

## Thai News Update: 6 December 2018

### **1. Thailand Leads Charge To Protect Soil**

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

Thailand launched the Centre of Excellence for Soil Research in Asia (Cesra), the world's first regional hub to promote sustainable soil management, to mark 5 December's World Soil Day. The country was earlier this year endorsed by the Global Soil Partnership, an inclusive arrangement comprising governmental organisations, academic, research institutions, civil societies, UN agencies, NGOs, private companies and donors, to host the regional centre for 24 countries.

### **2. CP Vietnam Bulks Up With Bt10 Bn Plants In Export Push**

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

CP Vietnam will invest more than Bt10 billion before the end of 2019 on setting up food processing plants in Ho Chi Minh City, a company source said. Suphat Srithanatorn, executive vice president of food products at CP Vietnam, said the plants would produce goods that would also be exported to Japan and Europe. The firm expects to start exports of its chicken products to those markets in 2020, Suphat said.

### **3. Somkid Underlines 3 Areas Of Reform For Thailand To Keep Pace With Neighbours**

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

Thailand will need to radically reform its economic structure if it wants to keep up with its fast-growing Asean neighbours, says Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. He says the three top priorities are creating value for agricultural goods, promoting digital transformation and promoting the growth of secondary cities. "Thailand has a dire need to acquire the ability to create more value for our agricultural goods," Somkid told the "Thailand Economic Outlook 2019" dinner event organised on 3 December by Krungthep Turakij, a sister newspaper of the The Nation.

#### **4. Telecoms Regulator To Emphasise Incentives In 2019 As It Prepares For 5g**

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

The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) on 4 December announced its next year's plans, which focus on extending a lifeline to the ailing digital TV licence holders and encouraging telecom operators to bid for new spectra. The watchdog will kick off the new year by holding an auction of the 700MHz band, totalling 2x45MHz of bandwidth. Part of the proceeds will be used to continue the NBTC's subsidy of the digital TV broadcasters' cost of transmitting their programmes through satellite networks. The NBTC wants to extend this subsidiary period to 2022 after the current subsidy period ends next year.

#### **5. Thai Oil poised to start Clean Fuel Project**

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

SET-listed Thai Oil Plc (TOP), Thailand's biggest oil refiner by capacity, aims to proceed with investment in the Clean Fuel Project (CFP) after several years on the drawing board. The project is set for development spending during 2019-22 at a total cost of US\$4.73 billion. Chatchai Siriwit, Thai Oil's investor relations manager, said the CFP is designed to improve productivity and lean operating costs because several new oil refineries across Asia-Pacific have developed operations over the last few years.