

## Thai News Update: 24 September 2018

### **1. Thai Union Committed To Help Thailand Deal With Sustainable Fishing Challenges**

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

Thailand's progress in promoting human rights in the fishing industry will be addressed in a panel session on modern slavery and human trafficking at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 24 September in New York. Darian McBain, global director of sustainability for the Thai Union Group, will address the panel on the topic of "Stepping up Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking". "Thailand has made a number of advances on human rights, which should be commended, but there is more work to be done and I believe Thailand has the opportunity be a leader on the human rights agenda," McBain told The Nation.

### **2. Three Service Fields To Open For Foreign Firms**

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

The government looks set to remove three service businesses from List 3 under the Foreign Business Act (FBA) to facilitate foreign investment in Thailand, with the move to take effect next year. Kulanee Issadisai, director-general of the Business Development Department, said the Foreign Business Commission's meeting, chaired by the commerce permanent secretary, on 18 September agreed to withdraw three service businesses from List 3. The three are lending services to affiliated domestic firms, office building rental services to local affiliate firms, and consulting services to affiliate firms for four activities: management, marketing, human resources and technology consulting.

### **3. Cross-Border Zone In North Could Boost Trade Links**

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

The government is studying the feasibility of establishing a cross-border economic zone in the Golden Triangle under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation scheme to expand economic links for Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and China. Auramon Supthaweethum, director-general of the Trade Negotiations Department, said the department is scheduled to discuss a location in Chiang Rai for

such a zone with representatives of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Thai industries next month. The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation framework was established in 2015 to promote multifaceted cooperation at the sub-regional level among the six countries along the Mekong River, namely Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

#### **4. Thailand Leaps Ahead On Efficiency Index**

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

Thailand is now ranked 27th among 56 countries ranked on the Bloomberg Health Care Efficiency Index, up from 41st place last year, said Public Health Minister Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn on 23 September, citing the 2018 rankings published last week. Thailand's per capital spending on health care now stands at US\$218 (about 7,086 baht), and the average lifespan of the population have risen to 75.1 years, he said, before adding that Thailand's progress in the medical tourism was also noted in the index in 2018. In the Asia-Pacific, Thailand's health care efficiency is ranked ninth -- behind Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Taiwan, New Zealand, and China, Dr Piyasakol said.

#### **5. Nation Planning Push To Build Industrial Internet**

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

Breakthroughs sought to advance digitalization in manufacturing. China is beefing up efforts to boost the development of the industrial internet, which serves as a key growth engine for its digital economy, according to the country's top industrial development regulator. More efforts are needed to make breakthroughs in key technologies such as chips and smart sensors—participate in international standard-setting activities, apply new industrial internet technologies and products to key industries, and accelerate development of the internet of vehicles and the internet of things, according to Miao Wei, minister of industry and information technology.

#### **6. Questioning The Answers**

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

Two proposed tech-related laws on data protection and cybersecurity are to be endorsed soon and have raised concerns about power being concentrated in an agency and a secretary. The data

protection bill has been revised to replicate many concepts and obligations that are common across global data protection laws, in particular the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). A public hearing on Sept 11 aired concerns that the data protection bill fails to meet GDPR standards and could cause Thailand not to be classified as a "white list country". Sutee Tuvirat, a committee member of the Thailand Information Security Association (TISA), said his group has doubts about good governance in the regulations and enforcement mechanisms of the Data Protection Agency.