



Ministry of DoNER  
Government of India



Indian  
Chamber of Commerce



Ministry of Commerce  
Government of Thailand

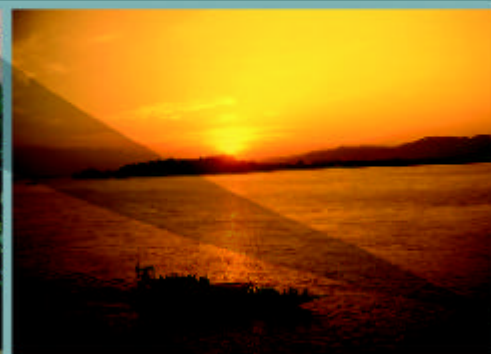
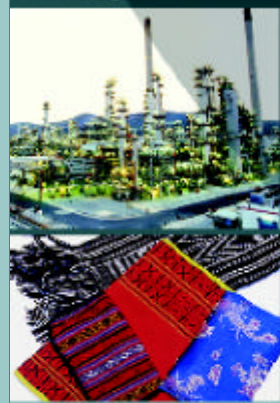
# North East India Trade & Investment Opportunities Week

*Partnership in Development*

**Bangkok - October 1-4, 2007**



***Investment Potential in North East India***



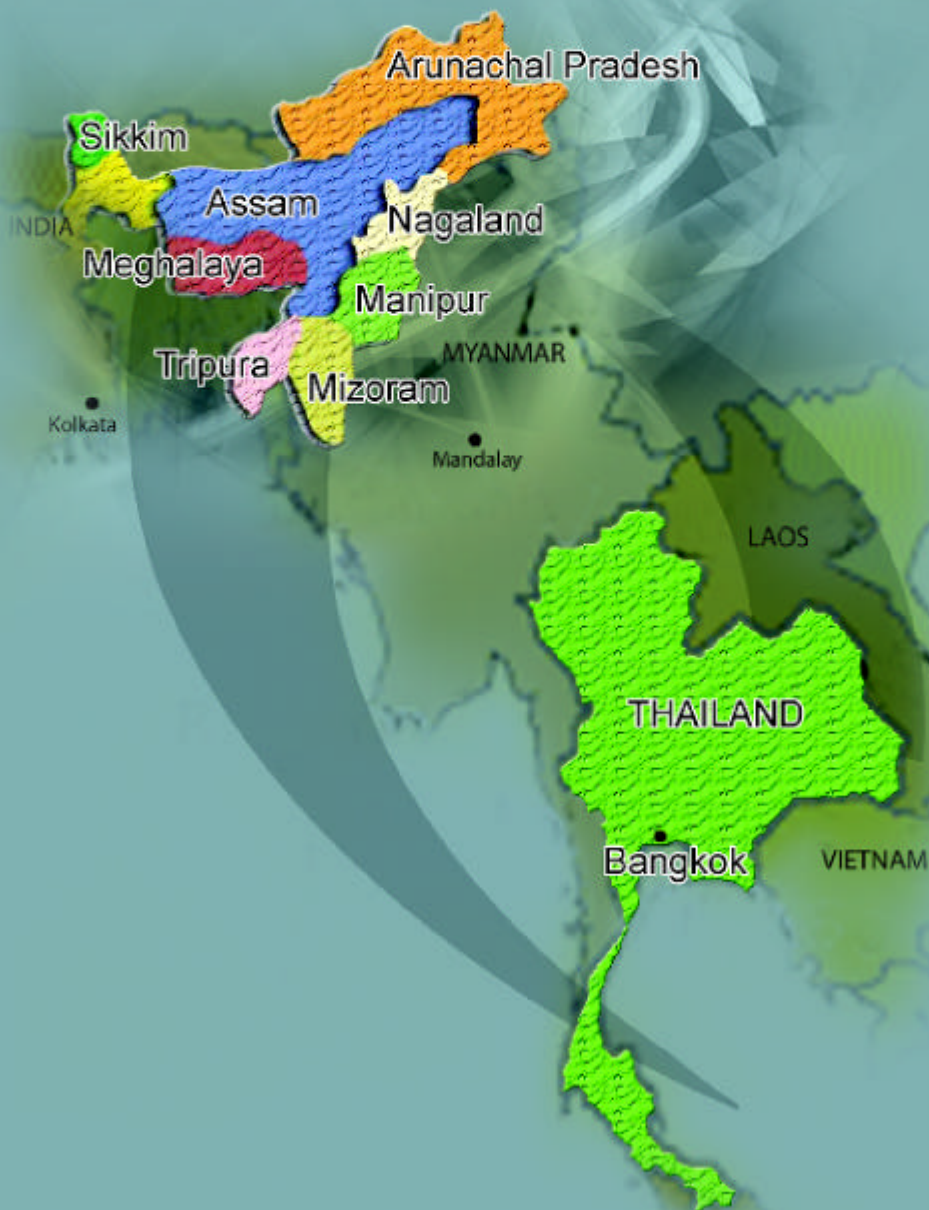
“Prime Ministerial Delegation from the Kingdom of Thailand”



