Bangkok Global Law

540, Unit 1705, 17th Floor, Mercury Tower,Ploenchit Road,
Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330 Thailand
Tel: +(66) 2 2525895-6 Fax: +(66) 2 2525897
Website: www.bgloballaw.com
E-mail: info@bgloballaw.com

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CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW

Measures for Digital Platform Operators Providing Public Ride-Hailing Services

The Electronic Transactions Commission has issued an announcement outlining new operational measures for digital platform service providers that offer public ride-hailing services via cars or motorcycles.

The key provisions introduce regulatory guidelines for ride-hailing platforms such as those enabling users to request car or motorcycle taxi services via mobile applications. Under the new requirements, a driver must hold a valid public transport driver's license, and all vehicles used in such services must be properly registered as public transport vehicles in accordance with applicable laws.

In addition, platform operators are required to establish a transparent system for verifying and displaying driver and vehicle information, including the driver's full name, public driver's license number, vehicle registration number, and real-time vehicle location. This information must also be made accessible to relevant authorities for inspection.

These measures are designed to enhance the safety of ride-hailing services and build greater public confidence in digital transportation platforms. The announcement will take effect on 2 October 2025.

Regulatory Updates on Cash-on-Delivery Transportation under Thailand's Consumer Protection Regime

Since 2024, the business of cash-on-delivery (COD) transportation has been designated as a business responsible for managing the entries in payment receipts under the Thai Consumer Protection Law. This designation imposes obligations on business operators acting as intermediaries between buyers and sellers, particularly concerning the issuance of payment receipts and the handling of seller refund procedures.

On 5 July 2025, recent amendments to the Notification of the Contract Committee introduced targeted relaxations to consumer protection measures applicable to COD transportation operators, especially in the context of e-commerce transactions.

The amended regulation retains this five-day holding period but introduces a significant exception: if the consumer confirms that the goods is accurate and complete upon receipt, the operator is permitted to release payment to the seller immediately. This change enables faster settlements while preserving consumer rights in cases where product issues arise.

The amended regulation also addresses the issuance of payment receipts. Based on original compliance rule, for cash-on-delivery (COD) transportation operators were required to issue receipts upon receiving payment from the buyer in e-commerce transaction; however, the amendment provides added flexibility. If issuing a receipt immediately is not feasible, the receipts of payment must be issued and delivered by the following day. This ensures consumers continue to receive timely and verifiable proof of payment without disrupting operational efficiency. Delivery of electronic receipts remains subject to the provisions of the Electronic Transactions Act.

These regulatory updates provide some operational relief for logistics providers handling COD transactions. At the same time, they underscore the importance of traceability, transparency, and timely dispute resolution, especially for businesses functioning as intermediaries in the e-commerce transaction chain.

ENTERTAINMENT

Game Industry Bill Faces Objections Over Proposed Promotion Fund

Thailand's draft Game Industry Act, led by the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA), has encountered resistance from the Ministry of Finance's revolving fund committee and the Budget Bureau due to a controversial funding provision. The draft includes a clause requiring the creation of a specific fund to promote the gaming sector, aimed at securing 1 billion THB annually—split equally between the new fund and the Revenue Department.

According to the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (DES), the committee believes existing financial mechanisms, such as the DES Ministry's Digital Fund, are sufficient to support the industry. The ministry has recommended that DEPA consider removing the clause to facilitate a smoother legislative process.

The draft is designed to provide a comprehensive framework for regulating and promoting the digital game sector, which is currently valued at 30–40 billion THB. It addresses issues such as content regulation—particularly regarding games with gambling-like features—and proposes a registration system to balance oversight with industry growth.

The fund would be managed by a future Game Promotion Institute, envisioned to play a central role in the industry's development. the DEPA, stated that, with adequate support, Thailand's game industry could reach 100 billion THB in value within the next decade. However, with annual game exports totaling only 800 million THB, the sector continues to face a trade deficit, underscoring the need for strategic investment.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Thailand Seeks Tariff Relief Through U.S. Trade Negotiations Ahead of August Deadline

As the United States' 90-day tariff reprieve is set to lapse on 1 August 2025, the Thai government is taking concerted steps to negotiate a resolution and mitigate the potential imposition of a 36% import tariff under the U.S. reciprocal tariff framework. In response, Thailand has submitted a comprehensive trade package, offered market-opening concessions, and initiated compliance reforms in a bid to preserve its export competitiveness while avoiding a trade confrontation with the United States.

