

Thai News Update: 17 December 2020

1. EEC targets automation of all 10,000 factories

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

The Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) has set a new target for all 10,000 factories in the zone to adopt robotics and automation. Of the total factories in the EEC, about 1,000 are large, 2,000 medium-sized and 7,000 small. The target will see 3,000 large and medium-sized factories pilot the robotics and automation systems from next month, said Djitt Laowattana, EEC special adviser on education/human capital and technology development. He added that the EEC Office and SMEs Promotion Office would fund half of the Bt500,000 automation cost for each of 50 small and medium-sized enterprises.

2. Govt offered ideas on steps it can take to attract foreign investment

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

The Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT) on Wednesday offered recommendations on what can be done to attract investments, its chairman Stanley Kang said. The recommendations were made at a meeting held with Deputy PM Supattanapong Punmeechaow to discuss how doing business can be made easier in Thailand. One recommendation was reducing the 14-day mandatory quarantine for foreign businesspersons and technicians, so investors will be encouraged to come here.

3. SRT opens new Rangsit Station

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

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) on 17 December announced that it had opened the new Rangsit Station and has shut down the existing station now that the Red Metro line railway (Bang Sue-Rangsit) has gone into operation. The new station is approximately 300 metres north of the original station. Passengers can purchase tickets on the 2nd floor of the station. For more information, contact 1690 at any time of the day or night.

4. US Treasury labels Switzerland, Vietnam as currency manipulators

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

The US Treasury labeled Switzerland and Vietnam as currency manipulators on Wednesday and added three new names, including Thailand, to a watch list of countries it suspects of taking measures to devalue their currencies against the dollar. In what may be one of the final broadsides to international trading partners delivered by the departing administration of US President Donald Trump, the Treasury said that through June 2020 both Switzerland and

Vietnam had intervened in currency markets to prevent effective balance of payments adjustments. Furthermore, in its semi-annual currency manipulation report, the Treasury said Vietnam had acted to gain "unfair competitive advantage in international trade as well." Foreign exchange analysts had broadly anticipated the US Treasury designation for the two countries.

5. Tech-driven alliance to open doors for BDMS

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

Bangkok Dusit Medical Services Plc (BDMS) has partnered with Silicon Valley-based innovation platform Plug and Play Tech Center to draw on its network of global startups to incorporate new technologies into the hospital group's business units. "We believe a strong global network enables us to move forward more effectively. Plug and Play's global community helps open new doors to accelerate innovations to improve and add value to our products and services," said BDMS president Poramaporn Prasarttong-osoith. "The excellent combination of advanced medical technology and digitalisation will bring substantial value to provide better care through state-of-the-art technology."