

Thai News Update: 3 December 2018

1. National Digital Id Gets Pilot Testing In January

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

After several delays, the national digital ID service will be available to the public in the next 3-5 months after undergoing testing, says cybersecurity specialist Bhume Bhumiratana. The national ID team has been working with the Digital Government Development Agency, the Bank of Thailand, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Revenue Department, and talks have begun with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission. National digital ID helps facilitate online transactions and ensure security for users. The service will enable banks to expand their account base through digital lending via the internet and smartphones...

2. Trade Department Pushes 12 Priorities For Asean Chair

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

Twelve economic issues, including the conclusion of negotiations on the RCEP have been proposed for consideration as Thailand readies itself to assume ASEAN's chairmanship. Thailand had announced "Advancing partnership for sustainability" as the theme for its chairmanship next year. Besides the RCEP, the issue of the human resource development to handle the fourth industrial revolution, promotion of MSMEs, and the expansion of the ASEAN Single Window Customs System-which is now available only in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam- to include all the 10 ASEAN members, were also highlighted as priorities.

3. Release Policies, Parties Told

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

The business community is urging political parties to spell out their economic policies ahead of the general election, asking for the chance to plan for challenges post-poll. Kalin Sarasin, chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC), said it is about time parties brought forward economic proposals for the public to examine. He said these plans should outline economic issues and how each party plans to address them to boost the economy. they should also offer views about the

economic situation including how they will strengthen national capabilities and narrow income disparity, he said.

4. Gold Card Proposed For Nomadic Tribe To Get Healthcare Where Needed

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

To help boost access to healthcare for vulnerable people, National Health Security Office (NHSO) chief Sakchai Kanchanawattana has proposed that tribes be given a “gold card”, which allows them to get healthcare service at any state facility. Sakchai said he will submit his plan to the NHSO board for approval. The plan is aimed at the Maniq or the “Sakai” tribe, one of the world’s last hunter-gatherer societies, who have lived for thousands of years in the forested areas of the Banthat Mountain Range in Yala, Narathiwat, Phatthalung, Trang and Satun provinces. The population of Thailand’s only Negrito ethnic group now stands at 500 people. Most cannot speak Thai or know only a few words.

5. National Innovation Agency Aims High With Goals

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

The National Innovation Agency (NIA) has set a lofty goal for Thailand to rank in the top 30 of the Global Innovation Index by 2030, moving up from 44th this year. The agency outlined its vision for 2020-30 while celebrating its 10-year anniversary as a public organisation. The NIA's goal is to draw at least 3,000 international innovation-based firms of all sizes to expand into the overseas market. A Business Development Department report found that Thailand has 3 million registered firms, but Mr Pun-Arj said the NIA believes that fewer than 1% of them are innovative firms.