

## Thai News Update: 7 February 2019

### 1. Traders Hail Poll Date With Rebound

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

Clarity over the date for the national election helped spur a rebound in the stock market for the first month of this year, snapping a trend of net fund outflows that weighed on the bourse last year. The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) Index ended January at 1,641.73 points, a 5 per cent increase over December's mark. In late January, the Election Commission (EC) announced that the long-awaited election will be held on March 24. The level of foreign investment resurged in January, increasing by up to 6.8 per cent month on month. Pakorn cited the strengthening of the baht, as well as the prospect of the Bank of Thailand increasing interest rates in 2019, as the key pull factors for foreign investors.

### 2. Finance Ministry Weighs Costs, Benefits Of Bank Merger

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

The Finance Ministry is considering the costs and benefits of the proposed amalgamation of TMB Bank and Thanachart Bank (TBank), says Finance Minister Apisak Tantivorawong. The cost-benefit analysis will determine whether the ministry will subscribe to newly issued shares after a consolidation, he said. Given that TMB is not a strategic investment for the ministry, benefits from any integration for TMB's shareholders will be a priority for the ministry, Mr Apisak said. The potential integration of the banks is a step closer to becoming a reality after a consolidation plan was submitted to the ministry.

### 3. IEAT Optimistic On EEC Industrial Estate Sales

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

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) is confident it can achieve its 2019 land sales goal of 3,500 rai after it sold 720.75 rai worth 5.56 billion baht in the first quarter of fiscal 2019, 5.56 billion baht in the first quarter of fiscal 2019, ending in December. Of the total land sales, 664.06 rai worth 2.84 billion baht were both sales and rental plots in the government's Eastern

Economic Corridor (EEC) scheme, while the remainder of 56.69 rai worth 2.72 billion was outside the EEC. The five projects are: the U-tapao aviation city (worth 290 billion baht); a maintenance, repair and overhaul centre (10.6 billion); a high-speed railway linking three airports (225 billion); the third phase of Laem Chabang port (114 billion baht); and the third phase of the Map Ta Phut port (55.4 billion baht).