

Thai News Update: 12 April 2019

1. Airports Brace For Songkran Surge

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

Authorities are bracing for overcrowding at major airports across the country during the Songkran festival as passenger traffic is expected to surge past last year's recorded figures. During the holiday period, airports will be filled with thousands of local and foreign travellers, and authorities are warning passengers that long queues at immigration checkpoints are "unavoidable". Airport officials estimated the number of international passengers will increase by more than 1.6 million, or 162,000 a day, between April 9 and 18.

2. IEAT Eyes Single Bidder For Map Ta Phut Port Megaproject

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

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) expects to sign a contract for development of Map Ta Phut seaport in June because the only bidder—a consortium led by PTT and Gulf Energy Development qualified for all the bidding criteria to win the megaproject. PTT Tank Terminal Co and Gulf formed a consortium and submitted bid envelopes for the third phase of Map Ta Phut seaport (55.4 billion baht), investing via a public-private partnership.

3. Thai Plans To Issue Debentures To Major Investors

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

Thai Airways International PLC president Sumeth Damrongchaitham and representatives of underwriters KBank, Bangkok Bank and Krungthai Bank announced that THAI debentures would be issued to investors. The Thai debentures will be allotted in seven batches from one to 15 years. The debentures are name-registered, unsubordinated and unsecured with debentures holders' representative, Thai said.

4. Telcos And Digital Tv Operators Get Reprieve

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

Govt offers longer period to pay licence fees; ailing TV channels allowed an exit option The National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) yesterday announced measures to ease the financial burdens of the telecom and digital TV broadcast sectors. The measures offer telecom operators a longer time to pay their 900MHz licence fees while digital TV broadcasters will have the option to return their licences to the broadcast watchdog. The junta invoked its special powers under the interim charter's Article 44 to launch the measures, which were published in the Royal Gazette yesterday. The measures went into effect immediately.

5. BoT Joins Asean Peers In Rush For Payments Scheme

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

The Bank of Thailand (BOT) is playing a role in speeding up the introduction of a central payment system that will be rolled out across the Asean region. Kukkong Ruckphaopunt, executive vice president of Bangkok Bank cited BOT governor Veerathai Santiprabhob as saying that a taskforce had been set up to guide the establishment of the system – based on QR codes – for use in all 10 Asean countries. Veerathai had been attending a meeting to advance the goal of payment connectivity in the region. Commercial banks would be invited to join the taskforce later, Kukkong quoted Veerathai as saying.