

Thai News Update: 18 January 2019

1. Czechs Eye Thai Trade, Technology

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

The government of the Czech Republic along with 39 companies from the Central European country met with the Thai government on 16 January to discuss investment in trade and technological development in in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). The meeting resulted in the two governments signing a memorandum of understanding yesterday to further discuss and solidify investments.

2. Kingdom Imports \$16m In Thai Acs

Source: The Phnom Pehn Post ([Link](#))

Air conditioner imports from Thailand were valued at about \$16 million last year – a fraction of the total \$5 billion Thailand earned from its air conditioner exports to international markets, the country’s Department of International Trade Promotion at the Ministry of Commerce said.

3. Thai Bonds May Benefit From Brexit Turmoil, Says Analyst

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

The rejection of British Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit plan makes Thai bonds more attractive, says an analyst. Thailand is still considered a safe haven as the kingdom's credit-default swap (CDS) rate is among the lowest in the world, said Kobsidthi Silpachai, head of capital markets research at Kasikornbank. One-year CDS is about 14 basis points, compared with UK CDS rate which is about 24 basis points. Brexit has caused investors to become increasingly risk averse, while Thailand becomes a destination for bond investors when there is fear, he added.

4. Delaying Elections ‘Will Hurt Economy’

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

Experts also warn that instability after poll will keep away investors, affect local consumption and also pose an obstacle to export sector. Postponing the election and subsequent instability

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would discourage investment, hurt domestic consumption and hinder exports, experts warned on 17 January. At an event entitled “The Election and the Thai Economy”, held by the Economic Reporters Association, representatives from the capital market, retail sector and exporters’ representatives talked about how deferring the elections will have a harmful impact on the Thai economy.

5. World Bank Urges Thailand To Urgently Tackle Education Inequality

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

Inequality in education remains a critical issue for Thailand, which can be tackled by consolidating small schools, the World Bank has suggested. The bank believes such a measure would help improve the quality of education and in effect narrow the widening income disparity. Thai economic growth this year has been forecast to slow to 3.8 per cent, according to the World Bank’s Thailand Economic Monitor released yesterday. The level of inequality in Thailand, as measured by the Gini coefficient, is comparable with peers and it remains an issue that should be a national priority, the World Bank report said on Thailand’s challenges and opportunities in enhancing human capital and reducing inequality.