The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh holding Delegation level talks with the visiting Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. General Surayud Chulanont in New Delhi on June 26, 2007.



The Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Shri Vilas Muttemwar and the Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr. Piyasvasti Amaranand signing an MoU on Enhanced Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the visiting Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. General Surayud Chulanont, in New Delhi on June 26, 2007.





H.E. Mr. Krik Krai Jirapaet, Minister of Commerce, Government of Thailand



H.E. Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Minister, Ministry of DoNER, Government of India

## Thailand and India

*Partners in Progress*

- ☞ On going FTA Negotiations
- ☞ An Early Harvest Scheme with 84 items already in place
- ☞ Indian Imports from Thailand was \$ 1803.6 million in 2006
- ☞ Indian Exports to Thailand totaled \$ 1603.3 million in 2006
- ☞ Indian Investment in Thailand was \$ 70.46 million during the year 2006
- ☞ Thai Investment in India totaled \$ 831.2 million during the period August 2001 – March 2007

### North East India and Thailand – Natural Partners

There has been much talk about the potential of the Look East policy transforming India's Northeastern region that borders ASEAN. In this foreign policy vision, Northeast India is often described as the gateway to Southeast Asia. India's *Look East Policy* envisages the northeast region not as the periphery of India, but as the centre of a thriving and integrated economic space linking two dynamic regions with a network of highways, railways, pipelines, transmission lines crisscrossing the region.

The complementarity arising out of India's Look East Policy and Thailand's look west policy give rise to immense opportunities for the two countries to develop their trade and investment relations, using the north east as a focal point. The fact that the North East of India and Thailand share very close cultural ties would only aid the development of strong business relations.

### North East Delegation to Thailand

A high-profile business delegation from the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), led by Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Union Minister, Department of North- Eastern Region (DoNER), visited Bangkok, Thailand between 22nd and 24th March, 2007, with the purpose of encouraging Thai industries and Government Agencies to actively participate in the 3rd North East Business Summit, held during April 10-11, 2007 at New Delhi, India.

The Delegation, met the Minister of Commerce, Govt. of Thailand; the Indian Ambassador in Thailand ; Senior Representatives from the Thailand Board of



ICC Secretary General Dr. Rajeev Singh at a meeting in Bangkok

Trade, India-Thailand Business Forum, and India-Thailand Chamber of Commerce to showcase significant economic opportunities that the North-East of India can offer to Thailand in sectors like Tourism, Agro & Food Processing, Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, etc.

The 23 member delegation also comprised of Ms. Sushma Singh, Secretary, Ministry of DoNER, Government of India, Mr. S.K. Bangur, President, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Rajeev Singh, Secretary General, ICC and senior members of Industry and officials from the Union Government.

### Thai Delegation to the North East Business Summit

The concluding day of the 3rd North East Business Summit, witnessed the visit of a 20-member delegation from Thailand led by the Mr. Kirk-krai Jirapaet, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Government of Thailand. Delivering the Valedictory Address, Mr. Jirapaet said that with the globalization of the world economy and Asia rising as an economic superpower, a stronger economic co-operation between India and Thailand will ensure that South and South-East Asia emerge as a prominent region of high growth in the near future.



