

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2021

### **1. Thai Chamber of Commerce presents solution to strengthen economy**

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

The Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC) is presenting Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha with a white paper on how to "connect the dots" and achieve strength in the economy, chamber chairman Sanan Angubolkul said on 21 November. Under the strategy, the TCC is positioned at the centre of the "dot connecting" design, bringing together the government, private sector and the people. The main idea purpose was to upgrade the Covid-19 battered economy and ensure its growth can be sustained, Mr Sanan said. The goal can be met by driving three value chains: trade and investments, the farm and food sectors, and tourism and services.

### **2. Thais snap up ‘Let’s Save Together’ govt savings bonds in 12 minutes**

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

The ministry said the buyers were between the ages of 15 and 90, and that only 33.5 per cent of them live in the capital. Most of the bond buyers live upcountry,” deputy government spokesperson Ratchada Thanadirek said on Saturday. “This lot was only sold through the Pao Tang application, which proves that Thais are ready for a cashless society.” The Finance Ministry will launch a second lot of bonds worth 70 billion baht on November 22 from 8am via the Pao Tang application and through four banks – Krungthai, Kasikorn, Siam Commercial and Bangkok Bank.

### **3. Thailand, Laos, China meet virtually to discuss dual-track railway link**

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

Representatives from Thailand, Laos and China held a tripartite meeting via video conferencing on Friday to discuss the construction of a dual-track railway link between the three countries. Attending were Transport Ministry’s deputy permanent secretary Sorapong Paitoonphong and officials from other transport-related agencies like the Department of Rail Transport (DRT) and State Railway of Thailand (SRT). At the meeting, Thailand and Laos discussed the construction of a new railway bridge from Nong Khai to Vientiane, though the two countries have yet to reach a conclusion on feasibility, design and construction. The meeting also agreed on the setting up of two working groups, one focusing on the business side of things and another on the technical side.

#### **4. True-DTAC formally announce merger plan**

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

Telecom firms Total Access Communication Plc (DTAC) and True Corporation Plc have agreed to merge, to pursue new tech business and raise venture capital for startups. The merger plan was approved by their respective executive boards on Friday and their decisions forwarded to the Stock Exchange of Thailand on 22 November. The two companies on Monday also signed a memorandum of understanding for an equal partnership to form a new merged firm to pursue tech business. They said in their advice to the SET they will "explore the feasibility of, and carry out required steps to implement, the potential amalgamation" of the two listed companies.

#### **5. State to boost EEC investment in 2023**

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

The government has set its sight to boost investment in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) in fiscal 2023, starting from October 2022, to 500 billion baht and raising economic growth in three EEC provinces -- Chonburi, Rayong and Chachoengsao -- to 6%. Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general of the EEC Office, said the area will become a vital investment destination to draw investment not only in the three provinces but the country overall. According to the EEC Office, real GDP growth rate of the EEC provinces is estimated at 5.4% in fiscal 2022, ending Sept 4 next year, up from 3.4% in 2021, -7.8% in 2020 and 0.2% in 2019. GDP growth in the three EEC provinces is projected to outpace the country's GDP growth projected at 4.1% in 2022, 1.2% in 2021, -6.1% in 2020 and 2.4% in 2019.