

Daily Thai News Updates: 18 January 2017

1. Delegation visits Myanmar

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

Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak is scheduled to lead a Thai delegation to Myanmar on Feb 2-3, seeking to expand bilateral trade and investment as well as border trade. Isara Vongkusolkit, chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, said the delegation will include 40 representatives who will meet Myanmar businesspeople to discuss possible partnership on investment and capital market development. The Thai delegation is also due to meet Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi. "We will discuss investment, particularly along the border, and improvement of roads such as those linking Singkhon and Myeik as well as Phu Nam Ron and Dawei. We will also talk about a joint special economic zone between Mae Sot and Myawaddy," said Mr. Isara.

2. Survey finds 2017 optimism improving

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

Confidence in this year's continued economic growth has risen, according to the largest survey by the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) and the National Institute of Administration (NIDA). The survey on the economic and industrial outlook in 2017 covered 45 major industries and 10 industrial institutes with respondents from more than 1,000 companies. Kamphol Panyagometh, Nida's vice-president for research and consulting services, said 34.7% of the respondents were confident that the economy will continue to grow in 2017. In a previous survey, only 25% of respondents thought the economic expansion would continue. Major positive factors that were expected to support the Thai economy to grow in 2017 are the government's investment in infrastructure projects as well as other government policies to promote tourism and investment, Assoc Prof Kamphol said.

3. Thailand joins Google's Launchpad Accelerator programme

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

Google has expanded its Launchpad Accelerator programme to Thailand by selecting two Thai startups, Wongnai and Skootar, to join the initiative in which they will work closely with the US-based tech giant for six months. Bok Thye Yeow, developer relations programme manager for Google Thailand, said that the unveiling of the programme in the Kingdom followed its launch in the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia. The programme is designed to help latter-stage startups, which have received at least early series-A funding, have live products and users, and are growing. The important criteria is having products/services that solve problems in the startups home countries. "The idea behind this is we believe startups should target local problems, to help solve local problems and contribute back to their home country before expanding outside [it]," Yeow said.

4. Uber delivers food in Bangkok

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

If you want to get the food you want from the restaurants you love, all from the comfort of your own home, Uber is now offering its first stand-alone food delivery app that lets you order grub the same way you order wheels. UberEats currently allows people to order food from 100 restaurants covering 24 cuisines. Users can track their orders from the moment they are placed until the second they arrive at their doors. "This app offers a window into what the future competition in the food delivery industry could look like," said Allen Penn, regional general manager for Asia-Pacific of UberEats a business unit of US-based Uber Technologies Inc.

5. TechStar aids IT job hunt with Line app

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

TechStar Thailand, a Bangkok-based IT job search website, has introduced a Line app to serve social media users. "Having the Line channel enables us to reach job seekers among Line's 33 million users," said Chuladej Machimanond, general manager of TechStar Thailand, an online marketplace for skilled workers. Job seekers can add the @TechStarTH account, then type keywords such as "Java" (the programming language) in Line chat. The system will return results for positions and employers. The search can find jobs five different ways: by application, by development skill, by job title, by system or by industry. Line provides an alternative channel for job seekers aside from the website and mobile site. "This will differentiate us from rivals," Mr Chulajej said.

By Rajnee Narula

