

EXIM Thailand, JBIC and NEDA Join Force
to Promote Cooperation for Asia and GMS Development

Dr. Thanong Bidaya, Minister of Finance, presided over the signing ceremony of the memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between Export-Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM Thailand), represented by Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors and Acting President, and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) represented by Mr. Wataru Yoshida, Resident Executive Director for Asia and Oceania, and between Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (Public Organization) (NEDA) represented by Lt. Nophadol Bhandhugravi, President, and JBIC represented by Mr. Hiroto Arakawa, Executive Director, on Tuesday May 23, 2006, at EXIM Thailand Head Office. The purpose of these two MOUs is to promote Thai and Japanese trade and investment in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) along with human resources and economic development in the neighboring countries and Asia as a whole.

According to Dr. Narongchai, the MOU between EXIM Thailand and JBIC will serve as a framework for Thailand and Japan to work in partnership to promote and support trade and investment undertaken by Thai and Japanese business operators, particularly SMEs in the GMS. Such collaboration will complement the economic infrastructure development and meet the demand of the host countries with priority given to the GMS's agro-industrial sector. Both parties also aim to help increase productivity, international trade and investment volume of the GMS countries. EXIM Thailand and JBIC are committed to furnish Thai and Japanese public and private sectors with financial support, information, human resources development capability instrumental to driving the economic growth of the GMS and the Asian region.

Lt. Nophadol Bhandhugravi, NEDA President, added that the cooperation between NEDA and JBIC would help establish a tangible, effective and sustainable form of assistance rendered by Thailand to the neighboring countries. Through the extensive exchange of research and general information on the GMS' development projects and policies, both parties hope to enhance their capability and roles in supporting the GMS in the course of their social and economic development. Further, based on its long-standing experience and technical prowess, JBIC will also help develop NEDA personnel in charge of international development projects through training programs and meetings on a regular basis.

May 23, 2006

Public Relations Division

Office of Top Management

About Export-Import Bank of Thailand

Export-Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM Thailand) is a state-owned specialized financial institution under the Ministry of Finance's supervision. Established under the Export-Import Bank of Thailand Act B.E. 2536 (1993), which was amended in 1999 to expand its role in supporting investments, EXIM Thailand was mandated to provide financial services for the promotion and facilitation of Thailand's exports, imports and investments for national development. The Bank's objectives are to strengthen the competitive edge of Thai exporters and investors abroad as well as promoting business activities that contribute to the earning or saving of foreign exchange.

**For further information, please contact Public Relations Division, Office of Top Management
Tel. 0 2271 3700, 0 2278 0047, 0 2617 2111 ext. 1140-6**