

Thai News Update: 29 October 2018

1. Blockchain Tech Seen As A Tool To Curb Corruption

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

Experts and social entrepreneurs have placed high hopes on benefiting from the advanced blockchain technology that would be able to play a major role in curbing corruption and enhancing transparency in social justice. “Blockchain could be used to promote transparency of information for anti-corruption and to increase the power of investigation,” said Torplus Yomnak, founder of Hands Social Enterprise. He was speaking at a seminar last week organised by Thailand Institute of Justice on “Blockchain technology for transparency and accountability”. Torplus, who is a researcher on corruption, suggested that modern technology could be applied in three areas. First, blockchain can be used for government procurement with strong investigation by citizens.

2. Monorail Gold Line Proves A BIG DRAW

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

The Ongoing Development of the Gold Line by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, extending the BTS Green Line from Thonburi Station to the Phra Pok Klao bridge, has attracted a slew of property projects alongside the 2.8-kilometre monorail route. Property companies are expected to invest more than Bt100 billion in the development of commercial and residential projects, ahead of the Gold Line’s completion in 2020, according to a survey by The Nation. In 2014, Siam Piwat Co Ltd, the operator of Siam Centre and Siam Discovery Centre, entered into a partnership with Magnolia Quality Development Corporation and Charoen Pokphand Group, for the development of Iconsiam, a Bt54-billion riverside mega-mall and residential properties located close to the new rail line.

3. Ministry App To Assist Traditional Stores

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

In An Attempt to introduce its own technological disruptor into the Thai market, the Commerce Ministry will launch a new application to connect traditional grocery stores directly with their

suppliers next month. The application will do away with the “middleman” to reduce costs and increase competitiveness of the traditional grocery stores through e-commerce, according to Commerce Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong. “Our aim is to strengthen the resilience of traditional grocery stores, helping them grow within the new landscape of the local market,” Sontirat said. The current problem with traditional grocery stores is that they are mostly small operators who are not able to purchase products in bulk, leading to high costs, which puts them at a disadvantage against modern convenience store chains, such as 7-Eleven, he said.

4. 900mhz Licence Purchased By DTAC

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

Total Access Communication (DTAC) subsidiary DTAC TriNet won a 900 megahertz licence for 38.06 billion baht, in a sole bidder auction on 28 October. The nation's third largest telecom company was left alone to bid after its bigger rivals -- Advanced Info Service (AIS) and True -- stayed out as they had already secured 900MHz licences. NBTC's working panel has drafted regulatory conditions for recalling spectrum and compensation. Details will go to the NBTC board meeting next month. The auction started with a reserve price set at 37.98 billion baht. The new compensation rules will allow NBTC to pay compensation to some old concession holder in order to regain spectrum and repackage them to sell in new bidding

5. Plans Halted For National Holding Firm

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

The government has backed off a plan to set up a national holding company after a public outcry against a draft act on state-owned enterprise governance. To push the draft act through lawmakers' deliberation process, the State Enterprise Policy Office (Sepo) has agreed to call off the plan to incorporate the national holding company, aiming to tamp down criticism even as the office tried to explain that the national holding company would not privatise state enterprises, said director-general Prapas Kong-Ied. The draft law will play a pivotal role in supervising state enterprises, he said, and is expected to win approval from the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) before the

general election takes place. While the cabinet approved the draft legislation in August 2016, the bill has been blocked by the NLA.

6. 500 Tuktuks Expands To Food In Disruption Hunt

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

Following investing in fintech, logistics and property tech, 500 TukTuks is expanding its portfolio to food tech to capitalise on what is expected to be a US\$10-billion (331 billion baht) market in Southeast Asia by 2022. "We are very keen on food tech, as we expect the next digital disruption to be in bio/food/agriculture," said Krating Poolpon, managing partner and chief executive of 500 TukTuks, the local arm of the US-based venture capital firm 500 Startups. "Thailand is known for its food and aims to be the kitchen of the world, so it should take advantage of this trend." Technological disruption has been occurring at the end of the food value chain, mainly in food delivery. Mr Krating said disruption is expected further down the food value chain in the next few years in the next few years in food production, processing and delivery.