

Thai News Update: 22 March 2018

1. New IPOs Could Be Snagged by Changes

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

The launch of new initial public offerings (IPOs) could be delayed to four years from the current duration of two to three years because of greater compliance with standards set by the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), says the Stock Exchange of Thailand. SET president Kesara Manthusree said the planned regulatory revision will enhance the quality of information disclosure. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Bank of Thailand and the Office of Insurance Commission will be among the organisations taking part in the Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP), which is scheduled to begin near the end of this year and continue into early next year. The FSAP is a joint programme of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Launched in 1999 in the wake of the Asian financial crisis, the programme aims to help countries reduce the likelihood and severity of financial sector crises.

2. FTI Positive on Shipment Signs

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

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) is optimistic for the country's vehicle shipments in 2018 after witnessing growth for four straight months. On March 21, the FTI's automotive industry club reported that vehicle exports in February rose by 4.1% to 102,217 units, marking the fourth straight expansion since last November. Export value increased by 0.7% to 52.3 billion baht from the same period last year. The trend led total shipments over the first two months of 2018 to rise 3.3% to 184,284 units, while export value rose by 1% to 94.3 billion baht. Mr Surapong said Vietnam tightened inspections for all imported cars at seaports earlier this year after an import duty for Thai-made vehicles was eliminated under the Asean Free Trade Area. According to the automotive industry club, Vietnam imports 40,000-50,000 Thai-made cars annually to augment a domestic car assembly capacity of 200,000 units a year.

3. Vietnam Lures Investors to Renewables

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

Renewable energy in Vietnam is becoming popular with Thai investors thanks to the government there offering high adder rates (the rate state utilities pay operators) of 9.35 cents, says the Thailand-Vietnam Business Council. Montri Mahalerkpong, vice-chairman of the council, said the Vietnam government is shifting its energy policy, in particular regarding solar panels, as it aims to promote eco-friendly resources to generate electricity. The country is also concerned with pollution and preserving its environment. "This is a new opportunity for Thai investors in solar and wind farms, as we are experts in these renewables," he said. "This is a new opportunity for Thai investors in solar and wind farms, as we are experts in these renewables," he said

4. Somkid: Thais Must Take Part in Trade Pacts

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

Thailand must join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a newly formed bloc of 11 Pacific Rim nations without the US, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as a means to protect the country's trade interests, says Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. If Thailand does not take part in the CPTPP, the country will lose trade and investment opportunities, Mr Somkid said, adding that Vietnam is a bloc member poised to reap the benefits. The Commerce Ministry is conducting a study of what Thailand will gain and lose under the trade deal, he said. Eleven Pacific Rim countries recently signed the CPTPP, which was revised after the US withdrew from the previous TPP agreement in January 2017. Commerce Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong earlier this month said the government would call a joint meeting with all stakeholders before determining Thailand's stance towards the CPTPP.

5. Thaicom to Beam Canal+ Broadcasts into Myanmar

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

Satellite operator Thaicom on March 21 announced a multi-year contract with Canal+ Overseas Myanmar, a subsidiary of Canal+, which is part of France-based Vivendi SA, one of the world's largest media companies. The contract is part of Canal+ Myanmar's launch of a pay TV DTH (direct-to-home) service. It has leased four transponders on the Thaicom 6 satellite and a broadcast

platform on Ku-band that will initially be used to deliver 80 channels. “Our partnership with Thaicom is a cornerstone in our strategy to grow our business in Myanmar, with the capacity to bring our offer to the whole country and make it accessible to most of the population,” said Canal+ Myanmar FG chief executive Erwan Luherne. Electricity Generating Public Company Limited (EGCO) has successfully completed the divestment transaction of its interest in the Masinloc power plant in the Philippines, immediately recognising a base consideration worth US\$850 million, according to a company statement on March 21.