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Thailand Strong



In an age of disruption, no disrupter has been greater than Covid-19. The coronavirus's toll on human health is undeniable. But business has also been hit hard. Lockdowns and quarantines have broken supply chains around the world. Shipments of goods, including food and medicines, have run into roadblocks, leaving countless people in need. The virus exploited weaknesses in our immune system. The pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in our global system of manufacturing and trade.

One country that has managed to contain the pandemic, keep its factories churning, and supply chains flowing is the Kingdom of Thailand. Nowhere has that been more evident than in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), Thailand's advanced development zone, and home to clusters of hi-tech industries. The pandemic forced parts of the economy to shut down, but the Corridor's logistics networks – its ports, airports, trains, highways, and digital links – remained operational. Meanwhile, the government is building even more infrastructure to boost connectivity further. Investors are taking note of that commitment and resilience as they rethink how to do business in a changed world.

“Business continuity is now a more important consideration, as is diversification,” said Dr. Luxmon Attapich, Deputy Secretary-General of the EEC. Thailand and the EEC are providing those. Once regarded as a backwater, “Southeast Asia is a viable commercial supply chain location,”

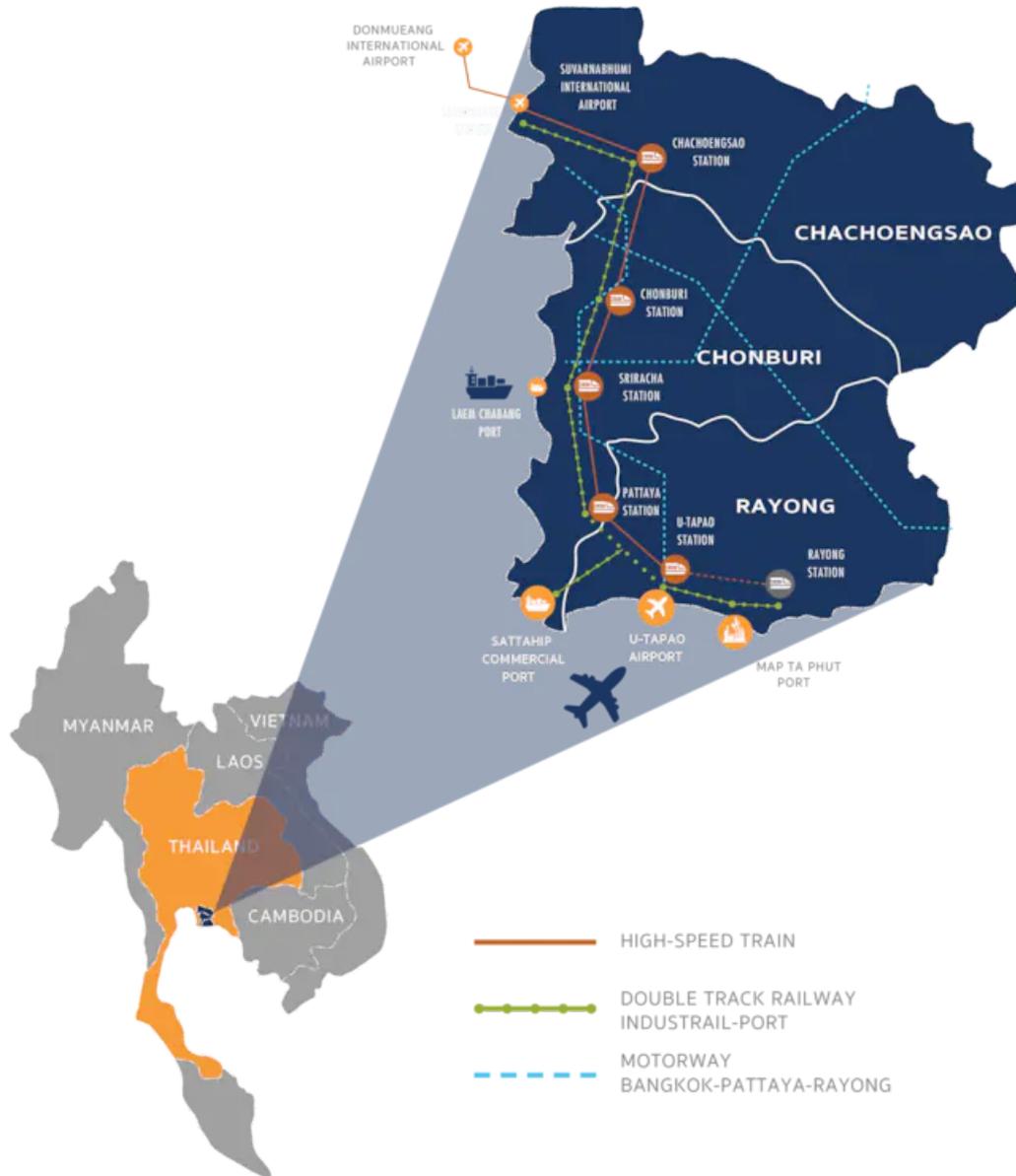
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According to the EEC Business Council in Southeast Asia, the EEC is the largest, most strategically located, fully integrated and connected hub for advanced industries.



EEC Complete Strategic Location

Creating an Inclusive Environment



The Corridor’s wealth of supporting businesses and logistical options saved the day for Quantum SPT, said Mario Schiller, the company’s operations manager. When China shut down and stopped producing parts for the industrial pumps Quantum manufactures in Thailand for export, Schiller was able to find Thai firms willing and able to make them. He intends to keep sourcing from those companies going forward. When the movement of people was restricted to stop the spread of the virus, the government ensured his employees could still get to work. When distressed global airlines canceled cargo flights, he was able to ship

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recently cut taxes in half for companies that invest at least \$33 million in businesses involved in the EEC's 12 targeted industries. More tax breaks are available for companies investing in automation, higher technologies, research, and skills development.



Thailand has weathered global economic contagions, a tsunami, massive floods and other disasters. And every time it emerges stronger and more resilient. In this era of disruption, Thailand is proving it is among the strongest links in any supply chain.