Deputy Finance Minister confirmed that Thailand is engaged in ongoing negotiations with the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), emphasizing that these discussions are inherently multi-staged and complex. Deputy Finance Minister cited a meeting held on 3 July 2025 in

Washington D.C., led by the Finance Minister, as part of a high-level engagement with USTR officials. The Thai side conveyed its intent to rebalance bilateral trade, address regulatory gaps, and improve transparency in origin certification—all key concerns under U.S. trade law.

From a legal standpoint, Thailand has formally committed to strengthen legal compliance mechanisms, particularly concerning mislabeling of origin and third-country transshipment—issues that have drawn heightened scrutiny under U.S. customs enforcement laws. In May 2025, the Department of Foreign Trade has tightened export controls regulation by issuing the regulation on verification and certification of product origin for the exporter exporting certain product to the U.S.

Additionally, Thailand's proposed concessions and tariff elimination are both substantive and symbolic, underscoring a strategic alignment with U.S. trade interests. These include:

- Expanded imports of U.S. goods, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), ethane, and Boeing aircraft, reflecting a politically calibrated effort to reduce the U.S. trade deficit with Thailand.
- Commitments by Thai state-owned and private enterprises such as PTT Global Chemical, SCG Chemicals, and Thai Airways to enter into long-term procurement contracts with U.S. suppliers.
- Active engagement with the U.S. Grains Council and other agricultural stakeholders to signal readiness for broader agro-industrial cooperation.
- Thailand has offered to eliminate import tariffs on a wide range of U.S. products. (i.e., both agricultural and industrial goods.)

If accepted, the deal could enable Thailand to sidestep the punitive 36% export tariff and instead secure a more favorable rate. While no official deal has yet been announced, sources at the Ministry of Finance suggest that negotiations may have reached a tentative understanding, with outcomes leaning "in a positive direction." The Thai delegation is expected to return shortly, and any final agreement would likely be framed under the existing bilateral trade frameworks, without requiring treaty renegotiation.

INVESTMENT

Investment Promotion Measures for Tourism-Related Businesses in Secondary Cities

The Board of Investment (BOI) has approved the revision of promoted business activities under Category 10 High-Value Services, with the objective of utilizing tourism as a key mechanism to drive economic development in high-potential tourism areas, particularly secondary cities. This measure is designed to transform tourism into a new economic dimension and promote equitable income distribution to local communities. The following are examples of business activities that are eligible for investment promotion:

- Cruise Terminal Business: Projects for developing large-scale cruise terminals must have a minimum investment of THB 100 million, excluding land costs and working capital. The facility should include essential infrastructure and services to support cruise ships and tourists, such as passenger terminal buildings and designated areas for customs and immigration processing. Projects located in secondary cities, as designated by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, are eligible for Group A2 incentives, while projects in other provinces will receive Group A3 incentives.

- Museum Business: Projects to establish museums must have a minimum investment of THB 30 million, excluding land costs and working capital. The project details must be approved by the relevant committee. Projects located in secondary cities, as designated by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, are eligible for Group A2 incentives, while projects in other provinces will receive Group A3 incentives.
- Hotel Business:
  - In cases where the hotel has not fewer than 100 rooms, the investment capital per room (excluding land cost and working capital) must be not less than THB 2 million.
  - In cases where the hotel has fewer than 100 rooms, the total investment capital (excluding land cost and working capital) must be not less than THB 500 million.
  - For projects receiving promotion under the Investment Promotion Measures for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), the hotel must have not fewer than 20 rooms and not more than 99 rooms, and the investment capital per room (excluding land cost and working capital) must be not less than THB 1 million.
  - The hotel must meet the quality standards prescribed by the Office of the Board of Investment.
  - Projects located in secondary cities, as designated by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, are eligible for Group A2 incentives, while projects in other provinces will receive Group A3 incentives.
- Large-Scale Convention Center Business:
  - The area designated for meetings must be not less than 4,000 square meters, with the largest meeting room having an area of not less than 3,000 square meters. The facility must be equipped with appropriate tools and amenities suitable for the project. The layout and the master plan must be approved by the Committee.
  - Projects located in secondary cities, as designated by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, are eligible for Group A2 incentives, while projects in other provinces will receive Group A3 incentives.

