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Thailand accelerateÂ Thai SMEs to use FTA benefits and to compete in the international market

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On Nov 28, 2023, Ronarong Poolpipat, Director-General of the Department of Foreign Trade, opened a seminar to promote SMEs to compete in the international market under a project titled "Raising the level of trade to an international level with trade benefits under the FTA."

SMEs, particularly manufacturers and exporters, were provided with information about comprehensive trade benefits by the Department of Foreign Trade to help them understand how to benefit from customs tax benefits under free trade agreements. During the ASEAN-China Agreement and the RCEP, there was a workshop on requesting a certificate of origin through DFT SMART C/O and a workshop on checking product properties regarding origin with ROVERs PLUS.

This is a tool that provides Thai businesses with convenience and speed in obtaining certificates of origin and inspecting the origin of products. Entrepreneurs can take advantage of the FTA benefits only if this condition is met. A number of private sector experiences have also been transferred to demonstrate the benefits of using FTA rights, including recommendations on

how to send products to Chinese markets. SME entrepreneurs, both manufacturers and exporters, showed a great deal of interest in attending the seminar about the RCEP agreement and the market under it. Trade barriers will be reduced and trade competitiveness will be increased by this comprehensive body of knowledge. Under the current global trade conditions, Thai SMEs are handicapped in their ability to compete in the foreign trade market.

In addition, Ronarong revealed that the Department will organize a seminar to promote SMEs to compete in the industry. During the first half of 2024, the Department of Foreign Trade will update progress under the FTA agreement, including the development of a service system with various digital innovations to facilitate trade for entrepreneurs,