

5 First S-Curve Virtual Conference returns with Season 2

After the overwhelming success of the “5 First S-Curve Virtual Conference,” an online seminar organised by the Bangkok Post Group in collaboration with Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) and the Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC) that attracted over 10 million businesspeople and SME entrepreneurs, the second season, comprising five episodes, kicked off on November 30, 2020, with “EP 1: Digital Industry” webcast.

The webcast began with Depa president and chief executive Dr. Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin, lecturing on “Digital Blueprint: Thai Economy.” A panel discussion on “New Economy New Platform” followed with experts in various fields, including Dr. Apisak Chulaya from the Federation of Thai Industries; Dr. Pratompong Srinuan, Senior Economic Expert at NBTC; Mr. Tinnakorn Laoraovirod, President of the Association of Thai Software Industry (ATSI); Mr. Natwut Amornvivat, President of True Digital Group; and Ms. Vinit Rainanon, Post International Media.

Dr. Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin noted that the Thai economy is in a period of structural change. A digital economic and social development plan has been formu-

lated as part of the government’s 20-year National Strategy, nine laws related to the digital economy have been promulgated, and a five-year digital action plan (2017-2021) has been created. “To achieve the vision for Thailand in the digital economy era, we need to accelerate human resources development,” Dr. Nuttapon said.

The country still lacks around 20,000 people in the digital field. Overall, Thailand gets around 20,000 new workers each year, 13,000 of whom go into the industrial sector while the other 7,000 enter other sectors.

A digital index survey by depa found that in the third quarter of 2020 confidence among digital industry entrepreneurs was at 49.8, an increase over the second quarter, suggesting that confidence had started to return and that the digital infrastructure was ready to support it. This makes it advisable to expand the digital industry, Dr. Nuttapon noted.

Dr. Pratompong Srinuan called Covid-19 a catalyst for faster technology transformation. He said that during the lockdown more high-speed Internet services were installed. As demand for bandwidth rose, household internet consumption increased. Meanwhile, the Covid-19 situation posed

some difficulties. For instance, some telecommunications equipment could not be installed due to lack of access and other factors.

In the long run, the situation proved to be an opportunity for telecommunications providers as it helped familiarise Thai people

with the new technologies more quickly than would otherwise have been the case. Certain activities started to play a more significant role in people's daily lives, including ordering food online, transactions via smartphones, and e-payment services. In a new era where online transactions are



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Dr. Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin,
Depa president and chief executive



increasingly prevalent, businesses that can take action first and respond more speedily will definitely have the upper hand.

Mr. Natwut Amornvivat spoke of challenges in the age of disruption, noting that the events of the past couple of years have divided businesses into two camps: those that get disrupted and those benefitting from technology. True Group is ready to support implementation of digital technology among businesses, thereby stimulating them to become disruptors riding a wave of sound telecommunication infrastructure and a comprehensive digital ecosystem. He encouraged entrepreneurs to continue to develop businesses with digital technology. He also urged them to keep pace with the young generation so that they, too, spark fresh ideas as to what it means to be an innovator and disruptor.

Stay tuned for more episodes of 5 First S-Curve Virtual Conference with topics covering Medical, Robotics, Aviation and Logistics, Biofuels and Biochemicals industries via Facebook live streaming at Bangkok Post and Post Today. More information, please visit posttoday.com.



Mr. Chana Wanichapun (Moderator), Mr. Tinnakorn Laoraoviroi, President of the Association of Thai Software Industry (ATSI), Mr. Natwut Amornvivat, President of True Digital Group, Mrs. Sirima Limviriyalers, Senior Executive Vice President of Bangkok Post Public Company Limited, Mr. Wut Nontarit, Editor of Post Today, Depa president and chief executive Dr. Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin, Mr. Salanroj Sutaschuto, Director, Central & Eastern Regional Office, TCEB, Dr. Pratompong Srinuan, Senior Economic Expert at NBTC, Ms. Vinit Raimanon, Post International Media, Ms. Ubonwan Charoenchit, Exhibition and Business Matching Dept, The Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of Thailand, Dr. Apisak Chulaya from the Federation of Thai Industries.