

## Thai News Update: 26-27 April 2018

### **1. PM To Discuss Cybersecurity, Ageing Society At ASEAN Summit**

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha will stress the need for sustainable development, preparing for an ageing society and cyber security at the Asean Summit that kicks off in Singapore on April 27, government deputy spokesman Werachon Sukondhapatipak said. During the summit, the leaders of the 10 Asean member states are expected to endorse three documents: one on Asean leaders' vision of a resilient and innovative trading bloc; one on a smart cities network; and a third on cybersecurity cooperation. As each member state must propose three cities in which to run pilot versions of the Asean Smart Cities Network, Thailand will suggest Bangkok, Phuket and Chon Buri as its contribution, he added. "We are thinking about the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). The digital economy is also vital for connecting each country," he said. "We want to make sure the EEC can connect easily with other cities in ASEAN, he said. The EEC is being set up in three provinces east of Bangkok to promote a range of highly skilled industries using cutting-edge technology. After the summit concludes Gen Prayut will chair the 11th Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit on the afternoon of 28 April

### **2. LINA Network Signs Mou With Three Thailand Groups**

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

Three big Thailand-based agriculture groups on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Vietnamese LINA Network to apply blockchain to make the source and quality of products transparent. The three are ChokChai, SAP Siam Food International and AIM Thai. Under the MoU, ChokChai Group — the largest dairy cow breeding group in Southeast Asia — will apply LINA Network into its dairy production and supply lines. SAP Siam Food International Co Ltd and AIM THAI Group will use the application to follow products processed from fruits. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Vũ Trường Ca, chairman of the management board of LINA Network, said Lina Supply Chain has been part of the blockchain ecosystem along with suppliers and customers. The ecosystem was built based on Ethereum Blockchain, which has been the most popular and easy-to-use blockchain, to allow users to follow the source of a certain

product in a real time. Ca said the application allows organisations in the supply chain to forecast the time of arrival of a product. For example, Toyota uses blockchain to follow thousands of its spare parts that are transported through many countries to maximise its automobile assembly process.

### **3. THAI Smile Wins The Grand Prize From Tripadvisor For The Second Consecutive Year, Best Airline In Thailand, Winner Of Regional Airline In Asia And Winner Of Economy Class Airline In Asia**

**Source: Business Insider ([Link](#))**

THAI Smile won a Travellers' Choice, Regional Airline in Asia award and Economy Class in Asia for the second consecutive year, as well as the best airline in Asia award, according to passenger reviews in 2018 from TripAdvisor, a famous travel website with over 350 million users worldwide. This raises Thailand's profile abroad and shines a spotlight on the leading full-service airline. THAI Smile will continue to develop its world-class service so as to meet the needs of travelers and create a positive impression with passengers. Mr Chatchai Panyoo, Acting Chief Executive Officer, THAI Smile Airways Co Ltd, revealed that the prize from 2018 TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice Awards has reflected the readiness to compete in the region and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of employees through their heartfelt service which is the concept and value of the organization. THAI Smile also strives to provide the best experience for customers in every touch point and create a superior travel experience for clients in every flight.

### **4. Thailand To Decide On Whether To Allow Resuming Of Shrimp Import From India**

**Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))**

The government of Thailand is still to decide on whether to allow the resuming of shrimp import from India (and from Malaysia). Thailand accounts for about 13 per cent of the \$1.7-billion (Rs13 bn) of Indian seafood export to Southeast Asia. The region has a share of about 30 per cent of the \$5.7-bn Indian seafood export market. "We have checked that the notification remains unchanged for now but there have been consultations with stakeholders to revise it and facilitate the trade," the Thai consulate at Chennai recently informed the Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) in an e-mail. Last year, Thailand had suspended issue of import licences for five categories of shrimp, to prevent the spread of Infectious Myonecrosis, apparently on guidelines of

the World Organization for Animal Health. "Thailand has been a traditional partner of Indian seafood. CP Aquaculture of Thailand was responsible for introducing aquaculture in the state of Odisha in the early 90s," said Rajen Padhi, seafood consultant and director-general of UCCI. The quality of Indian seafood products has also been doubted by the European Union (EU), third largest market for Indian exporters.

### **5. Thai Wholesaler To Geo-Tag Customers, E-Mark Products In Indian Stores**

**Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))**

Banking largely on technology, Thailand-based wholesale cash and carry company LOTS Wholesale Solutions, that has just entered the Indian market, will be geo-tagging its customers for efficient deliveries, e-mark all products and electronically display prices and expiry dates on shelves, among other tech-enabled initiatives. LOTS is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Thailand-based Siam Makro PCL, which is a part of \$50 billion Charoen Pokphand Group. With an investment plan of over Rs 1,000 crore in the next five years, LOTS is looking to open 15 wholesale distribution centres in northern India. Other states the company is looking at are Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab. The proposed investment by the company is estimated to generate over 5,000 direct and indirect jobs. "We have started acquiring and registering our customers for our first store. We will be geo-tagging them on a regular basis, which will make it efficient to allocate resources and save time," Tanit Chearavanont, Managing Director of LOTS Wholesale Solutions, told IANS in an interview. Geo-tagging allows location information of longitude and latitude for accurate deliveries. Without naming the company, he said LOTS had tied up with an Indian IT company for geo-tagging, which will help serve customers better.

### **6. Pace of EEC Rail Projects Picks Up**

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

Planned high-speed and double-track rail projects to serve the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) are expected to begin services in 2023, with an investment value of Bt296.42 billion alone flagged for the high-speed train service, the State Railway of Thailand (SRT) said. Up to Bt214.3 billion of this amount would be spent on getting the high-speed service up and running, with Bt4.99 billion put to compensation for land expropriation covering 400 rai along the route and the rest allocated

to the development of commercial areas around the main station, Chulathep Chittasombat, director of the centre that oversees railway maintenance projects, said at a press conference on April 26. The terms of reference for the high-speed train project - connecting the Don Mueang, Suvarnabhumi and U-Tapao airports - are being drafted on expectation for bidding to be opened this year and construction to start in 2019. "The plots of land planned for expropriation will account for only 5 per cent of the total construction area, of which 95 per cent will cover the existing rail route," Chulathep said. The Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning is conducting a feasibility study for construction of an Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Chachoengsao province to facilitate exports. Inspection and packing would be done before the goods reach ports in the EEC area.