

Thai News Update: 19 January 2021

1. Finance Ministry seeks cash handout approval

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

The Finance Ministry will seek the cabinet's approval on using the remaining 300-billion-baht sum of the 1-trillion-baht emergency loan decree to fund the 3,500-baht money transfer relief scheme for two months for nearly 40 million people. The cabinet is expected to deliberate the monetary relief scheme today, with expectations that the financial remedy will have to be funded by a budget of around 200-300 billion baht, said a Finance Ministry source who spoke on condition of anonymity. It was reported previously that the government used a budget of 390 billion baht for last year's 5,000-baht monthly stipend scheme, which ran for three months.

2. Retail investors placed first in queue for Bt54bn listing of PTTOR

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

Retail investors will be prioritised in the initial public offering (IPO) by PTT Oil and Retail Business (PTTOR) late this month, in what looks set to be one of Thailand's largest listings this year. The ministry will allocate the PTTOR shares for retail investors to book via financial institutions, said Energy Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow said on Monday. The minimum booking of 300 shares will cost around Bt5,400, making them affordable for all, explained Supattanapong, who is also deputy prime minister

3. AOT going ahead with airport expansion plans despite expected Bt10-bn operational loss

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

Airports of Thailand (AOT) expects operational losses at Bt10 billion in fiscal year 2021 for the first time since its establishment 40 years ago, AOT president Nitinai Sirismatthakarn said. "However, with the current cash flow of Bt32 billion, AOT would continue to expand six airports in 2021 as planned, with total investment of Bt92 billion," he said. Nitinai added that this year AOT would propose a plan for expansion of the eastern, western and northern terminals at Suvarnabhumi Airport, aiming to accommodate 120 million passengers per year.

4. Panel comes up with plan to conserve old cities in three provinces

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

The Rattanakosin and Old Cities Conservation and Development Committee has approved guidelines to preserve and develop old cities in three provinces, namely Uthai Thani, Trang and Chachoengsao. The decision was made at a meeting that was presided over by Deputy

Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan on Monday. In Chachoengsao, conservation and development work will cover fort walls near Bang Pakong River, Wat Sothon Wararam, the city pillar shrine, Phraya Srisoontorn Voharn Monument, a 100-year-old teak house and a market under the Crown Property Bureau.

5. SGP acquires Linh Gas Cylinder in B707.8m deal

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

Siamgas and Petrochemicals Plc (SGP), Thailand's second largest trader of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by volume, is continuing to emphasise its diversification into LPG cylinder production, with the latest 707.8-million-baht asset acquisition deal expected to make it better compete in the tough industry. The company announced a takeover of Linh Gas Cylinder Co (LINH), a Bangkok-based LPG cylinder producer, buying a 97.5% share of LINH, according to SGP deputy managing director Jintana Kingkaew. She said the new asset would bolster SGP's business opportunities, especially in overseas markets as LINH does not only sell its products domestically, but is also active in the export market.

6. BoT and Ministry look to tweaking soft loans for SME aid

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

The Finance Ministry and the Bank of Thailand are set to discuss amending the soft loan royal decree soon in a bid to provide greater financial relief coverage for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The idea of amending this royal decree stems from the intent of some government officials to expand the coverage scope for SMEs reeling from the outbreak, said a Finance Ministry source speaking on anonymity condition. The most important amendment is to waive the requirement for SMEs to be stipulated as bank customers in order to obtain the soft loans, said the source.

7. SCB unveils wholly-owned subsidiary in Myanmar

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

Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) Myanmar has been officially inaugurated, the only Thai bank allowed to operate a wholly-owned subsidiary in Myanmar. SCB entered Myanmar in 2012 by setting up a representative office. SCB Myanmar plans to leverage its digital banking expertise to elevate financial products, services and payment systems in Myanmar to fulfil business requirements in Southeast Asia. The move opens up new capabilities and allows SCB Myanmar to meet the needs of every customer group there, including large corporates, small and medium-sized enterprises, and retail customers, said the bank.