

Thai News Update: 11 October 2018

1. Local Development Prioritised

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

Thailand needs to stay focused on local economic development in the years to come because the trade row between the two largest economies is likely to be prolonged and harmful to the global economy, warns Deputy Prime Minister, Somkid Jatusripitak. The trade war between China and the US has already hit China hard and will continue to affect the global economy next year, Mr Somkid said. The US has already introduced a raft of tax measures against China's exports, he said, and more measures are likely in store for next year, which will surely affect the global economy. Mr Somkid said related agencies and the business sector should stay alert and prepare ahead to boost local economic growth, which will help offset the Thai economy once exports fall because of the trade row.

2. B6.5bn In Aid To Prop Up Cane Farmers

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

The cabinet on 10 October approved 6.5 billion baht worth of financial aid to sugar-cane farmers for the 2018-19 crop to help alleviate their plight, as local sugar prices have dropped sharply after the country's 30-year quota subsidies system and domestic price controls ended last year. Industry Ministry Uttama Savanayana said the government will inject 6.5 billion baht via the Bank for Agriculture and Agriculture Cooperatives, with each sugar –cane farmer to receive 50 baht per tonne.

3. Fetco Prepares For Equity Fund Changes

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

The Federation of Thai Capital Market Organizations (Fetco) is conducting a feasibility study to prepare an "exit strategy" to mitigate possible investment outflows if the Finance Ministry does not extend the tax deductions for long-term equity fund (LTF) investment next year. Fetco agrees with the government that tax deductions for LTFs should be revised to fit the current context, said

chairman Paiboon Nalinthrangkurn. The cabinet in late 2015 approved an extension of tax incentives for LTFs for three more years from 2016 to revive waning stock market sentiment and boost domestic savings.

4. An Economic Nesting Ground

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

Thailand is famous around the world for its much-prized bird's nest. But businesses believe lack of legislative support is short-changing the country's immense potential. As we approach Koh Si and Koh Ha – the so-called Koh Rang Nok (Bird's Nest Island) in Songkhla Lake – our boat runs past two floating security booths that serve as checkpoints before we are allowed to disembark on the islands. Located in the Pak Phayun district of Phatthalung province, the seven islands spread over 1,400 rai (224 hectares) are home to flocks of swiftlets whose nests are made of solidified saliva – the key ingredient in making bird's-nest soup.

5. Bangkok Cybertech District Seen As 'Game Changer'

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.

6. PM Achieves Much At Mekong-Japan Summit

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

The Prime Minister has joined in validating the 2018 Tokyo Strategy and setting 2018 as the year of exchanges between the Mekong sub-region and Japan, at the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit. Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-ocha announced Thailand's readiness to serve as an active partner in the 2018 Tokyo Strategy in an address to the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit. He then

joined leaders from the five Mekong sub-region nations in agreeing to make 2019 the year of exchanges between the region and Japan. Thailand is also to host several major activities to help achieve the purposes of the summit, including the 6th Green Mekong Forum, which will also mark the 10th anniversary of the collaboration. After attending a dinner with over 500 Japanese business representatives, Gen Prayut took part in a seminar organized by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), taking the opportunity to congratulate Japan on adopting the ACMECS master plan and inviting Japanese investors to invest in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC).