

PROPOSAL

# Thailand <

To be published on the  
Celebration of  
Thailand National Day  
on December 2007 in Hong Kong



# Thailand 2007 <

## > The ASEAN Hub

Both Hong Kong and Thailand have gone a long way in economic restructuring, and have had tremendous success in the process. But, nowadays, no economy can afford to stand still in the face of keen international competition. Hong Kong and Bahrain alike must search for the best way forward.

Thailand is the second largest economy in the 10-nation ASEAN - in 2005, Thailand's GDP reached US\$168.8 billion (up 4.5% in real terms from 2004), second only to Indonesia (US\$270 billion) but above all other ASEAN members.

The country's well-defined investment policies focus on liberalization and encourage free trade. Foreign investments, especially those that contribute to the development of skills, technology and innovation are actively promoted by the government. Thailand consistently ranks among the most attractive investment locations in international surveys, and a 2006 World Bank report indicated that Thailand was the 4th easiest country in Asia in which to do business, and the 20th easiest in the world.

According to report from the World Bank Thailand grew by 5 percent in 2006, slightly better than 4.5 percent in 2005, and is projected to be 4.3 percent in 2007. The performance in 2006 came on the back of strong export growth and a sound macro and fiscal situation.

### Hong Kong's Trade with Thailand

According to HK TDC data Thailand is Hong Kong's 14th largest export market and the 8th largest import source of Hong Kong. In 2005, Hong Kong ran a trade deficit with Thailand amounting to US\$ 3.1 billion. Hong Kong's imports from Thailand increased by 23% to US\$6.0 billion in 2005, over 40% of which were locally consumed with the rest re-exported.

Total exports from Hong Kong to Thailand reached US\$ 2.8 billion in 2005, increasing by 7.3%.

Major re-export items in 2005 included parts and accessories of office machines/computer (25%), telecommunications equipment (9.3%), semi-conductors (4.8%), pearls and precious stones (4%) and electrical apparatus for electrical circuits (3.9%).

Hong Kong is well placed to facilitate entrepot trade between the Chinese mainland and Thailand. In 2005, total trade between these two places via Hong Kong reached US\$ 4.7 billion (up from US\$4.3 billion in 2004). Re-exports of China-origin products to Thailand grew by 8.2%, while re-exports of Thai origin to the mainland increased by 8.9%.

In response to this need, the undersigned is publishing a book entitled "**THAILAND - THE ASEAN HUB**". The key focus is to identify strength and potential of investments opportunities in Thailand in the international financial community. It will highlight new economic agenda, strategies and business objectives of the present administration. It will attempt to unmask what lies ahead for the Thailand economy and how the new government plan to strategically position the country in the international community.

Your support is of vital importance to the success of this endeavour.

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**For further information please contact**

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**THAILAND**  
**> The Asean Hub**