



TWO PARTS: Digital Economy/ICT; GENERAL

Digital Economy/ICT

Digital Government

We promote BEING DIGITAL in all respects. COVID 19 is a great opportunity to digitise. One area is Digital Government, there are four agencies: DGA, OPDC, ETDA, MDES. A whole-of-government plan is needed, starting with workarounds like e filing. OPDC say a whole of government plan will take about five months more, with some years to implement.

Digital Laws Personal Data Protection Act – deferral to May 2021 shows an anomaly in possibility of individuals being liable in meantime. Readiness from government side in progress. Needs changes to reduce admin overhead (eg representatives). Cybersecurity needs better private sector engagement in operation. Part of CII (Critical Information Infrastructure) in private hands.

Electronic Meetings: Change to allow electronic meetings by Decree in April. Challenge is the MDES ‘security’ changes to replace the 2014 MICT Announcement, still complicated and the new Decree has ‘traffic data’ requirements. ETDA has issued security standards and procedures (discussed ETDA 18 August). Filing with MoC (DBD) needs to be done, seems that DBD is accepting simplified list of requirements. Look out for WEBINAR 9 or 10 September.

Electronic signatures are supported by the Electronic Transactions Act 2001 which gives eSignatures legal status, but not widely respected.

- Electronic signature – need simple means which business and government will generally accept.
- Digital signatures / secure electronic signatures – public key/private key and third party tools

Meeting with ETDA 18 August to clarify; we aim to help understand and promote use of electronic signatures.

ePayments – metadata in payment files may be richer once new ISO 20022 is implemented. (Discussed with ETDA 18 August and with SWIFT).

Apps and Tools for Tracing and Premises entry, Three types:-

- Proximity alerts and tracing tools – eg Morchana, TraceTogether, CovidSafe –
- Premises entry – eg ThaiChana, SafeEntry
- Health status and clearance management: eg AOK Pass, various proprietary tools such as marketed by Roche.

Moves away from proximity tracers to premises entry and health status/clearance management. Tracing tool but at least a means of contacting will be necessary for short stayers.



5G: Expensive spectrum; expensive spectrum, SOEs also participated in auction. But 4G (also expensive) not yet paid back.

Updated Glossary - Glossary [here](#)- updated three times.

Copyright and on-line intermediaries – an MoU for on-line intermediaries is proposed. Made recommendations for DIP event on 26 August.

CP TPP JFCCT recommendations support Thailand acceding. Contributed digital aspects.

BEING DIGITAL Webinar series – first on electronic meeting and digital signatures look out for date in September

Creative Chiang Mai – 10 years since foundation of CCM, and 10 years since letter MoU signed CCM – JFCCT/ICT. Anniversary event 27 September. Chiang Mai with 8 universities and many digital freelancers is a rich location for new ideas.

EU Business Avenues (ICT) events: 28 September (investing in Thailand) and workshop 30 Sep.

GENERAL TOPICS

BOI-JFCCT webinar 5 August

Useful exploration of whether support measures to date will help realise economic recovery, and what else is needed. We are grateful to BOI for the collaboration. BOI say they would like to do another one with JFCCT.



All materials on JFCCT website soon including BOOKLET (which also has 'opening borders' suggestions. Overflow questions compiled and are being addressed.

Scheme for COVID 19 information and advocacy

<http://www.ifcct.org/major-business-issues/covid-19/> (visible on home page)

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT MEASURES – comprehensive description updated 23 July -first file.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT – JFCCT recommendations some 24 topics which is the master file to capture all requirements from Presidents, JCCCT Committees – updated as needed. Each has ISSUE, HOW TO FIX IT, RELEVANT AGENCIES, RELEVANT LAWS.

Other – BUSINESS CONTINUITY ESSENTIALS etc.



COVID 19 ECONOMIC SUPPORT strategy – four ‘big picture’ issues

1. BUSINESS CONTINUITY – keep businesses going – currently it relies on SSF and small grants, but the focus is on response to shutting down temporarily or losing a job. Unlike the AUS ‘Jobkeeper’ scheme or SGP ‘Job Support Scheme’ it is not focused on keeping the business going, allowing the business to downside but keep people in jobs and avoid mass unemployment. Terminations are expensive and should not be the default solution anyway. We need to identify and tap new sources of funds as SSF three month support is running out. This issue covered in 5 August BOI-JFCCT webinar and see PDF webinar BOOKLET.

2. Financial accommodation for smaller businesses – requirements of retail banks can be high when dispensing government-backed or central bank supported soft loans. There is 500bn of soft loan support, only a little over 100bn dispensed so far. This issue covered in 5 August BOI-JFCCT webinar and see PDF webinar BOOKLET.

3. Digitisation – some positive steps but in many ways a wasted crisis. Most evident in work permit & visa but also so many business licence areas, previously addressed (and now aiming to re-address) by a Guillotine (or fast track regulatory reform) approach.

4. Opening up – our ‘Border Work’ proposals aim to show that in targeted ways we can and must allow in short skills, business people etc. This issue covered in 5 August BOI-JFCCT webinar and see PDF webinar BOOKLET (at the end). See separate ‘Border Work’ slide pack.

(and 5 – the ever-present avoidance of anomalies and rectification of unintended consequences – work permit and visa being a centrepiece; force majeure is another issue).

WP and VISA in immediate term– eg WP & V- see JFCCT file [here](#) and anomalies [here](#). Visa extensions to 26 Sep -no eGov solution yet, No WP equivalent. Smart Visas 330 issued Feb 2018 – 30 June 2020. Digital Freelancer smart visa – discuss again soon with BOI.

Cabinet: We have made an updated cabinet chart due to changes in July. Cabinet now has six DPMs. Engagement important.



Guillotine or ‘fast track’ regulatory reform needed. Meeting with Dr Somkiat, TDRI president 7 August. Objective: implement the work done and use this method for other. See separate one page handout. JFCCT involved with Guillotine since mid 2016.

Bank of Thailand (BoT) 400 recommended changes to laws, and implemented several recommendations about FX, Saved THB 1.1 bn in annualized costs going forward. *October 2017.*

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) - training using the “Regulatory Guillotine” concepts and methodology as well as the processes for reviewing existing regulations. Outcome strengthened regulation-making. *December 2017.*

EoDB (Ease of Doing Business) 10 criteria in the World Bank “DB”
Over five years due to remeasurement & improvements, Thailand moved from 20s to 40s . 21st out of 190 countries for 2020 ranking by improving on some key activity. Work Permit/Visa and gov’t contracts not included in the 10. *2019*

Simple & Smart License Project

1,085 licenses analysed and full recommendations made (revise/remove/de-duplicate). Estimated saving to business THB 64bn if all implemented. JFCCT / other foreign input about 10%. *2018 - 2019*



Meetings: #1 16 Jan, #2/20 Feb; #3/24 March (Zoom meeting); #4/21 April (Zoom meeting); #5 18 May (Zoom meeting), #6 16 June (Zoom)+ specials, #7 14 July, #8 18 August, #9 15 September. Participation welcome.

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