Thailand Moves Forward with Financial Hub Vision: Cabinet Endorses Amended Draft Act on 15 July 2025

On 4 February 2025, the Thai Cabinet approved in principle the Draft Financial Business Center Act, a legislative initiative aimed at establishing Thailand as a regional financial hub. On 15 July 2025, the Cabinet approved a revised version prepared by the Office of the Council of State, incorporating key legal refinements following inter-agency consultations.

The Draft Financial Business Center Act defines eight categories of target financial businesses: (1) commercial banking, (2) payment systems, (3) capital markets, (4) derivatives trading, (5) digital assets, (6) insurance and reinsurance, (7) reinsurance brokerage, and (8) other designated services. To qualify, operators must primarily serve non-residents and be located in government-designated financial zones, while also meeting prescribed employment conditions for Thai nationals.

A central feature of the Draft is the establishment of a One-Stop Authority (OSA) under the Committee for the Regulation and Promotion of the Financial Business Center (Committee). The OSA is empowered to license, regulate, and supervise businesses under the Draft. Licenses are issued by the Director with the Committee's approval, and eligible entities include Thai limited companies, public companies, or foreign branches.

Licensed business under the Draft Financial Business Center Act is prohibited from conducting non-target businesses and may outsource only certain functions—with prior approval from the Director and the Committee—rather than delegating full operational control.

Investment privileges for license business under Draft Financial Business Center Act have been updated as follows:

1. Exemption from foreign ownership limits under the Condominium Law;
2. Immigration privileges for foreign personnel (i.e., the ability to hire foreign professionals for specialized services (e.g., legal professionals);
3. Tax incentives under the Revenue Code (a new addition); and
4. Other regulatory benefits.

The Draft Financial Business Center Act also clarifies the continuation of privileges in the event of license surrender, revocation, or business transfer. In mergers or transfers, privileges may continue for up to 90 days, except tax incentives, which terminate immediately upon license cessation. If a license is revoked, all privileges end on the revocation date, though successors may inherit the original privileges. The Draft Financial Business Center Act reduces the enforcement period for Chapters on licensing criteria, investment privileges, and regulatory supervision from 360 to 180 days after being pass into the Act and its publication in the Royal Gazette.

LABOR

Thai Wage Committee Announces New Minimum Wage Rates Nationwide

On 17 June 2025, the Thai Wage Committee officially announced a notification stipulating a new set of minimum daily wage rates, which vary by province and type of business, following a meeting held on 7 June 2025 (the Wage Committee Notification). The decision was made after considering current economic conditions, labor costs, and legal obligations under the Thai Labour Protection Law, as amended. This Wage Committee Notification was published in the Royal Gazette on 1 July 2025.

The new minimum wages will be enforced nationwide and apply to all employers and employees, regardless of the number of hours worked—provided the working time does not exceed the standard legal limits. The new minimum wages under this Wage Committee Notification, determined based on the cost of living in each province, are as follows:

Top-Tier Minimum Wage (400 Baht per day):

- Applicable to:
  - Employee under Hotels categorized as Type 2, Type 3, and Type 4 under Thai Hotel Law
  - Employee under Service businesses under the Thai Law on Service Establishments in all province
- Enforced in all provinces, and specifically in:

    - Bangkok, Chachoengsao, Chonburi, Phuket, Rayong and Surat Thani (Koh Samui District only)

Other Notable Provincial Rates:

