

## Daily Thai News Updates: 14 December 2016

### 1. Peach to debut Bangkok route

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

Peach Aviation, the Japanese no-frills carrier, will launch the first non-stop air link between Bangkok and Okinawa in February. According to the Osaka-based airline, it will offer three flights a week on the route, which represents its first activity in Southeast Asia. Bangkok will be Peach's first port of call in Southeast Asia. The airline also envisions flights to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. Peach is targeting outbound Japanese heading to the Land of Smiles, as Thai interest in Okinawa is limited, industry analysts said. Peach is set to begin online sales of Okinawa-Bangkok tickets tomorrow, with fares starting at ¥9,980 (about 3,080 baht) for one-way flights in economy cabin class and ¥13,580 in premium class. Peach flights from Okinawa Naha airport to Bangkok land at Suvarnabhumi airport. Peach operates 18 A320-200s, each configured with 180 seats.

### 2. Infrastructure plan approved by cabinet

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

The cabinet yesterday approved the action plan of the Transport Ministry covering 36 infrastructure projects worth 896 billion baht. The projects will be ready for investment in 2017. The Transport Ministry reported to the cabinet that 74.13 billion baht or 8.3% of the total investment will be sponsored by the fiscal budget, with about 576 billion baht (64.3%) from loans and 197 billion baht (22.1%) from public-private partnerships. The investment in those projects also conform to the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-21) and run in tandem with the 20-year National Strategy, a larger framework for Thailand's development. Mr Somkid said the government is estimated to spend a combined 293 billion baht in 2016 and 2017 on infrastructure development.

### 3. Central's new mall in Thon Buri to serve as learning centre

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

Central Group has invested Bt250 million to build a new shopping mall, Platform Wongwianyai, to provide a learning centre as well as catering to the lifestyle needs of people in the Thon Buri area of Bangkok. In a bid to redefine shopping in Thon Buri, Central Group will soon unveil the new mall as a replacement of the former Robinson Ladya Department Store. The modern lifestyle shopping mall promises to meet the community's needs with shopping, dining and learning all in one place, Central says. Not only will there be more than 100 stores and services in a prime location in the heart of Thon Buri, but its strength lies in being a station of knowledge and learning as the city's newest mall with a variety of the country's famous tutoring schools. The new venue will open on Christmas Day, December 25. Central says Platform Wongwianyai will be a place where families come not only for shopping and services, delicious food and beverages, but also a knowledge centre that will greatly benefit the young people living in the local community. There is a special area called the Platform Fun Space that encourages creativity through different types of activities. It also includes plenty of space for people to learn by sharing their personal experiences in a relaxed atmosphere, the company says.

#### **4. Index Creative Village to make Vietnamese**

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

Thai event-management company Index Creative Village has secured a five-year agreement with Vietnamese government and tourism bodies to develop unoccupied areas of Hoi An into a world-class economic-tourism city, aiming to generate at least Bt100 million during the life of the contract. Kreingkrai Kanjanapokin, founder and group chief executive officer of Index Creative Village, said yesterday that his company had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Quang Nam province and Vietnam Centre (Thailand). It plans to turn unoccupied parts of Hoi An, on the central Vietnamese coast, into an economic-tourism city through a number of projects such as hosting festivals and special events to lure Thai and other international tourists. Kreingkrai said this was a new and important step for his company to emphasize its image of providing creativity for its clients by turning underdeveloped areas into stronger tourist destinations. "This joint venture, though it is a new business model for Index, is expected to generate revenue of around Bt100 million for ICV. This is indeed good news."

#### **5. Ananda plans 17 projects worth B36bn**

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

SET-listed Ananda Development Plc plans to launch 17 new residential projects worth a combined 36 billion baht in 2017, aiming for 35% growth in presales as new mass transit

lines boost demand. John Millar, chief strategic development officer, said many contracts for mass transit lines citywide were awarded this year, some of which will begin construction next year. "The expansion of new mass transit lines will help boost housing demand along the routes," he said yesterday. The new mass transit lines awarded this year included the Orange Line from Thailand Cultural Center to Min Buri, the Pink Line from Kae Lai to Min Buri, and the Yellow Line from Lat Phrao to Samrong. Ananda aims next year to have 29-31 billion baht in presales, an increase of 35% from 22 billion baht.

**By Shreya Chopra**

