

Thai News Update: 11 July 2019

1. Pushing PTT beyond disruption

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

Although oil and gas remain PTT's core competencies, the national energy firm is trying to revamp its business and diversify into renewable energy. Technology disruption is invading the fossil-based energy world, and renewable sources are showing strong potential as alternative fuels for power generation. At 1.4 trillion baht, PTT is the largest company by market capitalisation on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. Chansin Treenuchagron, president and chief executive, discussed disruption issues with the Thai media during site visits to Aspern Smart City in Austria and Grenoble in France.

2. 18 new EEC industrial estate plots

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

The state-run Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) plans to promote 18 plots spanning 35,788 rai in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) as new industrial estates. The IEAT expects its board of directors to approve all 18 plots in August, said governor Somchint Pilouk. Of the soon-to-be industrial estates, eight locations are in Chachoengsao, six are in Chon Buri and four are in Rayong. Major industrial estate operators include Amata Corporation and WHA Corporation. The IEAT has signed a management agreement with Rojana Industrial Park to establish Rojana-Chon Buri 2 Industrial Estate (Khao Khan Song) on 900 rai in Sri Racha district.

3. Millers seek support for sugar farmers

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

The government is being urged to support sugar-cane farmers with additional measures to harvest fresh output and discourage burnt sugar cane in order to curb pollution, says the Thai Sugar Millers Corporation (TSMC). Both farmers and sugar millers prefer burnt sugar cane to

fresh cane because the burning method is easier and has a lower operating cost. Millers also give priority buying burnt output within 48 hours before the sweetness and weight decline. Meanwhile, fresh sugar cane requires harvesters which are a huge investment for farmers. But sugar-cane burning is now a serious problem in Thailand because it creates hazardous dust and particles such as those seen from last December to mid-April.

4. Thai construction and service operators secure Bt500 mn orders from the Middle East **Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

Thai business operators in the construction and service industries secured orders worth some Bt500 million as a result of the trip organised by the Commerce Ministry's Department of International Trade Promotion to Muscat and Manama last month. Banjongjitt Angsusingh, Director-General, revealed that 70 companies in Oman and 67 in Bahrain attended the campaign. Notable attendees included Galfar Engineering & Contracting SAOG, Oman's largest engineering and construction company, Khimji Ramdas Group (KR), and Nass Commercial, Bahrain's top distributor of imported products and services.

5. EEC progress highlighted among Prayut achievements **Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

Progress on laying the groundwork for the Eastern Economic Corridor is among the key achievements of the government of Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha, the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) said on 10 July. The leading think tank said the investment plans backing big infrastructure projects and the reforms made in the country's fisheries make up the other two main success stories. On the latter, the country gained a yellow card, an improvement from its previous position, in relation to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices.