

Thai News Update: 19 September 2019

1. KBank teams up with Line

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

Kasikornbank (KBank), the country's largest mobile banking service provider, plans to roll out money transfer, payment and deposit services on the Line platform in the first quarter 2020, with digital lending scheduled for the second half of the year. KBank and Line Thailand formed a joint venture, Kasikorn-Line (K-Line), offering money transfers, payments and deposits via the super app, said Wirawat Panthawangkun, senior executive vice-president of Kbank. After gathering sufficient data to analyse customer behaviour, the service will expand to digital loans, set to launch in the middle of next year. The bank aims to acquire 1 million new customers from 40 million Line users in the first year of operations, he said.

2. Govt to scrap arrival cards for foreigners, introduce TM30 App

Source: Khaosoenglish ([Link](#))

A senior government official said 17 September foreign visitors will soon no longer have to fill out “TM6” arrival and departure forms. Kobsak Pootrakool, deputy sec-gen to the Prime Minister, also touted a mobile application in the works for 24-hour reporting under the TM30 form system, which has been a source of controversy in recent months. Kobsak said both changes are designed to attract more visitors and accommodate those already living in the kingdom. “We made the decision last Friday. Within two to three months, life will be much easier [for foreign tourists and expats],” Kobsak said. He spoke at a gala dinner to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Elite Plus Magazine at a hotel in Bangkok on 17 September, where audience members included ambassadors from ten or so countries.

3. Suriya off to Japan to lure investment

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

Industry Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit will lead a delegation to Japan from September 24-27 to try and woo investment. Passakorn Chairat, deputy director-general of the Industrial Promotion Department, said they would meet the head of Mitsubishi Motors on September 25 and invite him to expand investment in Thailand, especially in the next-generation automotive business. The ministry is ready to facilitate such a move, Passakorn said. Suriya will also address about 20 corporate representatives who are members of the Keidanren Japan Business Federation about possible collaborations in Thailand.

4. Norway's seafood council sets up regional office in Bangkok

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

The Norwegian Seafood Council (NSC) has set up its regional office in Bangkok to strengthen operations in Southeast Asia. Asbjorn Warvik Rortveit, NSC's Southeast Asia regional director, said: "I'm very proud to represent the Norwegian Seafood Council in this region, and I'm especially happy to be stationed here in Bangkok. The Norwegian seafood industry highlights food safety, animal welfare, sustainable production, and minimal use of antibiotics, things we know Thai consumers pay attention to. I, therefore, look forward to teach Thai consumers the benefits of seafood from Norway".

5. Asean countries in stiff competition for bigger slice of China's fruit market

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

Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines are competing fiercely for a larger share of China's fruit market. China imported fruits worth US\$7.62 billion, up 36 per cent from the previous year, according to statistics from the Customs Department of China in 2018. The total imported quantity exceeded 5.52 million tonnes and was a 25 per cent increase over the previous year. China imported 1.34 million tonnes of fruit from Vietnam, 1.17 million tonnes from the Philippines and 1.02 million tonnes from Thailand. The five fruit China imported the most were: cherry, durian, banana, grape and orange.