

## Thai News Update: 10 October 2018

### **1. Mekong-Japan Co-Operation Lifted To Strategic Partnership**

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

Leaders of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries and Japan decided to lift the two sides' co-operation to a strategic partnership at the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in Tokyo on 9 October. The event, chaired by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, was attended by Vietnamese PM Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Cambodian PM Hun Sen, Lao PM Thongloun Sisoulith, Thai PM Prayut Chan-o-cha and Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. The leaders reviewed their past co-operation, discussed major orientations for co-operation in the future, and exchanged views on international and regional issues. Agreeing to lift the Mekong-Japan co-operation to a strategic partnership, the two sides said future co-operation would focus on three main pillars: vibrant and effective connectivity, a people-centred society, and co-operation in healthcare, education and justice.

### **2. Deductions For Political Contributions Approved**

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

The National Innovation Agency (NIA) in collaboration with True Digital Park is launching the Bangkok CyberTech District in the Punnawithi area. The agency expects to invite around 50 international startups per year to set up base in Thailand. Pun-Arj Chairatana, executive director of the National Innovation Agency (NIA), said that the Bangkok CyberTech District area will provide privileges to both domestic and international startups. The collaboration will also set up a Startup Thailand centre with 200 square metres area to provide facilities to Thai and foreign startups. He said the agency expects the Bangkok CyberTech District to attract startups from countries such as Singapore, Japan and China. The agency expects that Thailand will have 1,000 startups and develop more than 5,000 professionals and experts by 2021. The government will spend a budget of more than Bt30 billion by 2021.

### **3. IFEC Directors On The Offensive**

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

Directors of embattled Inter Far East Energy Plc (IFEC) have sent letters to the company's 50 non-listed subsidiaries, intending to set up an urgent shareholders' meeting in order to prevent former IFEC directors and executives from exercising power. The move stems from the fact that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has no authority to bar or dismiss people who violate the SEC Act from their positions in non-listed companies and subsidiaries.

### **4. Govt Urged To Ramp Up Action On Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

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

Thailand will have to balance economic, social and environmental concerns to achieve the country's climate change policy and related action plans, according to Phirun Saiyasitpanich, a senior official on climate policy at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The government has set a goal of reducing the country's **emissions** from 555 million metric tonnes to 444 million metric tonnes -- around 20% -- by 2030. The government, according to Mr Phirun, has devised the country's climate change action plans based on the idea of maintaining a balance between economic **expansion**, social concerns and environmental sustainability.

### **5. Airlines Prepare For Arrival Surge**

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

Airlines are launching marketing efforts and promotions to capitalise on higher projected arrivals in the coming high season. Thailand remains a major gateway for premium and low-cost carriers, with the peak travel season running from this month until the end of March next year. Santisuk Klongchaiya, chief executive of Thai AirAsia, said the airline will enter two new destinations in India. A new route from Bangkok to Visakhapatnam will run four times a week from Don Mueang airport, starting Dec 7. Bangkok-Bhubaneswar will run three times a week, departing from Don Mueang from Dec 6. The expansion into the Indian market is aimed at attracting more Indian tourists in Thailand. The number of visitors from India stood at 1.41 million last year, up 18% from the year before.