

Thai News Update: 14 January 2019

1. Mastercard Rates Bangkok A Shopping, Dining Draw

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

Bangkok ranks third among the top cities for visitors' food and beverage spending and sixth for spending on shopping, according to the Mastercard's Global Destination Cities Index (GDCI) 2018. The index ranks 162 cities in terms of total international overnight visitors and the amount spent by them in 2018. The index ranked the Thai capital as the No.1 destination for overnight visitors (for the third consecutive year), with Phuket and Pattaya also in the global top 20 (at 12th and 18th, respectively). Thailand was the only country with three cities in the top 20 global destinations.

2. Govt Takes Investment Roadshow To Japan

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

The government will hold its first roadshow in Japan's Kansai, Osaka and Kobe from Jan 30 to Feb 2 to attract investors, according to Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. He said Kansai and Osaka are important industrial zones in Japan specialising in electronics and medical devices, which are emerging domestic manufacturing sectors. In addition, Osaka governor Ichiro Matsui will lead a group of Japanese high technology investors on a visit to Thailand and the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) next month, he said.

3. Alibaba, Wha Make Plans For E-Commerce Project

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

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and SET-listed WHA Corporation Plc expect to announce a joint investment plan some time this year, says Industry Minister Uttama Savanayana. WHA was recently promoted for new special economic zones by the ad hoc committee for developmental administration of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). WHA will be granted 232 rai in Chachoengsao's Bang Pakong district for an e-commerce special

economic zone, with an investment of 1.3 billion baht in robotics, automation, logistics and a digital centre.

4. Best Inc Allots B5bn For Thai Expansion

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

Chinese logistics and delivery company Best Inc Thailand has budgeted 5 billion baht to invest in Thailand during 2018-20 as it seeks to enter the red ocean industry of parcel delivery services in Southeast. The local unit is the business arm of New York-listed Best Inc, which is based in Hangzhou, China. Best offers logistics solutions in 16 countries, including China, Thailand, Australia, Germany, the US, Japan and South Korea. In Thailand, Best rolled out parcel delivery services last year. It chose the country as its 15th market for the service to capitalise on the growing e-commerce trend. Mr Chou said the government is keen on promoting Thailand's logistics and e-commerce industries, as well as the digital economy, which should benefit companies that provide parcel delivery services.

5. Pttep Unit Chosen To Find Oil In UAE

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

PTTEP MENA Ltd, a subsidiary of PTT Exploration and Production Plc (PTTEP), and its strategic partner Eni Abu Dhabi BV, a wholly owned subsidiary of Italy-based oil and gas company Eni, have won concessions to two exploration blocks known as Offshore 1 and Offshore 2 from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) following that country's first-ever open block licensing round. PTTEP's first venture into the UAE reflects its success in capturing investment opportunities in strategic areas as planned.