

## Daily Thai News Updates: 4 April 2017

### 1. Provincial poor may get transport aid

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

The Finance Ministry is designing a welfare scheme for those at the bottom rung of the economic ladder, with a balance between registrants who live in Bangkok, its outskirts, and provincial areas to even out treatment. For public transportation, registrants who live in Bangkok and vicinity are thought to receive better benefits than those who live in provincial areas, said Finance Minister Apisak Tantivorawong. The ministry wants to offer some transport welfare such as interprovincial trains and buses to people living in the provinces. The government kicked off registration for welfare and subsidies to the poor under the national e-payment system yesterday. It will run through May 15 at Krungthai Bank, the Government Savings Bank and the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives. To be eligible for the government's welfare and subsidy scheme, applicants must be unemployed or have annual income of no more than 100,000 baht last year. They must also have savings, bonds and savings certificates worth less than 100,000 baht combined.

### 2. Tap water supplier in Eastern region expects strong demand from EEC

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

Universal Utilities Group, which supplies tap water in the Eastern region of Thailand, plans to invest an average of Bt200 million a year to develop water-treatment systems, especially in Chachoengsao, Rayong, and Chon Buri provinces, to serve expected strong demand from the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). The company is a subsidiary of Eastern Water Resources Development and Management. Acting managing director Cherdchai Pitiwacharakul said in an interview yesterday that the company this year would invest Bt263 million. He said that if the EEC project is a success, the demand for water in the area would be more than five times what it is now. Therefore, the company needs a business plan to serve the long-term demand growth by budgeting for investment costs of up to Bt200 million a year.

### **3. Commerce Ministry wary of US imbalance inquiry**

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

The Commerce Ministry has called urgent pre-Songkran meeting with Thai exporters to look into the implications of US President Donald Trump naming 16 countries as culprits in his country's trade imbalance. Commerce Minister Apiradi Tantraporn said yesterday that she will request a meeting with the Thai exporters and importers, US investors in Thailand, and government officials to discuss Mr Trump's executive order signed last Friday. In the executive order, the president ordered an investigation into the US trade imbalance and vowed to reverse the country's trade deficit. Thailand was one of the three Asean countries named, along with Vietnam and Indonesia. Mrs. Apiradi said trade official are studying the possible impact of order and of upcoming measures that may affect Thailand, especially in the sensitive areas of intellectual property, tax and non-tax privileges.

### **4. Data science poised to boom**

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

Big data and analytics spending in Thailand is expected to continue double-digit growth in 2017, driven by the availability of data, a new generation of technology and a cultural shift toward data-driven decision making. Teradata Thailand, the local enterprise software unit of US-based Teradata Corporation, expects double-digit revenue growth, this year in line with the overall growth of the big and analytics industry. "The digital transformation of organizations and intense competition in businesses are forcing companies to embrace big data and analytics technologies," said Jeerapa Kongswangwongsa, managing director of Teradata Thailand.

### **5. Tata donates pickup truck to make it easier for remote Chiang Mai students to get to school**

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

Tata Motors (Thailand) has donated a Tata Xenon pickup truck to Baan Mae Ki School in Chiang Mai province, with the vehicle to be used as the main form of transportation for students to travel safely through 100 kilometres of mountainous terrain. Baan Mae Ki School is situated in Chai Prakan district, close to the border with Chiang Rai province. Its need for a transport service is acute as students usually travel for hours every day to get to and from school.