

Thai News Update: 8 October 2018

1. Auto Sector Tops Thai Exports To ASEAN

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

Vehicles as well as auto parts and accessories topped Thai shipments to Asean in the first eight months of this year, valued at Bt164.8 billion, according to figures from the Department of Foreign Trade. Among the top five exports to the region, the auto sector was followed by fuels, plastics, chemical products, and machinery and parts. Fuel sales grew at the strongest rate of 35.86 per cent for the period, said the department, which comes under the Commerce Ministry.

2. PM Happy With Thailand's Removal From Ivory Trade Blacklist

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha is gratified by a recent decision by a standing committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to remove Thailand from the blacklist of countries involved in the illegal ivory trade, government spokesman Lt Gen Sansern Kaewkamnerd said on 7 October. To cope with the problem, the Thai government in 2014 launched an operation to suppress the ivory trade in Thailand and amended two related laws -- the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act of 2014 and the Elephant Tusks Act of 2015 -- to better control those in possession of elephant tusks, he said.

3. EEC Panel Gives Nod For Digital Push

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

The steering committee of the EEC Development Policy last week acknowledged the proposal of the Digital Economy and Society Ministry to develop the digital and communications infrastructure on the Eastern Economic Corridor with a budget of more than Bt17.913 billion. The committee meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general of the EEC Office of Thailand, said that the meeting also assigned the ministry and related agencies to rush to implement the project as proposed by the ministry. The investment

in the project will be made over four years, beginning next year. The project is made up of eight plans and 22 projects.

4. Getting To Know “Industrial Estate Authority Of Thailand (IEAT)” A Place To Start Before Investing In Thailand

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

Thailand has a distinct competitive advantage due to its strategic location as a logistic hub of ASEAN region that has been attracting foreign investors for decades. Still it’s possible to further improve our strengths to maximize Thailand’s true potential and secure future investments from overseas. To facilitate this endeavor, IEAT has established the “One Stop Service” or OSS centers to provide both “prior” and “after” solutions for investors that cover every necessary step to start a business in Thailand. These solutions include location recommendation, contract preparation, land buying or renting process, factory and business registration, construction permit application, and various registration services that are necessary to get your business up and running as soon as possible.

5. Mergers And Acquisitions Climbing Again, Solidance Survey Finds

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

Property Ranks as the third largest sector for mergers and acquisitions when their asset are higher than market value, according to a recent survey by market strategy consulting firm Solidance Thailand. The research found that Thailand’s mergers and acquisitions (MA) activity had remained resilient over the past few years. One major M&A deal of note from early 2018 was the energy-sector acquisition of Bongkot Project by PTTEP International Ltd valued at \$750 million. Some 85 per cent of the M&A transaction value in early 2018 was from domestic investments resulting from a recovery of exports in the industrial sector.