

Thai News Update: 3 September 2019

1. Thailand promotes five plans for energy development in ASEAN

Source: Vietnam Plus ([Link](#))

The Energy Ministry of Thailand is ready to push forward five plans to promote energy sector in ASEAN at the 37th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) that scheduled for Sept 2-6 in Bangkok. Bangkok Post quoted the ministry's director for international affairs Poonpat Leesombatpiboon as saying that the five action plans are expected to be developed at the meeting. According to Poonpat, the meeting will involve discussions of effective energy management and stability for Southeast Asia via partnerships and innovation to promote the economy and improve people's standard of living.

2. Thailand steps up scientific research to address socio-economic challenges

Source: Vietnam Plus ([Link](#))

The Government of Thailand will spend 37 billion baht (1.2 billion USD) financing its ambitious scientific research and innovation development scheme in the next eight years to increase the country's competitiveness and better brace it for an ageing population and degraded environment. The scheme, which will start next year, has received a green light from the cabinet which agreed to give it money from the 2020 budget, Deputy Government Spokeswoman Ratchada Thanadirek said. Thailand has many projects and clear indicators to assess their outcomes, she said, adding that they are aimed at dealing with economic and social challenges with modern research and development.

3. Thailand, South Korea leaders promise closer partnership

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

Thailand and South Korea have pledged to strengthen their strategic partnership to promote relations between East and Southeast Asia. Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on 2 September praised an official visit to Thailand by South Korean President Moon Jae-in as a vital move for

the two countries to build on their partnership. The two countries agreed to foster cooperation on issues ranging from security to economics as a way to promote ties between the East and Southeast Asian regions, he added. Gen Prayut hosted a meeting at Government House for Mr Moon, who was the first South Korean leader to visit Thailand for seven years. Thailand and South Korea agreed to seek the conclusion of negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) by the end of this year, Government House said in a statement released after the meeting.

4. TAI pushes 19 measures for EV progress

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

The Thailand Automotive Institute (TAI) has suggested 19 measures for the Industry Ministry to promote the government's electric vehicle (EV) scheme as it is concerned the country will lose competitive advantage against Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam. Five measures are considered urgent, meaning they should be pushed by the government in 2020, said Adisak Rohitasune, acting president of TAI. According to TAI's vision 2030, announced yesterday, the urgent measures are reforming the vehicle tax structure; offering incentives for buyers; reforming regulations for the EV charging business; elevating manufacturers' capabilities; and human resource development.

5. KCCI: Korea poised for Thai FDI rise

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

Central Banks of Myanmar and Thailand will collaborate in financial matters to assist the development of trade and investment, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) on 31 July. A meeting between the central banks of the two countries, held in Nay Pyi Taw 3 September, discussed adopting a framework for comprehensive use of Myanmar kyat and Thai baht in border trade, signing of a memorandum of understanding on payment system between the two central banks and challenges in implementing them. According to statistics of Myanmar's Commerce Ministry, bilateral border trade between Myanmar and Thailand reached over 2.28 billion U.S. dollars as of May 3 in the present fiscal year 2018-19 (October-September)