



# Thailand: Climate-Resilient Connectivity for the Eastern Economic Corridor Project: the Intercity Motorway No. 7 (Extension to Link with U-Tapao International Airport)

Project Name	Climate-Resilient Connectivity for the Eastern Economic Corridor Project: the Intercity Motorway No. 7 (Extension to Link with U-Tapao International Airport)	
Project Number	56223-001	
Country / Economy	Thailand	
Project Status	Proposed	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Loan	
Source of Funding / Amount	Loan: Intercity Motorway No.7 (extension to link with U-Tapao Airport)	
	Ordinary capital resources	US\$ 89.00 million
Operational Priorities	OP1: Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities OP2: Accelerating progress in gender equality OP3: Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability OP4: Making cities more livable OP7: Fostering regional cooperation and integration	
Sector / Subsector	Transport / Urban roads and traffic management	
Gender	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	<p>The U-Tapao International Airport is the core infrastructure of the EEC and its expansion project is to be implemented via Public-Private Partnership modality. Land transport network connecting the U-Tapao International Airport in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) to the rest of the Pattaya City and country cannot adapt to changing needs as a result of the expansion plan of the airport due to the limitations of the existing land transport network to cope with traffic increase. Such restrictions may also lead to wasteful use of fossil fuels and avoidable greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and slow down sustainable growth. The proposed project will promote establishment of the EEC by completing the transport network connecting the U-Tapao International Airport to the rest of the EEC area and the Eastern provinces of the country. The link is part of extensive road and railway expansion program in the EEC that will be progressed in phases. It will support efficient movement of people and goods of the EEC and contribute to the targets in Thailand 4.0 in achieving innovation and value-based industry to propel the country to upper income status. The proposed project will help build fundamentals for lasting growth by helping establishment of the EEC and its core air infrastructure. It will closer trade integration and intraregional supply chains, as "enablers" of the planned/ongoing development program of the EEC and improve business environment of the EEC. The project will be aligned with the following impacts: distributing national economic growth impacts to the EEC and establishing the adequate infrastructure for the country being land, water, and air transport hub for further national economic growth. The outcome of the project will be improving business environment of the EEC by providing better transportation network. The outputs of the project will be (i) more convenient, safer, and climate resilient land transportation network provided in the EEC; and (ii) strategy and capacity building program for transition to low-carbon transport developed integrating gender equality and social inclusion analysis to ensure just transition for women and marginalized groups. The amount of indicative regular ordinary capital resources loan is \$100 million. The cause-effect relationships between the tentative output and the proposed outcome will need to be further analyzed during fact-finding.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>After achieving upper middle-income country status in 2011, Thailand has been enjoying good average economic growth (average 3%) prior to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, but it was severely affected by the pandemic recording -6.1% in 2020 as the economy was heavily relying on exports and tourism. The country has been making effort to enhance its competitiveness and achieve continuous and sustainable growth by (i) investing in research and development and better productivity, and (ii) distributing national economic growth impacts across the country. Thailand aimed to position the country the economic hub of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to support the overarching national strategy and it has been proposed to create Special Economic Zones. The EEC is planned to motivate provision of regional public goods and assist speed up of Thai economy and connect to other ASEAN neighbors. Timely development of various associated infrastructures within and to the EEC will be the utmost priority for the success of the national strategy.</p>	
Impact	Distributing economic growth and benefits to other parts of the country by developing the EEC and achieving sustainable socioeconomic growth and improved living standards across the country The EEC's expanded and adequate climate resilient infrastructure is established for the country to position itself as the economic hub of the ASEAN	
Outcome	Sustainable land transportation network provided in the EEC	
Outputs	Climate resilient and safe roads infrastructure connecting to the U-Tapao International Airport provided Institutional capacity for transition to low-carbon transport enhanced	
Geographical Location	Chachoengsao, Chon Buri, Rayong	
<b>Safeguard Categories</b>		
Environment		B
Involuntary Resettlement		B
Indigenous Peoples		C
<b>Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects</b>		
Environmental Aspects		
Involuntary Resettlement		
Indigenous Peoples		

## Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

Responsible ADB Officer	Shim, Chaorin
Responsible ADB Department	Sectors Group
Responsible ADB Division	Transport Sector Office (SG-TRA)
Executing Agencies	<u>Department of Highways</u>

### Timetable

Concept Clearance	19 Dec 2022
Fact Finding	15 May 2023 to 01 Jun 2023
MRM	08 Aug 2023
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	19 Dec 2022

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/56223-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/56223-001/main</a>
Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=56223-001">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=56223-001</a>
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