

Area-based innovation in Thailand

National Innovation Agency, Thailand

<http://www.nia.or.th>

Area-Based Innovation strategy has been developed to accelerate innovation potential in certain residential areas and generate the co-creation of communal innovation opportunities for people via the Yothi Innovation District project, emphasizing mainly on the development of medical innovation, e-Government, and area-based innovation.

The National Innovation Agency (NIA) has determined to maximize people's innovation potential at an area-based level, leading to the Innovation Corridor, Innovation City, and Innovation District. In other words, the increase of innovation potential will focus mainly on three developmental aspects, consisting of promoting infrastructure development conforming to the advancement of an innovative ecosystem, managing vital resources to stimulate area-based innovation, and fostering community involvement.

Innovation Corridor

The GMS Southern Economic Corridor possesses an approximate distance of 1,320 kilometers that strategically connects Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Vietnam together.

In fact, the area-based innovation has taken into account the efficiency of being exposed to geographical strengths and natural resources in certain communities, expecting to stimulate economic and social development in various living areas. Key strategies used for driving economic and social progress consist of communal industry, infrastructure, human resources, and advances in science and technology. The economic and social development plan generally focuses on the advancement of infrastructure and investment. However, the plan still faces extreme difficulty due to a lack of knowledge-based and technological support.

The NIA has recognized the importance of advancing area-based innovation based on the development of overall aspects. The NIA, in collaboration with the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (Public Organization) (GISTDA), the Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Public Organization) (DASTA), the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT), and Rayong Provincial Governor's Office, has launched the "Area-Based Economic Innovation to ASEAN" project, while signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the mentioned organizations to support the acquisition and completion of statistical data, climatological information, details of potential raw materials used for production, and facts on potential investments generated by the public and industrial sectors, as part of the goal to get the required data processed and analyzed complying with the government's policy on the Special Economic Development Zones. In order to make such ideas achievable, the NIA has

hence invited experienced innovation-based business providers and new startup entrepreneurs to work together to create a potential innovation cluster, emphasizing on the development of infrastructure, tools, and mechanisms required for successful business operations and a better quality of life for people in different communities. This helps encourage people to create productive ideas towards the progress of innovation, promote the co-creation of innovation through innovative concepts, and foster knowledge sharing among agencies, businesses, and people in various communities.

Initially, the NIA will implement development by focusing on the government's policy of the Special Economic Development Zones in accordance with the GMS Southern Economic Corridor (EWEC), with a distance of approximately 1,320 kilometers. The GMS Southern Economic Corridor has been developed to strategically connect Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Vietnam together, and is considered a crucial land transportation route that can greatly facilitate the shipment of goods along the entire distance between the Andaman Sea and the Pacific Ocean, while unveiling mainstream cultures and core knowledge of innovation reflected in business operations and daily routines. However, value chain analysis is required to pinpoint desirable strategies in driving the area-based innovation to the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), with the NIA's ambitious goal to help Thailand achieve all innovation aspects, including those of industry, tourism, commerce, transportation, and agriculture.

Innovation District

The NIA has upgraded its strategic policies to accelerate greater infrastructure development in line with the creation of an innovation ecosystem, while encouraging people's community involvement in promoting the "Innovation District" strategy, considered a new city planning and design concept that has been fostered based on a development strategy to attract larger innovation-based business providers. Therefore, it is required to generate effective development of infrastructure, tools, and mechanisms that can facilitate innovative businesses as well as enhance people's quality of living, with the aim to generate seamless connectivity between smart people and their innovative ideas. There is an important mechanism developed to promote co-creation and knowledge sharing among people of innovation. The NIA has also underlined the significance of strengthening its innovation competency by initiating the Yothi Innovation District project serving as Thailand's first-ever innovation district model that focuses on three development aspects, including Medical Technology (MEDTECH), Government Technology (GOVTECH), and City Technology (CITYTECH).

MSC Malaysia innovation voucher

Malaysiaeconomy.net.

<http://www.malaysiaeconomy.net>

MSC Malaysia Innovation Voucher is a programme designed to increase collaboration between Malaysia's public and private Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) and Research Institutions (RI) with MSC Malaysia status companies, so as to tap into each other's capabilities and strengths. This serve to create a cultural shift in the business community's approach to innovation as companies can tap into experts/talents residing outside the company. The innovation voucher is a financial incentive worth of RM10,000 awarded to qualified MSC Malaysia status companies to support collaborative R&D projects from the approved collaborators. These collaborative R&D activities would then facilitate the transfer of know-how from the collaborators to the MSC Malaysia status companies and vice versa. In turn, this will lead to the production of innovative prototypes, quality products and potential Intellectual Property (IP) creation.

The objectives and desired outcomes of the Innovation Voucher are:

1. To increase the number of collaborations in research and innovation between MSC Malaysia companies and IHLs/ RIs/COEs.
2. To increase the number of innovative proof-of-concepts (POCs), products, services and solutions from MSC Malaysia. Potentially, it will lead to increase in technology commercialization and sales growth of the companies.
3. To increase in potential creation of IP (intellectual property).
4. To support the development and strengthening of triple helix model fundamental to National Innovation, contributing to national competitiveness.

Eligibility

1. The Applicant must be a Local MSC Malaysia Status Company with at least 50% Malaysian shareholding.
2. Must have completed SCORE+ exercise.

Programme details

1. The total project cost funded by one Innovation Voucher should be at least RM15,000 with the company's financial contribution of at least RM5,000.
2. Voucher is valid for 1 year only.
3. Innovation Voucher supports collaborative projects in line with the list of approved technology areas and list of eligible services.

4. The collaboration must be procured from participating Research Institutions or Institutions of Higher Learning or Centres of Excellence as approved by MDeC.

Conditions of the usage of the MSC Malaysia Innovation Voucher

1. An eligible MSC Malaysia Status Company is only allowed to submit one application per call.
2. Each Innovation Voucher is worth Ringgit Malaysia Eight Thousand (RM8,000.00) only. If the total cost incurred in engaging services is more than Ringgit Malaysia Eight Thousand (RM8,000.00), the participating company is required to bear the difference.
3. An Innovation Voucher can only be used to offset project cost of at least Ringgit Malaysia Ten Thousand (RM10,000) with the company's financial contribution of at least Ringgit Malaysia Two Thousand (RM2,000). The Innovation Voucher can only be used to procure services as defined in the list of eligible services.
4. Innovation Voucher is valid for 1 year from the approval date i.e. the Innovation Voucher has to be redeemed within 1 year. After the expiry date, the Innovation Voucher ceases to have any effect and is no longer usable; and MDeC shall be discharged from all responsibilities thereunder.
5. Innovation Voucher is nontransferable i.e. can only be used by the approved applicant.
6. Subject to availability of the Programme and funding to MDeC, recipients of Innovation Voucher can reapply upon expiry of two (2) years from the date specified in the approval letter.
7. Innovation Voucher can only be used at MDeC's list of approved service providers.
8. Innovation Voucher is non-tradeable or exchangeable for cash.
9. All Innovation Voucher applicants are required to provide true and complete information as per the Innovation Voucher Application Template. Application must be signed by the authorised representative(s) of the company and participating service provider.
10. Innovation Voucher recipients are required to submit a final report prepared jointly with the participating service provider and signed by the authorised representative(s) of both parties upon completion of the approved project.
11. Innovation Voucher will be redeemed by the participating service provider upon verification that the project milestones are met and the company has paid its part of the cost.