

Thai News Update: 5 February 2020

1. IPPs being brought on board for CPGC

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

Thai-Chinese joint venture CG Corporation is in talks with independent power producers (IPPs) to form a business partnership for a power generation system in the CPGC industrial estate. Founded with paid-up capital of 2 billion baht, CG Corporation is a joint venture between CP Land, the property arm of Charoen Pokphand Group, and China's Guangxi Construction Engineering Group. CP Land owns a 50% stake, the Chinese group holds 48% and a local subsidiary, Guangxi Construction Engineering Yian Thailand, accounts for the remaining 2%. The new industrial estate, CPGC, is being developed on a plot of 3,086 rai in Ban Khai and Nikhom Phatthana districts in Rayong.

2. Beauty Community making plans to expand sales in China

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

After 21 years in the business, having dealt with the 1997 and 2008 financial crises, violent political chaos, devastating floods and the Sars outbreak, SET-listed Beauty Community is still upbeat about business this year despite the coronavirus epidemic. Peerapong Kittiveshpokawat, the company's deputy chief executive, said the company remains upbeat about turning crisis into opportunity. Mr Peerapong said that despite widespread fears over the coronavirus in China, the company announced 4 February that its board of directors had given the green light to move ahead with business in China.

3. BoT extending rules to SFIs and others

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

The Bank of Thailand is set to extend market conduct enforcement to cover specialised financial institutions (SFIs), nanofinance operators, and asset management companies (AMCs) next quarter to improve financial service offerings. Initially, SFIs' retail banking business must comply with the market conduct regulations, said Thanyanit Niyomkarn, assistant governor for supervision group 2 at the central bank. SFIs include the Government Savings Bank, GH Bank,

Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, Islamic Bank of Thailand and Export Import Bank of Thailand.

4. Central in \$1bn venture to buy Swiss mall

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

Central Group said on 4 February it is buying Swiss luxury department store Globus and other real estate assets in a joint venture with Austria's Signa for more than 1 billion Swiss francs (32 billion baht or \$1.03 billion). The purchase of Globus and the real estate from Migros-Genossenschafts-Bund (MGB) is the latest expansion for Central Group, owned by the billionaire Chirathivat family, in European luxury malls. "The transaction includes the purchase of prime Swiss properties and a hotel, with a value of over 1 billion Swiss francs", Central Group executive chairman Tos Chirathivat said. Central Group jointly owns Germany's KaDeWe Group, Italy's Rinascente and Denmark's Illum with Signa.

5. Cabinet okays extension for filing income tax returns, loans for tourism businesses, jet fuel tax reduction

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

The cabinet on February 4 approved the Finance Ministry's proposed measures to mitigate the impact of the novel coronavirus outbreak and global uncertainties on the tourism sector, said Finance Ministry spokesman Lavaron Sangsnit. Among the measures approved are:- Extension of the deadline for filing individual income tax returns to June this year from March.- Companies will be allowed to enjoy tax deductions from expenses on local seminar activities taking place during the January 2020-December 31, 2020, period, with the deduction being two times the actual cost.

6. State banks, others to come under market conduct rules

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

The Bank of Thailand is expected to introduce market conduct rules for the supervision of state banks, nano finance operators and asset management firms in the second quarter this year. The rules are to ensure that the bank customers will get fair services, appropriate and clear advice and given products or services with fair prices and conditions. Thanyanit Niyomkarn, BOT Assistant Governor/Supervision Group 2, said that the rules will be piloted at five state banks in the initial phase: Government Savings Bank, Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives,

Government Housing Bank, Islamic Bank of Thailand, and Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank of Thailand.

7. Bangkok buses to test air purifiers

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

The Transport Ministry will install air purifiers on the roofs of Bangkok buses this month, starting with 387 Bangkok Mass Transit Authority vehicles and fitting trucks as well if the results are good. Minister Saksayam Chidchob said plans were being finalised with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, the National Science and Technology Development Agency and Chiang Mai University (CMU) to outfit the 387 buses on 129 routes. Unlike home units, the air purifiers will require no electrical power, simply gulping in air as the vehicles move. A CMU simulation found that a unit mounted on a car moving at 20 kilometres per hour could purify 20,000 cubic metres of air per hour.