

## Thai News Update: 5 May 2020

### **1. Thailand's PTTEP says two new oil discoveries offshore Mexico**

**Source: Reuters ([Link](#))**

Thai energy company PTT Exploration and Production Pcl said on 4 May its joint venture had made two deep-water oil discoveries in the Salina Basin, offshore Mexico. The Mexican subsidiary of PTTEP, Thailand's largest oil and gas producer, and three partners including the Mexican subsidiary of Spain's Repsol SA, will be assessing commercial potential of the new discovery in two exploration wells in Block 29, PTTEP said in a statement. "Both exploration wells show promising high potential," said PTTEP, the exploration and production arm of Thai state oil and gas firm PTT.

### **2. Regulator eyes creation of local OTT platforms**

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

The development of over-the-top (OTT) platforms by Thais is needed to ensure the benefits will not fall solely into the hands of big foreign players, says the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC). The agency supports the establishment of a working committee to cope with OTT businesses, including crafting proper measures to govern them. Takorn Tantasith, secretary-general of the NBTC, said OTT business presents both challenges and concerns for authorities in Asean and globally, particularly economic contribution to countries by these platforms and social responsibility, which ranges from personal data protection to the prevention of illegal content dissemination.

### **3. Lockdown builds Krungsri portfolio**

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

Staying at home is making consumers rely more heavily on online, particularly the food delivery business, and Bank of Ayudhya's (BAY) lending service for Grab users is reaping a windfall. The bank's digital lending for Grab users has been successful, part of a cooperation with the app last month to provide loans through a pilot project, said Thakorn Piyapan, head of digital banking and innovation at BAY. Loan demand is positive, in line with strong growth in online business as consumer behaviour changes, pushed by the government's lockdown policy to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

#### **4. Businesses welcome govt measures to boost liquidity**

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

A survey conducted by the Bangkok of Thailand (BOT) from April 10 to 24 on the Covid-19 crisis impact on business showed that most business owners were happy with the government's measures to help boost their liquidity. "Most respondents said the outbreak has had an adverse impact on logistics, followed by consumer behaviour and the global supply chain," BOT said. "Respondents also said the crisis has badly hit workers, because businesses are working on shift basis and are cutting down on working hours to control expenses."

#### **5. TMB, Thanachart to reopen over 850 branches across country**

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

TMB and Thanachart banks will reopen 882 branches nationwide from tomorrow (May 5) after the government eased its lockdown measures. TMB chief retail banking officer Anuwat Luengtaweekul said of the 882 branches to be reopened, 395 are TMB and the other 487 Thanachart. "Furthermore, we will open 15 co-location branches that combine the workforces of both banks to enhance service quality," he said. Anuwat said strict measures would be employed to prevent the spread of Covid-19 to ensure the safety of customers and staff. This includes thermo scans, social distancing and alcohol cleaning of service areas every 30 minutes.

#### **6. Personal Data Protection Act likely to be postponed**

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

The Digital Economy and Society (DES) Ministry is seeking to postpone the enforcement of the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) as the Covid-19 crisis has been a major obstacle in the path of many companies and SMEs adjusting their systems accordingly, Minister Buddhipongse Punnakanta said. "The law was announced on May 27, 2019, and is scheduled to be enforced from May 28, 2020," he said. "However, due to the Covid-19 situation that has affected many companies and small and medium enterprises, the ministry is aiming to postpone the PDPA for a least a year."

#### **7. Thailand goes full steam ahead in hunt for Covid-19 vaccine**

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

Several health organisations in Thailand and other countries have speeded up operations to find a way of dealing with the Covid-19 contagion, with up to 70 candidate vaccines being developed by companies registered with the World Health Organisation (WHO). Vitoon Vonghangool, president of Thailand's BioNet-Asia, said if the vaccine currently being tested

on rats proves to be effective, tests on humans will be held before it is put in for registration with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).