

## Thai News Update: 22 June 2018

### 1. Exports Show Resilience In Face Of Escalating Trade Row

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

The growth trajectory of exports held firm last month, with a robust 11.4 per cent gain from a year earlier, despite rising trade tensions between the United States and China. Against the backdrop of an escalating row between the two economic superpowers, the chief of the Bank of Thailand (BOT) said the uncertainties presented risks and opportunities for Thai exporters. For the May trade figure, exports worth US\$22.257 billion marked the 15th straight month of gains, the Ministry of Commerce's Trade Policy and Strategy Office (TPSO) reported. Imports grew 11.7 per cent year on year in the month to \$21.053 billion. As a result, Thailand achieved a trade surplus of \$1.204 billion. For the first five months of this year, exports increased 11.6 per cent to \$104.032 billion and imports advanced 16.6 per cent to \$102.155 billion. For the period, the country's trade was in a surplus of \$1.877 billion. Manufacturing shipments rose for a 15th straight month in May, led by automobiles and parts, computers, plastic pellets, chemicals and oil products. On the trade row front, Veerathai Santiprabhob, the governor of the Bank of Thailand (BOT), on June 21 expressed his concerns over the impact of the China-US dispute on Thai exports and investment, given both countries threats to launch retaliatory actions against each other in the form of high tariffs on imports.

### 2. Thailand Leads ASEAN Iot Exploration Poll

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

Thailand is the top country in Asean for enterprises to explore and implement Internet of Things (IoT) solutions to boost their productivity and innovation, thanks to awareness based on government policy and investment in both soft and hard infrastructure, according to the survey. The survey by the Asia IoT Business Platform in 2017 found 89% of enterprises in Thailand are exploring and/or implementing IoT solutions, the highest percentage in Asean, followed by Malaysia (86%), Indonesia (83%), the Philippines (80%) and Vietnam (79%). In Thailand, the percentage of those enterprises exploring and/or implementing IoT solutions has increased to 92% this year, with manufacturing holding the largest share (27.4%) of overall industrial value, as it is

critical to adopt and deploy IoT to capitalise on the new economy. Irza Suprpto, chief executive of Asia IoT Business Platform at Industry Platform Pte, said the figure in Thailand is not surprising because of the many Industry 4.0 related projects.

### **3. Thailand Preparing Total Ban On Import Of Electronic Waste**

**Source: Seattle Times ([Link](#))**

Thai authorities, who began a series of raids last month on factories accused of illegally importing and processing electronic waste, say they may use special powers given to the military government to impose a total ban on the import of such potentially toxic materials. Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Gen. Surasak Karnjanarat said June 21 that he will lead an effort to amend the law to include such a prohibition. He said if that proves impossible, the prime minister could invoke special powers he was given after the army seized power in 2014 to institute a ban. Electronic waste creates huge health hazards. Many components are laden with lead and mercury, cadmium and other toxins. Lax controls mean that facilities often burn plastics to release encased copper and use unsafe methods to extract precious metals. Defense Ministry spokesman Kongcheep Tantravanich said a committee had decided to introduce measures to immediately suspend licenses to import electronic waste for companies that do not comply with international standards on handling hazardous waste or otherwise flout Thai law and regulations. The standards are specified by the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, an international treaty that was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations.

### **4. Coca-Cola Expands Thai Range**

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

Coca-Cola in Thailand has announced a full product portfolio, underlining its position as a total beverage company. For more than 130 years, most people have associated Coca-Cola with Coke, the soft drink. The company also offers a wide range of products in Thailand, including Sprite, Fanta, Namthip and Minute Maid. The Coca-Cola portfolio in Thailand includes Coke Original, Coke No Sugar, Coke Light, Fanta, Sprite, Schweppes, A&W Root Beer and the recently introduced cross-category Coke Plus Coffee in the sparkling . category; Minute Maid Splash,

Minute Maid Pulpy, Minute Maid Vita Kids and the recently added Minute Maid Orange Fiber and Minute Maid Honey Lemon in ready-to-drink juices; and Namthip, Aquarius Grapefruit and Citrus and Zico 100% coconut water in the hydration segment. Another trend shaping the company's offerings is in health and wellness. In response to this, Coca-Cola is expanding its low and no sugar options.