

Thai News Update: 26 September 2018

1. Cabinet Budgets B1bn For New Technology Research Institute

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

The cabinet has approved a new research institute, with the government pledging support of 1 billion baht during 2019-22. Thosaporn Sirisamphand, secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), said the Institute of Public Policy and Development is tasked with handling R&D on future trends and the centre is to become operational next month. "The new institute approved 25 September will take care of conducting R&D on future challenges, enabling the government and public to prepare for them," he said. "One of its major tasks is to conduct R&D that helps in tackling income disparity, and it should function as a policy lab in advising the government.

2. TAT, THAI Highlight 20 Routes To Add Revenue

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand has joined with Thai Airways International Plc (THAI) to promote 20 routes in 10 provinces nationwide in the fourth quarter of 2018 as part of a plan to increase revenue at the flag carrier. The move is a response to recent instructions from the government which wants state enterprises such as the TAT Krungthai Bank and Airports of Thailand to use tourism sector to boost income for THAI.

3. Investors Interested In BOI Incentives For EEC

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

Aviation investors from France are interested to expand their investment in the aviation industry in the Eastern Economic Corridor or EEC after visiting Thailand and hearing about investment incentives from the Board of Investment or BOI, said Duangjai Asawachintachit, BOI secretary-general, on 26 September. She said after meeting with French investors who visited the office and EEC on 25 September, that most of them expressed an interested in investing in the aviation

business in the EEC after hearing about the BOI incentive. Potential investments include an assembly plant, aviation maintenance repair and overhaul facility and related businesses.

4. PTTEP, Chevron Bid On New Fields

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

US-based Chevron Corp and Thailand's PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP) were the only two contenders that submitted opening bids on 25 September to compete in the auctions of Bongkot and Erawan concessions in the Gulf of Thailand. PTTEP, through its subsidiary PTTEP Energy Development, submitted a solo bid for the Bongkot (G2/61) concession to compete with Chevron and Mitsui's joint bid. Chevron operates the Erawan gas block through its subsidiary Chevron Thailand Holding, and state-backed PTTEP operates the Bongkot concession, due to expire in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

5. Experts To Boost Vocational Training

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

The Office of the Vocational Education Commission (Ovec) plans to invite 500 experts who work in 10 industries targeted under the Thailand 4.0 policy to become special instructors at 900 vocational colleges nationwide. Ovec secretary-general, Suthep Chittayawong, said the plan aims to connect students and teachers to professionals and industry experts to integrate real-world experience into classroom lessons. Mr Suthep said having students engage with business and industry while they're in the classroom is one of Ovec's strategies to increase the skills of vocational students and produce job-ready graduates to cater to the demands of Thai Industry 4.0.