**Committee:** United Nations Development Programme

**Topic:** Sustainable Development Goals 8 & 9

**Country:** Thailand

 Investing in infrastructure and innovation are important for economic growth and recovery. More than half of the world now living in cities assumes importance for the growth of new industries and communication technologies. Making those better will lay the foundation for development.

 Development such as developing the economic structure, having access to all the medical aid seen as a right to which all people should have access. People have the right to be protected from development’s negative effects, which include the loss of economic, politicial, civil and human rights. If this development oppurtunity is provided to all countries, the welfare of life in our world will increase and will get better.

 Whoever looks at Thailand today cannot believe that in 1960s it was an economy almost entirely based on agriculture. During these years, %80 percent of the Thai economy was dependent on agricultural exports such as rice and rubber. However, Thailand established an entity called the ‘İnvestment Board’ in 1966 to support the industrialization process and then initiate a comprehensive development process. Thus, Thailand transformed from a low-income country to a middle-income country, and Thailand’s economy has witnessed uninterrupted growth over the past 30 years. The poverty rate decreased by %55, with %7 between 2013 and 2019.

 Thailand's growth process can be divided into four phases: The first is Thailand 1.0, which coincides with the 1960s and early 70s. At this stage, the country understood the importance of the transition from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy and established the Investment Board. Thailand’s strong relations with the United States, which sought influence in Asia during the Cold War against the Soviet Union, assisted us in this transition. At the time, Thailand exempted US investors from most of the restrictions imposed on multinational companies.

 The second phase is Thailand 2.0, where the country switched to light industry. At this stage, Thailand’s government strengthened its industrialization efforts and enacted the strategy of 'import substitution industrialization', which was prevalent in many developing countries at the time. The aim was to reduce dependence on imported goods, save foreign currency, increase added value and diversify away from agriculture. Since then, Thailand still maintains a policy of self-sufficiency in many sectors.

 The third stage is Thailand 3.0. Thailand entered the world of the most complex industries and began to promote its products abroad rather than content with domestic demand. The 1977 regulations changed many understandings in Thailand by providing special incentives and facilities to exporters. These conveniences made the country attractive for foreign investments, especially Japan. Thailand needed a partnership with Japan, which was at the peak of its industrial growth in the 1980s, to develop its industrial sector. In addition, Singaporean and Taiwanese were also attracted to the country.

 All these years Thailand followed the five-year plan system. Under this system, the government approved a five-year plan and tracked its progress through its own government agencies or the Investment Board. However, Thailand changed this system in 2017. The constitution approved a 20-year plan whose strategy is reviewed every five years. This stage is Thailand 4.0. At this stage, Thailand aims to evolve into an innovation-based economy by 2037, transforming from a middle-income country to a high-income country. Thailand strives to promote technology and innovation in industry and services.

 It is obvious that Thailand has successfully achieved this change. While in the 1960s the economy was almost entirely based on agriculture, agriculture made up about 30 percent of the country's workforce, whereas today it only accounts for 8 percent of Thailand's economy. Industry currently accounts for 35 percent of the national economy and 23 percent of Thais work in this sector.

 When the two sectors are compared, the contribution of the agricultural sector to the country's economy in the 1960s was three times the contribution of the industrial sector. But now agriculture contributes one-third of industry. Likewise, the share of exports, which was 20 percent in the 1980s, has increased to 70 percent today. The tourism sector, which has a share of 15 percent, should not be forgotten. Thailand will focus on increasing the contribution of this sector to the economy by turning to medical and health tourism in the future. In addition, within the scope of its next 20-year plan, Thailand has identified 10 sectors that are vital for its future, five of which are already existing sectors such as agriculture, food and electronics, and the remaining five sectors that it wants to advance such as medicine, aviation, logistics, automation and the digital economy.

 Those who study how the Thai economy has boomed will see the importance of the role of regional efforts to improve communication, trade and investment. These are the main components that enable Thailand to implement its ambitious development plans. As a matter of fact, the USA played an important role at the beginning of Thailand's economic development adventure. He later played similar roles in Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan. Thailand has also invested in the growth of China to serve its national economy. All of this is supported by Thailand's geographic location and its government's unwavering desire to improve its well-being.

 Thailand has every aid to be given in terms of economic welfare and development. It will set an example for promising countries in this regard.

RESOURCES:

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