

Daily Thai News Updates: 4 January 2017

1. Ookbee launches joint venture with Chinese Internet giant Tencent

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

Ookbee, a digital content platform in Thailand, has received funding from giant Chinese Internet firm Tencent to launch a joint-venture start-up. Ookbee did not disclose the amount it received but a source said it was a US\$19-million (Bt680 million) initial investment. Natavudh Pungcharoenpong, chief executive officer of Ookbee Company, said the new firm Ookbee U would develop ecosystems so users could create and share content in four key categories – comics, songs and music, ideas and experiences, and literature and novels. Because people not only consume content from online channels but also want to share content that matches their personal lifestyles, being a co-creator of content ecosystems is the goal of Ookbee U. Ookbee U is expected to have more than a million user-generated content units within three years.

2. Government to shell out B900bn on transport

Source: **Business Standard** ([Link](#))

The government plans to spend almost 900 billion baht to develop all modes of transport this year. Government spokesman Lt Gen Sansern Kaewkamnerd said Monday the investment plan will comprise 36 infrastructure projects, covering air, marine and land transportation, worth a total of 895.7 billion baht. The projects include double-track railways, electric trains which link suburban areas and urban areas, motorways, ports and airports development. He said the ferry boat service linking Pattaya in Chon Buri to Hua Hin in Prachuap Khiri Khan was due to start on Jan 1 but was postponed due to strong winds and waves in the Gulf of Thailand. It is expected to start on Thursday. The government also plans to develop ferry services to take both people and vehicles.

3. TOT seeks 4G tie-up proposals

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

TOT Plc says it will ask three major private mobile companies -- AIS, DTAC and True Move -- to submit their partnership proposals to jointly provide fourth generation (4G) wireless broadband service on the state telecom enterprise's network. The three operators have until April to propose their mobile business plans under a wholesale-resale agreement to provide 4G service on TOT's 2300-megahertz spectrum, said Rungsun Channarukul, TOT's senior executive vice-president for wireless business. Mobile operators can join with telecom equipment suppliers to propose their partnership proposals, he said. TOT hired Detecon Consulting for 12 million baht as an adviser on TOT's partnership plan for its 4G business. Detecon is drafting terms and conditions for the process of seeking partnership, expecting to finish by February.

4. Taiwan pact backs Thai medical ICT

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

Taiwanese authorities have reached an agreement with the Thai government to support the development of local information and communication technology (ICT) in agriculture and biotechnology. The accord would bring significant economic opportunities for both countries, Taiwan's Science and Technology Minister Yang Hung-Duen told the Bangkok Post during a recent visit to Thailand.

5. Gunkul keen for more wind operations in Myanmar

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

Gunkul Engineering is ready to materialize wind-farm projects in Myanmar immediately after the investment plans are approved by the authorities, the company said. "Myanmar is an attractive investment destination. There is a high chance in Myanmar if the transmission-grid network is improved," said Sopacha Dhumrongpiyawut, chief executive officer. "Still, we need a good business model, something that matches the [Myanmar] government's capacity and its desire to balance energy imports and exports as well as FDI [foreign direct investment] inflows."

By Shreya Chopra

