

## Thai News Update: 24 January 2019

### 1. Investors Hail Clarity On Poll

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

The private sector hailed on 23 January announcement of the nation's first general election since 2014, saying clarity on the long-awaited poll date will bolster investor confidence. Thai shares rallied 1.2% to their highest level since mid-December before ending the day with a nearly 1% gain in response to the firm election date of March 24. Kalin Sarasin, chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, said an election will definitely be held after a royal decree endorsing the general election was issued.

### 2. MEA And Tot Investing In Smart Park

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

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) has signed agreements with two state-run agencies to develop two advanced infrastructures in the Smart Park Industrial Estate in Map Ta Phut, Rayong, with a budget of 2.8 billion baht. The first agreement was signed with TOT to develop digital and telecom infrastructures. TOT plans to invest in the system and platforms such as big data, cloud service and fibre optics to facilitate industrial and business operators in the project.

### 3. New Firm Target Missed In 2018

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

The number of new business registrations fell below the target of 80,000 last year, attributed to the absence of support measures. On 23 January, the Commerce Ministry's Business Development Department reported the number of new business registrations tallied 5,539 in December, a significant drop of 35% from the same month in 2017, with full-year registration figures down 3% to 72,109. Registered capital in December decreased 74% to 38.7 billion baht, resulting in a drop in the total registered capital for the entire year by 28% to 374 billion in 2018.

#### **4. Air Pollution Levels Drop In Bangkok**

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

Air pollution levels in Greater Bangkok improved on 24 January morning as only 11 areas reported unsafe levels of PM2.5 – airborne particulates 2.5 microns in diameter and smaller, the Pollution Control Department said. However, the department cautioned that there might be an increase in PM2.5 levels in the afternoon due to the lack of wind. As of 7am on 24 January, the PCD report said the PM2.5 levels rose beyond the safe limit of 50 micrograms per cubic metre of air in six roadside areas and five general areas (away from main roads). This was a big drop from Tuesday's peak where 40 areas were considered to have unsafe levels (with nearly 10 locations having PM2.5 above 90 micrograms, earning “code-red” status). On 23 January the PCD reported that 14 areas of Greater Bangkok had unsafe levels of PM2.5 at around 51-69 micrograms per cubic metre of air.