

**Meeting with the Charge d’Affaires
Embassy of Thailand
on Monday the 1st of April 2024, EBA Premises**

EBA has held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Thanabordee Joothong, Charge d’Affaires, Embassy of Thailand, Mrs. Tina Thanavon Pamaranon, Counsellor, Embassy of Thailand, Mr. Mohamed Mohy El Dien Youssef, Advisor to GAFI CEO, Mrs. Marwa Hussien GAFI, the meeting was attended by Dr. Mohamed Youssef, EBA Executive Director and Mrs. Dalia Youssef, Division Director of International Relations & Membership Affairs.

- Dr. Mohamed yousef welcomed the Thai Charge d’Affaires and expressed our eagerness to cooperate with the Thai Embassy in Egypt for the mutual benefit of the two countries and that shall come true through restructuring the Egypt-Thailand business council from both sides.
- H.E Mr. Thanabordee started by giving some facts about Thailand:
 - Thailand is the 30th largest economy in the world.
 - 2nd exporter of food in all the Asian countries
 - 2nd largest country in ASAEN region in terms of population after Indonesia
 - Thailand has abundant surplus of electricity especially in hydroelectricity.
 - Volume of trade of Thailand in 2022 was 600 billion US Dollars
 - Thailand was promoting inward investments but nowadays the new policy is to promote outwards investment promotion and Egypt have great potentials as a destination where Thai companies can invest in.
 - Last month a Thai company (High Tech Apparel) has started its investment in Egypt amounting to 30 million US Dollars
 - Thailand – Egyptian relations are celebrating 70 years of existence this year.
 - There is a new updated project regarding the Egyptian situation that was presented last year in Bangkok giving priority to Egypt as it has a strategic location connecting Europe, Middle East, and Africa, it has friendly workers, therefore, he proposed to have an awareness seminar about Egypt and what are the potential opportunities and potential fields of cooperation, such as:
 - The tourism sector was also discussed, Egypt is planning to expand its capacity of hotel rooms, as well as increasing the capacity of its airports to receive more tourists
 - There are many fields of cooperation between the two countries as follows:

- Hotel management that is really a success in Thailand. We can duplicate the successful experience of Dusit Hotel in other governorates in Egypt.
 - Halal food.
 - Canned food especially tuna and dry food
 - Automotive and auto spare parts
 - Telecommunication
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- Dr. Youssef mentioned that we have a room of improving the bilateral relations, Egypt through its regional and international agreements such as: AFCTA (African Continental Free Trade Area), QIZ (Qualifying Industrial Zone), EU (European Union), Mercosur and enjoys large market access.
 - The EU has now adopted strict measures in importing products in terms of carbon print therefore Egypt through EU funding programs is adapting its industries to fit the new rules of EU.
 - H.E Mr. Thanabordee has announced that H.E. the Minister of Trade and Industry in Egypt has confirmed the readiness of signing a joint trade committee between the two countries.
 - He also welcomed the idea of relaunching the business council and recommending a new counterpart to EBA.
 - He has invited Dr. Youssef to visit Thailand and meet different Thai organizations to evaluate them and choose the right counterpart.

At the end of the meeting, it was suggested to have the following:

- EBA shall organize a country day about Thailand.
- Hold awareness seminars on the cooperation potentials.
- Organize a roadshow in Thailand including government representatives, private sector representatives, an international audit firm and Thai company that have a success story in Egypt and Media representative with the purpose to highlight what is going on in Egypt.
- There will be a large exhibition in Thailand from the 29th of August till the 1st of September 2024, EBA was asked to promote it and circulate it among its members.