- 380 Baht/day in:
    - Chiang Mai (Mueang District only) and Songkhla (Hat Yai District only)
- 372 Baht/day in:
    - Nakhon Pathom, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Samut Prakan, and Samut Sakhon
- Ranging from 350–359 Baht/day in:
    - Nakhon Ratchasima, Chiang Mai (excluding Mueang District), Chaing Rai Samut Songkhram, Khon Kaen, Prachin Buri, Ayutthaya, Lopburi, and etcs
- 344–349 Baht/day in:
    - More rural provinces including Narathiwat, Pattani, Yala, Trang, Nan, Phayao, Phrae, Kalasin, and Nakhon Si Thammarat

The term "day" refers to normal working hours, which are 7 hours/day for hazardous work and 8 hours/day for all other types of work. Even if an employee works fewer hours than the standard, the full minimum daily wage must still be paid.

Employers must adjust their payroll systems to comply with the new wage rates and are strongly advised to consult with legal or HR experts to ensure full compliance. This wage adjustment reflects the government's effort to strike a balance between improving workers' living standards and supporting sustainable economic development, with a clear move toward regionally-differentiated wage policies.

Thailand Boosts Unemployment Benefits for Laid-Off Workers

The Social Security Office of Thailand ("SSO") has announced that a new ministerial regulation has taken effect, increasing unemployment benefits for laid-off employees insured under the Social Security Act to 60% of their daily wage, up from the previous 50%. The benefit is payable for a maximum of 180 days per claim.

As a result, insured people are entitled to receive a maximum of 9,000 baht per month, compared to the previous maximum of 7,500 Baht. Over the 180-day period (six months), the total maximum benefit has increased to 54,000 Baht, from the previous limit of 45,000 baht.

To be eligible for unemployment compensation, insured persons must have contributed to the Social Security Fund for at least six months within the fifteen months preceding their unemployment. Additionally, the period of unemployment must be no fewer than eight days.

This adjustment is intended to provide sufficient compensation to laid-off insured people to support their living expenses under the current economic climate.

The regulation has been effective since 28 June 2025.

The Latest Draft Amendment to the Labor Protection Act

On 16 July 2025, the Ad Hoc Committee presented a proposal to review the Draft Amendment to Labour Protection Act. The following are the key issues highlighted:

The Draft Amendment to Labour Protection Act will apply to all types of employment, including government and state enterprises, ensuring that all employees receive at least the minimum benefits and protections required by law. Contract-based service employees shall be granted fair compensation, weekly holidays, traditional holidays, annual leave, sick leave, and maternity leave equivalent to the minimum statutory entitlements.

Female employees shall be entitled to 120 days of maternity leave, an increase from the current 98 days. Employers will be required to pay wages for 60 of those days. This measure is aimed at promoting childbirth, improving the quality of life for employees, and reinforcing family cohesion.

Female employees shall be entitled to an additional 15 days of leave to care for a child experiencing a health condition that poses a risk of complications. During this leave, employers shall pay 50% of the employee's regular wages.

Employees shall be entitled to 15 days of leave to support their spouse during childbirth, which must be taken either before or within 90 days from the date of delivery of a child. Employers are obligated to provide full wage compensation during the period of leave.

PROCEDURAL LAW

Thailand Expands Tax Court Powers to Criminal Cases Under Recent Legal Reform

Thailand has taken a significant step forward in reforming its tax litigation system with the enactment of the *Act Establishing the Tax Court and the Procedure for Tax Cases (No. 3) B.E. 2568* which is published in the Government Gazette on 27 May 2025, and set to take effect on 24 November 2025, the amended law notably expands the jurisdiction of the Tax Court to include criminal tax cases—a development that reflects Thailand's broader effort to enhance the efficiency and integrity of its tax dispute resolution framework.

Originally, Thailand's Tax Court handled civil tax matters such as disputes under the Revenue Code, customs law, and excise tax law. However, this amendment introduces a paradigm shift by authorising the Tax Court to adjudicate criminal offenses under these laws, including criminal tax evasion and related misconduct. The expanded jurisdiction aims to ensure that such cases are decided by judges with specialised expertise in tax law, rather than through general criminal courts that may lack this technical focus.

