

Thai News Update: 16 September 2019

1. Monorail link planned for Don Mueang airport

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

Airports of Thailand Plc plans to build a 3-kilometre monorail electric train route to link Don Mueang international airport with the Bangkok Transit System (BTS) Green Line on the Mor Chit-Saphan Mai-Khu Khot route in Bangkok's northern suburb, Don Mueang airport deputy director Flying Officer Sumpun Khutranon said. F/O Sumpun said the monorail system, which will cost about 3,000 million baht, is to complement a plan to make Don Mueang airport a transport hub to link China with Bangkok and the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). The 3-km monorail route will be built from a point on the BTS Green Line into the airport. There are two possible spots on the line for the monorail to start the Saphan Mai and Air Force Museum stations.

2. NBTC to monitor digital imports

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

The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) is being asked to strictly monitor the import of some digital equipment into the country amid a fresh worry over its possible threat to national cyber security. The NBTC, which is authorised to give permission for the imports, will be asked to discuss its work and ways to prevent such a risk with the House committee on telecommunications, digital economy and society, its deputy chairman Setthaphong Malisuwan said on 15 September. "We need to work together to develop measures to protect our cyber security," he said. The worry has been raised as Thailand needs to invest in infrastructure to prepare for new telecommunication services, including 5G technology which allows for speedy transfer of data.

3. CLMVT touted as global value chain

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

The area of the CLMVT (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand) is being urged to upgrade to become a new global value chain to accommodate the new economy and offset the world's economic uncertainties. Speaking at the CLMVT Business Forum held in Mukdahan province, Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanavisit said Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam are rich in agricultural raw materials and receive Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) incentives from developed countries. This makes the four countries perfect production bases for the region, including for supplying raw materials for processing in Thailand, he said.

4. No disruption to oil imports after Saudi attack: Sontirat

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

Thailand's oil imports are not expected to be disrupted following the attack on a Saudi oil facility, Energy Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong has said. Thai officials have contacted Aramco and were told the situation was under control and an impact assessment underway, Mr Sontirat said in a statement on 15 September. Oil accounts for more than 10% of the basket of goods used for Thailand's consumer-price index, making it key for the country's inflation outlook. Supplies to state-controlled PTT Plc won't be impacted, and the energy ministry has a contingency plan in place to satisfy oil demand in its economy, the statement said. The massive drone strike on the world's largest crude-processing facility operated by Saudi Arabia's Aramco has global ramifications, particularly for countries in Asia.

5. More than 600 Japanese restaurants added in year

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

A strong appetite for Japanese food among Thai consumers remains unsated, according to a report by the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) Bangkok, which found that the number of Japanese restaurants in Thailand rose by 21% to 3,637 this year. Atsushi Taketani, president of Jetro Bangkok, said the number of Japanese restaurants in Bangkok this year increased to 1,993 from 1,718 last year. In provincial areas, the number rose to 1,644 restaurants from 1,285 in 2018. Of the total, 893 restaurants are Japanese restaurants that offer a full scale of various

menus, with 683 sushi restaurants, 429 ramen and 427 izakaya, and the remainder are scattered across yakiniku, donburi, cafes, teppan, udon and others. Sushi and Japanese-style cafes are the top two categories seeing launches this year.

6. India mulls import tax in RCEP talks

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

India plans to propose the imposition of "safeguard tax" on imports to better protect domestic industries as part of the long-awaited Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which is supposed to reduce trade barriers. A government source cited a news report in India that says New Delhi wants the 16 RCEP members to adopt the proposal which will allow its members to impose tariffs on products likely to be imported to a country "without a need to run a check on possible damage" caused by relaxed international trade rules. Its move was unveiled just before the next round of RCEP trade talks in Da Nang, Vietnam, later this month.