

## Daily Thai News Updates: 29 March 2017

### **1. Alibaba plans trade centre in Thai**

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

E-commerce giant Alibaba Group is still investing in Thailand, planning to set up a regional electronic-trade centre and logistics system here to link Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) markets, Industry Minister Uttama Savanayana said. In response to China's biggest e-commerce company also setting its foothold in Malaysia, Uttama insisted that the group was still interested in Thailand and expected to finalise its investment plans before the end of this year. He said Alibaba Group planned to use Thailand, whose consumer market is much larger than Malaysia's, as an e-commerce park – the base for product distribution to CLMV – while its Malaysian unit would concentrate on trade linkages between that country and China. “The project in which Alibaba will join hands with Thailand is the e-commerce park, which will be the base to distribute products in this region. Its location is being arranged now.

### **2. Netherlands-based trade-show firm focusing on Thailand, China**

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

European trade-show organiser Jaarbeurs Holding is recognising the growth potential of Asian markets, particularly Thailand and China, with a focus on business-to-business exhibitions in the agriculture and food sector. “We look at the markets that grow at 5 per cent or more,” said Jaarbeurs Holding chief executive officer Albert Arp. “You could imagine that Asia is a focused market for us. If you look over the next two decades from now, we're still eyeing Asia, including Thailand and Shanghai. Even now, knowledge developments in this region are high, so we aim to bring the knowledge to Europe. It's very challenging what's happening here.” Jaarbeurs expects that the agriculture and food industry will be positive because it can develop good food for the world's population. Horticulture and animal husbandry are other key sectors that could support trade shows. Meanwhile, the company is developing the show into high-tech sector.

### **3. Holiday boost for airports**

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

Thailand's six main airports recorded a robust rise in passenger traffic and aircraft movements in the first two months of 2017. Propelled by holiday travels, the total number of passengers passing through those airports, including gateway Suvarnabhumi, jumped 7.7% to 23.3 million during January-February. Aircraft movements through airports operated by state-run Airports of Thailand Plc (AoT) grew in tandem, rising 5.7% year-on-year to 139,890, according to AoT figures. Domestic passenger traffic grew at a faster pace than international numbers. Domestic passenger volumes surged 11.6% to 10.3 million while international numbers reached 13 million, up 4.8%. Travel during the New Year and Lunar New Year celebrations was said to help the acceleration of airport throughput.

### **4. Government rethinks softer teacher entry rules**

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

The Education Ministry has bowed to pressure from academics who have criticised its policy to allow graduates who do not hold a degree in education to enter the teacher recruitment process. Education Minister Teerakiat Jareonsettasin said Tuesday the controversial policy would be adjusted by reducing the number of subjects in which graduates without a degree in education are eligible to apply for teaching positions. Currently these graduates are allowed to enter the teacher recruitment process in 61 subjects, but the number would be cut down to 25. However, those who do not hold a degree in education would be allowed to sit for the recruitment exams in those 25 subjects only this year. "Of the 61 subjects, 36 would be reserved only for graduates in education, while graduates in other fields would be allowed to teach eight subjects for which there is a serious shortage of teachers and 17 other subjects in which no one passed the recruitment exam last year," Dr Teerakiat said. The eight subjects with teacher shortages are science, general science, chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics, English and German.

**5. Automakers hopeful of boost as motor show kicks off today**

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

The 38<sup>th</sup> running of the annual Bangkok International Motor Show (BIMS) kicks off today at Impact Muang Thong Thani with automakers crossing their fingers for the market to continue growing after finishing last year with a slight shrinkage. Altogether 768,788 vehicles were sold in the domestic market last year for a drop of 3.9 per cent, but auto companies are optimistic that the market has bottomed out and sales would reach 800,000-810,000 units this year. The BIMS is considered a sales extravaganza, with companies launching fleets of new and improved models while dangling irresistible promotions. More than 30 auto and 12 motorcycle brands are showcasing their products at the event, which goes to April 9. “The BIMS is an auto exhibition event that brings together the highest level of automotive technology and one that helps drive the economy,” said Prachin Eamlumnow, chairman of the organising committee. “Throughout the event, starting from construction to the last day, no less than Bt40 billion is expected to be spent.”