Criminal tax cases will now fall under the purview of the Tax Court unless they are specifically assigned to another court by law, such as the Juvenile and Family Court. This change introduces much-needed clarity and consistency, especially in cases where multiple offenses arise from a single act or where tax-related crimes are interconnected with other legal breaches.

The key changes in the amendment are highlighted below:

1. **Broadened Jurisdiction to Include Criminal Tax Matters**
   A core feature of the amendment is the extension of the Tax Court's authority to cover criminal offenses under the Revenue Code, customs and excise laws, and other tax-related statutes designated by royal decree. This means that cases involving criminal tax evasion and related offenses will be adjudicated by judges with expertise in tax law. The law also outlines how the court should handle cases involving multiple offenses—both tax and non-tax while expressly excluding matters under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile and Family Court.

2. **Updated Definition of "Tax Case"**
   The term "tax case" has been redefined to include all matters falling within the jurisdiction of the Tax Court, encompassing both civil and newly added criminal cases.

3. **Revised Procedural Framework** To enable the court to effectively manage criminal matters, the procedural rules have been expanded. In cases where the act or its subordinate legislation does not specify procedures, the Tax Court may refer to the Civil Procedure Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, or procedural laws applicable to khwaeng-level courts, depending on the nature of the case.

4. **Clarified Appeals Process** The amendment differentiates between appeal procedures for civil and criminal tax matters. Civil tax case appeals will continue under the Civil Procedure Code, whereas appeals in criminal tax cases must follow the rules of the Criminal Procedure Code.

5. **Rules on Absence in Civil Proceedings** For civil tax cases, if a party has been notified of a court date but fails to appear, it becomes the duty of such party to follow the schedule of future hearings. If they the party does not, it will be assumed such party is aware of the ongoing process.

6. **Treatment of Ongoing Criminal Cases** Criminal tax cases that were already under consideration by other courts before the new law takes effect will proceed in those courts until a final decision is rendered, thereby avoiding interruptions or jurisdictional conflicts.

STRUCTURAL REFORM LAW

Thailand's State Enterprises Face Structural Reforms Ahead of OECD Accession

Thailand's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are expected to undergo significant reforms as the country advances its efforts to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The reforms aim to align Thailand's public sector with OECD standards, particularly in the areas of corporate governance, transparency, and fair competition.

According to a source from the Ministry of finance, Thailand is in the process of drafting initial agreements for OECD accession, with a memorandum expected to be submitted by December 2025. As part of this process, both government agencies and state enterprises will need to adopt OECD-aligned practices. The State Enterprise Policy Office (SEPO) is leading this effort by preparing regulatory changes, including the enforcement of market-based pricing for procurement—even in internal transactions between state enterprises and their subsidiaries.

The OECD has also raised concerns about the variety of legal forms under which Thai SOEs operate. These include statutory bodies such as the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), public or private limited companies like PTT, and public organisations such as the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA). The OECD generally prefers a standard corporate format—specifically, limited companies—for greater consistency and accountability. Transitioning to this structure could pose challenges for Thailand, particularly regarding the status and benefits of employees in certain agencies.

In addition to regulatory reform, Thai agencies are working with the OECD across multiple sectors. From 23-25 June 2025, representatives from the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) participated in a Strategic Foresight workshop with OECD experts to assess emerging global trends and their implications for Thailand's 14th National

Economic and Social Development Plan (2028–2032).

Thailand officially submitted a letter of intent to join the OECD in 2023, becoming the first ASEAN country to do so. Currently, only Japan and South Korea are members from Asia, while Indonesia is in the application process. OECD accession is a lengthy process that typically spans seven to eight years following submission of a formal application. In the meantime, the Thai government is expected to push forward with reforms to demonstrate its commitment to OECD principles and readiness for membership.

