

# Trade Digest

Vol. 6 Issue 10

22 November 2019

## Thailand moves up six spots in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Ranking for 2020

The recent release of the Ease of Doing Business Report 2020 by the World Bank highlights the progress made by Thailand in improving its business and regulatory environment.

Overall, this year's report shows that 115 out of the 190 economies assessed worldwide made it easier to do business. While the developing economies have made tangible progress in terms of closing the gap to the developed economies, especially in the area of business incorporation, the level of disparity remains significant with the report indicating that it costs around 50% of the country's per capita income to launch a company in a low-income country, compared to just 4.2% in a high income economy. The report also revealed that starting a business in a country ranked in the bottom 50 can take, on average, up to six times longer than starting one in a country in the top 20.

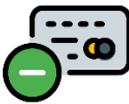
Taking a closer look at East Asia and Pacific region, Singapore remains a leader, both regionally and worldwide, as it retains its second place ranking on the ease of doing business index for a fourth consecutive year. From the East Asia and Pacific zone, Singapore (2), Hong Kong (3), South Korea (5), Malaysia (12), Taiwan (15), and Thailand (21) are among the top 25, while the region's average ranking is 96<sup>th</sup>. This year, China has also made further notable improvement jumping from 46<sup>th</sup> place to 31<sup>st</sup> in 2020, earning it a place among the top 10 improvers for two consecutive years.

Looking at Thailand, the country has climbed 6 spots from 27<sup>th</sup> in 2019 to the 21<sup>st</sup> in 2020 with an overall score of 80.1. The country's strengths include starting a business, getting electricity, protecting minority investors, and trading across borders, with scores above 80 in all

of these criteria. Also, the country's progress in amending its legislation regarding construction permits has been recognized as a major reform by the report. Thailand has introduced legislation allowing a phased inspection system to replace the previous random check mechanism. This new procedure has reduced the number of procedures involved from 19 to 14 steps, while also shortening the time required to complete the process from 118 to 113 days.

Thailand's performance in this year's ease of doing business rankings represents its best performance in 6 years. This improvement sends a strong message to investors worldwide that the government is making significant progress in its ongoing efforts to create a more conducive business and investment environment, especially through the government's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) development project.

### Thailand's Topic Scores

	<b>92.4</b> Starting a Business		<b>86.0</b> Protecting Minority Investors
	<b>77.3</b> Dealing with Construction Permits		<b>77.7</b> Paying Taxes
	<b>98.7</b> Getting Electricity		<b>84.6</b> Trading across Borders
	<b>69.5</b> Registering Property		<b>67.9</b> Enforcing Contracts
	<b>70.0</b> Getting Credit		<b>76.8</b> Resolving Insolvency

Source: *The Doing Business 2020*, World Bank

Stay informed with latest development in trade negotiations and changes in trade laws/regulations. Get an insight of how the latest news will affect your market and regulatory environment from our “Trade Digest”.

If you have any comments or questions regarding Trade Digest or any matters discussed herein, or if you are interested in finding out more about Bolliger & Company (Thailand) services, please contact any of the persons below:

Rachda Chiasakul | Partner and Managing Director  
Rachda.C@bolliger-company.com

Sarut Wittayarungruang Sri | Director  
Sarut.W@bolliger-company.com

Tel. +66 (0) 2 230 6399  
Fax. +66 (0) 2 230 6333

[www.bolliger-company.com](http://www.bolliger-company.com)

## **Bolliger & Company (Thailand)**

Bolliger & Company (Thailand) Ltd. is a public policy and strategic consulting firm with a focus on research, policy formulation, and decision making. Our primary areas of expertise are in the fields of international trade and investment, economic and social policy, and business strategy.

Our superior technical skill, combined with in-depth knowledge of the business environment, enables us to provide fact-based, unbiased, and practical advice. Whether you are a private company wishing to understand the impact of public policy on your business, or a government authority aiming to design appropriate laws and regulations, we have the experience and expertise to help you achieve tangible goals.

*“Clients’ success is our best interest”*