

Thai News Update: 26 February 2019

1. Thailand Firmly In Huawei's Sights

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

Chinese Tech giant Huawei Group has set aside an investment budget of US\$81 million (Bt2.5 billion) for Southeast Asia towards ICT enablement from 2019-21, focusing on OpenLabs, enabling cloud developers and cultivating ICT talent, the group's president for Southeast Asia, James Wu, said.

2. BoI Shuttles Ahead With Bio-Economy Plan

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

The Board of Investment (BoI) has approved in principle the promotion of Thailand as a bio-economy hub to increase farmer income, in line with the government's policy to reduce income inequality and develop new S-curve industries. The BoI is required to include community businesses, farmers and agricultural cooperatives in promotional packages to generate more income, said Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak after a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister.

3. Exporters Worry Over Baht And Minimum Wage

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

Exporters are concerned with myriad risks -- a strengthening currency, a slower economy and the US-China trade war -- pressuring shipments this year, which are projected to grow by 3%. Sanan Angubolkul, vice-chairman of the Board of Trade, who on Monday participated in a joint meeting between the International Trade Promotion Department and other private associations to evaluate export prospects, said Thai shipments will grow by 3% to US\$260 billion (8.13 trillion) in 2019 based on a baht value of 31-32 to the US dollar.

4. Farmers Will Stomach Rice Bill, Says NLA

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

A committee deliberating a controversial rice bill has expressed confidence that the revised version of the legislation will satisfy all interested parties as it heads to the National Legislative

Assembly (NLA) for its second and third readings on Tuesday. Gen Marut Patchotasing, chair of the NLA committee, led other panellists in discussing the revised bill at a news conference on 25 February. He stressed how it is not meant to undermine farmers, but rather boost state mechanisms to develop farmers and strengthen rice production and markets.

5. Bt1 Million Reward If You Spot Pirate Software

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

BSA the Software Alliance is offering rewards of up to Bt1 million for confidential reports about companies using unlicensed industrial software in Thailand. Eligible are informants who report companies using illegal and unlicensed versions of software published by Altium, Autodesk, Aveva, Dassault Systemes, CNC Mastercam, Siemens PLM and Trimble, the owner of Tekla software, among other brands. “While some companies follow the law and invest in legal and secure industrial software, too many companies continue to break the rules when using industrial software,” says senior director Tarun Sawney.

6. Board Of Investment Gives The Nod To Five Projects Worth Bt40 Bn

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

The Board of Investment (BoI) on 25 February approved five investment projects worth a total of Bt40.462 billion during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. The highest investment proposal comes from a Chinese investor, Ju Xunning, who plans to invest Bt10.061 billion to establish a car tyre production project in Chon Buri province, according to the BoI. “The project will help promote the rubber industry in Thailand. It will use up to 23,838 tonnes of rubber per year, with an estimated value of Bt1.433 billion,” BoI secretary-general Duangjai Asawachintachit said on 25 February during a press conference at Government House. A project by General Rubber, another car tyre maker, was also approved at the meeting.

7. Thai Airasia Adds New Route To Tap Vietnam Market, Offers 5 Destinations In 7 Routes

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

Budget Airline Thai AirAsia is further expanding in the Vietnam market by adding a new route – Chiang Mai-Da Nang. The move reflects its plan to continually grow in CLMV (Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar and Vietnam) markets in 2019, with a special focus on Vietnam. The expansion is expected to enable growth and reduce possible risks from dependence on any single source of

travellers. Nattinee Tawanchulee, director of commercial for Thai AirAsia, said the CLMV markets are strategically important to the airline. Chiang Mai-Da Nang is the third Thailand-Vietnam route it has announced this year, following the Don Mueang-Can Tho and Don Mueang-Nha Trang routes.