

## Daily Thai News Updates: 31 May 2017

### **1. Russian ministry, NBTC sign joint statement on collaboration**

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

Thailand's National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission and Russia's Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications yesterday signed a joint statement on mutual development of their telecom systems and cybersecurity collaboration. The statement was signed in Moscow by NBTC chairman Thares Punsri and Nikolay Nikiforov, the Russian minister of telecom and mass communications. The two agencies aim to promote the reduction of international data roaming fees charged by mobile-phone operators in their respective countries and the exchange of knowledge on cybersecurity of their telecom services. Representatives of two Thai private telecom operators, Advanced Info Service and True Corp, also held meetings with their Russia counterparts yesterday on the possible lowering of their international data roaming fees. Reducing these fees could boost tourism between the two countries. About 3 million Russians reportedly arrive in Thailand every year, while around 300,000 Thais visit Russia annually.

### **2. Nod for tollways to fund new projects**

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

The cabinet yesterday agreed to allow the Expressway Authority of Thailand (Exat) to include two of its existing projects in the Thailand Future Fund (TFF) to mobilise financing for two new projects worth a total of Bt44.82 billion. At its meeting yesterday, the Cabinet also approved a concession to the BSR Joint Venture group for construction of the urban rail line from Kairai to Min Buri and the line from Lat Phrao to Samrong worth a total of Bt100 billion. The group is a collaboration of BTS Group Holdings, Sino-Thai Engineering and Construction, and Ratchaburi Electricity Generation Holding. Under the concession, the government will invest Bt50 billion by paying an average of Bt5 billion annually for 10 years, and the rest will be invested by private firms. Nattaporn Jatusripitak, an adviser to the Office of the Prime Minister, said the Cabinet gave the green light for Exat to raise funds through 45 per cent of the estimated toll-based income from the two existing expressways for the next 30 years. They are the Chalong Rat (Ramindra-At Narong) Expressway and the Buraphavithi Expressway that runs from Bang Na to Chon Buri. The planned

proceeds will be used to finance the Bt30.44-billion Rama III-Dao Khanong-Western Bangkok Outer Ring Expressway project and the Bt14.38-billion expressway project for the northern (N2) route and East-West Corridor in the Eastern region.

### **3. ECD clamping down on software copyright breaches**

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

The Economic Crime Suppression Division (ECD) of the Royal Thai Police is intensifying its crackdown on software copyright violations. In the first quarter of 2017, it reported that more than 50 business entities were found using unlicensed software on more than 600 PCs, with the value of software used illegally reaching over 90 million baht. Most raid cases involve interior design companies and car parts manufacturers in Bangkok and nearby provinces. The software copyright violation most commonly found is business entities reproducing copies of software without authorisation by using one licensed copy to install a programme on multiple PCs. In the ECD's first-quarter report of raid cases, a Thai interior design company in Bangkok was found using software illegally on 21 PCs, worth over 10 million baht. The company has an annual income of 14 million baht. Under the Thai Copyright Act, the use of unlicensed software may subject business entities and their management to criminal and civil penalties, including substantial fines and imprisonment. Business entities that obtain software illegally are putting themselves at risk because they are not entitled to modifications and updates that address cybersecurity threats...The ECD's goal is to get the rate of 69% closer to or below Asia's average rate of 61% as soon as possible, according to its report.

### **4. Survey says Thai IT workforce has room to grow**

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

Thailand's IT-skilled workforce is considered good enough to catch up with emerging technologies like cloud and big data, according to a survey conducted by a local IT research and training firm. But the survey also found that policymakers need to attract more young developers to work in IT to avoid the problem of a skilled-workforce shortage in the future, especially as the country moves toward Thailand 4.0. "Local IT professionals have the ability to catch up with new emerging technologies in term of programming languages and technology frameworks, especially cloud computing and big data analytics," said Thanachart Numnonda, executive director of IMC

Institute. The ICT workforce capability survey was conducted in early May among 255 respondents, ranging from IT professionals and academics working in IT, finance, telecom and education. According to the survey Java, PHP and C# are the top three most popular programming languages, followed by Pythom. But new languages like Swift for mobile development and R for data science and machine learning remained relatively unpopular, with only 5.5% and 3.1% of respondents, respectively, knowing them.

#### **5. New push for ‘quality’ visitors**

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

A new national tourism campaign for 2018 is being drafted aimed at the country’s tourism revenue growth at 8-10% on par with this year’s projection, says Deputy Prime Minister Thanasak Patimaprakorn. The campaign will focus on attracting more quality tourists rather than increasing the number of tourist arrivals. Another goal is promoting new tourists attractions and products in both domestic and international markets. In this regard, the Designated Area for Sustainable Tourism Administration will help promote new community attractions in domestic and overseas markets. Data aims to launch several promotions in 99 communities across the country, starting with a tourism fair this July. “Next year the tourism authorities will focus more on strong markets such as China, Europe and South East Asia,” Gen Thanasak said on Monday after meeting private operators. China and Asean contribute 27% each of foreign tourist arrivals to Thailand, followed by Europe at 19%.