

## Thai News Update: 10 May 2018

### **1. AEON Partners With Thai Airways And Mastercard In Launching A New Credit Card**

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

AEON joins with Thai International Airways in launching the brand new “AEON Royal Orchid Plus World Mastercard”. The credit card, which is based on the concept ‘Enjoy the World of Travelling Freedom’, offers the ultimate in travel experiences and superior customer benefits for both business and leisure travellers. More than 5,000 people are expected to become new AEON cardholders this year. Kiyoyasu Asanuma, Managing Director of AEON Thana Sinsap (Thailand), said: “AEON is constantly developing products and privileges that focus on customer satisfaction and help us expand our premium customer base. By focusing on a proactive strategy based on spending and travelling, we can offer our premium customers experiences that truly benefit their lives. AEON’s expansion into the premium market takes another step forward through its collaboration with Thai Airways and Mastercard. The “AEON Royal Orchid Plus World Mastercard” is part of a new generation of credit cards that double as a personal assistant when planning a trip and is designed to meet the needs of target groups with an income of Bt70,000 per month or above, by providing value and benefits that complement their premium lifestyles.

### **2. SEG To Amalgamate With Thai Insurance**

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

Southeast Group (SEG), a holding company controlled by tycoon Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, has struck a deal to amalgamate with Thai Insurance Plc (TIC), a move to pave the way for the group to have a backdoor listing on the Thai Stock Market. Under the deal, SEG or any person assigned by SEG will arrange the conditional voluntary tender offer for TIC's shares as an alternative for those who want to exit, while a holding company, Thai Group Holdings Plc (HoldCo), which will be incorporated by TIC's 15 shareholders and or directors, will allocate 730 million shares at a price of 34.24 each, worth 25 billion baht in total, to SEG in return for the group's assets and liabilities. Another 23.5 million shares are in exchange for TIC's shares, TIC said in a filing to the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET). Upon completion of the newly issued share offering, SEG will hold at least 96.9% in HoldCo, depending on how many TIC shareholders exit, with TIC's

shareholders making up the rest. HoldCo will hold up 100% in TIC as well as SEG's entire assets and liabilities.

### **3. Fund Sales Across APEC**

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

Thailand's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) expects a pilot project under Asia Region Funds Passport (ARFP) to begin this year. Through the ARPF, fund managers will be able to sell their funds across the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec)'s six member countries, spanning from Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea to Thailand. The move came after the April 25-26 ARFP meeting. Japan and Thailand has already finalised their rules and regulations, while Australia, New Zealand and South Korea are expected to complete their regulatory requirements within the third quarter of this year. The ARFP working group is now screening participants for the pilot project, instructing mutual fund firms, related service providers and supervisory units to test their operations under the scheme. Mongkol Puangpetra, senior director at KTB Securities (Thailand), said energy and petrochemical companies' foreign exchange gains in the first quarter of this year is expected to be lower than the Bt8 billion gained for the same period last year, but will still be higher than the fourth quarter of 2017. Exporters of electronic parts, agricultural products and foods are also expected to suffer forex loss in the same quarter. Worst hit among exporters will be electronic-parts producers as most of their costs are in the Thai currency.

### **4. Bang Sue Station Tipped As Bt150 Bn Investment Magnet**

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

COMPANIES are likely to pump at least Bt150 billion into investment projects on a massive site around Bang Sue Grand Station in Bangkok, Transport Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith said on May 9. The funds from the private sector would flow into projects ranging from commercial buildings and a sports complex to an international exhibition centre and residential estates, the minister said of the ambitious plans for the 2,325-rai site. "This figure excludes the government's investment to develop infrastructure at Bang Sue Grand Station worth more than Bt47 billion," Arkhom said on the sidelines of a seminar, Bang Sue Grand Station: Bangkok's New Centre, that

was conducted by *Krungthep Turakij* – a sister newspaper of *The Nation*. He told the seminar that the master plan to develop the station has the project split into three phases. The first phase entails the development of Bang Sue Grand Station and commercial and office buildings integrated with the transport system from 2017 to 2024. The second phase will develop a centre to serve the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibition (MICE) sector, a sports complex, and retail, office and residential projects around the station from 2024 to 2029. Under the third phase, more housing projects will be built from 2029 to 2031. The master plan was drafted by Thailand's Transport Ministry and its Japanese advise.

## **5. Tax Measures Approved For Smart City, Logistics Plans**

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

The Board of Investment on May 9 approved a slew of tax measures to support investments for smart cities and smart logistics centres, according to its secretary-general Duangjai Asawachintachit. The BOI's tax support for the establishment of smart cities is divided into two categories. First is designed for investments in telecom infrastructure, such as fibre optic network or WiFi network as well as open data platforms serving the smart cities. The second is for those developing and providing at least one of the six smart solutions: smart mobility focusing on transportation system, smart living, smart energy and environment, smart governance focusing on state services, smart people focusing on promoting education, and smart economy focusing on promoting ease of doing business. The BOI has also approved a revision of its measures for promoting science and technology investments as well as those for promoting investments in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). Under the revision, the investment in the Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECi) and Digital Park Thailand (EECd) will enjoy a maximum waiver of corporate income tax of 13 years, up from the present 10 years. The promotional agency also gave the green light to tax incentives for investments in residential projects for Thai and foreign labourers. Construction of the approved project must comply with the International Labour Union's related standard.