



The Belt and Road Initiative and China-Thailand Strategic Cooperation

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Background



Source: <http://www.ptp.or.th/news/469>

- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) or One Belt One Road (OBOR) is China's economic development strategy for expanding trade and cultural influence towards countries in western and eastern regions, including ASEAN.

Background

- As a member country of ASEAN, Thailand is positioning itself for the initiative and incorporating its significance into the cooperation between Thailand and China at the present time, as well as for the future.



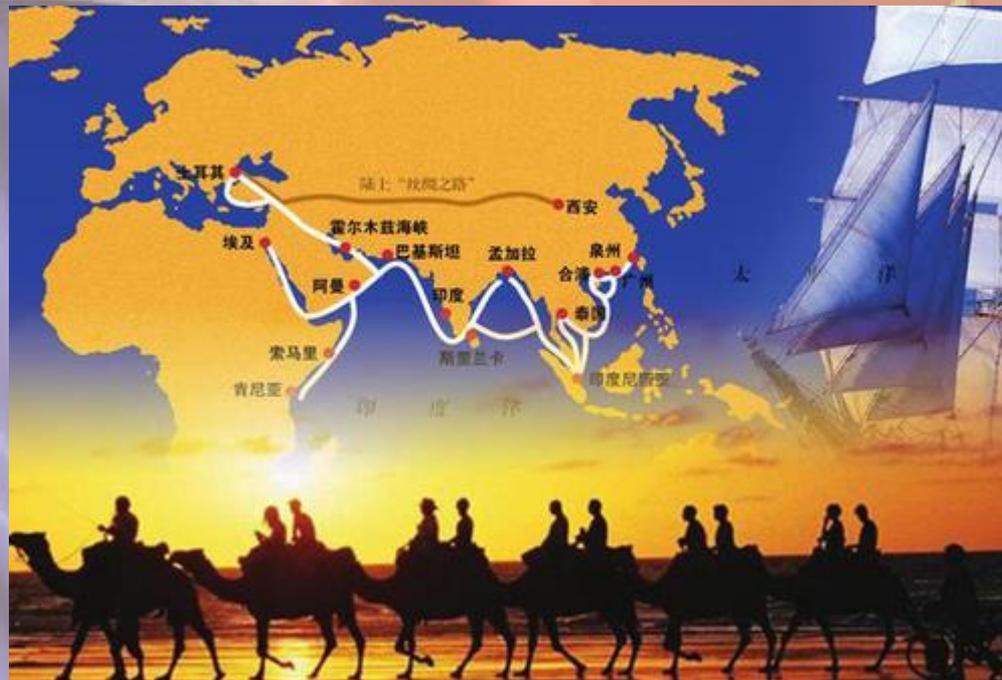
Objectives

- The research aimed to
 - Study the BRI policy of China as a whole, together with its impacts
 - Analyze Thailand's opportunities in developing strategic cooperation with China and preparation for the consequences of the BRI

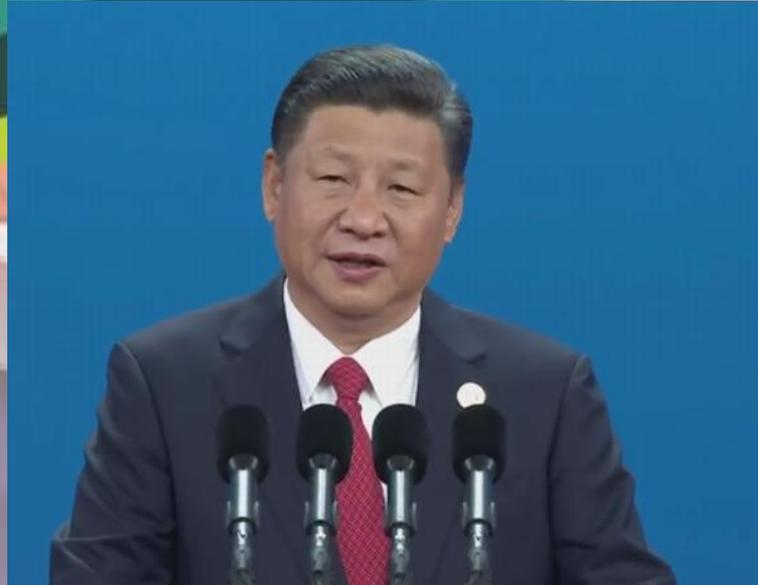
Methods

- Document review for collecting secondary data from academic and electronic documents retrieved from reliable and acceptable sources.
- Data on the BRI policy of China and the impact of the BRI were collected.
- The opportunities for China-Thailand Strategic Cooperation were analyzed and recommendations were proposed in tailoring for cooperation so as to optimize Thailand's national interest.

Results



Silk Road: From the Past to 21st Century



- The BRI was initiated in the era of President Xi Jinping as a framework, based on Silk Road strategy, for China's multilateral economic development.

Silk Road: From the Past to 21st Century

- Expanded from the ancient network of trade routes, the BRI projects had created infrastructure network, such as railroads, roads, power lines, and so forth, on the New Silk Road both overland and maritime routes.



Silk Road: From the Past to 21st Century

- Moreover, the BRI had created economic, political, social and cultural ties between China and other 60 countries located throughout the area between China and Europe.
- So far, China had invested more than \$50 billion on the BRI project (Commercial Section, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Shanghai, 2017)

Impacts of the BRI

- The BRI had been seen not only as a tool to expand China's role and influence in the international arena, but also as a means
 - To counterbalance the influence of the United States
 - To reduce international conflicts over disputes over islands in the South China Sea
 - To create opportunities for mutual benefits in regions based on the New Silk Road
- ASEAN, in general, and Thailand, in particular, can increase the connection with China in terms of economic development, as well as other dimensions of development.



VIETNAM



BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM



CAMBODIA



THAILAND



INDONESIA



SINGAPORE



LAO PDR



PHILIPPINES



MYANMAR



MALAYSIA

China-Thailand Strategic Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges

- Thailand 4.0 Policy with 10 targeted industries is in accord with Made in China 2015 policy.
- Infrastructure development and investment and technology assistance can be gained from the BRI, especially in the development of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) for Thailand's economic transformation to be the hub of ASEAN.

