

## 7. Legal Disputes

### (1) Disputes with the Expressway and Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (ETA)

(1.1) The Company had a dispute with ETA since the Ministry of Interior issued the Ministry of Interior Notification dated 23 October 1998 regarding revision of toll rates, by repealing the Notification dated 27 August 1998 which increased toll rates commencing 1 September 1998. The Company disagreed with the Notification dated 23 October 1998, and, therefore, referred the dispute to arbitration. The arbitral award determined that the revision of toll rates pursuant to the Notification dated 23 October 1998 conformed to the Agreement. Consequently, ETA referred another dispute to arbitration demanding reimbursement of Baht 34 Million received by the Company as toll revenue sharing pursuant to the Notification dated 27 August 1998. Thereafter, the Company filed its statement of defense stating that the Company was entitled to receive such Baht 34 Million because such toll revenues were received by the Company while the Notification dated 27 August 1998 was in effect. In addition, the Company filed a counterclaim requesting the Arbitral Tribunal to issue an award ruling that the Notification dated 27 August 1998 was legitimate, and requiring ETA to compensate the Company for damages in an amount equal to the difference of tolls collected under the two Notifications. The Arbitral Tribunal issued an arbitral award on 3 December 2001, as follows:

1. The Notification dated 27 August 1998 was issued in compliance with the procedure of the Agreement in all respects. The issuance of the Notification dated 23 October 1998 repealing and replacing the Notification dated 27 August 1998 to apply new toll rates was not in compliance with the criteria and procedure as specified in the Agreement, thereby having no binding effect upon the parties;
2. The Company was entitled to receive compensation from ETA in the amount equal to the difference of the toll rates collected as agreed in accordance with the Notification dated 27 August 1998 and the Notification dated 23 October 1998 plus interest under the Agreement, calculated from 16 July 2000 onwards, until the toll rates have been revised in accordance with the Agreement.

ETA issued a letter refusing to comply with the arbitral award, therefore, on 5 June 2002, the Company filed a petition with the Civil Court of Southern Bangkok requesting issuance of judgment to enforce compliance with the arbitral award. ETA objected that the filing of said case with the Civil Court of Southern Bangkok was not legitimate since the Civil Court of Southern Bangkok did not have jurisdiction over such case. ETA was of the opinion that the Second Stage Expressway Agreement was an administrative contract, all disputes relating thereto

must be lodged with the Administrative Court. In this regard, ETA requested a stay of proceedings and objected that the arbitration proceedings and such arbitral award were not legitimate and not in compliance with the arbitration agreement, as well as the calculation of compensation for damages was not legitimate. At the same time, on 26 July 2002, ETA filed a claim with the Administrative Court as Case Black No. 1297/2545 requesting the Court to revoke the arbitral award on the grounds that the arbitration proceedings were not properly conducted. On 2 January 2003, the Company filed its answer and challenged the Administrative Court's jurisdiction. Having considered the Company's motion on the jurisdiction, the Administrative Court was of the view that the Civil Court should have jurisdiction over the case and thus transferred the case to the Civil Court. The Civil Court, having reviewed the case, ordered disposal of the case on the grounds that it was not filed within the period required by law. ETA then filed an appeal against such order and the Company filed its answer to ETA's appeal. At present, the case is under consideration of the Supreme Court. As for the case filed by the Company to enforce the compliance with the arbitral award, the Civil Court determined the disputed issue as to whether the arbitral award was legitimate and enforceable. The examination of witnesses for the Company and ETA was completed on 20 July 2004. On 28 December 2004, the Civil Court of Southern Bangkok issued a judgment confirming the arbitral award, thereby requiring ETA to compensate the difference between the legitimate toll rates in accordance with the Notification dated 27 August 1998 and those under the Notification dated 23 October 1998, from 24 October 1998, as per the actual traffic volume on the Expressways, together with interest, until the payment would be made in full or toll rates would be adjusted in accordance with the legitimate Notification. ETA was entitled to file an appeal in this case.

