

Thai News Update: 22 April 2019

1. EEC Keen To Sign Deal With China's ZAEZ

source: bangkok post ([link](#))

The Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Office is scheduled to sign a strategic cooperation later this month with the administrative committee of the Zhengzhou Airport Economy Zone (ZAEZ) to support the government's flagship project. Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general of the EEC Office, said the strategic partnership with the ZAEZ will not only help promote joint investment in the two economic zones, but also boost Thai economic growth by about two percentage points a year from 2020 onward. The ZAEZ is an airport-based economic zone developed around Zhengzhou Xinzheng airport. It sits about 25 kilometres to the southeast of Zhengzhou and occupies an area of 415 square kilometres.

2. CP Foods to Buy Canadian Pork Producer HyLife for B11.9 bn

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

Charoen Pokphand Foods Plc (CPF), Thailand's largest agriculture conglomerate, said on 22 April it would acquire Canadian pork producer HyLife Investments for C\$498 million (11.9 billion baht) to expand its North American business. Charoen Pokphand Foods Plc (CPF), Thailand's largest agriculture conglomerate, said on Monday it would acquire Canadian pork producer HyLife Investments for C\$498 million (11.9 billion baht) to expand its North American business.

3. March Exports Fall 4.88% Y-O-Y

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

Thailand's customs-cleared exports fell 4.88% in March, after unexpectedly increasing in February, due to falling shipments of electronics amid the Sino-US trade war, the commerce ministry said on 22 April. Exports in March dropped 4.88% from a year earlier, compared with a Reuters poll prediction of a 3% decline in shipments, a key driver of Thai growth. In February,

annual shipments unexpectedly rose 5.91% due to one-time shipment of arms and weapons. The export contraction in March was because of shipments of electronics, oil and related products, and computers and accessories, a commerce ministry official told a briefing.

4. NCB To Collect Mobile Data For World Bank

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

The National Credit Bureau (NCB) plans to collect mobile phone usage data to meet the World Bank's demand for additional information in evaluating ease of doing business. The credit bureau will gather data from utility service providers, starting with mobile phone usage. Such data is available from the country's three mobile phone operators -- Advanced Info Service Plc. True Move H Universal Communication (TUC) and Total Access Communication Plc (DTAC) -- said NCB chief executive Surapol Opatatien.

5. Finance Ministry To Boost Tourism With Bt1,500 Payment To Domestic Travellers

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

The Finance Ministry had announced plans to launch a new stimulus package to boost the country's domestic tourism business by giving Thais Bt1,500 per person to spend when they travel to 55 provinces under the promotion campaign, a source from the Finance Ministry said. Under the campaign, Thais aged 18 and over can register for the programme. The government will then deposit Bt1,500 into their accounts through the e-payment system. They can use the funds to make e-payments to the shops that have joined the project.

6. Loan Guarantor Eyes Micro SMEs

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

Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation (TCG) targets annual growth of 20-30 per cent in loan guarantees till 2022 from the end of last year, focusing on small and medium enterprises (SMEs/micro SMEs), said the company's new president Dr Rak Vorrakitpokatorn in an interview with the Nation. "Currently, up to three million SMEs are operating in the country, of which two million are unable to access loans from commercial banks, picos and nano finance companies, while the other one million have already secured funding from financial institutions. In addition, there are two million micro-SMEs who have also been denied access to loans," he said.