



The National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP) for their cooperation in the development of the Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECi), including joint research and innovation, in response to the Industry 4.0 policy.

The signing of the MOU took place at the Thailand Science Park in Pathum Thani province on 21 February 2020. Under this MOU, NSTDA and PTTEP will jointly conduct research and development activities concerning knowledge, personnel, and infrastructure to upgrade Thailand's industry in the future.

NSTDA President Dr. Narong Sirilertworakul stated that NSTDA, as EECi Manager, focuses on technological development for Industry 4.0, development of industrial robotics for industry and automation, and capacity enhancement for research, development, and innovations in various fields.

This collaboration with PTTEP, he said, will provide information and knowledge, as well as personnel and appropriate resources, for strategic planning and development of EECi. It will also help develop Thailand's manpower and scientific, technological, and innovative infrastructure in the EECi area.

The construction of EECi has been progressing well, as planned, and it is expected to be completed in 2021. Preparations are now underway to accommodate the modern agricultural industry and the biorefinery industry.

The model biorefinery plant in EECi, in particular, will be the first in ASEAN, and it will play a vital role in developing Thailand's biotechnology. This will help develop Thailand into the bio-based hub in ASEAN. Such a plant will also be established in other countries in this region in the future.

The biorefinery industrial development will help promote the circular economy and ease environmental problems, as well. In addition, NSTDA has a policy to develop more personnel in various technological fields to accommodate new industrial investments in Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC).

PTTEP is the first private company to establish the PTTEP Technology and Innovation Center in the EECi area to support petroleum exploration and production activities. The construction of this center is expected to be completed in 2021.

