

## Thai News Update: 24 July 2019

### **1. Chinese enterprise completes detailed design of China-Thailand Railway's 1st phase**

**Source: Xinhuanet ([Link](#))**

Chinese enterprise has completed detailed engineering design of China-Thailand Railway's 1st phase. The detailed engineering design of the 252.3-km first phase of high-speed China-Thailand Railway has been completed recently, which laid a solid foundation for the coming all-round construction on the railway, the Chinese enterprise in charge of the design work told Xinhua on 23 July. China-Thailand Railway is one of the major connectivity projects between the two countries under the Belt and Road framework. The first phase of the project would link Thai capital Bangkok and the northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima. China Railway Design Corporation (CRDC) told Xinhua that the company has worked closely with State Railway of Thailand (SRT) in deciding the route of the first high speed railway in Thailand and its technicians and specialists have been working very hard for the preparation of the detailed engineering design.

### **2. Bids in for SRT's B11.4bn double-track rail project**

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

Modern trade sentiment remained in the doldrums in the second quarter, as operators were still concerned about higher operation costs, the impact of political uncertainty, drought and the relatively low income of people living outside urban areas. Thanavath Phonvichai, vice-president of research at the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC), said despite growing pressure from those factors, modern trade operators are unable to raise their product prices. Mr Thanavath said modern trade covers not only large retailers but also small shops nationwide that have shifted to using more applications or QR codes for their transactions. A joint venture between China Railway Signal and Communication (CRSC) and Japan's Hitachi, a joint venture between Italian-Thai Development Plc (ITD) and South Korea's LSIS and German industrial giant Siemens tendered their bids for all three separate contracts.

### **3. IMF urges expansionary policy for Thailand**

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

An IMF delegation has recommended Thai policymakers use an expansionary policy mix to boost domestic demand while the economy stutters, according to preliminary findings of the agency's team after an annual visit to Thailand. The expansionary policy mix includes a scaling up of public investment projects combined with fiscal reforms and monetary easing consistent with a data-dependent approach, accompanied by macroprudential policies to preserve financial stability, said the findings, which will be presented to the IMF's executive board. The IMF staff visited Bangkok from July 4-19 to hold talks on the 2019 Article IV Consultation with officials from the government, the Bank of Thailand, other public institutions and representatives from the private sector.

### **4. Draft EEC town plan complete**

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

A full draft of the new town plan for the government's flagship Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) is scheduled to go before the EEC Policy Committee for approval early next month. Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general of the EEC Office, said the committee, chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, is due to meet on Aug 5 to approve the new town plan draft for the EEC proposed by the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning. The new town plan for the EEC has an academic basis and conforms with international principles and Thailand's Town Planning Act, he said. The planning covers transport and logistics, information technology, residences and landscape, appropriate environment for manufacturing of target industries, water management, waste treatment, safety measures and accident prevention.

### **5. Five sectors chief beneficiaries of new fiscal policies**

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

Firms engaged in property development, retail, industrial estates, telecommunications and construction will benefit most from 12 "urgent" economic policies the new government will unveil in Parliament on July 25, brokerage firms say. Passkorn Linmaneechok, deputy managing director at Kasikorn Securities Co Ltd, said the policies will focus on improving lower-income

people's quality of life, especially in helping them secure a private residence. Companies managing industrial estates, such as WHA Corp Plc and Amata Corp Plc, will reap the rewards of efforts to realise the grand ambitions of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), Passkorn said. True Corp Plc, Total Access Communication Plc (Dtac) and Advanced Info Service Plc are sure to benefit from investments in telecommunications infrastructure, especially 5G.

#### **6. More new businesses set up in Thailand this year, despite increase in risks**

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

The number of new businesses registered in Thailand the first half of this year has risen 2 per cent year-on-year, according to the Department of Business Development, though the number of new firms set up in the month of June was still significantly less compared to the same month last year. However, Sorada Lertharpachit, director for the department's business promotion and development division, said the 5,586 new businesses set up in June was 6 per cent less than the 5,942 registered in May. Also, the number of new businesses set up in June this year had dropped by 14 per cent when compared to June last year, when 6,514 new businesses had been created.