

Thai News Update: 30 April 2019

1. Ministry Cuts GDP Forecast As Stimulus Package Goes For Cabinet Approval Today

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

The Finance Ministry on 29 April revised the projection of this year's GDP growth to 3.8 per cent, down from the previous forecast of 4 per cent. The revision is in line with Thailand's economic situation, which has been slowing down in the first to second quarter of this year. The ministry will, however, propose its economic-stimulus package to the Cabinet on April 30. Lawan Sangsanit, director of Fiscal Policy Office, said that the country has also witnessed a decline in exports due to the economic slowdown of its trading partners as well as a trade war between China and the US. The Finance Ministry also revised this year's export growth down from 4.5 per cent to 3.4 per cent.

2. Asean Countries Share Tips In Fighting Counterfeit Goods

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

How to best tackle the trade in counterfeit goods was the focus of a workshop held in Manila last week, as enforcement officials, investigators and prosecutors from across the Asean region held talks on enforcing intellectual property (IP) rights. Discussions covered online business models used for the infringement of IP rights, investigative techniques and intelligence gathering, as well as measures to combat infringement, particularly in the online environment. The trade in counterfeit products diverts revenue from legitimate businesses, depletes innovation and development and underpins organised crime networks.

3. Thailand Pavilion Breaks Ground At World Expo 2020 Dubai

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

A Groundbreaking ceremony has been held to kick-off construction of the Thailand Pavilion for Expo 2020 in Dubai, with completion set for September. "Thailand Pavilion represents Thailand's mobility of the future," said Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin, president and CEO of the

Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA) and deputy commissioner general. “This also relates to our national agenda, Thailand 4.0, by integrating advanced technology to drive the country forward in all aspects. This exhibition aims to promote a positive image and showcase Thailand’s potential in digital technology for worldwide recognition.”The ceremony was headed by Ajarin Pattanapanchai, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES), in his capacity as the commissioner general of the Thailand Pavilion. He referenced the Dubai Expo theme of “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future”.

4. Bangkok Listed No.2 On Youdiscover Site

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

Bangkok ranked second on the online travel platform YouDiscover's 2019 list of the top 15 destinations for travellers in Southeast Asia, behind Siem Reap and ahead of Singapore. The location were chosen from 93 destinations in 11 countries with top cities characterised by a diverse mix of tourist infrastructure, range of activities, fair costs and proximity to beautiful sites.

5. 3-Airport Rail Link Deal Likely To Be Signed In Mid-May

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

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) and a consortium led by the Charoen Pokphand Group are likely to sign an agreement on the three-airport rail development in mid-May, Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said. The deputy premier in charge of economic affairs said the agreement had been finalised and a draft contract sent to the Office of the Attorney-General (OAG) for examination. The CP Group-led consortium comprises China Railway Construction Corporation, Bangkok Expressway and Metro, Italian-Thai Development, Ch. Karnchang, Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corp for Transport & Urban Development, Citic Group, Siemens, Hyundai, and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).