

## Thai News Update: 7 January 2019

### 1. Standardised Senior Home Care En Route

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

The government is set to upgrade and standardise senior home care services and products as the proportion of elderly people in the country grows. Commerce Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong said Deputy Prime Somkid Jatusripitak is scheduled to talk with representatives of the Japanese government during his visit to that country at the end of this month about the development of elderly care services, especially the standardisation of home care services and products. Japan has vast experience in managing an ageing society, he said. "Thailand needs cooperation from Japanese government agencies to develop standards for home care services for the elderly here," Mr Sontirat said.

### 2. Nbt Targets Digital Literacy

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

The telecom regulator plans to start a digital literacy programme for the public, spanning 18 months, to mitigate the impact of unemployment from digital disruption and prepare the workforce for 5G wireless broadband adoption in 2020. The move is in collaboration with telecom vendors Huawei Technologies and Ericsson, the three major mobile operators, and Chulalongkorn University. 5G technology infrastructure will bring benefits to vertical industries, but also create disruption to existing workforces and organisational management, said Takorn Tantasith, secretary-general of the of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC).

### 3. Kbank Expects 10 Times Digital Lending

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

Kasikornbank (KBank) has set an ambitious goal of 10 times growth in digital lending this year, targeting low-income earners who are not bank customers. The bank expects its digital lending outstanding to expand aggressively to 10 billion baht in 2019 from 1 billion last year, said

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president Kattiya Indaravijaya. KBank plans to reach new borrowers through the partnership model, Ms Kattiya said. A full array of consumer lending products, including mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and personal loans, will be available via K-Plus, KBank's mobile banking app, this year, she said. For digital mortgages, the bank will prioritise homes priced below 3 million baht per unit, shifting focus from units 3 million baht and higher.