

Thai News Update: 18-23 July 2018

1. Draft On Govt Data Framework Ready For Cabinet Nod By October

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

The Data framework draft, which sets guidelines for all state agencies when they collect and record business data, is expected to be sent to the Cabinet for approval in October this year. Digital Government Development Agency (DGA) president Sak Segkhoonthod said the guidelines would cover invoice data of import and export accounts, and people data, enabling the recording of such data in a uniform standard format. The DGA will also introduce a public service portal site where people will be able to access government's services on a one-stop basis next year. Sak said the Data Government Framework would enable all government agencies to transfer and exchange data with one another with the same standards. The agency will submit the first draft for approval to the Digital Government Committee next month. In the next step, the agency will submit the framework to the Cabinet in October. It expects the framework to be implemented by government agencies nationwide within six months.

2. PM Pleased With Upward Growth Revision By ADB

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has welcomed the upward revision of Thailand's projected economic growth for 2018 from 4.0 to 4.2 per cent by the Asian Development Bank, Government Spokesman Lt-General Sansern Kaewkamnerd said on July 21. Sansern said Prayut was happy when he was informed that the ADB had raised its projection for Thailand's growth to 4.2 per cent, compared to the 4-per-cent projection in April. "The prime minister said a key factor contributing to the improvement in Thailand's economy was strong exports," Sansern said. Exports registered 5-per-cent growth in the first quarter of this year. Increased investments by the private factor and rising consumption by consumers also contributed to the growth, Sansern quoted the premier as saying.

3. Thailand, Japan Join Hands On Eeci Set-Up

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

Thailand and Mie prefecture, in the Kansai region of Japan's main Honshu island, have agreed to jointly establish the Mie-Thai agro-industrial cooperation centre at the Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECi) in Rayong. The centre will focus on two industries, future food and food processing, said Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak, who met Mie governor Eikei Suzuki during Mr Somkid's Japan trip last week. Mr Somkid said that apart from the agro-industrial centre, Mie prefecture and Thailand's Industry Ministry plan to work to persuade the private sector and educational institutes from both countries to form partnerships. Thai officials are hopeful that Mie will become instrumental in driving startup development and cooperation between Thailand and Japan. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from Mie prefecture are also keen on investing in Thailand's much-touted Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), especially in food technology, chemicals, electronics, aviation, biotechnology, medical equipment, education and tourism.

4. 'Robust' Thai Economy Seen As Resisting Emerging-Market Rout

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

Asian emerging economies, particularly Thailand and others in Southeast Asia, are considered to be in a stronger position financially than their global peers to weather risks from rising US interest rates. Four of the top eight economies on a vulnerability index by Thailand's Bank of Ayudhya Plc are from Southeast Asia, with only Indonesia falling lower down on the scale, according to a July 20 research note. Taiwan and Thailand take the top two slots in terms of financial health, with Turkey, Argentina and Venezuela rounding out the bottom of the index. Indonesia was No. 16. The Bank of Ayudhya's index of 24 emerging nations gives equal weights to four indicators: current-account balance, foreign reserves, external debt and inflation. Thailand's transition to a floating exchange rate regime since the Asian financial crisis two decades ago and greater trade with the rest of the world have put the economy in a stronger position, with "hefty" current-account surpluses in almost every year since then helping to boost foreign reserves, the bank said.