International Seminar
Global Investment Trends and Thailand's Strategic Opportunities: Insights from UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2026

September 22, 2026 13.00 – 16.30hrs. (BKK Time)
Venue: The Waldorf Astoria Bangkok Language: English

1. Background and Rationale

Global investment flows are undergoing significant transformation due to geopolitical shifts, supply chain restructuring, technological change, and the emergence of new growth markets. International organizations such as the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) regularly publish flagship reports that analyze these developments, notably the World Investment Report.

These reports provide valuable insights into global and regional trends in foreign direct investment (FDI), including investment flows, sectoral developments, and emerging opportunities for businesses and governments. For companies in Thailand, understanding these investment trends is important to remain competitive in the global economy and to effectively participate in global value chains.

The findings of these reports highlight significant opportunities for Thai firms to expand internationally through outbound investment, while also benefiting from inbound investment that strengthens domestic industries, technology transfer, and economic development.

This project aims to analyze the key findings of the World Investment Report, and to evaluate their implications for Thai companies. The seminar will also identify potential investment opportunities in emerging regions and assess how Thai firms can strategically position themselves in the evolving global investment landscape.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this seminar are to:

1. Examine key global and regional investment trends highlighted in the World Investment Report.
2. Analyze the implications of these investment trends for Thai companies.
3. Identify potential opportunities for outbound investment by Thai firms in emerging markets.
4. Evaluate the impact of inbound investment on Thailand's economic development and industrial competitiveness.
5. Present case studies of Thai companies that have successfully expanded internationally.

3. Scope of the seminar

3.1 Outbound Investment Opportunities

This seminar will explore potential expansion opportunities for Thai companies in several emerging regions that have shown increasing investment potential:

- Middle East
- Africa
- India
- Central Europe

These regions have been identified as promising destinations for foreign direct investment due to their growing markets, infrastructure development, industrial diversification, and increasing economic integration.

3.2 Inbound Investment into Thailand

The seminar will also examine strategies for attracting more foreign direct investment into Thailand. Key factors to be analyzed include:

- Regional economic integration within Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Global supply chain relocation and diversification

- Strategic growth industries such as digital technology, advanced manufacturing, and green energy

4. Case Studies

The seminar will present selected case studies of Thai companies that have successfully expanded abroad or benefited from foreign investment in Thailand. These examples will provide practical insights into international expansion strategies, investment partnerships, and market entry approaches.

5. Expected Outcomes

The project is expected to:

- Provide a comprehensive overview of global and ASEAN investment trends.
- Identify strategic markets for Thai companies seeking international expansion.
- Highlight opportunities for Thailand to attract greater inbound foreign direct investment.
- Offer practical recommendations for Thai companies to strengthen their global investment strategies.

6. Significance of the seminar

This seminar will contribute to a better understanding of global investment dynamics and their implications for Thai businesses. By analyzing international investment trends and emerging market opportunities, the research will help Thai companies:

- Identify new international markets
- Improve competitiveness in global industries
- Develop effective international investment strategies
- Leverage global investment opportunities for sustainable growth

7. **Target Participants**

On-site 100
Online 50

Time	Program Description
12.30 – 13.00hrs.	**Registration**
13.00 – 16.30hrs.	**Moderated by Mr.Varin Sachdev, News Anchor (TNN/News1/MCOT & Nomad Media Thailand)**
13.00 – 13.45hrs.	**Welcome and Opening Session** • **Mr. Chavapas Ongmahutmongkol** President, Harvard Club of Thailand and Harvard Alumni Association Board of Directors • **Mr. Suphakit Chareonkul** Executive Director, The International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) • **Mr. Richard Bolwijn,** Director, Investment Research, Investment and Enterprise Division, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
13.45 – 14.15hrs.	**Keynote address: "Transforming Southeast Asia: Unlocking High-Tech Investment and Innovation Ecosystems"** • **Prof. Jay Rosengard** Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School Descriptions: This session highlights the high-technology sectors driving Thailand's transformation into an innovation-led, high-value economy within Southeast Asia. Featuring insights from a renowned public policy thinker, the session explores how Thailand and its regional neighbors can capitalize on untapped Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) opportunities to fuel long-term economic growth.
14.15 –14.25hrs.	**Photo Session**
14.25 –14.45hrs.	**Networking Break**
14.45 – 15.15hrs.	**UN Trade and Development's World Investment Report 2026 Insight** **Mr. Richard Bolwijn,** Director, Investment Research, Investment and Enterprise Division, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Descriptions: This session examines how foreign direct investment (FDI) is increasingly being concentrated in strategic, technology-driven sectors rather than being evenly distributed across industries. Global greenfield investment is now heavily driven by data centers, semiconductors, and advanced digital infrastructure, while tariff-exposed sectors such as machinery and traditional manufacturing are experiencing a decline in project activity. The session may conclude by key trends shaping global capital flows and discuss the implications for governments, investors, and businesses seeking to navigate a rapidly evolving investment landscape.

15.15 – 16.30hrs.	**Session 2 Panel Discussion: Outbound Direct Investment (ODI)** • **Prof. Dr. Pavida Pananond** Department of International Business, Logistics, and Transport, Thammasat Business School • **Mr. Visit Limluecha** Vice Chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade of Thailand • **Mr. Lluis Ferre Nadal** Managing Director, Singha Worldwide Ltd. • **Mrs. Apinara Srikarnchana** Co-founder, U Drink I Drive Co. Ltd. **Moderated by Mr. Varin Sachdev** Descriptions: This session presents case studies of leading Thai companies that have successfully expanded into international markets, together with examples of government-supported enterprises that have leveraged foreign direct investment (FDI) to accelerate growth and enhance their global competitiveness. Drawing on real-world experiences, the session explores the strategic approaches, investment partnerships, and market entry models that have enabled these businesses to thrive in an increasingly dynamic global economy.
	Q & A

Remarks: The program agenda is subject to change whenever appropriate.