

Thai News Update: 28 January 2020

1. Thailand among world's top 10 for mobile payments by Chinese tourists

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

Thailand ranked among the global top 10 for mobile payments by Chinese tourists, fuelled by the country's "maturity" in mobile payment solutions, a joint report by Nielsen and Alipay said. The study reported the latest trends in Chinese outbound tourism and the consumption habits of these travellers for the third consecutive year. Thailand and Singapore were among the top 10 overseas destinations visited by Chinese tourists in 2019 and are among the top 10 countries for overseas travel plans in 2020.

2. Cambodian-Thai trade hits \$9B, goal at \$15B for 2020

Source: The Phnom Penh Post ([Link](#))

Bilateral trade between Cambodia and Thailand was worth some \$9 billion last year, up 7.14 per cent from 2018's \$8.4 billion, data from the Royal Thai embassy in Phnom Penh shows. Thailand and Cambodia have maintained excellent relations, as reflected by regular high-level visits and meetings, which have helped further enhance the countries' mutual understanding and cooperation, the embassy said in a press release. "Mutual trust, mutual benefit and cooperation remain fundamental principles in guiding the strengthening of our bilateral ties to a higher level," it said. Cambodia and Thailand have on several occasions pledged to increase bilateral trade to \$15 billion per annum by this year. Cambodia Chamber of Commerce vice-president Lim Heng told The Post on 27 January that exports to Thailand mostly comprised of agricultural products such as rice, corn, soybean, cassava, cashew nuts and mangoes. Cambodia mainly imports machinery, electronic equipment, oil, construction materials, cosmetics and home appliances from its neighbour.

3. Pattaya to get new viewpoint

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

Pattaya City plans to improve the scenery at Bali Hai Cape to make it a sunset viewpoint after the public area was reclaimed from entrepreneurs. Pattaya City Mayor Pattana Bunsawat said

that several entrepreneurs had intruded on Bali Hai Cape to make use of the land. Authorities have negotiated with them to improve the area so that it can become a sunset viewpoint to attract tourists. “After the demolition of buildings is completed, we will coordinate with Nongnooch Garden Pattaya to improve the scenery of this cape so it becomes a new checkpoint of Pattaya,” he said.

4. BEC looks to mixed approach, exports

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

SET-listed BEC World, the operator of Channel 3, is gearing up for an omni-channel or mixed offline-online approach, including content exported to the global market, as part of a strategy to transform the TV operator into a "content and entertainment" leader amid the digital disruption era. "For this year, the sluggish economy is a cause for concern, as advertising spending will continue to decline from last year," BEC president Ariya Banomyong told the Bangkok Post. "But we aim to continue to make a profit in 2020 with compound average revenue growth of 10% in the next three years."

5. Fetco eyes public-private partnership

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

The Federation of Thai Capital Market Organisations (Fetco) plans to partner with the government and private sector to expand the retail investor base, hoping to increase new securities trading accounts by a million annually. Fetco also wants to partner with the government to draw in foreign investments through investor relations and promote startups and small and medium-sized enterprises to gain greater access to funding in the capital market. Investors' securities trading accounts have been stagnant at 3 million accounts for many years, said chairman Paiboon Nalinthrangkurn, noting that the federation's first priority for this year is to boost the number of new securities trading accounts.