

Thai News Update: 5 September 2018

1. Thai Demand Offers Scope For S Korean

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

The Thai market has enough demand side support for South Korean robotics and automation firms to invest in the country thanks to Thailand's 4.0 policy, Kim Jongheon, director of the Korea Institute for Robot Industry Advancement (KIRIA), said on 5 September. Besides tax incentives, adequate demand for products and services will be a key factor South Korean robotics and automation companies will consider before making the decision to invest, he said. Thailand has been pursuing a clear policy to promote robotics and automation systems in a bid to transform traditional factories into smart ones.

2. New Bill Aims To Boost R&D And Incentivise Researchers

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

The cabinet has approved a draft bill that promotes the use of R&D and lets researchers own the right to transfer their research to private companies. Nathporn Chatusripitak, an adviser to the Prime Minister's Office minister, said on 4 September that once the bill comes into force, researchers who won financial support from the government's research agencies will be eligible to own the right to transfer the research to the private sector for commercial purposes. Under the current structure, researchers sponsored by the government have no rights to their work, which belongs, by law, to the state agencies that provide financial support.

3. Electronics Trade Objects To Draft Recycling Law

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

Manufacturers and vendors of electronics and electrical appliances have expressed strong opposition to a draft bill on the disposal of waste gear, citing the high costs they would face. Supant Mongkolsuthree, chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries, said yesterday that manufacturers, importer and vendors of electronic goods had raised concerns over the new law. The Cabinet had approved a draft law requiring that funding be allocated to disposal, Supant said, but the Council of State, a government legal advisory body, eliminated the clause.

4. Most Asian Markets Rise But Investors Keep Wary Eye On Trade Rows

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

Asian markets mostly rose on 5 September following recent losses but investors moved cautiously as they await the latest developments in Donald Trump's trade spats with China and Canada. With US markets closed for the Labor Day holiday, there were few catalysts to drive business but dealers moved in to pick up beaten-down stocks. However, there remains a sense of nervousness after Trump said he wanted to impose fresh tariffs on a huge swathe of Chinese goods by the end of this week.

5. Exim Thailand Offers Support And Incentives For Rise In Trade

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

The Export-Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM Thailand) has expanded its scope of trade and investment insurance services while helping Thai businesses to penetrate the African markets, President Pisit Serewiwattana said on 4 September. He added that with the promulgation of Export-Import Bank of Thailand Act (No. 3), BE 2561 (2018) in July 2018, the scope of EXIM Thailand's trade and investment insurance services has been expanded to better serve Thai businesses. The new service features will include: 1. investment insurance provided not only to EXIM Thailand's loan customers but also to commercial banks' clients as well as commercial banks lending to Thai investment projects abroad; 2. export credit insurance to suppliers of products or services to Thai exporters; and 3. insurance protection for financial institutions against unfair calling of bonds issued to Thai business operators overseas.

6. Jscib Keeps Faiths In Thai Economy Amid Us-China Row

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

Despite the looming US-China trade dispute, Thailand's Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) has kept its forecast for this year's economic growth at 4.3-4.8 per cent with an estimated Thai export growth of 7-10 per cent. However, risks remain with fragile economies of emerging-market countries spanning from Turkey to Venezuela which could rip through the Thai currency with higher volatility, said Predee Daochai, JSCCIB chairman in its

September meeting. In the second quarter of this year, the Thai economy grew higher than expected, bolstered by rises in export, tourism, private consumption and agricultural production,

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he said. Combined with first-quarter expansion, Thai growth was about 4.8 per cent in the first half of this year.

7. Koreans Eye Robot Partners

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

Thailand and South Korea plan to team up for future investment and market research on the robotics sector in the government's flagship Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) scheme. The Board of Investment (BoI) is joining with Asean-Korea Centre (AKC) and Korea Institute for Robot Industry Advancement (KIRIA) for this project. South Korean counterparts will bring 13 companies with expertise in industrial robotics to visit the three EEC provinces on 6 September. The BoI expects to bring 40 Thai companies to the business matching event with South Korean firms.

8. Commerce Ministry Predicts Over 10% Growth In China Shipments

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

Despite risks from the escalating trade war between China and the US, the Commerce Ministry remains positive Thailand's exports to China will grow by more than 10% this year, boosting the country's overall shipments to a 9% gain. Commerce Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong said on Monday Thailand's exports will definitely exceed 8% growth as projected by the ministry, helped by the growing economies of key trading partners, including China. Mr Sontirat's remarks were delivered at a seminar titled "Opening the Gate to South China", organised by the Commerce Ministry, International Trade Promotion Department, Foreign Trade Department, the New Economy Academy and Post Today newspaper.