



TWO PARTS: Digital Economy/ICT; GENERAL

Digital Economy/ICT

Being Digital

We continue to press for digitisation changes at government level, company level and personal interaction level via various engagements, proposals, seminars, dialogues. The pandemic is a driver not to be wasted. Digital Government is an essential aspect.

ETDA engagement (August) has covered electronic signatures, payment file formats (with rich information) and standard for electronic meetings and other standards. The need for clarity on electronic signature is pressing; it will be a topic in our BEING DIGITAL webinar series.

Digital Education / MoE engagement via OVEC

Following MoEs mid August announcements about changes to direction in education, we have written to Office of Vocational Educational Commission (OVEC) about MoE's DEEP (digital education) initiatives and have sought a meeting.

Medical sector

Medical records and digitisation of a major global brand's services and products in Thailand and the region. We are working on these two fronts with a major organisation, and with DGA.

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. A simplified tracing tool or token is being used in some markets. Digital Committee did a report.

Copyright and on-line intermediaries – we have made recommendations about a MoU for on-line intermediaries, and support changes to the Copyright Act to support on-line governance. Discussed at DIP meeting 26 August. Public hearing on Copyright Act changes soon.

CP TPP – monitoring the parliamentary enquiry following submission. We have contributed the digital development aspects. Recommend that Thailand's accession to CP TPP is net positive.

Creative Chiang Mai – 10 years since foundation of CCM, and 10 years since letter MoU signed CCM – JFCCT/ICT. Anniversary month September. Chiang Mai with 8 universities and many digital freelancers is a bed for new ideas and something of a model for digital development.

Smart visa – we are in touch with BOI about new developments in smart visa and will engage



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EU Business Avenues (ICT) events: 28 September (seminar) and 30 Sep (workshop). 48 European ICT SMEs interacting with the industry in Thailand. Fourth year co-organising the Thailand part. Please sign up variously for: business matching, market insights and workshops via JFCCT office link. Big virtual event.

BEING DIGITAL webinar series of three – first webinar will cover electronic meetings and electronic signatures. Moderated, leading speakers.

Government engagement in 2020: DGA (two meetings 2020 + one in pipeline), ETDA (one engagement); BOI (about five); OPDC (one + one in pipeline), OVEC, MDES, other.

How to join us: please get in touch directly or via the JFCCT Office. Participation is valued and is most welcome.

GENERAL TOPICS

Border Works – safe and structured opening of borders

JFCCT one pager and short supporting slide pack – on JFCCT website on COVID 19 page. Special session 23 September to understand how the position is arrived at and to hear concerns and issues due to COVID 19. See materials distributed 15 September with Presidents' Council information. Essential from an economic and bigger picture public health perspective to allow in short skills, business people and have a plan for Tourism. Move from 'zero' to 'safe and manageable'.

Guillotine or 'fast track' regulatory reform needed. Meetings with TDRI Objective: implement the work done and support fast track regulatory reform. See separate one page handout. Please do add your name to the list of supporters. A public seminar will be held jointly with TDRI mid October. Success stories:

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*





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FBA

JFCCT major submission June 2018. Since then one change to List 3 about intra-group business (2019), and (not FBA but relevant) a re-statement of limits to 39 professions (April 2020). COVID 19 demands FDI; there needs to be way to make it easier for existing investments to be expanded and for new proposals. A proposal for focused relief on List 3 restrictions is under discussion. Services (especially logistics) is at the fore. Special session 24 September to produce draft.

BOI-JFCCT webinar 5 August

Webinar materials/BOOKLET and presentations, and questions (grouped) are on JFCCT website – Past Events



BOOKLET distributed to all presidents and JFCCT participants. Booklet contains 'opening borders' suggestions.

Overflow questions compiled (uploaded to website) and are being addressed by BOI.

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.



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2. Financial accommodation for smaller businesses – it's often business-as-usual even 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](#) (5th and 6th files on JFCCT COVID 19 page) Visa extensions to 26 Sep -no eGov solution yet, No WP equivalent.

Cabinet: We have made an updated cabinet chart due to changes in July and September. Cabinet now has six DPMs. Position of Finance Minister receives much attention.

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 (Zoom), #8 18 August (Zoom), #9 15 September (Zoom). Participation is about 20; others welcome. Please get in touch JFCCT OFFICE info@jfcct.org; JFCCT DIGITAL CHAIR ictchair@jfcct.org

Select Recent Events (since Presidents' Council 19 August)

- 26 August – DIP meeting (see DIP Fact Sheet dated Aug 2020); including MoU for ISPs/rights holders; progress with Copyright Act changes
- SET seminar covering economic recovery.
- 11 September IP Key virtual conference
- 15 September – afternoon: EU-ASEAN BUS COUNCIL virtual dialogue with Vice Minister of Commerce, Dr Samalapa

Up coming Events

- 18 September – JFCCT / TCEB MoU signing (supports events) – Rayong
- MoE/OVEC on Digital Skills / DEEP – likely week of 28 September.
- BEING DIGITAL webinar series – first webinar – Electronic Meetings, eSignatures
- 28 September – 1 October - ConnecTec Asia annual regional event; virtual this year



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- 28 September – 1 October EU Business Avenues in S E Asia (EUBA)
- 28 September EUBA seminar
- 30 September - EUB Workshops afternoon
- TDRI seminar (hybrid) 14 October - Guillotine
- October: Updates with NBTC, DGA, DEPA
- 28 October – Telecoms World Asia (Terrapin) – 5G
- 4-5 November – Asia-Pacific Rail (5G topic); rescheduled from 11-12 March; 5G
- CEBIT ASEAN virtual 23-29 November

COVID 19 page <http://www.jfcct.org/major-business-issues/covid-19/>

BOI Consultative session 17 Feb – materials and follow up <http://www.jfcct.org/boi-foreign-chambers-of-commerce-consultative-meeting-17th-february-2020/>

Laws portal for members www.jfcct.org/information-for-digital-economy-committee-members/
please use common DE/ICT password to access.

Updated Glossary - Glossary_ www.jfcct.org/major-business-issues/glossary/ - updated four times.