

Thai News Update: 30 November 2018

1. 20,000 Smes Targeted For Online Operations In 2019

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

The Industrial Promotion Department wants 20,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups to operate their businesses online in 2019. The new target is a marked increase from the previous goal of 5,000 companies as the department has a duty to encourage SMEs and startups to embrace e-commerce. The SMEs and startups span many sectors, and are most common in logistics, consumer products and agricultural products. Kobchai Sungsitthisawad, director-general of the department, said the government has a policy to promote SMEs expanding overseas via e-commerce.

2. Lego Opening First Store In Thailand

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

Danish toy company Lego will debut its first shop in Thailand tomorrow as part of its business strategy to drive sales in Asia. Atsushi Hasegawa, general manager of Lego Singapore Pte, said the company has partnered with DKSH Thailand, the distributor of Lego in Thailand, to open the first Lego shop spanning 170 square metres on the second floor of Siam Paragon. Lego wants to reach more Thai kids and expand its business, he said.

3. Thailand First In Asia To Ratify Fishing Pact

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

Thailand will become the first country in Asia to ratify the Work in Fishing Convention, also known as C188, to ensure better working conditions for fishermen. The ratification was confirmed on 29 November by Labour Minister Adul Sangsingkeo, although the news was met with opposition from fisheries groups across the country, who fear the agreement will increase their financial burden. Addressing their concerns, Pol Gen Adul said the C188, which contains 14 key requirements, will apply only to large fishing vessels weighing at least 30 gross tonnes.

4. ASEAN Chairmanship Chance To 'Boost US Ties'

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

The United States supports Thailand's role as Asean chair, specifically as it relates to Thailand's ability to draw multilateral effort from Asean members to deal with maritime and cybersecurity, says the US Assistant Secretary of Defence for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, Randall G Schriver. He added that his government and Thailand discussed co-chairing a working group on maritime security and the countries had agreed to participate in a US-Asean maritime security exercise in 2019.