

NBTC lays digital infrastructure to support trendy 5G technology



Dr. Pratompong Srinuan, Senior Economic Expert, The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), stated at the “New Economy New Platform of Thai Economy” seminar that, “NBTC, as a communications regulatory authority, has seen how disruptive technologies have affected businesses over the past few years.”

“Disruptive technologies have emerged since 2007-2008, led by the iPhone which has had a huge impact on the media and entertainment industry. Using a single smartphone, consumers can enjoy all kinds of entertainment content. They can listen to music, watch any movies they like and so on. Over-the-top (OTT) media service is another area affected by disruptive technology, as viewers have switched from traditional platforms to digital platforms.”

“Thailand’s telecommunications industry has been directly affected by disruptive technology, since the use of 1G all the way to the present 5G technology, which can provide viewers with live streaming by phone.”

“NBTC has monitored its operational rules and regulations accordingly and has been

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Dr. Pratompong Srinuan



familiar with digital technology. We have also seen sharp increases in online activities to order food, complete business transactions, and make e-payments. To avoid crashing communications infrastructure systems, all this will require new regulations. After the spread of Covid-19, businesses that can take action faster will have more advantages.”

The way Dr. Pratompong sees it, the public sector should accelerate its response to cope with the new 5G technology era. “As the government is responsible for setting policies, it needs to keep abreast with digital economy developments. Furthermore, the public sector should utilise the new technologies to support its operations in order to serve advanced digital technology users and prepare for the world of IoT (Internet of Things).”

“The telecommunications regulator and Ministry of Digital Economy & Society should set up mechanisms to support and motivate digital technology investors in Thailand by way of tax discounts and non-tax benefits. This will then drive Thailand to become a digital country in accordance with the stated goals of the Thailand 4.0 plan.”

driving Thailand’s digital transformation since setting up a 5G spectrum auction in mid-2019.”

Dr. Pratompong sees the current Covid-19 pandemic accelerating the use of digital technology.

“During the country lockdown period due to Covid-19, mobile phone providers expanded high-speed internet capacity to cope with sharply increased bandwidth demanded by household usage. In the long term, there are big opportunities for telecommunications and on-line businesses as more Thai people become



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