

Thai News Update: 8 November 2018

1. Thai-China Trade Pact Signed

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

Thailand is moving ahead with plans to upgrade economic cooperation with China, agreeing 7 November to the comprehensive framework on enhancing trade and economic partnership between the two nations and aiming to double bilateral trade to US\$40 billion (4.59 trillion baht) by 2021. According to Commerce Minister Sontirat Sontijiraw, the comprehensive cooperation will cover seven key areas: trade, investment, science, technology, digital, tourism, finance and regional economic cooperation.

2. State To Lead Way With Bt30 Bn Investments In Eeci

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

The government will invest Bt30 billion in the Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECi) zone and expects the private sector will follow its lead with around Bt100 billion in investments in the zone under the 20 year-project. Narong Sirilertworakul, president of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), said that agency will construct the first phase of the EECi by the end of this year with investment of Bt1.1 billion to develop buildings and infrastructure. The first phase will be completed in 2020 and will officially be launched in 2021.

3. Terminal 2 At U-Tapao Airport To Be Fully Opened In February

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

The second passenger terminal building at U-Tapao International Airport will be fully opened in February, the airport's director said. Rear Adm Luachai Sri-iamkul, the director of the airport, said the new terminal has been partially opened for domestic flight passengers and for inbound international flight passengers. He said the airport would have to build more toilets to cope with the high number of passengers and to open bidding for the commercial management of the building so that there would be shops and restaurants for passengers.

4. 7-Eleven Launches Campaign To 'Reduce And Stop' Use Of Plastic Bags

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

Following its “7 Go Green” policy, CP All, the founder of 7-Eleven in Thailand, has begun a campaign to “reduce and stop” plastic bags at its stores nationwide. In a press release issued by the company on Thursday, Tanin Buranamanit Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of CP All, the founder of 7-Eleven in Thailand, said that CP All has initiated the project to encourage the public to reduce and stop plastic bags since 2007. The firm said it is determined to nourish sustainable environment via the company’s various programs, in accordance with CP ALL’s brand purpose “giving and sharing opportunities for all”.

5. Facebook Brings Dating Service To Thailand In Asia First

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

Facebook on 7 November officially launched its dating service in Thailand as the first market in Asia and second in the world for the new offering. Facebook Dating is available to users of the social network who are aged at least 18. Nathan Sharp, product manager of Facebook Dating and product lead for people discovery, said that this feature is a result of the company’s mission to make Facebook the single best place to start a relationship online. “Facebook Dating is a dedicated feature within the Facebook app, specially designed to give people full control of their experience looking for a meaningful relationship”, he said.

6. Mass-Market Eco-Car Stimulus On The Way

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

The Industry Ministry will roll out an incentive programme to encourage six eco-car manufacturers to make electrified eco-cars after finding that the electric vehicle scheme was ineffective at boosting mass-market production on EVs. The ministry is working on a new programme called Eco EV, which is aimed at offering incentives for eco-car makers," said Nattapol Rangsitpol, director-general of the Office of Industrial Economics (OIE)...” The EV scheme also allows any applicant for hybrid EVs, plug-in hybrid EVs and battery EVs to combine production volume with the government's eco-car scheme, which requires a massive volume of 100,000 cars a year.

7. Somkid Reaches Out To Jack Ma To Push Thai Tourism

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

Thailand has beefed up its cooperation with Alibaba co-founder and chairman Jack Ma to help promote the country's tourism online in the hope of luring more Chinese to take trips to Thailand, while joining hands with the Chinese e-commerce giant for trade development. Following discussions with the Chinese billionaire in Shanghai on 6 November, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said the Alibaba chief had acceded to the Thai request to help promote tourism through its online commerce empire, which can access a large number of Chinese.