

Thai News Update: 14 June 2018

1. Foxconn Keen On EEC

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

Foxconn Technology Co Ltd, a Taiwan-based global manufacturer of computers, communication devices and consumer gadgets, is eager to invest in Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) project, says Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. J.W. Tai, corporate executive vice-president of Hon Hai (Foxconn Technology) and chairman of Sharp Technology, met Mr Somkid on June 13 to discuss investment prospects in the EEC. Mr Somkid has authorised Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general of the EEC Office, and the Board of Investment (BoI) to facilitate the company's investment incentives. The deputy premier also informed Foxconn Technology that the company would receive BoI investment privileges for investment in the EEC. The BoI reported that Foxconn has the potential to invest in computer, communication and consumer electronics devices, for which the company can seek investment privileges in the categories of telecom manufacturing (including emission, transmission and reception), optical fibre signals and wireless communication. Foxconn Technology, which took over Japan's Sharp in 2016, invested in Thailand through Sharp Appliances Thailand with a focus on TV manufacturing and electronic equipment.

2. Japanese Cash In On Product Popularity

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

Japanese firms ranging from food industry players to jewellery makers are marching to Thailand to cash in on the growing popularity of their products. Kiyoyoshi Oba, president of Toyota Tsusho Thailand, one of the leading Japanese trading companies in Thailand, said the country remains attractive for Japanese companies because Thais welcome all aspects of Japanese culture. The number of Japanese firms participating in Toyotsu Japan Festival 2018, the biggest festival for lifestyle products from Japan, to be held at Royal Paragon Hall from June 29 to July 1, rose to 80 this year from 70 last year, Mr Oba said. At the event, about 40% of the offerings will be Japanese food products, with the rest constituting lifestyle products. Japanese brands and goods include Amaya ice cream, luxury bedding company Nichikawa, Q-Pot jewellery and accessories,

Yamanaka frozen food, Wa Theatre and Japanese premium fruit items. Mr Oba said Tsusho Thailand also plans to import more Japanese products this year. They include Cogyo specially designed wheelchairs produced by Tsusho in collaboration with Tohoku University, intended to ease elderly people's lives.

3. NBTC Approves Fee Relief For Broadcasters

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

The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) board on June 13 approved the lower network rental fee rates of three digital TV broadcasting network providers in a move that will help ease the financial burden of the digital TV broadcasters. The new rates, which are between 22 per cent and 26 per cent cheaper than the current ones, will retroactively take effect from June 1, Takorn Tantasith, NBTC secretary-general, said on June 13. The rates will be effective for two years. The monthly network rental fee of the Royal Thai Army Radio and Television Station will be lowered from the current Bt4.72 million to Bt3.5 million for beaming standard definition (SD) programmes and from Bt14.16 million to Bt10.5 million for beaming high definition (HD) programmes. Those of Thai PBS will be lowered from Bt4.6 million to Bt3.6 million for airing SD programmes and from Bt13.8 million to Bt10.8 million for HD programmes. The Public Relations Department will cut the rate from the present Bt4.65 million to Bt3.6 million for broadcasting SD programmes and from Bt13.95 million to Bt10.8 million for airing HD programmes. The move is in line with the junta's order to the NBTC to review the network rental fees to ease the burden of the dozen or so holders of the NBTC's digital TV broadcasting licences.

4. Customs Gets Tough Over Toxic Imports

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

More stringent checks planned to reduce rising trend of plastic and e-waste influx. Customs Authorities have tightened cargo inspection at Thailand's seaports in a bid to control illegal imports of plastic and electronic waste. Environmentalists, however, were sceptical and saw the special measures as only temporarily mitigating the problem when the issue of the smuggling of hazardous waste has caught the public interest. They believe once public scrutiny is relaxed, the influx of hazardous waste into the country will begin again. Customs Department data reveals a

sharp increase this year in the quantity of imported plastic and electronic parts. In the first five months of 2018, imported plastic waste was already double the total plastic waste imported last year, while the import of electronic parts this year also showed an increasing trend. The Customs Department data also revealed an increasing trend in the amount of electronic waste imported since 2014, while the drastic surge of hazardous waste imports began in 2017 as a result of the Chinese government's ban on the import of hazardous wastes.

5. Trade With North Korea Tipped To Rise

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

Thailand's export prospects are forecast to improve after tensions between the US and North Korea eased. Pimchanok Vonkorpon, director-general of the Trade Policy and Strategy Office (TPSO), said the Singapore summit's results on June 12 heralded positive signs for world trade. "Since Donald Trump became the US president, the Korean Peninsula has been an area of greater concern," she said. "The agreement between the two countries on June 12 not only helps stabilise global trade sentiment but also delivers a positive effect to the world's financial, capital and commodities markets. It will be good for Thai exports in the long term." Two-way trade between Thailand and North Korea totalled US\$2.38 million (76.5 million baht) in 2017 as Thailand adhered to UN sanctions against the Kim regime. "Direct trade between Thailand and North Korea will definitely increase, while Thailand's trade with China for intermediate goods will become much more convenient," Ms Pimchanok said. The council is maintaining an export growth forecast of 8% this year.