

Green Mobility & Urban Rail in Thailand

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Edito of HE Thierry MATHOU

This event is the sixth edition of a seminar, organized every two years, by Business France, the Trade Department of the French Embassy and dedicated to **the mobility sector in Thailand**.

I would like to thank Dr. Chayatan Promson, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of transport of the Royal Government of Thailand for contributing to the opening of this event.

Over the last months, the frequent exchanges between Business France and the Ministry Of Transport and regional institutions, as well as corporates and associations, enable the elaboration of this event. The participation of representatives from these institutions guarantees the quality of the exchanges taking place during this event. They include OTP (Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning), DRT (Department of Rail Transport), RTRDA (Rail Technology Research and Development Agency), SRT (State Railways of Thailand), MRTA (Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand), EVAT (Electric Vehicle Association of Thailand) and the transport division of UNESCAP.

Thailand plays a leading role in Asia, as a hub for transport and connectivity, by developing urban and rural networks as well as linking neighboring countries. Mobility sector plays a prominent role on the shape and the pace of the social and economic development of the country. Since the early 2000s, Thailand's transport system has continuously been growing. However, ASEAN being one of the regions the most affected by climate change, it is crucial to ensure that this transport system is resilient to extreme climate events and does not impair the climate of the country's future generations.

In this context, the Thai government is strongly focusing its efforts to support the development of electrical vehicles. France mobility strategy is also going into that direction in order to reduce the environmental impact of transports. France has hence committed in stopping the sale of cars emitting greenhouse gas by 2040. Because priority has been given to green and secure mobilities, France has also the second biggest European rail network with more than 2 800 kilometers of high-speed lines across the country. The French rail industry is a key player of the energetic transition ongoing in the country, by massively investing in the modernization of the sector to make it sustainable, connected and decarbonated. This strategy has led the French mobility industry to develop valuable technological expertise, innovation, and reliability, along the complete value chain of the sector, from engineering to the operation and maintenance of its transport infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the bilateral relationship of France and Thailand, in the field of transport & mobility has already reached significant milestones in the recent past. The Declaration of Intent on cooperation in the field of transport has been signed on December 8th, 2021, between the Minister of Transport H.E. Saksayam Chidchob, and myself on behalf of the Minister Delegate for Transport attached to the Minister for the Ecological Transition of

France. To implement cooperation within the framework of this Joint Declaration of Intent between Thailand and France, the Franco-Thai Business Forum held at the end of June a bilateral working group on Transport in the presence of the Thai Minister of Transport, which helped identifying precise areas of future cooperation particularly in automotive and new mobilities, railway and urban mobility, aerospace, maritime and logistics.

New synergies have recently emerged, just as in the railway and urban mobility sector with two main articulated initiatives: firstly, the proposal by the French government to provide a French technical expert on Urban transport & mobility to the Ministry of Transport, secondly the ongoing discussion for signing a MoU between the Rail Technology Research and Development Agency (RTRDA) and major French railway and engineering companies focusing primarily on the development of labour skills and manufacturing capabilities for the Thai railway sector.

I am particularly proud to point out that the composition of the French delegation attending this event reflects the various expertise that can contribute to make mobility more sustainable. The following 9 companies, namely ALSTOM, ARTELIA, BOUYGUES TRAVAUX PUBLICS, DEXTRA, EGIS, FLOWBIRD, MATIERE, SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC and SYSTRA, will present their expertise to showcase how they can contribute to the delivery of complex projects including, among others, alternative solutions such as hybrid or electric vehicles, and to strengthen bilateral relations and investment opportunities.

This event provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen the French and Thailand partnership and to show France's commitment to support Thailand's economic development in a socially inclusive and environmentally responsible way.

H.E Thierry MATOU – Ambassador of France to Thailand