

CLASS: DEFINING APPLIED LINGUISTICS (WEEK 2)

ACTIVITY: IDENTIFYING REAL-WORLD ISSUES

Read the following news articles below. What is/are (a) language-related problem(s)? To whom is it a problem? What aspect of language can help address this/these problem(s)? Is the problem(s) also related to historical, political, cultural, and policy issues?

#1 Bangkok Post

CIB warns of rising cybercrime

Scammers swindle huge amounts of money by tempting victims with investment scams

PUBLISHED : 7 JAN 2022 AT 09:30

NEWSPAPER SECTION: [NEWS](#)
WRITER: [WASSAYOS NGAMKHAM](#)

A crime assessment by the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) indicates that cybercrime activities will spike this year as people increasingly rely on the internet due to the pandemic. While many countries including Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore saw their general crime figures fall last year, cybercrime has been on the rise.

Most people in Thailand used to regard this as a distant danger due to their lack of familiarity with the threat posed by hackers, spyware, malware or the dark web. But as more people have been shopping online and spending more time on the internet over the past two years, police have received many more reports of identity theft, ransomware, financial fraud, hacking, spam mail and phishing attacks, he said.

Criminals use modern technologies and communication techniques to swindle money from victims, leading to romance scams, Ponzi schemes, voice phishing (vishing) and cyber warfare.

Low score in English skills sparks revamp

PUBLISHED : 19 DEC 2020 AT 04:44

NEWSPAPER SECTION: [NEWS](#)
WRITER: [POST REPORTERS](#)

The Office of the Basic Education Commission (Obec) aims to revamp Thailand's English language education, following the country's recent "very low" English proficiency ranking.

Obec chairman said after a commission meeting yesterday that the attendees discussed the development of English skills for Thai students after Thailand dropped from 74th to 89th out of 100 countries this year in the recent English Proficiency Index conducted by the global education company EF Education First.

Thailand's English language proficiency scored 419 out of 800 under the company's new point scale, which is considered "very low".

The kingdom is currently ranked 7th in Southeast Asia, behind Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia, respectively, and ahead of Myanmar. It ranks 20th out of 24 countries in Asia.

The meeting agreed to urgently improve Thai students' English proficiency starting by building an ecosystem conducive to English learning. Teachers should also try to communicate with students in English, the chairman said.

Less than half of English teachers in Thailand had passed level B1 of English in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), he said.