

Daily Thai News Updates: 18 April 2017

1. Thailand popular destination for skilled workers from Philippines

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

Thailand is a popular destination for skilled workers and technicians from Asean countries, with the Philippines taking the top spot, according to the Department of Employment (DE). DE director-general Varanon Peetiwan said the Philippines ranks number one out of nine countries in terms of the number of foreign skilled workers and technicians in Thailand. He was speaking as he announced the figures for foreign employment in Thailand from Asean. According to the department, the top five were the Philippines (14,830), Malaysia (2,924), Singapore (2,034), Myanmar (1,948) and Indonesia (1,279). As of February, of the total 1,380,349 workers from from Asean countries in Thailand, about 50,000 are skilled labour and technicians. They have taken jobs in teaching, management, engineering, architecture and business, he said. Mr Varanon urged foreigners who wish to work in the country to follow procedures set by the DE. They must obtain a licence issued by the DE and are required to stay in the country or allowed to enter the country legally as workers, not tourists. Meanwhile, the National Reform Steering Assembly committee overseeing social issues will propose a plan for cabinet consideration on migrant worker registration at border checkpoints at the meeting next Tuesday.

2. Optimism about Q1 growth

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

Thailand's economy in the first quarter is expected to have fared better than the 3% growth in the previous quarter, boosted by rising exports, recovering farm prices, improving private consumption and tourism as well as accelerated spending by state agencies and enterprises, says the government's planning unit. Porametee Vimolsiri, the secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), said the economic data from the first two months showed a more promising trend than the October-December period of last year. "We expect the economic performance in the first quarter of this year to be higher than the 3% growth recorded in the fourth quarter last year," he said. "The key contributors include growing exports, tourism and agricultural product prices, and higher private consumption. More importantly, the government itself is revving up spending and developing big-ticket infrastructure projects." Mr Porametee said the government's extra 190 billion baht in mid-year budget for fiscal 2017 to

finance local development of 18 clusters of provinces will also help stimulate the development of rural areas this year.

3. INET commits further Bt 1.2 bn to data centre

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

Internet Thailand (INET) plans to spend a further Bt1.2 billion on a data centre in Saraburi province this year and set up an online marketplace for what it calls hybrid cloud services. Wanchai Vach-shewadumrong, deputy managing director of INET, said the technology company had invested more than Bt900 million on the first phase of INET's data centre 3, which provides services to local and international companies within 2,000 square metres. The data centre meets demand from customers accounting for 50-60 per cent of its capacity, and the company expects full capacity to be reached by the end of this year. The additional Bt1.2 billion investment covers the subsequent phases to phase four of work on the data centre that will widen the coverage to 8,000 square metres. The work up to phase four would be completed in the next eight months, Wanchai said. The company had also set up Thaidotcom as a marketplace for local software, an initiative that should be boost the software industry as a whole, INET said. For the cloud service, INET said it would provide an electronic marketplace for hybrid cloud services that would allow multi-cloud providers to provide public cloud services via INET's e-marketplace. Customers will be able to access the cloud as utility services. For Thaidotcom, this operation has been set up as a subscriber-based company that acts as an e-marketplace for locally developed software. Software developers can expand their business base and provide their products via online channels. The operation has more than 20 members who display their products on the platform. "We want to help local software companies expand their business base and provide their products in terms of a licence or a project base into a cloud base or an account base, so that it will boost their productivity, increase their revenue and improve the software industry as a whole," Wanchai said.

4. Entrepreneurs invited to join govt's Thaitrade.com

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

The Department of International Trade Promotion is encouraging entrepreneurs to subscribe to Thaitrade.com, the country's official international ecommerce marketplace. Thaitrade.com was launched in July 2011. It is designed to help buyers from all over the world to trade with Thai exporters. It is also the centre of Thailand's most complete commercial information online. The department says website members enjoy many benefits such as the opportunity to bring their products and services to the world market via ecommerce, establishing a channel for communication between manufacturers and buyers. They can launch products and services to consumers or importers directly. Thaitrade.com is open 24 hours a day. It has been marketed and promoted both domestically and internationally through both online and offline channels through 58 Thai international trade offices in 42 countries worldwide. It also has a network of allies such as Thai Post and Bangkok Bank. Thai entrepreneurs are screened for quality standards by a committee appointed by the department before they can join the project. Membership is free of charge.

5. Major mobile players pushed to take fingerprint ID in hand

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

Thailand's three major mobile operators must provide at least 600 service areas in total by next month for new prepaid and postpaid mobile SIM card users to register for the online fingerprint ID system. The companies face penalties if they fail to meet the nationwide quota. The three operators are Advance Info Service (AIS), Total Access Communication (DTAC) and True Move. Each company will have to provide fingerprint scanners at 200 service areas by next month. The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), however, wants all existing mobile users to put their fingerprints in the system on a voluntary basis for the benefit of their own security. The fingerprint system is aimed at ensuring greater security of the mobile banking channel and preventing the risk of fraud, which is likely to increase in a cashless society. NBTC secretary-general Takorn Tantasith said all mobile operators will have to provide a total of 8,000 service areas for fingerprint ID systems nationwide by year-end. Through a fingerprint enrolment process, mobile operators will scan each person's fingerprints and store them

on the NBTC's secure database server. The fingerprint system will complement the existing registration system.

6. Startup marketplace for fund-raising in the works

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

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) plans to use more than 600 startups registered with New Economic Warrior (NEW), an online community initiated by the stock exchange, for the startup fund-raising platform it is setting up soon, its chief says. "We will use these 600 companies as the initial products of the start-up marketplace," president Kesara Manchsree told Bangkok Post in an interview. There are 611 startups signed up on the NEW website, which was incorporated to build a good ecosystem for startups in Thailand. The SET will probably set up a subsidiary company to operate the startup fund-raising marketplace by the third quarter of this year, she said. The marketplace idea for startups came in response to instructions from Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak, who said the SET should consider offering a venue for startup fund-raising and venture capital exits. "The platform will be over-the-counter (OTC), where startup companies will place themselves on this channel to let everyone, including investors, learn about their business, products and services," said Mrs Kesara. If startup and investor talks about joint ventures or acquisitions are successful, they can proceed to carry out deals through the SET's blockchain-based fund-raising platform, she said. The SET is seeking a company to set up and manage the blockchain technology for the startup fund-raising platform.