TAXATION AND FINANCE LAW

BOI Launches Support Measures in Response to U.S. Tax Policy

In response to the U.S. government's implementation of reciprocal tariff measures, Thailand's Board of Investment (BOI) has introduced a comprehensive policy package titled "Enhancing the Competitiveness of Thai Entrepreneurs for the New Global Era." The initiative addresses two key objectives: strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of Thai businesses, particularly through robust domestic supply chains, and mitigating risks associated with foreign trade policies by regulating investment in sensitive sectors.

The policy comprises five core measures:

1. SME Efficiency Enhancement – Support for Thai SMEs registered with the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion (OSMEP) to invest in machinery upgrades, automation, digitalization, and energy-saving technologies.
2. Promotion of Local Content – Encouragement of local component usage in key industries such as electric vehicles and home appliances, requiring companies to obtain "Made in Thailand" (MiT) certification from the Federation of Thai Industries.
3. Stricter Manufacturing Criteria – Heightened scrutiny of production processes in sectors vulnerable to trade policy impacts, with a requirement for substantial transformation of primary raw materials into finished products.
4. Investment Regulation in Targeted Sectors – Oversight of investment in certain industries to protect domestic markets and maintain fair competition.
5. Employment Policy Adjustment – revisions of conditions for hiring foreign personnel. Companies with over 100 employees must ensure that at least 70% of their workforce are Thai nationals, encouraging knowledge transfer and local employment.

In addition to the five announced measures, the BOI is formulating additional targeted support for entrepreneurs impacted by U.S. tariff increases. These forthcoming initiatives aim to preserve Thailand's competitiveness as an investment hub, with a particular emphasis on high value-added export-oriented industries such as food, rubber products, automotive parts, electronics, electrical appliances, machinery, and gems and jewelry.

Ministry of Finance issued Notification on Government Digital Tokens Framework

In an effort to modernize public debt management and expand access to financing alternatives, the Ministry of Finance of Thailand issued its Notification in 2025 authorizing the issuance of Government Digital Tokens (G-Tokens) as a form of public borrowing (the

Notification). This regulatory framework, enacted under the Thai Public Debt Management Law, and was approved by the Cabinet on 31 May 2025, and published on Thailand Royal Gazette on 7 July 2025. The initiative integrates digital asset technology into the fiscal operations of Thailand and promotes savings among the general public.

Under this Notification, the Ministry of Finance is empowered to borrow funds to finance the national budget deficit through the issuance of digital tokens, in accordance with the Thai Digital Asset Business Law. Such issuance must remain within borrowing limits pre-approved by the Cabinet. A "digital token" under this Notification refers to an electronic data unit created on a digital system or network that represents a contractual right between the Ministry of Finance and the token holder.

The Notification assigns key responsibilities to involved parties as follows:

1. Digital Token Offering System Providers are responsible for managing the technological infrastructure for token creation and issuance.
2. Digital Asset Exchanges, Brokers, and Offering System Providers act as registrars, maintaining accurate and up-to-date token registers.
3. These same entities also serve as custodians, holding G-Tokens on behalf of purchasers.

Token offerings must be conducted through licensed digital asset exchanges, brokers, or other legally authorized entities capable of handling digital asset transactions. All offerings are subject to criteria prescribed by the Ministry of Finance, including cost-effectiveness and procedural integrity.

The offering process of the digital token is governed by the following conditions under this Notification:

- The Ministry must issue and publicly disclose a prospectus that outlines the total issuance amount, maturity, interest rate, and transferability conditions.
- Eligible purchasers include Thai nationals (natural persons), non-profit juristic entities, and other entities designated by the Ministry of Finance.
- Interested purchasers must submit offers through channels and methods specified by the Ministry or its appointed agents.
- If the offering is not fully subscribed, the Ministry of Finance may carry the balance forward to future issuances.

This Notification marks a significant shift in public finance by introducing blockchain-based instruments alongside traditional government bonds. By legally recognizing G-Tokens as borrowing tools, the Ministry of Finance enables broader public participation in national finance and supports the adoption of financial technology in the public sector.

Thailand’s BOI Responds to U.S. Tariffs with Strategic Policy Shift

The Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) has introduced a series of policy measures to mitigate the impact of escalating U.S. tariffs and global trade tensions, particularly those affecting the solar energy sector. These initiatives are aimed at strengthening the resilience of Thai entrepreneurs and encouraging technological advancement within the industrial sector.

