

Thai News Update: 30 October 2018

1. High-Wire Act For The Economy

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

Although hopes remain high that the much-touted 2019 general election will be a catalyst jump-starting confidence among consumers and investors, the dream is marred by the reality that several economic tailwinds are keeping full-scale celebrations at bay. Exports are braced for impact from the US-China trade war, while Thailand's tourism industry is still reeling from the July boat accident that killed more than 40 Chinese visitors. Reinforcing the gloomy outlook are fluctuations in global oil prices and domestic purchasing power. Thailand's household debt also remains stubbornly high.

2. AI Businesses On The Rise In ASEAN

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

Singapore is one of the Southeast Asian countries aiming to be a leader and business centre in artificial intelligence (AI) in line with its industrial transformation policy. The so-called Industry 4.0 revolution has been taking place in Asia-Pacific nations, including Thailand, providing significant opportunities for AI development. A recent study by leading IT market research and advisory firm IDC found AI adoption in the region was on the rise. With 24.6% of organisations in Indonesia adopting AI, the country leads the pack in terms of adoption, followed by Thailand (17.1%), Singapore (9.9%), and Malaysia (8.1%)

3. Amended Bill To Tackle Powers Of Cybersecurity Head

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

Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) will amend the Cybersecurity Bill by November before submitting it to the Cabinet and the National Legislative Assembly for approval in December this year. ETDA executive director Surangkana Wayuparb has said that the agency will revise sections 57 and 58 of the bill in order to ensure and create cybersecurity transparency in the country. Section 57 covers the powers and authority of the National Cybersecurity Agency

secretary-general. The agency will revise the authority or power of the secretary-general and the effects of cyberthreats.

4. FPO Holds GDP Growth At 4.5% On Consumption Uptick

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

The Fiscal Policy Office (FPO) is maintaining its forecast for the country's economic growth at 4.5% as private consumption picks up and investment counters sagging global demand. Private consumption and investment are gaining momentum, in tandem with the falling unemployment rate and higher farm income as crop output rises, said fiscal policy adviser Warotai Kosolpitsikul. The government's welfare and subsidy scheme for the poor also bolsters the economy, he said.

5. THAI Takes Up New Revenue Strategies

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

Thai Airways International Plc (THAI), the national carrier, has unveiled marketing plans to enhance business, particularly over the final two months of the year. The new strategies include adding more flights to destinations in Japan, a joint promotion with a Chinese airline, and airing popular TV soap operas in real-time on flights to attract users. THAI plans to increase the frequency of the Bangkok-Sapporo route from 7-10 flights per week, starting from Dec 1.

6. University Of The Thai Chamber Of Commerce And Cisco Provide Hybrid Learning Experiences

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

The University of Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC), a private non-profit higher education institution in Bangkok, Thailand and Cisco, a global technology leader, are collaborating to transform education and lay the foundation for hybrid learning experiences in Thailand. The UTCC campus is being equipped with Cisco Webex Boards (formerly called Cisco Spark Board). The boards will allow teachers and students to present wirelessly, whiteboard, and even annotate shared content, along with providing video and audio conference capabilities. This will empower

students and educators to meet, create, communicate and share resources inside and outside classroom anytime and on any device, Cisco said in a press statement.

7. Border Trade Cambodian- Thai Trade Increases

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

Bilateral trade between Cambodia and Thailand reached \$3.16 billion in the first nine months – an increase of 14.08 per cent year-on-year. Imports to Cambodia were worth \$2.65 billion, representing a 19.26 per cent increase in contrast with exports to Thailand that was valued at merely \$543.26 million or a 6.2 per cent drop. “Border trade with Cambodia is growing well,” director-general of the Foreign Trade department in Thailand Adul Chotinisakorn told the Bangkok Post. He added that imports to Cambodia soared by 34 per cent on the export of beverages last month. Trade between Cambodia and Thailand reached \$6 billion last year – up 10 per cent from 2016.