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More 'loving' Asean trading relations would prove profitable to HK

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A MORE "loving" trading relationship with Bangkok in particular and the Asean bloc in general was advised by Willy Lin, chairman of the Hong Kong Shippers' Council.

Speaking at a press briefing at the Conrad Hotel in Hong Kong, Mr Lin said that Hong Kong business interests, given their expertise, would do well to participate in a three-day trade fair September 21-23 in Bangkok.

The TILOG – LOGISTIX 2016 show is expected to draw many elements of the logistics community together to offer services and case studies on the post-AEC effects.

Mr Lin said the trade fair presented many opportunities for Hong Kong logistics players in the Thailand, unlike some of its neighbours, had an advanced manufacturing base ripe for investment and expansion.

Mr Lin said the China's "one-belt, one road" initiative was good fit with anticipated logistics development in the region.

"Logistics is the most important. You may want tourism but that means hotels and other facilities and that means roads are needed to bring in the materials to build them," he said.

Said Reed Tradex conference organisers: "Despite global economic slowdown, the logistics industry may possibly go against the tide, performing better than expected.

"Trading and logistics has always been one of Hong Kong's four pillar industries, and is expected to grow steadily due to the closer trade cooperation with Asean countries, even though it is suffering from weakened global demands in general," they said.

Thailand has established itself as a logistics hub within the ASEAN Free Trade Area in recent years, thanks to its well-developed infrastructure and superior geographic location, said a Reed Tradex statement.

The Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) and Reed Tradex Co Ltd, a well-known exhibition organiser, will be holding the trade fair.

This will be an all-under-one-roof event for businesses to discover the right logistics services and solutions.

Wittayakorn Maneenetr, executive director of the Office of the Trade Commissioner, Royal Thai Consulate General, also spoke highly of the trading opportunities within the Asean community and with Thailand itself.

He noted that there were 400 million to 500 million people in the Asean zone, many of whom were on the brink of joining the middle class if they had not already done so.