H.E. Mr. Krik Krai Jirapaet and Hon'ble Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar at the 3rd North East Business Summit held in New Delhi



The Business Delegation from Thailand at the 3rd North East Business Summit held in New Delhi

In his speech, Mr. Jirapaet stressed on the scope of enhancing bilateral trade & commerce and identified possible areas for engagement as IT & ITeS, Pharmaceuticals, Tourism, Agro & Food Processing, Horticulture and Floriculture.

### Thai Delegation to North Eastern States

A high level business delegation from Thailand led by Mr. Krik Krai Jirapaet, Commerce Minister of Thailand visited three states of the North East, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya during 22-25 June, 2007 with a view to study the investment opportunities in the region. The visit was organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of DoNER, North Eastern Council and the state governments of Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya. The 30 member delegation which comprised of senior officials of Thai Government and prominent businessmen of Thailand explored the feasibility of various sectors of investment.



Signing of MOU with Federation of Thai Industries at Guwahati

The exercise is expected to create an opportunity for the North Eastern states to firm up business relationship with Thailand and contribute immensely to the bilateral trade between the two countries. The trade between India and Thailand currently hovers at around \$ 3.5 billion and the bilateral trade with Thailand touched \$ 2 billion in the first 8 months of fiscal 2006-7.

### Some Areas of Common Interest



*Hon'ble Ministers of Thailand and India with Mr. Jairam Ramesh*

**Construction Industry :** Thailand has a highly developed construction industry, which has transformed the countries infrastructure in the course of last few decades. North East India is on the verge of a infrastructure boom with the Government of India planning to spend an estimated Rupees Sixty Five Thousand Crores (More then \$16 billion) on roads and railways in the North East. Added to this is the scope for building Air transport facilities. The emerging scenario provides immense opportunities for Thai and Indian Industry to collaborate and invest.

**Power :** North East India, has potential to generate over 40000 MW of hydro electric power apart from coal and gas based power that can be generated. If fully harnessed the region could become a major power house for the entire South East Asia.

On the other hand, in order to keep pace with its rapid economic growth, Thailand requires to increase the availability of power by at least 7% annually. There exists great scope for the two countries to cooperate in this sector.



*Meeting with the Thailand Delegation in Guwahati*

**Tourism :** Thailand attracted over 13 million international tourists in the year 2006. This number is only expected to rise in the coming years. India's North East has immense untapped tourism potential which can be developed to have complementarities with the Thai Tourism Industry. It would be of mutual benefit to collaborate and draw from each others strengths.



*The Hon'ble Ministers in conversation at Guwahati*

**Inland Water Ways :** The North East of India is blessed with a large perennial water system comprising the Barak and Brahmaputra rivers, both of which are navigable for most parts of the year. If fully developed the river route could provide a very cost effective means of transportation to and from the region. It could also become a major tourist attraction. Thai Companies which have years of experience in managing Inland Water ways networks could take advantage of the opportunity offered by the North East of India.

**Agro Food Processing :** Thailand's processed food industry is one of the most competitive in the international market. The North East on the other hand produces a large variety of organic agro horticultural products. This is another area where the North East and Thailand could benefit from mutual competencies.



*Ms. Chutiima Bunyapraphasara, DG, Department of Trade Negotiations along with H.E. Mr. Jirapaet addressing the audience at a meeting in Tripura.*

**Handloom and Handicrafts :** The North East of India and Thailand are both known for their colorful handloom and exquisite handicrafts. The greater exposure of the Thai Handloom and Handicrafts Industry to international market trends has given it a level of awareness and expertise which could provide a good learning ground for the Handloom and particularly handicrafts industry of the North East. There exist opportunities for technical and marketing collaborations.

**Rubber :** India and Thailand are two of the largest producers of Natural Rubber. The North East of India is fast becoming a major Rubber producing region in India. There exists great scope for cooperation between Thailand and the North East to enhance mutual competitiveness.