- (1.2) The Company had a dispute with ETA regarding the Priority Component Opening Date. The Second Stage Expressway Agreement (the "Agreement") required ETA to deliver the site of the "Priority Component" as specified in the Agreement on or before 1 March 1990 to enable the Company to proceed with the construction. After completion of the construction of such component, ETA had to adjust the toll rates to be in accordance with the Agreement, and such date shall be deemed as the Priority Component Opening Date. The Company would then be entitled to receive the toll revenue sharing of the whole Expressway system from ETA in accordance with the ratio as agreed pursuant to the Agreement. In practice, ETA was unable to deliver such component in whole pursuant to the Agreement, only partial delivery of the site was made. On 30 September 1990, ETA remained unable to complete the delivery of the remaining site of the "Priority Component" to the Company in accordance with the Agreement. Therefore, the Company was of the view that under the provisions of the Agreement, the Priority Component Opening Date is the date on which the construction in respect of the Priority Component was completed. The Company completed the construction of the Expressway on the Priority Component delivered by ETA by 1 March 1990, and the Independent Certification Engineer certified such completion on 13 November 1992. Therefore, the Company was entitled to receive the toll revenue sharing of the whole Expressway

system commencing from said date onwards, but ETA commenced sharing the toll revenue on 2 September 1993. The Company filed such dispute to arbitration requesting toll revenue sharing that the Company should have received from 13 November 1992 to 1 September 1993, together with interest.

ETA filed its statement of defense indicating that the Arbitral Tribunal had no power to consider and give its arbitral award in respect of this dispute since ETA was of the opinion that such dispute was related to an administrative contract, therefore, such case was under the jurisdiction of the Administrative Court, and further objected that the Priority Component Opening Date was not the date as asserted by the Company. Moreover, ETA argued that the Company had no right to receive the toll revenue sharing for such period from 2 September 1993 to 29 June 1996, during which ETA did not yet open Sector B of the Second Stage Expressway for service. It was deemed that the urban network did not exist during that period, therefore, it was not possible to share toll revenue in accordance with the criteria specified in the Agreement. In this respect, ETA demanded full reimbursement of toll revenue sharing received by the Company for such period from 2 September 1993 to 29 June 1996, together with interest. The Company filed its answer to the counterclaim indicating that ETA had no right to demand such reimbursement since such revenue sharing had been remitted to the Company out of the toll revenue in accordance with the Agreement. Therefore, the Company was entitled to receive such toll.

The Chairman of the Arbitral Tribunal in respect of this dispute had been properly selected in accordance with the procedures and law. Subsequently, ETA filed a challenge to the Chairman of the Arbitral Tribunal. The Company therefore filed its objection indicating that ETA's action was not in accordance with the law. Thereafter, the Chairman withdrew himself from the case, the Thai Arbitration Institute thus requested both disputing parties to nominate persons to be selected as Chairman of the Arbitral Tribunal. On 1 December 2004, the arbitrators nominated and appointed Mr. Kiang Boonpoem as Chairman of the Arbitral Tribunal and scheduled for both parties to submit their lists of witnesses on 1 February 2005 and to file statements of witnesses and questions for subpoenaed witnesses on 1 April 2005. The hearing for examination of witnesses for both parties would commence with the examination of witnesses for the Company in June 2005 and for ETA in July 2005.

- (1.3) The Company and the Subsidiary had a dispute with ETA regarding competing road which gave rise to financial impact on the Company and the Subsidiary. The Independent Certification Engineer certified that such road was a competing road. The Company and the Subsidiary referred such dispute to arbitration. Since there were facts pertaining to the Expressway routes which were additionally opened for full service, the Company and the Subsidiary withdrew the statement of claim for amendment of facts. In this respect, the Subsidiary submitted the dispute

to the Panel in compliance with the procedures under the Agreement, and could not settle such dispute at this stage. The Subsidiary then referred such dispute to arbitration on 20 December 2004, and at present, the case is pending ETA's submission of its statement of defense.

- (1.4) ETA issued variation orders requiring the Company to undertake additional work and notified the Company that ETA would be liable for costs as actually incurred. The Independent Certification Engineer issued a letter certifying the additional costs. Thereafter, ETA refused to make payment as certified by the Independent Certification Engineer. The Company, therefore, referred such dispute to arbitration. However, since there were additional new facts, the Company withdrew the dispute for amendment of facts.
- (1.5) The Company and the Subsidiary had a dispute with ETA due to delayed opening of Sector D of the Second Stage Expressway and the Bang Pa-in – Pak Kret Expressway for service, giving rise to financial impact upon the Company and the Subsidiary. The Company and the Subsidiary, therefore, referred such dispute to arbitration. However, since there were additional facts pertaining to said Expressway routes, the Company and the Subsidiary withdrew the statement of claim for amendment of facts.
- (1.6) The Company had an obligation to construct collection and distribution road (CD Road), for which ETA should have delivered the site for such construction to the Company by 18 October 2000. Given the fact that ETA was unable to deliver the site to the Company by the specified time, the Company's obligation to carry out such construction ceased accordingly. However, the Company remained entitled to claim for compensation for damages from ETA due to its failure to deliver the site to the Company on time, including compensation for loss of toll revenue had the construction been completed as scheduled. On 5 February 2001, ETA submitted the matter to the Panel to force the Company to accept the obligation to construct the CD Road. The Company filed its objection, on 25 June 2001, that it had no such obligation and in addition claim for loss of benefit from ETA's failure to deliver the construction site to the Company. The Panel could not mediate the dispute and therefore asked the parties to further submit the matter to arbitration. At present, this issue has not yet been referred to arbitration.
- (1.7) ETA referred a dispute to the Panel regarding liability for costs incurred by such actions to remedy problems resulting from the operation of the Second Stage Expressway. The Company was of the view that such issue was not within the scope of responsibility of the Company under the Agreement and said issue could not be settled by the Panel. Therefore, on 4 February 2003, ETA referred the dispute to arbitration so as to force the Company to resolve the issue and reimburse ETA for costs already paid for by ETA. The Company filed its statement of defense with the Thai Arbitration Institute on 13 May 2003. It was scheduled for the disputing parties to meet on 2 December 2004. Both parties mutually made a statement that an agreement could not be reached, the Thai Arbitration

