

OIE Reports the Cabinet's Approval for a (Draft) Development Plan for the Electronics and Hemp Industries and Prepares to Produce an Industrial Development Plan for Medical Devices for the National Industrial Development Board Meeting Within the First Half of This Year.

The Office of Industrial Economics (OIE) reported that the Cabinet had the resolution to acknowledge and approve the (draft) Action Plan for the Development of the Smart Electronic Industry Phase 1 (2023-2027) and the (draft) Action Plan for the Development of the Hemp Industry for Commercialization (2023-2027). It reported preparations to push a (draft) Action Plan for the Development of the Medical Device Industry for consideration at the National Industrial Development Board's meeting. The first meeting this year is expected to be held within the first half of this year.

The Director General of the Office of Industrial Economics (OIE), Ms. Warawan Chitaroon, reported that the Cabinet had the resolution to acknowledge the results of the National Industrial Development Board Meeting No. 1/2022, as proposed by the Ministry of Industry, as well as to acknowledge and approve the (draft) Action Plan for the Development of the Smart Electronic Industry Phase 1 (2023-2027) and the (draft) Action Plan for the Development of the Hemp Industry for Commercialization (2023-2027). It also assigned relevant agencies to carry out their duties according to their responsibilities and continue developing the industry through the National Industrial Development Board's mechanism. It is in preparation to propose a (draft) Action Plan for the Development of the Medical Device Industry to the National Industrial Development Board in the next meeting, which is expected to happen in the first half of 2023.

In addition, it is proposing to the Prime Minister to consider signing an order to appoint three sub-committees under the National Industrial Development Board, following the resolution in the National Industrial Development Board Meeting No. 1/2022. The subcommittees consist of a Subcommittee on Industry Competitiveness, a Subcommittee on Sustainable Industry, and a Subcommittee on Industrial Benefits and Facilitation, to be a mechanism to drive the work of the National Industrial Development Board on important issues for industrial development for future efficiency.

The Action Plan for the Development of the Smart Electronic Industry Phase 1 (2023-2027) aims to make Thailand a hub for manufacturing smart electronic devices and systems in ASEAN, including having its technology by 2027. It aims to increase the value of product exports in Thailand's smart electronics industry to 60 percent of the electrical and electronics industry and for the value of the investment, and research and development of Thailand's smart electronics industry to be at no less than 1 percent of the GDP of the industrial sector by. The action plan comprises three key measures: **(1) Raise the competitiveness of the old electronics**

industry and encourage the development of smart electronic systems through innovation and added value to smart electronic products. **(2) Stimulate demand** to create a market for the use of smart electronic devices in the country and extend the creation of intelligent electronic systems by focusing on five groups, namely smart homes, smart factories, smart hospitals and health, smart farms, and EV cars, and **(3) Build and develop an ecosystem for the smart electronics industry** by developing systems and infrastructure to support the expansion of the smart electronics industry.

The Action Plan for the Development of the Hemp Industry for Commercialization (2023-2027) aims to make Thailand the center of industrial hemp plants in ASEAN within five years. The action plan comprises four key measures: **(1) Support research and development of product innovations throughout the hemp supply chain** by elevating innovations in the hemp industry towards further commercial production through the development of product prototypes and technology to support the industry level and building a network to link research to industry and promote the innovation and protection of intellectual property. **(2) Promote commercial production and processing** by upgrading the capabilities of hemp industry business operators to be equipped with the skills, knowledge, and technology to continue to be a center for producing hemp products at the international level. **(3) Marketing promotion** by creating domestic and international business opportunities through appropriate channels for Thai hemp industry entrepreneurs to demonstrate their potential and become major exporters of hemp products globally, and **(4) Creating supporting factors conducive to business operations** to reduce obstacles in business operations.

At the same time, eight target product groups have been identified: food and beverage, animal feed, textiles and garments, biocomposites, cosmetics, and health products, pharmaceuticals and dietary supplements, construction materials, and paper and paper packaging. The implementation is divided into three phases. Phase 1 accelerates the enabling and raw material security, improving regulations/standards to facilitate international industrial production to create the Center of Hemp Excellence (CoHE). It aims to develop a blockchain system and promote/certify contract/smart farming and GAP certification. Phase 2 is to raise the production level to add value to hemp products and to provide international standard certification/GAP/registration on product patents. It aims to develop 100 product innovations per year and increase the capacity of 100 business operators throughout the hemp supply chain annually. Phase 3 is supporting the production of innovative products for export and creating marketing channels through organizing the Hemp Expo/Hemp Forum, which can generate income for business operators of no less than 10,000 million Baht and generate income for farmers at no less than 20,000 Baht per rai.

"The Office of Industrial Economics (OIE), as the Secretary of the National Industrial Development Board, is committed to continually driving the industry through the Board's mechanism to support the expansion of the domestic economy to grow and increase the capabilities of the industry sustainably," **said Ms. Warawan.**