

## Thai News Update: 11 April 2019

### 1. B10 Roll-Out Planned For May

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

The Energy Ministry plans to use both biodiesel B10 and B7 at petrol stations nationwide from the end of May. B10 contains 10% methyl ester (ME) from crude palm oil, combined with diesel. The combination available at petrol stations now is B7, with 7% ME. Minister Siri Jirapongphan said most diesel-based vehicles are compatible with B10, such as pickups, trucks and buses. Some 80% of diesel-powered vehicles on local roads are made and assembled by Japanese companies, Mr Siri said.

### 2. Makro Hikes Investment Plan

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

Siam Makro Plc, the operator of Makro cash-and-carry stores, has more than tripled its investment budget this year to ramp up expansion at home and abroad. Suchada Ithijarakul, the company's chief executive, said Siam Makro has increased the investment budget to 8.5 billion baht from last year's 2.5 billion to accelerate expansion this year. Of the total budget, 5.2 billion baht will be used for opening seven or eight new branches under Makro and Makro Food Service; for renovating existing stores; and for IT development.

### 3. EIC Revises Down GDP Forecast Once More

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

Siam Commercial Bank's Economic Intelligence Center (EIC) has again downgraded its 2019 economic outlook, slashing the forecast for Thai GDP growth to 3.6% amid a global economic slowdown and domestic political risk. The EIC cut its view from 3.8% to reflect lower growth in the country's exports, said chief economist Yunyong Thaicharoen. The research house in January trimmed its economic growth estimate to 3.8% from 4%. The latest forecast is below the central bank's outlook of 3.8% for this year.

#### **4. Vietnam Rolls Out Red Carpet For Thai Investment: Deputy PM**

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

The Vietnamese Government, ministries and sectors have always created favourable conditions for foreign investors, including those from Thailand, to expand production and business in Vietnam, Deputy Prime Minister Tinh Dinh Dung said. Hosting a reception on 9 April for Dhep Vongvanich, executive director of the Thai-based Siam Cement Public Company Limited (SCG) in Vietnam, Dung highlighted the Vietnam-Thailand strategic partnership, which has developed strongly in various sectors, especially in economic, trade and investment co-operation. He spoke highly of SCG's chemical and construction materials operations, which have contributed to the sound relations between the two countries.