Institute then required both parties to nominate their respective arbitrators. In this respect, the Company appointed Associate Professor Viraphong Boonyobhas while ETA appointed Mr. Udom Chinwong as arbitrators, and the next meeting was scheduled to be held on 19 January 2005.

- (1.8) ETA referred a dispute to the Panel regarding liability for costs incurred by the execution of the works under the Second Stage Expressway Agreement. The Company was of the view that said costs demanded by ETA were not within the scope of responsibility of the Company under the Agreement and said issue could not be settled by the Panel. Therefore, on 30 April 2004, ETA referred the dispute to the arbitration so as to force the Company to reimburse such costs. In this respect, the Company filed its statement of defense with the Thai Arbitration Institute on 23 July 2004. The Thai Arbitration Institute scheduled a meeting for negotiation for the disputed issues or determination of arbitration proceedings on 29 October 2004. In this regard, both parties mutually made a statement that an agreement could not be reached and they did not wish to enter into mediation to be conducted by the Thai Arbitration Institute. The Company then appointed Associate Professor Viraphong Boonyobhas as its arbitrator while ETA requested an extension of time for submission of a letter of appointment of its arbitrator until 25 January 2005.
- (1.9) The Second Stage Expressway System Agreement stipulates that the toll rates of the First and the Second Stage Expressway Systems shall be revised every five year interval, namely within six months from the first toll review date on 1 March 1998, and each fifth anniversary thereof. Under the Agreement for the Extension of the Second Stage Expressway System (Sector D), the first toll review date for Sector D shall be 1 March 2003. Accordingly, the next toll review date for the First and the Second Stage Expressway Systems and the first toll review date for Sector D shall be 1 March 2003. The revised toll rates shall become effective as from 1 September 2003. On 24 February 2003, the Company submitted a letter requesting revision of toll rates to the Expressway and Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand, based on the principles and procedures set out in the relevant Agreements.

On 29 August 2003, the Ministry of Transport issued the Ministry of Transport Notifications regarding the toll rates for the First and the Second Stage Expressway Systems and the Second Stage Expressway System (Sector D), to become effective from 1 September 2003. The Company disagrees with these Notifications since it believes that the adjustment of the toll rates under these Notifications was contrary to the Agreements.

On 29 June 2004, the Company referred a dispute to the Panel regarding the revision of toll rates for the First and the Second Stage Expressway Systems, both urban and suburban networks, which was not in compliance with the Agreements. In the meeting with the Panel on 29 November 2004, the disputing parties could not reach an agreement, the Company would then refer such dispute to arbitration.

As for the toll rates for Sector D, the Company filed the dispute with the Panel on 18 November 2004, and this is pending ETA's submission of its answer.

- (1.10) The Bang Pa-in – Pak Kret Expressway Agreement stipulates that the toll rates of the Bang Pa-in – Pak Kret Expressway shall be revised every five year interval, namely within six months from the toll review date on 1 May 2003, and each fifth anniversary thereof. The revised toll rates shall become effective within six months from the toll review date, currently on 1 November 2003. On 25 April 2003, the Subsidiary submitted a letter requesting revision of toll rates to the Expressway and Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand, based on the foregoing principles.

On 29 August 2003, the Ministry of Transport issued the Ministry of Transport Notification regarding the toll rates for the Bang Pa-in – Pak Kret Expressway, to become effective from 1 November 2003. The Subsidiary disagreed with this Notification since it believed that the adjustment of the toll rates under this Notification was contrary to the Agreement. On 28 October 2004, the Subsidiary filed the dispute with the Panel and this case is pending ETA's submission of its answer.