

Thai News Update: 20 February 2020

1. Line Thailand looks to Asean to expand content

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

Line Thailand aims to make Line TV a professional content provider in Asean by 2023 while partnering with out-of-home (OOH) media to support advertisers using Line's platform to reach online and offline users. "By the second half, Line TV will license local content to Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, where people watch a lot of Thai media content. This is part of our strategy to provide professional content in Asean in three years," Kanop Supamanop, chief of content business for Line Thailand, said on 19 February at its annual showcase "Line Nexplosion 2020". Currently Line TV is only available for Thai users.

2. China, Thailand pledge cooperation in jointly fighting coronavirus epidemic

Source: Xinhua Net ([Link](#))

China and Thailand pledged on 19 February to cooperate in their joint fight against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai ahead of a special China-ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting on COVID-19 on 19 february. Wang said since the outbreak of the epidemic, the Thai royal family, the Thai government and the Thai society have extended a helping hand to China, reflecting the friendship between the Thai and Chinese peoples. "In particular, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha posted a video clip showing his support to people in central China's Wuhan," he noted, adding that China appreciated the reasonable and appropriate measures taken by Thailand in dealing with the coronavirus outbreak suggested by the World Health Organization.

3. Government expects public investment of B400bn in Q2: Uttama

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

The government expects public investment spending of more than 400 billion baht in the second quarter to help the flagging economy weather the impact of the coronavirus outbreak, Finance Minister Uttama Savanayana said on 19 February. Even before the epidemic that originated in

China, the trade-reliant economy has been under pressure, buffeted by the Sino-US trade war, sluggish investment, a delayed fiscal budget and drought. But investment spending will accelerate following last week's passage of a 3.2 trillion baht budget bill for the current fiscal year, he told reporters.

4. Finance Ministry to unveil new aid package

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

The Finance Ministry is set to roll out a fresh stimulus package this quarter large enough to jump-start economic growth momentum, says Finance Minister Uttama Savanayana. The prospective measures will help bolster consumer confidence, the tourism sector and business operators, he said. The package will focus on giving money to consumers by lowering financial burdens, preventing employees from losing jobs and providing skills training to employees in tourism-related sectors, Mr Uttama said without providing in-depth details.

5. Somkid asks Jetro to back smart farming initiative

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

The Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) is being asked to help support Thailand's agricultural restructuring, as the government through the state-owned Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) is offering as much as 20 billion baht in loans to support smart farming. Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak met Jetro chairman Sasaki Nobuhiko in Tokyo on Monday. Mr Somkid asked Jetro to offer technical support and coordinate with large Japanese firms to provide farm-related technology and machinery to the Thai farm sector. He said technology and machines such as drones, harvesters and smart tractors could help the agriculture sector cut costs and increase productivity.

6. PTTEP clinches another exploration deal in Oman

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

PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP), through its wholly-owned subsidiary PTTEP MENA Limited, and its strategic partner Total E&P Oman Block 12 B.V, signed an Exploration and Production Sharing Agreement (EPSA) for the onshore Block 12 with the Ministry of Oil and Gas of the Sultanate of Oman. This agreement reflects PTTEP's "Expand" strategy and will strengthen its presence in the Middle East, one of the company's strategic investment areas, to create long term growth. Under EPSA for Block 12, PTTEP

MENA and Total will realise geological and geophysical studies, 3D seismic surveys and exploration wells during the initial 3-year exploration phase (2020 – 2022).

7. Dusit finds partner for Philippines hotels, residences

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

Dusit International has signed an investment agreement with Filipino infrastructure holding company Metro Pacific Investments Corp (MPIC) to develop and manage hospitality and residential properties in the Philippines. This joint investment is subject to approval from the Philippines Competition Commission, expected in June. MPIC is a developer of power plants, toll roads, waterworks, light rail, and other infrastructure megaprojects in the Philippines. The agreement with Dusit reflects MPIC's plans to invest in real estate projects comprising hotels and condominiums, for which it requires an experienced and trusted management partner.