

Thai News Update: 12 December 2018

1. EEC Committee Pushing Four New Special Zones

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

Thammasat University, WHA Corporation and Toyota Motor Thailand are being promoted for new special economic zones worth a combined 42 billion baht next January, says the ad hoc committee for developmental administration of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). Industry Minister Uttama Savanayana, who chaired the ad hoc panel on 11 December, said the three organisations have facilities in two of the corridor's provinces. Thammasat University's Pattaya campus in Chon Buri will be the special zone for education, as the university will invest and expand all facilities to produce graduates for the corridor and construct a...

2. Farm Troubles Seen As Drag On Exports

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

The private sector remains concerned about farm activity next year, fearing that lower agricultural and agro-industrial shipments will slow the country's exports to 5% growth for a total of US\$268 billion (8.8 trillion baht). Sanan Angubolkul, vice-chairman of the Board of Trade, who on 11 December participated in a joint meeting between the International Trade Promotion Department and the private sector to evaluate export prospects said sugar and rubber are particular areas of concern.

3. SRT Opens Airport Link Bid Envelopes

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

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) is expected to announce the winning bidder for the construction of a high-speed railway project connecting three major airports next month. SRT acting governor Worawut Mala said his agency on 11 December opened the bid envelopes for the project to link Don Mueang airport in Bangkok, Suvarnabhumi airport in Samut Prakan and U-Tapao airport in Rayong. The bid amounts will be made public on 14 December after a thorough examination of relevant documents submitted by bidders, the deputy governor said.

4. Grand Sales To Stir Consumers

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

The Commerce Ministry has teamed up with the private sector to hold New Year grand sales for 28 days, with up to 13,500 branches of stores participating in the scheme with steep discounts of as much as 80%. The ministry estimates that the scheme will help lower cost of living by 16.5 billion baht, with 55 billion baht forecast to be spent during the 28-day period from Dec 13 to Jan 9. Products in the grand scheme include food and drinks, consumer products for daily use, kitchenware, garments, electrical appliances and construction materials.

5. Kbank Ties Up With Line In New Venture

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

Kasikornbank and mobile application Line have established Kasikorn Line Co Ltd to offer Line's 44 million users in Thailand better access to financial services. Products and services will be introduced in the second half of next year and the company is targeted to be among the top five lending-service providers within five years. Kasikornbank president Patchara Samalapa said Kasikorn Line marked a first for the Thai commercial banking sector on a regional scale.

6. Centara's Maldivé Resorts Land World Luxury Hotel Awards

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

Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand's leading hotel operator, has emerged a winner in the 12th annual "World Luxury Hotel Awards". The Centara Grand Island Resort and Spa Maldives won a continent award for leading "Luxury Family Beach Resort" in the Indian Ocean. The Centara Ras Fushi Resort and Spa Maldives won a similar award for the Indian Ocean's leading "Luxury Adult Beach Resort". The Centara Grand Island Resort is known for its stunning location atop South Ari Atoll in the Maldives, seemingly floating on a lagoon above a coral reef.