

Thai News Update: 12 April 2019

1. SRT Eyes New City River Icon

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

Land along the Chao Phraya River is becoming a magnet for real estate development, with companies keen to remodel areas on both sides of the river. Much of this interest comes in the wake of last year's opening of Iconsiam, a high-end mixed-use project which garnered a huge amount of publicity. It now seems likely that many more new projects will follow suit, with the most high-profile being the proposed "Chao Phraya Gateway". It is the brainchild of the State Railway of Thailand (SRT), which hopes to capitalise on a 277 rai plot on the riverside area in Klong Toey district.

2. Seek New Markets, Thai Exporters Told

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

As the ongoing US-China trade war continues to dampen Thailand's exports, representatives from both the public and private sectors suggest that Thai exporters should look to new markets and find opportunities to replace Chinese goods in the US market to boost their shipments abroad. Representatives from the private sector urged Thai exporters to focus on new markets to replace the drop in shipments to the US and China, two of Thailand's current top trading partners. From January to February this year, principal exports from Thailand to China and the US dropped significantly. China-bound exports of automatic data processing machines and parts fell by 18.9 per cent year on year, while rubber exports fell by 26.8 per cent and, most significantly, exports of motor cars, parts and accessories fell by 65 per cent, according to data from the Commerce Ministry.

3. Thailand To Unveil Asean Tourism Push

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

Thailand is set to release comprehensive gastronomy guidelines for the Asean region by the end of this year to facilitate the recovery of tourism figures, after the industry has been hurt by a string of challenges, including dangerous air pollution in the North, the global economic slowdown and the strengthening of the baht. As this year's Asean chair, Thailand has listed up to 13 "economic deliverables", most aiming to increase trade in commodities and boost the development of industry 4.0. However, the list includes a masterplan to boost the region's export of services through tourism.

4. Thailand Sees Dip In Hotel Prices

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

The latest Hotel Price Index (HPI) from Hotels.com revealed no sign of a slowdown for the global travel industry. The price travellers paid for overnight accommodation rose 3 per cent globally in 2018 across every regional index, except for the Pacific including Thailand. On the other hand, Thai travellers paid an average price of Bt1,720 a night for their domestic accommodation in 2018, a 7-per-cent decrease compared with 2017, and paid the same average price of Bt4,437 a night for international accommodation in both 2018 and 2017.