



AUSTRALIA – THAILAND

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT

On 17 November 2022, Assistant Foreign Minister Tim Watts and Thai Vice Minister of Commerce Dr Sansern Samalapa signed the **Strategic Economic Cooperation Arrangement (SECA)** between Australia and Thailand. SECA aims to tap into the potential in the bilateral trade relationship, to strengthen and diversify our economic links, and drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth in both countries. It will complement our treaty-level Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA) and commits both governments to new activities to promote business links, improve information flows between governments and address barriers, including through TAFTA.

Thailand is the second largest economy in ASEAN and a regional manufacturing hub. It is our 11th largest trading partner, with two-way trade worth \$24.6 billion in 2021-22, and a significant source of foreign investment (\$9 billion in 2021).

SECA will focus on an initial eight key sectors where Thailand and Australia have comparative strengths and complementarities, including:

- agriculture, sustainable food systems and technology
- tourism
- healthcare
- education
- digital trade and digital economy
- creative economy
- two-way investment
- energy, green economy and decarbonisation

Australia and Thailand are developing a SECA **Implementation Agenda** to drive deeper trade and investment in the priority sectors to benefit businesses in both countries.

It will focus initially on information sharing and knowledge exchange about the business climate and policy in the priority sectors. To promote commercial opportunities and pathways for trade and investment, the Agenda will include:

- targeted business delegations in both directions
- sector-specific industry briefings and networking activities between Thai and Australian business and;
- policy dialogues between relevant government agencies to address barriers.

We seek the view of business, civil society and interested stakeholders in the development of the SECA Implementation Agenda,. We welcome ideas on activities that would support strengthened engagement in the priority sectors, as well as advice on obstacles to doing business. Please provide submissions by writing to thailand.seca@dfat.gov.au by 1 May 2023.

For further information on Australia’s bilateral relationship with Thailand see: [Thailand | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfat.gov.au\)](#)