

Thai News Update: 19 August 2019

1. Finance Ministry plans rejig of fuel excise tax

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

The Finance Ministry wants to revamp the structure of the excise tax on fuels to base it on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to protect the environment. Finance Minister Uttama Savanayana delegated the Fiscal Policy Office and the Excise Department to jointly carry out a study of the potential excise tax rejig, said a source familiar with the matter. The move is aimed at conserving the environment rather than boosting tax income, the source said.

2. Thailand plans stimulus to spur \$6.5-billion economic boost

Source: Business Mirror ([Link](#))

Thailand plans stimulus spending that the government hopes will spark a \$6.5-billion economic boost, as officials try to counter a slowdown caused by the US-China trade war and currency strength. The package includes help for farmers and people on low incomes, as well as initiatives to bolster consumer spending and investment, Finance Minister Uttama Savanayana said in a Facebook post. The proposal needs Cabinet approval, and an initial ministerial meeting to discuss it began Friday.

3. Activist opposes B330bn Exxon project in EEC

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

An activist has opposed a coastal land reclamation plan near Laem Chabang port to accommodate Exxon Mobil Corp's 330-billion-baht ethylene cracker project. Srisuwan Janya, as chairman of the Stop Global Warming Association, issued a statement on Saturday against the implementation of the plan. He cited Industry Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit, who told Thai media on Thursday the US energy giant had agreed to invest 330 billion baht in Thailand if the government could find it a large plot within a 5km radius from its Laem Chabang plant in Si

Racha district, Chon Buri province. The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand later said it was conducting a feasibility study on the reclamation of some coastal land to make room for 1,300 rai required by the project.

4. PTT to invest 30bn baht in ECC

Source: Pattaya Mail ([Link](#))

The global economic slowdown and trade war have caused fluctuations in energy prices. In response, PTT Public Company Limited has allocated some 30 billion baht, to invest in newer forms of energy in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), while the company's profit in 2019's first half was reduce by higher oil prices. PTT President Chansin Treenuchgorn has revealed the company's financial report on the first six months of 2019, saying that the company's revenue had increased by 9.44 billion baht year-on-year, making the company's gross revenue 1.12 trillion baht.

5. Jurin floats rice price insurance

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

Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit has proposed price insurance for five types of rice, to help farmers deal with the lower price of crops. Mr Jurin said the proposal is based on a resolution from a recent meeting chaired by farmers' representatives, rice trade associations and state officials. The collective decision agrees to set conditions on insured paddies, including its maximum insured amount that will range from 14 to 30 tonnes, and the rate of 15% moisture. However, the rice insurance package will not cover "short-lived" rice, or rice that is harvested within less than 100 days of being planted.

6. More Thais joining the ranks of the rich

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

Despite the current economic slowdown, the number of rich people in Thailand will continue to grow at a higher rate and will boost the private banking business, according to wealth managers. Thailand and most other Asian countries are sensitive to the volatility of global trade, as their economic growth is led by exports. The ongoing trade war between the United States and China has caused a contraction of exports and is hurting the whole economy. Vincent Magnenat,

Lombard Odier's chief executive officer for Asia Pacific, remains optimistic about the economy and the potential for the private banking business in Thailand.