

## Thai News Update: 22 November 2018

### **1. Govt Reveals Digital Transformation Master Plan**

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

The Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (DE) is preparing a master plan for collaboration that echoes Asean's theme of "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability", which was chosen by Thailand as the theme of its chairmanship in 2019. The plan aims to improve and facilitate further intra-Asean cooperation across five categories, namely smart city development, cyber security, connectivity and mobility, harmonisation and alignment, as well as manpower and society, said DE minister Pichet Durongkaveroj at the Bangkok Post International Forum 2018 on 21 November with the theme "Asian Transformation: The Changing Landscape".

### **2. Terminal Put On Ice Pending Feedback**

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

Airports of Thailand (AoT) has put the brakes on a second terminal scheduled to be built at Suvarnabhumi airport, pending steps to glean opinions from relevant parties including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Several organisations including the Council of Engineers (CoE) and the Architects Council of Thailand have railed against the plan, saying the proposed new facility is poorly located and veers away from the original Suvarnabhumi master plan drafted in 1990. An AoT source said the board agreed to put the construction of the terminal on hold in line with the management's proposal.

### **3. Somkid: 4% Growth 'Achievable' Via Exports**

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

Economic growth of 4% is achievable if exports, the lifeblood of producers, expands more than 7% from November to December, says Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. To reach annual growth of 4%, the fourth-quarter figure must not slip below 3.5%, Mr Somkid said. But Mathee Supapongse, a deputy governor of the Bank of Thailand, said a marginal downgrade of

the central bank's economic growth forecast of 4.4% for this year at the next meeting is likely after growth stalled in the third quarter.

#### **4. Cabinet Okays Crude Palm Measures**

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

The Energy Ministry is confident the entire crude palm oil surplus of 420,000 tonnes can be absorbed by next May with the three measures the cabinet approved on 20 November. Energy Minister Siri Jirapongphan said the measures are aimed at tackling the palm oil price slump. "After all the measures are fully implemented, the price of palm oil should rise to 3.25 baht per kilogram from 2.50 baht, a jump of 28%, says Mr. Siri. He said the measures use crude palm oil for power generation and increase its content in various types of biodiesel.

#### **5. PTTGC Poised For Venture With Daelim**

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

SET-listed PTT Global Chemical Plc (PTTGC), Thailand's largest petrochemical producer, expects to sign a joint venture agreement with Korea-based Daelim Industrial Co within the first quarter next year to start development of petrochemical crackers in the US. The cracker is a fundamental raw material for general plastic products such as film bags and tableware. Chief executive Supattanapong Punmeechaow said PTTGC will invest in this project through US subsidiary PTTGC America Llc. The project selected a site in Mead Township along the Ohio River in Belmont County in 2017.