Thailand’s Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC): The Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for the Future of ASEAN

Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) is a development project under the Thailand 4.0 initiative through the cooperation between the public sector and the private sector. Thailand 4.0 Initiative focuses on Creativity and Innovation which lead to Three Smarts Development; Smart Industry, City and People. EEC covers areas in the eastern part of Thailand which consists of Chonburi, Rayong and Chachoengsao. The project is intended to be the leading ASEAN economic zone throughout the development of core areas such as an investment in new infrastructure, the support for industrial clusters especially smart urban planning which lead to greater sustainable development short- and long-term actionable plan in construction industry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Development Projects</th>
<th>Potential Development Projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>1. U-Tapao airport and aircraft maintenance</td>
<td>Green Infrastructure Projects</td>
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Thailand 4.0 Initiative focuses on Creativity and Innovation which lead to Three Smarts Development; Smart Industry, City and People.

**Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) is one of Area-based Development of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Special Targeted Industries of Thailand**

In order to response to the T4.0, the four core areas of development are the most priority to act now; 1) infrastructure, 2) business, industrial clusters and innovation hub, 3) tourism, and 4) new cities and communities. The four core areas will bring about a vast investment in vital projects along the master corridor development routes. The example of main development projects is followed;
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<th>1. Smart City Initiatives (following The EEC Act: The Land used Plan of EEC)</th>
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<td>It consists of seven smarts categories; economy, mobility, environment, living, energy, people and governance. Smart city initiative will be enforced by Department of Public Works and Town &amp; Country Planning (DPT) cooperate with The Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning (OTP), and State Railway of Thailand (SRT). City</td>
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development can be both of new (green field smart city) and existing development (brown field smart city), however, have to meet five of seven criteria with a clear objectives and city data platform infrastructure.

2. BOI Investment Incentives in EEC
The Board of Investment announces the policies and promotion on investment incentives for the EEC as follow:
1. Exemption from corporate income tax for up to 13 years
2. Exemption of import duties tax on machinery, raw or essential materials that import for using in production and R&D
3. Get the Matching Grants for investment, R&D, Innovation development and human resources development in targeted industries
4. Permission to own land for BOI promoted projects
5. Have the rights to make the state's land lease agreement for 50 years, and renewable upon approval for further 49 years
6. For executives, specialists and researchers who qualified by the Director-general of Revenue Department under the law which related to the nation's competitiveness enhancement in the promoted businesses or The Investment Promotion Act.
7. One-stop service center to facilitate foreign investors which provide useful information and issue the permits for trading, export and import in one location.
8. Offer the attractive five-year work visa to investors, specialists and scientists.

Reference

https://www.eeco.or.th/en/investment/investment-privileges/investment-benefits-on-eec

BOI’s Current Investment Policies, Bonggot Anuroj, https://www.boi.go.th

Smart City & Chachoengsao Province, SPD, DPT, http://office.dpt.go.th

Thailand’s Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) “Excellent hub for aircraft manufacturing and maintenance”, https://www.boi.go.th