

## Daily Thai News Updates: 04 October 2017

### 1. BOT mulls digital money

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

The Bank of Thailand has studied whether it should use a digital currency for financial transactions between central bank and commercial banks, according to Veerathai Santiprabhob, central bank governor. “If the Bank of Thailand issues digital currency, it will be used between the BOT and commercial banks, it would not be applied to the general public right away,” he said. So far, the bank of Thailand has not yet legalised any digital or cryptocurrency. “But we don’t prohibit people from using it but they should understand the associated risks,” he warned.

### 2. Measures approved in drive to spur EV production

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

THE GOVERNMENT is steering towards a set of measures to promote electric vehicle (EV) production in Thailand, while the Customs Department, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Industry are in discussions to amend commitments under the Asean-China free trade agreement (ACFTA) to pave way for imports of EV parts to Thailand. According to Nattaporn Jatusripitak, an adviser to the Office of Prime Minister, the Cabinet approved the measures to support EV production yesterday. Such measures span from Board of Investment (BOI)’s investment promotional privileges for EVs, parts and equipment to Ministry of Finance (MOF)’s excise-tax cuts.

### **3. JSCCIB raises view for GDP growth to 3.7-4%**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

THE Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) has raised its forecast for economic expansion this year to 3.7-4 per cent from an earlier estimate at 3.5-4 per cent, citing higher-than-expected growth in exports and tourism. However, risks exist from external events could prompt money-market volatility, particularly for the baht, the committee said after its members met yesterday. Of these risks, it cited political developments in the United States, Germany and Japan, and tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

### **4. Export growth forecast revised upwards**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

The meeting of the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking on Tuesday revised upwards its forecast of export growth this year to between 6.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent from the previous forecast of between 3.5 and 4.5 per cent. The revision is in line with export growth in the past eight months, the committee said. Growth momentum is expected to continue during the rest of the year, thanks to the economic recovery of the Thailand's major trading partners.

### **5. Sansiri to launch 11 projects in busy fourth quarter**

**Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))**

SET-listed developer Sansiri Plc (SIRI) is launching 11 new projects worth a combined 26 billion baht in the fourth quarter in a bid to capitalise on the high season. According to President Srettha Thavasin, seven of the projects will be low-rise developments worth 13 billion baht and four will be condominiums worth 13 billion, with one of the four developed under the BTS-Sansiri joint

venture. Sansiri aims to generate 16 billion baht in sales during the fourth quarter after fetching 24 billion in the first nine months, a rise of nearly 20% year-on-year.