

Thai News Update: 17 January 2019

1. Set Eyes Digital Licence

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

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) plans to apply for a digital asset operating licence from the Finance Ministry, aiming to open a new exchange and become an authorised digital asset exchange this year. The bourse wants to catch the growing investment trend of digital assets, said Pattera Dilokrunghirapop, chairwoman of the Association of Securities Companies and vice-chairwoman of the SET's board of governor. Securities companies that are members of the SET plan to apply to become brokers and dealers for digital asset trade on the new exchange, Mrs Pattera said. The bourse aims to cooperate with its members to set up the new digital asset exchange, she said.

2. Infofed Eyes Thailand As E-Sports Hub

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

Infofed Co, a Bangkok-based e-sports startup, has ambitions to build Thailand into an e-sports hub in Southeast Asia to capitalise on the US\$4 billion global market. It plans to embrace virtual reality (VR) for gamecasting to debut in Thailand soon. The company wants to build e-sports into a tourism subset and encourage a new professional workforce. E-sports is a growing business as there are at least 10 million gamers in Thailand, of which half are categorised as serious gamers who play for competition, said Jirayod Theppipit, chief executive and founder of Infofed, which operates the first e-sports arena in the country.

3. Etda Plans Digital Workforce

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

The Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) aims to attract 1 million teenagers to join the e-commerce workforce and 200,000 micro-SMEs to go online this year to boost the online economy. By 2023, ETDA wants to have 8 million workers and 1.6 million micro small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), with local merchants selling products in China in

collaboration with Dongguan China Council for the Promotion of International Trade. "We see potential growth for e-commerce business if Thais act now and build a digitally skilled workforce that serves the industry trends," said Surangkana Wayuparp, president of ETDA. The agency earlier predicted Thailand's total e-commerce market value at around 3 trillion baht in 2018, growing from 1.8 trillion in 2017.

4. Ministry Gears Up For Amalgamation

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

The Finance Ministry is gearing up for a fresh capital injection to retain its TMB Bank shareholding in the event that a proposed amalgamation of TMB and Thanachart Bank (TBank) comes to fruition. If the ministry's stake in the new entity created after the amalgamation is diluted, the ministry is ready to exercise its rights to subscribe to newly issued shares to maintain its shareholding, said Lavaron Sangsnit, director-general of the Fiscal Policy Office. The Finance Ministry is the largest shareholder in TMB, with a 25.9% stake, while ING has a 25% stake.

5. Bt3.2 Tn Eyed For Online Sales

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

The Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) expects the value of Thailand's e-commerce market will reach Bt3.2 trillion this year. The agency has teamed up with partners to develop a million-strong e-commerce workforce and create online platforms for up to 200,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by the end of this year. ETDA executive director Surangkana Wayuparb said the e-commerce market is projected to expand by 12 per cent in value this year to reach the Bt3.2 trillion mark, from Bt3 trillion in 2018. The main drivers of the market this year will be a growing trend among Thai consumers to order products online, the partial shift to online sales among traditional businesses as well as the entry of international e-commerce players into Thailand.