

Thai News Update: 7 December 2018

1. 20-Year Water Plan Tipped For Approval

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

The 20-year master plan for the country's water management system is expected to win approval by the national committee on water resources on Dec 19 after which it will be implemented, Deputy Prime Minister Chatchai Sarikulya said on 6 December. The master plan was approved by the government's sub-committee on strategies for water resources management, said Gen Chatchai. Drafted by the Office of National Water Resources (ONWR) and several other agencies, the master plan is in line with the government's three core plans, namely the 20-year national strategy plan, the plan on the country's reform of water resources and the sustainable development plan.

2. Plan To Shepherd 600,000 Smes Into E-Commerce Next Year

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

Roughly 600,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be brought into the government's measures for better accessibility of the e-commerce platform in 2019 in a bid to increase their competitiveness in the global market, says Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. The e-commerce platform can be a strong distribution channel for SMEs and startups to market their products and services, as well as expand their business presence worldwide. Mr Somkid said the government wants to support SMEs in doing their business through online marketing channels in line with global trends and the goal of digital transformation.

3. Somkid Underlines 3 Areas Of Reform For Thailand To Keep Pace With Neighbours

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

Thailand will need to radically reform its economic structure if it wants to keep up with its fast-growing Asean neighbours, says Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. He says the three top priorities are creating value for agricultural goods, promoting digital transformation and promoting the growth of secondary cities. "Thailand has a dire need to acquire the ability to create

more value for our agricultural goods,” Somkid told the “Thailand Economic Outlook 2019” dinner event organised on 3 December by Krungthep Turakij, a sister newspaper of the The Nation.

4. CPF Named Outstanding Employer For People With Disabilities For Two Consecutive Years

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

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security granted the Outstanding Disability Employer 2018 plaque to Charoen Pokphand Foods PLC (CP Foods) and 16 subsidiaries as an acknowledgement for their contributions to the disability community. The company received this honorable recognition for the second year in a row. According to its press release, Pariso that Punnabhum, CP Foods' Senior Executive Vice President for human resources, said the company aims to promote quality of life for persons with disabilities based on its Self-Sufficient Society philosophy.

5. Relief Measures On The Way For Struggling Smes

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

Two of the Cabinet’s most influential members want to see relief measures rushed in as a New Year gift for more than 100,000 of the country’s struggling small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said on 6 December that he had discussed the proposed assistance measures with Industry Minister Uttama Savanayana, who takes charge of SME matters and the SME Development Bank (SME Bank). The ministers to expedite the relief measures for SMEs, which will be forwarded to the Cabinet by the end of this year.