

## Thai News Update: 30 January 2019

### 1. Corruption Rises In Thailand, Global Watchdog Says

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

Thailand dropped to 36 points, one lower than the year before, in Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index for 2018 released on Tuesday. The index ranges from 100 (very clean) to 0 (very corrupt). Among its Southeast Asian neighbours, the kingdom's 36 points compared -- in descending order of "cleanliness" -- to Singapore's 85 (down 1 point from a year earlier), Malaysia's 47 (no change), Indonesia's 38 (down 1), Philippines' 36 (up 2), Vietnam's 33 (down 2), Myanmar's 29 (down 1) and Cambodia's 20 (down 1). The worldwide average score was 43.

### 2. Set Experts Pick Three Sectors

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

The best-performing stocks this year are expected to be in the healthcare, transportation and real estate sectors with returns likely to peak in the third quarter, after uncertainties surrounding the upcoming election and global trade war subside, experts from the Siam Commercial Bank Securities Co Ltd (SCBS) and the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) said on 29 January. The SET Index is predicted to remain relatively low in the first two quarters of 2019, before peaking in the third quarter and remaining high in the fourth quarter, according to SCBS' Wealth Research team.

### 3. OIE: EEC And Elections To Boost Index

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

The Office of Industrial Economics (OIE) expects the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) in 2019 to rise 2-3% from 2018, thanks to full-year implementation of the flagship Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) scheme and the upcoming general election. Nattapol Rangsitpol, OIE's director-general, said the EEC and the general election will create positive sentiment for the country and increase confidence from business operators and investors.

#### **4. Satellite Grant To End**

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

The cabinet on 28 January approved in principle applying a public-private partnership (PPP) format for the country's satellite management in lieu of the concession system once the existing contract expires in 2021. Government spokesman Buddhipongse Punnakanta said the PPP format was deemed the most appropriate and transparent, offering more benefits to the country than the concession format. The Digital Economy (DE) Ministry will be tasked with drafting the PPP process, Mr Buddhipongse said.

#### **5. New E-Visa, Waived Fees To Boost Tourism**

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

Starting from Feb 14, visitors from 20 countries and one business district will be able to apply for a Thai visa via a new service called eVisa On Arrival (eVOA). According to Immigration police chief Pol Lt. Gen Surchate Hakparn, the system, developed jointly by the Immigration Bureau of Thailand and VFS Global, will cut the processing time for visas on arrival at airports to as little as one minute.