One key measure includes the withdrawal of investment promotion for photovoltaic (PV) panel manufacturing, a decision rooted in concerns over the sector's technological limitations and exposure to international trade risks. "We have discontinued support for PV panel production that lacks high technology and is vulnerable to evolving U.S. trade policies," stated Mr. Narit Therdsteerasukdi, Secretary-General of the BOI.

While the BOI no longer promotes the assembly of complete solar panels, it continues to provide tax incentives for the local production of components such as aluminium frames, tempered glass, and silicon solar cells. These incentives include corporate income tax exemptions and import duty waivers for materials used in manufacturing solar modules for export.

The policy shift follows the recent imposition of severe U.S. import tariffs—ranging from 375% to 3,521%—on solar panels originating from Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Malaysia. These tariffs are the outcome of a U.S. investigation into allegations that Chinese companies are using factories in Southeast Asia to circumvent American trade laws by exporting solar panels at unfairly low prices due to government subsidies.

In some cases, Chinese firms operating in Thailand have been accused of rebranding solar products for export to the U.S., while others have concentrated on domestic sales. According to Mr. Treerat Sirichantaropas, CEO of New Energy Plus Solutions, many Thai businesses also import and distribute Chinese solar products locally. For instance, solar panels produced in Thailand by Chinese manufacturer Trina Solar are now subject to a 375% tariff.

The BOI is currently monitoring industries suspected of engaging in rebranding practices that may provoke further trade restrictions from the U.S. These sectors include electronics, garments, furniture, and luggage. Mr. Narit emphasized the importance of ensuring that companies receiving BOI support demonstrate genuine and substantial transformation of raw materials into finished products.

In parallel, the BOI has expanded support for Thai small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), granting corporate income tax exemptions to encourage investments in digitalization and automation. These measures are intended to drive innovation and enhance competitiveness across Thailand's manufacturing sector.

Thailand's Capital Gains Tax Exemption on Digital Asset Trading Signals Strategic Shift Toward Becoming a Regional Crypto Hub

Thailand has taken a significant step toward establishing itself as a leading digital asset hub in Southeast Asia by implementing a capital gains tax exemption on digital asset trading. This policy change, welcomed by market participants, reflects the government's intent to foster a competitive and innovation-friendly environment for the rapidly expanding crypto sector.

The move comes at a pivotal moment, as macroeconomic uncertainty and geopolitical risks continue to shape global investment strategies. With global interest rate cuts anticipated and institutional adoption of digital assets gaining traction, Thailand's tax policy positions the country to benefit from increasing investor interest in the sector.

The capital gains tax exemption sends a clear message that the Thai government is committed to developing a robust digital asset ecosystem. As other jurisdictions tighten or complicate digital asset regulations, Thailand's progressive stance may help attract international capital and talent, particularly as major financial institutions such as JPMorgan develop stablecoins and U.S. legislation such as the Genius Act begins to legitimise the role of stablecoins in traditional finance.

Further institutional confidence in the crypto market is evidenced by continued Bitcoin accumulation by global investment firms like BlackRock and MicroStrategy, despite delayed U.S. interest rate cuts. These dynamics, coupled with expanding global liquidity, may lay the groundwork for new highs in digital asset valuations.

While the tax exemption is a significant development, legal experts and market analysts agree that further legal infrastructure will be necessary to fully unlock Thailand's digital asset potential. Key areas of focus include enabling hedging tools, such as crypto derivatives, and developing consistent regulatory frameworks that can withstand political change.

Initiatives like G-Tokens—digital assets backed by government bonds—demonstrate growing institutional participation and regulatory endorsement, which are critical for long-term credibility and investor protection.

Despite the optimistic outlook, It is advised that investors proceed with caution given the high volatility of digital assets. Informed decision-making, strong risk management, and a clear understanding of personal risk tolerance remain essential components of successful investment in this evolving market.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us via info@bgloballaw.com