

## Daily Thai News Updates: 22 September 2017

### **1. Digital Park plan for Chon Buri tech community unveiled**

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

A proposal for a new 100-hectare digital park was presented at an industry event yesterday, heralding a major step in Thailand's digital aspirations. Digital Park Thailand, located in the Sri Racha district of Chon Buri, was unveiled at the Digital Thailand Big Bang Conference 2017. The site, aimed predominately at digital and technology industries, will welcome more than 58,000 people to live and work there. The new district will be developed over the next 10-15 years and is within the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), a special economic zone. The project will include a range of science and education facilities, as well as a residential community. Digital Park Thailand will also support and complement existing industries and people in the area, including schools, universities and sectors such as automotive and agriculture.

### **2. Digital Thailand Big Bang 2017 sheds light on progress towards country's digital transformation**

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

Thailand is staging the “Digital Thailand Big Bang 2017” exhibition under the concept of Digital Transformation Thailand. The government says now marks the beginning of the implementation part of its efforts to reform economy and society into Thailand 4.0. The exhibition feature the latest technological innovations, and brings together more than 120 companies engaged in digital technology that are sharing their insights...Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said: “Digital Thailand Big Bang 2017 is the milestone event which propels the whole nation into the digital era...To create new opportunities for economic growth and improve the delivery of government services for its people: the Pracha Rat Internet, to bridge a digital gap by providing high speed Internet accessibility to 74,700 communities in Thailand within a year. The government is aiming to create innovations through the application of technology, such as e-commerce to enhance the capabilities so that the people can run their businesses online; e-health to enable swift exchange of information between experts and individual units located across the nation; e-education to offer numerous possibilities for distance learning to people, including children, senior citizens and underprivileged; e-agriculture to change the country's traditional farming to smart

farming and to help Thai farmers to become entrepreneurs and e-service to serve as a central information center to facilitate people in obtaining public services...

### **3. August exports surge fastest in 55 months**

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

Exports rallied for the sixth straight month in August, surging by the fastest pace in 55 months thanks to increased shipments of agricultural and agro-industry products. This steady resurgence has reinforced the Commerce Ministry's confidence in achieving the whole year's export growth target of 7 per cent on the back of economic recoveries in major trading partners. Commerce Minister Apiradi Tantraporn said exports grew 13.23 per cent year-on-year in August to US\$21.22 billion, marking the highest export value in six years since August 2011. In the month, imports climbed 14.93 per cent to \$19.13 billion, leaving the balance of trade enjoying a surplus of \$2.09 billion. Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said August exports mirrored the improvement in the overall economy.

### **4. Depa predicts e-commerce to triple to B2.1 tn**

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

Retail e-commerce value in Thailand is projected to reach 2.1 trillion baht in 2022, three times higher than 2016, thanks to intense competition from big players, the popularity of social commerce and the availability of wireless technology. Ratthasart Korrasud, senior executive vice-president of the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (Depa), said by 2022, online retail in Thailand will account for 8.2% of the total, up from 3% in 2016. The global online retail market accounts for 8.2% of the total, while the markets in the US and South Korea are 10% and 17%, respectively. The overall Thailand e-commerce market in 2016 was valued at 2.5 trillion baht of which business to consumer (online retail transactions) were valued at 729 billion, accounting for 3% of total retail value. The value is expected to reach 2.1 trillion baht by 2022.

### **5. EEC civilian law going to NLA**

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

The first civilian law to govern all economic activities in the government's flagship Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) is due to be submitted for final consideration by the National Legislative Assembly on Sept 28 and is likely to be implemented in October as planned, says Industry Minister

Uttama Savanayana. The anticipated law is expected to substantially increase confidence among foreign investors to kick off their real investment in the EEC. More than 30 Thai and foreign companies are projected to invest in the first stage, he said. "Both Thai and foreign investors are waiting for this law to be implemented to really start of the EEC, which should help push Thailand to sustainable growth," said Mr Uttama. Moreover, the Board of Investment (BoI) is planning to grant another five years for a 50% tax cut for new investment, particularly in the EEC zone, said Duangjai Asawachintachit, deputy secretary-general of the BoI.

#### **6. GEN Asia formed to key startup hub**

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

Thailand is moving forward with plan to become a startup hub in Asia, following the agreement with the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) to form a cooperative centre office for GEN Asia here this year. GEN is a year-round platform of programmes and initiatives aimed at creating one global entrepreneurial ecosystem, the world's largest community of startups with members in 165 countries. The government through the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA) agreed to form a cooperative centre office for GEN in Thailand, meant to bridge startups in Asia and the world in knowledge collaboration and access to venture capital funds.

#### **7. Auto exports rise in August, outlook rosy**

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

The country's automotive exports increased for the first time in 14 months in August as the recovering global economy helped spur demand, says the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI). Yesterday the FTI's automotive industry club reported car exports in August increased by 9.26% to 102,907 units thanks to better demand in every region except the Middle East and Africa. August export value for automobiles increased by 6.19% to 54.2 billion baht. Surapong Paisitpatanapong, a club spokesman, said shipments to Oceania grew 32.6% to 33,086 vehicles, while exports to Asia increased by 2.11% to 25,406 units. The club sees potential in other regions such as Europe, North America and Latin America based on last month's figures...However, overall car exports in the first eight months have contracted, with shipments of 729,328 units, down by 7.46%. Export value was worth 385.7 billion baht, down by 8.52%.