## The North East India Trade & Investment Opportunities Week in Bangkok, October 1-4, 2007 Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Bangkok

### Inaugural Session

The high profile event will be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Commerce Minister of Thailand on October 1st, 2007 in the presence of the Honble Minister of DoNER, Government of India, Minister of state for Commerce, Government of India, Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States and their cabinet colleagues along with captains of Industry from India and Thailand. Senior Government officials from Thailand, the Union Government of India and the State Governments of the North East will also attend the event.

### Business Interactions

Over a period of three days Businessmen from the North East and their counterparts from Thailand will interact with each other along with the respective government functionaries from India and Thailand in the presence of The Hon'ble Commerce Minister of Thailand, Honble Minister of DoNER, Government of India, and Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States. Focused Sectoral discussions to explore investment opportunities in the North East will be held in the following areas :

- ☞ Tourism
- ☞ Agro/Food Processing/Rubber/ Tea
- ☞ Infrastructure/Roads/Power/Civil Construction
- ☞ Handloom/ Handicrafts/ Bamboo

### One-on-One Interactions

While opportunities will be highlighted through presentations and formal interactive sessions, businessmen will hold also one-on-one interactions with an objective to begin direct business relations.

### North East Exhibition

During the event, an exhibition will be organized where states from the North East would showcase detailed investment opportunities in sectors like Agro & Processed Food, Infrastructure Projects, Tourism Circuits, IT & ITES etc. Some of the unique products from the North East will also be displayed for sale :

- ☞ Handicraft items including cane and bamboo products
- ☞ Handlooms and textiles including silk products
- ☞ Agro & Processed food products including organic produces.

The exhibition will be open to general public.

### Cultural and Fashion Shows

While a fashion show featuring textiles and designs from the North East will show case the modern, fashionable and trendy North East of India, cultural shows will feature the diverse cultural heritage of the North East.

### North East Cuisine

Another key attraction will be delicious North Eastern Cuisine to be served at the gala dinner on the 1st day of the event. Chefs specializing in north eastern delicacies would be flown in from the North East to cook up dream recipes.

### Program Schedule

Day 1	2.30 pm	Registration
	3.30 pm	Inauguration of Exhibition by Hon. Commerce Minister of Thailand
Day 1	4.00 pm	Inaugural Session in presence of Chief Guest – Hon'ble Commerce Minister of Thailand Hon'ble Minister of DONER, Government of India Chief Ministers of NE States, Top Government Officials of Thailand and India
	6.45 pm	"Colors of Paradise" – Fashion and Cultural Show from NE followed by Dinner
Day 2	9.30 am	Registration
	10.00 am	Opportunities in Tourism & Hospitality Sector
	12.45 pm	Lunch
	2.00 pm	Sectorial meeting on investment opportunities in infrastructure, Agro & Food, Handloom & Handicraft sector
	4.30 pm	Break Away sectorial interactive sessions
Day 3	5.30 pm	Cultural Show
	11.00 am – 8.30 pm	Exhibition to remain open
	11.00 am onwards	One to one interactions, Registration for factory visit
	5.30 pm	Feedback session over High-Tea Cultural Show
Day 3	7.30 pm	Dinner hosted by Indo-Thai Forum
Day 4	7.00 am	Visit to factory / production sector



**Ministry of DoNER**  
Government of India

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
Maulana Azad Road  
New Delhi – 110011  
Ph: 011-23794866



**Indian Chamber of Commerce**

ICC Towers, 4, India Exchange Place  
Kolkata - 700 001, India  
Ph. +91-33-2230 3242/3243/3244  
Fax : +91-33-2231 3380/3377  
Email : nebs@indianchamber.org

North East Office  
House No. 5, Rajgarh Link Road,  
Anil Nagar, Guwahati – 781007  
Ph: 03612461763  
Email: iccner@indianchamber.org

Department of Trade Negotiations  
Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of Thailand  
44/100 Nonthaburi Road,  
Nonthaburi 11000  
Ph: 025475647

ICC Information Desk  
Embassy of India  
46, Soi 23(Prasarn Mitr)  
Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok – 10110  
Ph: 022601556, 0860266675 (M)

