

## Thai News Update: 30 August 2019

### 1. EEC Office, ZAEZ ink aerotropolis agreement

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

The Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Office has signed an agreement with China's Zhengzhou Airport Economy Zone (ZAEZ) on strategic cooperation and to develop an aerotropolis at U-tapao airport in Rayong province. The EEC Office plans to develop air cargo in the first phase of the project, supporting the government's Eastern Fruit Corridor and developing a logistics system for local fruit farmers. Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said U-tapao airport plans to add an aerotropolis in the near future. "This facility will benefit the Thai economy and connect with China's Belt and Road Initiative, which links to Europe through logistics routes in China," Mr Somkid said.

### 2. Bangkok rated 47th safest city, Tokyo tops

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

Bangkok is ranked 47th safest of 60 countries surveyed by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), which sees Tokyo as the safest city in the world and Singapore the safest in Southeast Asia. Bangkok was in 47th spot in the Safe Cities Index 2019 released on 29 August by the EIU. It surveyed 60 cities around the world, weighing scores from 57 indicators including infrastructure security, personal security and the health system. Bangkok's score was 57.6, compared with 92 for Tokyo and 91.5 for Singapore. Its score equalled Ho Chi Minh City, but the Thai capital trailed Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Manila for the regional capitals. The three safest cities were in Asia, which also had Seoul in ninth place. But the EIU said geography was not a factor in making them safe.

### **3. AMATA lunches Smart Classroom & Smart City**

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

On August 24th, 2019, AMATA Corporation collaborated with the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (depa) to launch the first Smart Classroom with the aim to be the center of digital manpower development in EEC and to officially open the “Amata Smart City Showcase” in AMATA City Chonburi. Mr. Puttiphong Punnakan, Minister of Digital Economy and Society said in the opening ceremony of depa-AMATA Smart Classroom and AMATA Smart City Showcase that the technology development which AMATA has implemented considered to be a vital part in driving digital economy declared in the 20-year National Strategic plan. In alignment with the development of human resource to keep up with rapid changes and serve hi-tech industries where skillful workers are required in order to increase the ability of Thailand to compete with global competition.

### **4. Moon touts strength of Korea-Thailand partnership**

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

President Moon Jae-in of South Korea has announced a strengthening of the partnership between Thailand and the Republic of Korea as he prepares to visit the kingdom on 31 August. President Moon expects cooperation to grow during the so-called Fourth Industrial Revolution, citing long-standing relations between the two countries. "I would like to express my profound gratitude to the government and people for inviting me. I would also like to take this opportunity to convey my deepest condolences and respect for His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, once again. At the same time, my congratulations go to His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua on his coronation this year. I wish Thailand continued success under His Majesty's leadership," he said.

### **5. HR Asia Announces Thailand's Best Companies to Work for in Asia**

**Source: Yahoo Finance ([Link](#))**

Thirty Thailand companies have been named the Best Companies to Work for in Asia by the human resources publication, HR Asia. This year, 4,873 employees from a total of 129 companies across Thailand responded to the HR Asia Best Companies to Work for in Asia

Survey. The survey also covers ten other markets across Asia, including Hong Kong, Mainland China, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, Japan and the South Korea. Award winners included Advanced Info Services PLC. (AIS), Food Passion Company Limited, Kasikornbank PCL, LINE Company (Thailand) Limited, Provincial Electricity Authority, Thai Beverage PLC, The Minor Food Group PCL and many more.

## **6. Qatar eyes increased investment in Thailand**

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

Qatar is interested in expanding its investment in Thailand to increase the trade value of US\$3.9 billion (Bt119.2 billion) witnessed last year by the two countries, Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said after meeting Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani on 29 August. Somkid said Qatar wants to expand investment in Thailand's energy, medical care, aviation, and tourism sectors by collaborating with both the public and private sectors. Qatar also has a sovereign wealth fund of more than \$338 billion to expand investment overseas, including in Thailand, Somkid added.

## **7. Govt to spend Bt120 million to stimulate tourism**

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

Tourism Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said his ministry will spend some Bt120 million to promote and stimulate tourism with the goal of achieving at least 7-per-cent growth this year. Phiphat said the Bt120 million will be spent on stimulus projects and is in addition to the plan to hand out Bt1,000 cash to Thais to spend on tourism, which is a measure of the Finance Ministry. Phiphat said the budget would be spent on at least three measures. Phiphat expressed confidence that the goal of having 40 million foreign tourists visiting the kingdom this year would be reached. He said the foreign tourists would spend around Bt3.37 trillion in the kingdom. As part of the tourism promotion measures for foreign visitors, the government would put Thailand forward as an international exhibition hub and try to maintain Thailand's status as the top tourist destination in Asean.

## **8. Ministry awaits better BoI package for foreign investors**

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

The Economy Ministry has postponed its meeting by a week to September 6, so Board of Investment or BoI can finish reviewing the new package it is offering to encourage foreign investors to move their investments to Thailand, Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said on August 29. He said that though BoI is offering tax incentives to foreign investors, it is not enough compared to other Asean countries that offer them better deals. “We have to come up a package that is more attractive for them to move their investment to Thailand. The meeting has been rescheduled until September 6, until the BoI comes up with a new package,” he said.