

Thai News Update: 5 October 2018

1. Shippers See 9% Rise In Exports

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

The Thai National Shippers' Council (TNSC) has set the year's export growth target at 9 per cent while closely following developments of the on-going trade war between US and China as well as appreciation of the Thai baht. Exports stood at US\$22 billion in August, growing at an average rate of 6.7 per cent in the past 18 months. Meanwhile, imports amounted to US\$23 billion during the month, growing at a rate of 22.8 per cent. As such, Thailand posted a trade deficit of US\$ 500 million in August, according to Ghanyapad Tantipitpong, Chairman of the TNSC.

2. Lam Dong Promises To Be Ideal Land For Thai Investors, Tourists

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

The Central Highlands province of Lam Dong promoted itself as a promising land for investment, trade and tourism at a conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, on October 4. The event attracted representatives of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Board of Investment of Thailand, the Board of Trade of Thailand, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Thai Industries, the Thailand – Vietnam Business Council, and the Thai Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Council. More than 300 Thai businesses and investors also attended the conference.

3. Asia Rice: India Rates Dip, Thai Traders Eye New Deals

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

Rice export prices in India fell for a second week on sluggish demand, while rates in Thailand were propped up by lower supply and expectations of new orders from Philippines, Indonesia and Japan. Top exporter India's 5 percent broken parboiled variety was quoted around \$367-\$373 per tonne this week, down from \$370-\$374 last week. "Some demand is there, but not much ... Millers are now waiting for new crop arrivals to offer," said Nitin Gupta, business head of rice at Olam India. Supplies from summer-sown crop will become available for exports from next month, dealers said.

4. World Bank Warns Of Debt Rollover Risk In Indonesia, Thailand

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

Any increase in capital outflows could make it more difficult for companies and governments to refinance foreign debt in developing East Asia, with Indonesia and Thailand most at risk, says the World Bank. Outflows pose “potentially disruptive implications for business operations and solvency on the corporate side, and for deficit financing and debt sustainability on the sovereign side,” the World Bank said in a report on 4 October. The threat of bankruptcies in Indonesia and Thailand is limited though, it said. Foreigners have pulled a net \$6.6 billion (215 billion baht) of equity investments from Thailand this year and almost \$3.7 billion from Indonesia.

5. 4 EEC Projects Approved For Infrastructure

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

The Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Policy Committee on Wednesday approved four infrastructure projects worth a combined 432.85 billion baht, with terms of reference (ToRs) scheduled to be launched within this month. The four projects are the U-tapao aviation city (worth 290 billion baht); a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) centre (10.59 billion); the third phase of the Laem Chabang seaport (84.36 billion); and seaport (84.36 billion); and the third phase of the Map Ta Phut seaport (47.90 billion).

6. Digital Asset Trading Licences Issued Soon, Says Bitkub

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

The Finance Ministry is expected to issue digital asset operating licences for applicants later this year or early next year, and Thai securities companies have expressed interest in partnering with digital asset exchanges, says a blockchain expert. The six businesses seeking licences to operate as digital asset exchanges are Bitcoin Co Ltd (bx.in.th); Bitkub Online Co Ltd (bitkub.com); Cash2Coins Co Ltd (cash2coins.com); Satang Corporation Co Ltd, Coin Asset Co Ltd (coinasset.co.th); and Southeast Asia Digital Exchange Co Ltd (seadex.io)