THAILAND'S

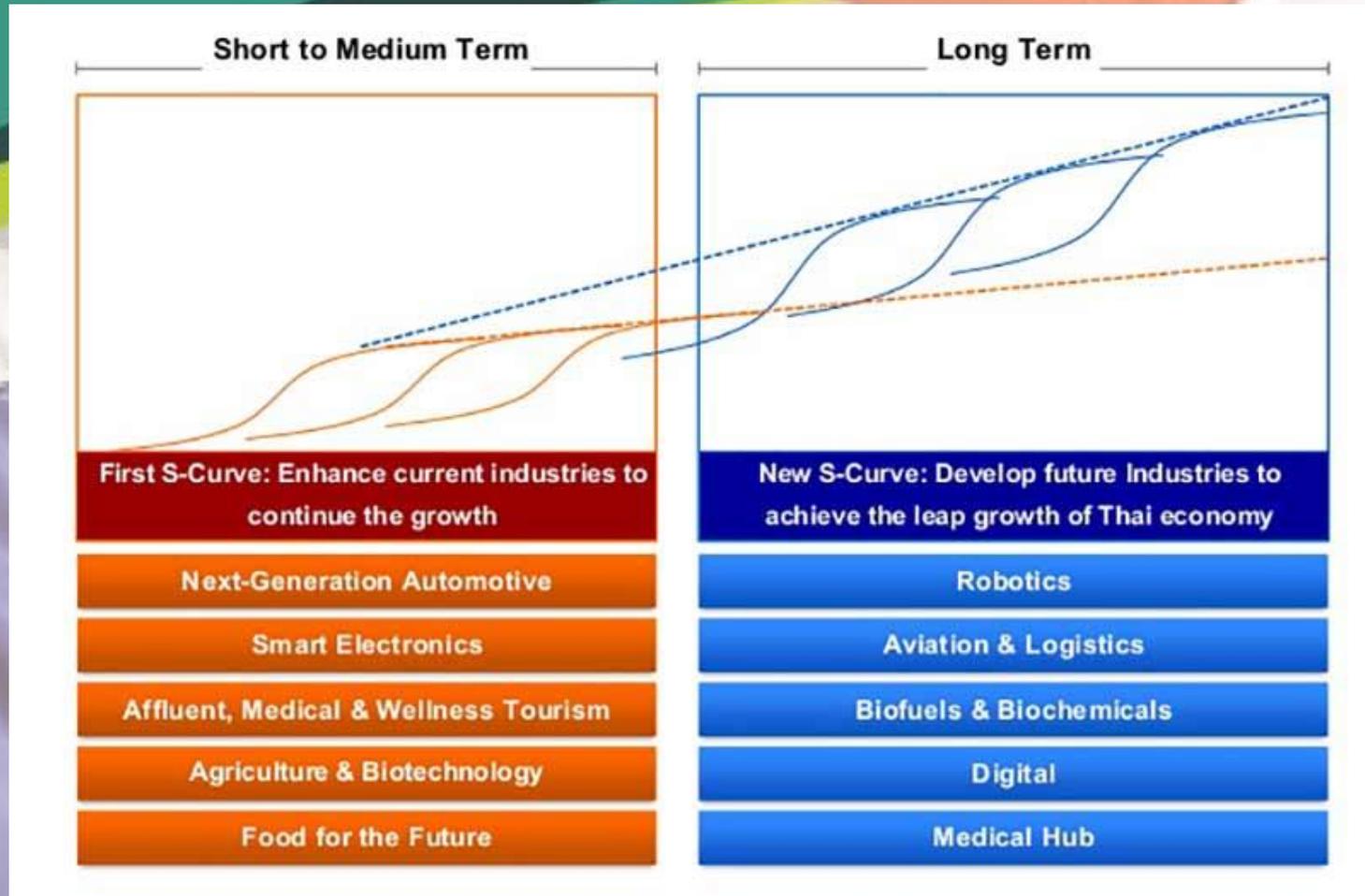
Eastern Economic Corridor



Thai government has introduced the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) located in 3 provinces; Chachoengsao, Chonburi, and Rayong, to maximize the capacity of Eastern area of Thailand as compelling Special Economic Zone in ASEAN.

It aims to integrate new infrastructure networks with existed ones, and link mode of transportation domestically and internationally.

10 Targeted Industries under Thailand 4.0



ประมาณการความต้องการแรงงานในเขตพัฒนาพิเศษภาคตะวันออก

New S-Curve

NEW JOBS



Unit: Position

2560-2566



ที่มา : แผนพัฒนาทำสังคนอีอีซี

ประชาชาติกราฟิก



Conclusion & Recommendations

- The BRI is vital to China's economic growth development in a sustainable way by promoting offshore investment to expand its role and influence.
- Notably, Thailand should be prepared to embrace and support the outcome of the BRI policy push, as well as the development of China-Thailand strategic cooperation by linking the country's EEC with the BRI of China, in line with the 20-year national economic and social development plan (2017-2036)
- to optimize the country's national interest, as well leverage the public's paybacks in the long run.

The image features a stylized, wavy representation of the Chinese national flag. The top portion is a solid teal color, which transitions into a dark green curved border. Below this, the flag's colors are depicted with a soft, painterly texture. The red field of the flag is prominent, with five golden-yellow stars arranged in the canton. To the left, the white and blue horizontal stripes are visible. The overall composition is dynamic and celebratory.

Thank you