

The 10 ASEAN nations, and its six partner nations, are preparing for profound changes. The massive ASEAN economy generates countless and diverse opportunities for trade and investment. Now business activity in ASEAN is accelerating in the run-up to the creation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015.

Capital, labor, goods and services will flow freely between member nations under the AEC's free-trade framework thanks to simplified visa processes, equitable economic development, low import duties and the development of a single market. All of these factors will contribute to greater economic integration that will benefit companies operating internationally.

Owing to the kingdom's strategic location at the center of ASEAN, Thailand enjoy seasy access to the Greater Mekong Sub-Region, including Yunnan (Southern China), Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam, all emerging markets within the ASEAN bloc.

With transport, ICT, energy, education, culture, and tourism in high demand among international businesses operating in ASEAN, Thailand has cultivated a competitive advantage in vital industries. Thailand's eight key industries are: automobiles and machinery, food and agriculture, tourism, medical, jewelry, garments and textiles, energy, and infrastructure. Thailand is a manufacturing and export based for these key industries, which are the fundamental industries driving the nation's economy and pulling in traffic to Thailand's international trade shows.

