fiscal year 2022. During these few years, many fiscal measures have been rolled out under both additional emergency loan decrees to tackle the ongoing situation affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Recently, the government has rolled out three support programs with a total expenditure of 27,426 million Baht. The programs include an additional cash handout to state welfare cardholders Phase 5,

cash handout to people who need special assistance Phase 3, and Co-Payment Phase 5. These programs aimed to sustain the level of domestic consumption and to benefit 42 million people.

- The fiscal position remains strong and prudent. The latest public debt-to-GDP is at 60.17 %, which is well below the 70 % as stated by the State Fiscal and Financial Disciplines Act B.E. 2019. Even though, we extended the debt ceiling-to-GDP from 60 per cent to 70 per cent last year.
- For the financial measures, the Ministry of Finance through the policy guidance to Specialized Financial Institutions (SFIs) and in close collaboration with the Bank of Thailand has launched various programs for private sectors, especially households, SMEs and corporate to alleviate impact from the pandemic in the past few years, and to enhance financial liquidity via soft loans, credit guarantee, debt moratorium, debt clinic, and debt mediation.

3. Medium- and long-term policies

- Continuing to invest in infrastructure projects including the Eastern Economic Corridors (EEC) as a catalyst to innovation and future industries.
- Supporting potential industries, especially automotive and its related industries.
- Empowering SMEs and household to access financial services by implementing services with digital technology
- Steering our economy to grow sustainably. To reach that target, Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy model would be integrated with all these strategies.

4. Roles and expectations of capital market in post-COVID 19

- The support for competitiveness of the financial sector and the overall economy;
 - The provision of accessibility to the market for all;
 - The development and implementation of technologies to reinforce the digitalized economy;
 - The progression towards the balanced and sustainable capital market; and
 - The creation of novel investment possibilities for the general public to motivate and maintain financial literacy and financial well-being.
- The aforementioned strategies are currently being formulated within the new Capital Market Development Plan under the vision “Capital market for the economic revitalization towards robust growth”, which will serve as a master plan for the advancement and transition of Thailand’s capital market into the new era, throughout the upcoming 6 years
 - Financial literacy is an essential life skill for people and is important to the economic stability. Especially in the post COVID-19, the technological disruption will make financial services and products more diverse and complicated. Financial literacy is therefore important for tackling the problem at its roots.