

## Thai News Update: 24 August 2018

### **1. CG Joins IEAT On EEC Industrial Estate**

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

Thai-Chinese joint venture CG Corporation is teaming up with the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) on a 3,068-rai industrial estate in Rayong province with a development cost of 10 billion baht. The land plot will be separated into three phases of development, all to be completed by 2021. The company has paid-up capital of 2 billion baht from the joint venture between CP Land Plc, the property arm of Charoen Pokphand Group, and China's Guangxi Construction Engineering Group. CP Land owns a 50% stake, the Chinese group holds 48% and a local subsidiary, Guangxi Construction Engineering Yian Thailand, accounts for the remaining 2%. CG Corporation will increase capital in the near future to support further expansion, said CP Land chief executive Sunthorn Arunanondchai, who is also chairman of CG Corporation.

### **2. Asian Markets Down As China, Us Hold Talks But Impose Tariffs**

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

SET-listed Electricity Generating Plc (Egco), Thailand's second-largest private power producer, is in talks with several companies on future asset acquisitions, expecting to wrap up deals during the second half of 2018. The plan is aimed at offsetting shrinking capacity after Egco diluted its entire ownership in three firms in March. President Jakgrich Pibulpaioj said Egco is seeking various business types, including fossil-based and renewable power plants. "The future deals will not create any financial or liquidity burden for Egco, because it has a readiness of its cash on hand and a capability to obtain additional loans from banks," Mr Jakgrich said. Egco has cash on hand of 5.6 billion baht and US\$900 million. Some of the cash came from the dilution of its entire ownership of two power plants and one water management asset and combined gains came to 14.162 billion baht.

### **3. Govt Endorses China's Leadership In Globalisation**

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

Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Katisripitak on August 24 expressed the government's support for China as it pursues a leading role in promoting free trade and globalisation amid an escalating tariff war with the United States. In his keynote speech at the Thailand-China Business Forum in Bangkok, Somkid noted that China's leadership in promoting globalisation had been challenged, an apparent reference to the ongoing trade dispute between the world's largest economies. Somkid foresaw Thailand having a closer relationship with China in trade, investment, education, culture and human-resource development. He was welcoming a Chinese trade mission of more than 400 investors led by State Councillor Wang Yong. Their focus is on the Eastern Economic Corridor, where they are to visit sites on August 25.

### **4. Govt To Ease Bangkok Traffic With Eight New Carparks**

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

The Transport and Interior ministries and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration will build eight more parking lots as a long-term measure to ease traffic congestion in the capital. The plan comes after Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha sought ways to resolve a situation seen as worsening. Transport Ministry deputy permanent secretary Pirapol Thavornsupacharoen said two underground parking lots would be built on Ratchadamnoen Avenue, one in front of First Army Area headquarters and the other in front of the Education Ministry. The BMA, in charge of construction, was to allocate Bt3.049 billion for the two projects, Pirapol said. His ministry proposed six parking lots along existing electric-train routes – at the Bang Khunnon, Lak Song, Queen Sirikit Convention Centre, Bang Sue, Phasi Charoen and Charoen Nakhon BTS stations.

### **5. Thai Retailer Central Group Has \$500 Mln Expansion Plans In Vietnam**

**Source: Vietnam Express ([Link](#))**

Thailand's largest retailer Central Group says it plans to invest \$500 million to expand its operations in Vietnam. "We have already invested \$1.5 billion in Vietnam since 2012 and plan to invest another \$500 million in the next five years," Philippe Broianigo, CEO of Central Group Vietnam and supermarket chain Big C Vietnam was quoted as saying by Thai newspaper *The Nation*. One of the main reasons for the expansion is the rapid growth in Vietnam's middle class,

which now accounts for 13 percent and is expected to rise to 36 percent by 2026. "Vietnam's market potential is much bigger than Thailand's," the Nikkei Asian Review quoted Broianigo as saying. With 17,000 employees and over 175,000 customers a day, its sales have been growing in double digits, reaching \$1.3 billion last year.