

## Thai News Update: 26 October 2018

### **1. Cisco: IT Leaders In ASEAN Most Confident Of Digital Readiness**

**Source: Channel News Asia ([Link](#))**

Businesses across ASEAN are the most confident about digital readiness when compared to the wider Asia Pacific (APAC) region, according to new findings from Cisco. The study, “*ready, steady, unsure - a technology perspective into Asia Pacific readiness for digital transformation*” found that the vast majority (94 per cent) of the six largest economies in ASEAN are confident their digital transformation strategy is appropriate to help them stay competitive, with 93 per cent saying they are prepared to adopt the most relevant technologies to accelerate their digital transformation.

### **2. New Tourism Stimulus Package**

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

New measures will be announced next month to woo tourists back to Thailand, especially visitors from China, in the lead up to the New Year, Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said on 25 October. The cabinet would approve a stimulus package in the second half of November. It would be effective until the end of December, he said. The measures would involve the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Finance Ministry and Thai Airways International. The planned exemption of the 2,000-baht visa-on-arrival fee, along with double-entry visas, would be implemented in a few months, Mr Somkid said.

### **3. GPF Launches Environmentally And Socially Focused Portfolio**

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

Government Pension Fund (GPF), Thailand’s largest institutional investor, has launched an environment, social and governance (ESG)-focused portfolio to invest in Thailand-listed companies amid a worldwide equity sell-off. The GPF on 25 October set up an investment portfolio worth Bt1 billion. It will invest in 33 listed companies found in the “Thailand Sustainability Investment” list (THSI). All are large firms in the SET 100. “It is the first ESG fund in Thailand,”

said Vitai Ratanakorn, secretary-general of the GPF. “The GPF wants to be a leader in investment in companies that have responsibility towards the environment, society and corporate governance.” The investment aims to reduce financial and reputation risks and increase investment returns, he said.

#### **4. Exim Inks Mou With Canadian Export Agency**

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

Export-Import Bank of Thailand has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Export Development department of Canada to promote Thai-Canadian trade and investment and Thai and Canadian entrepreneurs’ trade and investment endeavours beyond their borders, through supports and referral of projects of mutual benefit. The MOU also promotes business matching, sharing of technical, financial and trade information and experience, and personnel skill and potential development, said Pisit Serewiwattana, president of Export-Import Bank of Thailand in a press release.

#### **5. Three Firms Design ‘Wellness’ Homes**

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

Sansiri, Tokyu Corporation and Samitivej Hospital have joined forces to announce their first strategic partnership for the development of “Wellness Residence”, Thailand’s first residential project with a lifestyle partnership to capture health-conscious consumers aiming to be certified by Well Certification to ensure world-class building standards enhance resident health and wellness. The new condominium worth over Bt2.4 billion in Krungthep Kreetha, encompassing a living community and lifestyle activities offered by leading partnering providers to encourage residents to start a journey to healthy body and mind today, in light of the growing wellness trend in Thailand and all over the world.