

## Thai News Update: 22 February 2019

### 1. 120,000 Thais Registered To Vote Overseas

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

A hundred thousand Thais have registered to vote from overseas in the March 24 election, led by those residing in Sydney, according to the Foreign Ministry. A hundred thousand Thais have registered to vote from overseas in the March 24 election, led by those residing in Sydney, according to the Foreign Ministry. Registration for overseas voting online and at 94 Thai embassies, consulates and trade and economic offices worldwide took place from Jan 28 to 21 February.

### 2. Thai Firm To Acquire Agribank Subsidiary

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

According to Srisawad, the company is waiting for approval from the State Bank of Viet Nam (SBV) for the deal. In response to the Thai firm's acquisition proposal, recently sent to the Vietnamese Government Office, SBV said it would be processed after the ALC I restructuring plan is approved according to the country's regulations. In 2017, Agribank announced the sale of ALC I and invited investors to acquire the company. As of the end of the year, ALC I recorded accumulated losses of more than VND714 billion and liabilities of VND394 billion, according to Agribank's financial statements. After negotiations, Srisawad Corporation and Agribank signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the deal in July 2017. The Thai company agreed to pay a total of VND523 billion to acquire the Agribank subsidiary, including all of ALC I's VND200 billion charter capital and the VND323 billion original debt that ALC I borrowed from Agribank.

### 3. Tcg Assigns B10bn For Self-Employed

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

The state-owned Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation (TCG) has set a 10-billion-baht credit guarantee for motorcycle taxi drivers and self-employed workers to help them better access loans from financial institutions. Of the total, 1 billion baht will be earmarked for motorcycle taxi

drivers and the rest for self-employed workers. The new credit guarantee scheme aims for 10,000 motorcycle taxi drivers to help generate circulating capital worth 4.58 billion baht in the economic system and reduce underground loans worth 100 million baht secured by motorcycle taxi drivers, said TCG chairman Surachai Danaitangtrakul.

#### **4. Exim's Strategic Plan On Course**

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

As the Export-Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM) marks its 25th anniversary this year, its president Pisit Serewiwattana says the bank has reviewed its strategic plan in line with the changing global economic circumstances and Thai economic outlook. In a press release issued on Thursday the company said it has identified six main strategies. They include 1. Develop and Expand Thai Trade and Investment Globally, 2. Support National Infrastructure and Industrial Development, 3. Provide Protection against International Trade and Investment Risks, 4. Enhance the Competitiveness of Thai Entrepreneurs, 5. Enhance the Bank's Technological and Digital Efficiency, and 6. Build a High Performance Organisation.

#### **5. Business: Thailand Approves Guidelines For Retail Space Openings In Airports**

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

Airports of Thailand Pcl (AoT) has approved guidelines that will see more retail spaces being opened to interested business owners. Duty-free sales and other commercial activities are expected to kick off soon. Thailand is home to six huge airports- all operated by AoT, the state-owned firm that joined hands with the government in efforts to provide new players with opportunities should they win the auction. According to Reuters, Mall Group, South Korea's Hotel Shilla, and Central Group are some of the companies that showed interest in bidding for the openings at Bangkok's International Suvarnabhumi Airport.

#### **6. Adding Value Is Key To Moving Thailand To Next**

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

Adding value to Thai products by increasing the connectivity between the agriculture, manufacturing and tourism industries is key to achieving economic growth in 2019 and beyond, said deputy prime minister Somkid Jatusripitak during a meeting yesterday with the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC). Meanwhile, the NESDC's secretary-general, Thosaporn Sirisumphand, presented the economic advisory body's plan to develop

special economic corridors in the northern, northeastern and southern regions of Thailand. Meanwhile, the NESDC's secretary-general, Thosaporn Sirisumphand, presented the body's plan to Somkid. The economic plan consisted of blueprints for three key economic corridors: the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC), the Northern Economic Corridor (NEC) and the Northeastern Economic Corridor (NeEC).

### **7. Chinese Tourists Biggest Spenders In Thailand During New Year Holiday**

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

Spending by Chinese tourists during the Chinese New Year holiday was the highest in Thailand according to Alipay, a leading digital payment platform offered by Ant Financial, an affiliate of Alibaba Group. The transactions were recorded between February 4 and 10, and data drawn from the 54 markets where Alipay is accepted. The number of transactions in Thailand ranked second worldwide after Hong Kong, and topped the list in Southeast Asia with an average spending of 1,646 yuan (Bt7,650).