

## Thai News Update: 2 May 2018

### **1. Thai Minister Arriving On Significant Business Trip To Dhaka**

**Source: Daily Star ([Link](#))**

A high powered business delegation of Thailand will be arriving in Dhaka tomorrow, a trip that is being considered significant in aspects of trade and economic relation between the two countries. Thailand's Minister for Economic Reforms and Investment Dr Kobsak Pootrakool will lead a high-powered 32-member delegation, the largest ever Thai team to arrive. Thailand's secretary general of board of investment and high officials of the country's government are expected to be in the team, reads a press release of Bangladesh embassy in Bangkok. During his visit the Thai minister and his entourage would be visiting few industries and special economic zones organized by Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) to explore potential areas of upcoming Thai investments. The high-powered business and investment delegation will also attend business dialogues and business matchmaking with Bangladeshi businessmen organised by Apex business body FBCCI to explore possible new product lines for exports and Thai investment in Bangladesh. Apart from the business & investment engagement, Thai Minister Pootrakool will make courtesy calls on Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali and State Minister for Finance & Planning MA Mannan during the visit. Terming the visit as historic in trade and economic relations between the two countries, Bangladesh ambassador to Thailand Saida Muna Tasneem has mentioned that the Thai government is taking an interest to strengthen economic, trade and connectivity relations with Bangladesh.

### **2. Thai Export E-Market Draws Bt5 Bn In Seven Years**

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

Thaitrade.com, the Department of International Trade Promotion's business-to-business (B2B) digital marketplace, has amassed trade value of Bt4.92 billion since its establishment in 2011, the department said on 1 May. Thaitrade was set up to increase export opportunities by hosting products in one e-marketplace, a more effective and convenient way for trading partners around the world to find what they needed in Thailand. The products involved in the most transactions

include food and beverages, beauty and health products, ornaments and fashion items. Director general Chantira Jimreivat Vivatrat said the department planned to boost the number of traders registered with the marketplace from the current 23,607 traders selling 256,414 products.

### **3. Thailand Wants To Join TPP 'As Soon As Possible,' Says Deputy PM**

**Source: Nikkei Asia Review ([Link](#))**

Thailand wants to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership "as soon as possible," Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak told visiting Japanese Economic and Fiscal Policy and Revitalization Minister Toshimitsu Motegi who is in charge of negotiations for the pact on 1 May. Thailand had previously expressed interest in joining the free trade deal between 11 nations but had hung back after President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the pact as soon as he took office in 2017. Thai ministries are now studying the impact of joining the bloc on the local economy. Thailand, whose economy largely depends on exports, hopes to expand trade through the deal. According to commerce ministry statistics, exports from Thailand to TPP members reached \$70 billion in 2017, accounting for roughly 30% of total exports. Exports to the U.S., meanwhile, made up only around 10% of the total. Among the 11 TPP countries, Canada and Mexico do not have a free trade agreement with Thailand. If Thailand joins the agreement, it would become the fifth Southeast Asian nation to do so. Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Brunei are among the original 11 members. Thailand's participation would likely push other exporting countries in the region like Indonesia and Philippines into the deal too. Official talks for inviting new members, however, can only start when the TPP comes into effect. Currently, implementation is targeted for early 2019.

### **4. Germany Grants Bt690m, Will Work With Thailand On Climate-Change Projects**

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

Germany has granted Bt690 million for a four-year climate change programme intended to help Thailand achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. The German government together with the Thai government celebrated the launch of the Thai-German Climate Programme on 30 May at the German embassy in Bangkok. The programme's mission is to provide financial support for climate change mitigation efforts in Thailand, with a team of international and national experts working closely with partners in the Thai government. Funding of 17.9 million euros (Bt690 million) was granted by the German Environment, Nature

Conservation and Nuclear Safety Ministry (BMU), while the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH will provide support for implementing climate change mitigation projects and personnel support. The 2018 to 2021 Thai-German Climate Programme will support Thailand through a cross-sectoral approach anchored in five sectoral plans, said the BMU. The wide-ranging plans cover implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) at the sub-national level, greenhouse gas measurement, establishing reporting and verification systems, mobilising funds to implement the NDCs, and extension of international cooperation.

#### **5. Commerce.Asia Partners With Thailand Fulfillment Players To Benefit Smes**

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

Commerce.Asia Ventures (Commerce.Asia), a Malaysian commerce technology venture builder, announced its partnership with two Thailand-based technology enablers to accelerate cross-border e-commerce between Thailand and Malaysia. Commerce.Asia entered into joint venture agreements with the two technology enablers at Menara Miti, at an event which saw the participation of more than 400 SMEs to hear presentations by Pawoot Pongvitayapanu the CEO of Tarad.com, Ganesh Kumar Bangah the founder and executive chairman of Commerce.Asia, Song Hock Koon, director of eCommerce, Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) and Patcha Wupitan, Minister Counsellor (Commercial), Thailand Ministry of Commerce. Commerce.Asia entered into a collaboration with MDEC under the Digital Free Trade Zone (DFTZ) B2C Export programme, that aims to promote and drive exports by Malaysian SMEs outside of Malaysia. Under the programme, Thailand has been identified as the first cross-border country that Commerce.Asia will be targeting. Through this partnership, Commerce.Asia will onboard Malaysian merchants to sell products to Thai consumers.