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OECD Global Forum on Competition

CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES FACED BY COMPETITION AUTHORITIES IN ACHIEVING GREATER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF COMPETITION

Contribution from Thailand

-- Session II --

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CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES FACED BY COMPETITION AUTHORITIES IN ACHIEVING GREATER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF COMPETITION

-- THE PRIORITY OF COMPETITION POLICY IN THAILAND --

1. It's quite obviously that the mission of economic and social aspect of Modern State has many matters to implement. Then the government has to protect and decrease the conflict in social. Moreover, the government has to create the mature in social aspect and economic aspect in the same time. The strategy and policy of government base on the foundation of the country including economic, social, politic affairs. Thereby the government set the policy and implements the policy in order to achieve the mission.

2. Mention to the policy of Thai government, the government set the importance policy namely Urgent policies, Economic Policy, Income Creation Policy, Commercial and International Economic Policies, Social Policy, National Security, Education, Religion and Cultural Policy, Public Administration Policy, Science and Technology Policy, Labour Development Policy, Communication Policy, Natural Resources and Environment Policy, Foreign Policy, Energy Policy, Public Safety and Policy for Development of Regions of the Country and Bangkok Metropolis. The competition policy is only part of Commercial and International Economic Policies

3. Focus on the Urgent Government Policies, there are: 1) Grant a grace period for both interest and principal payments for 3 years for the individual small farmers to relieve their debt.; 2) Establish the Village and Urban Revolving Fund and promote a "One Village One Product"; 3) Establish a People's Bank to ensure better and improved access to banking facilities and resources for low-income citizens; 4) Establish the Bank for small and medium enterprise in order to promote existing and increasing the number of entrepreneurs in a systematic manner; 5) Establish a National Asset Management Corporation in order to solve the problem of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) in the commercial banking system; 6) Privatisation Policy; 7) Provide 30 baht health insurance in order to ensure that all Thai people will be equal access to a nationally acceptable standard of health care; 8) Accelerate efforts to establish drug rehabilitation centers concurrently with implementing effective drug suppression and prevention measures; 9) Encourage full and open public participation in the prevention and suppression of corruption.

4. Government realises the importance of Privatisation Policy is the urgent policy in order to encourage the competitive environment and enhance the free and fair competition in domestic market.

5. The government give priority on the implementing the social policy such as 30 Baht health care, Homing for the less income people, 1 Baht less premium insurance, Village Fund, Debt moratorium, Drug suppression & prevention education etc.

6. The first question is whether the government implements the Competition Policy. The answer is yes. Privatisation Policy is the evidence because State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) was privatised to be public company such as Thai Airways International Public Company, Airports of Thailand Public Company, Aeronautical Radio of Thailand Limited, The Communications Authority of Thailand Telecom Public Company and Thailand Post. Furthermore, there are many SOEs under the privatisation process such as public utility in transportation and electricity aspect.

7. The second question is whether the government gives priority on Competition Policy. The answer is yes. But the urgency of implementing competition policy is not outstanding because the government has resources and equipment limited and Competition Policy is not the urgent implementation when compare with the social policy. Then competition policy is not the prior priority for government to implement.