

Thai News Update: 18 April 2019

1. NBTC Stresses Deadline For Responses To Relief Measures

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

The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) on 17 April urged all telecom operators and digital TV licence holders wishing to take up relief measures to inform the regulator by May 10. NBTC secretary-general Takorn Tantasith stressed the deadline yesterday during a meeting with representatives of the three 900MHz telecom operators and the digital TV licence holders at which he explained the assistance measures issued last week by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO). The measures were announced in response to a tough business environment for the operators. Takorn said those operators electing to take up the assistance can change their minds later if they find they are unhappy with the conditions attached to the measures. Details of the conditions are expected to be announced by the NBTC in late May.

2. Export Prospects Top Meeting

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

The Trade Promotion Department is scheduled by the end of this month to speak with the top 10 export-driven manufacturers to evaluate prospects and discuss how to accelerate shipment growth in the second and third quarters normally the peak period for exports. The 10 manufacturers account for more than 50% of Thailand's total exports. They include makers of electronics, cars, jewellery, chemicals and food.

3. Blooming Economy

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

The national oil and gas conglomerate uses chilled wastewater from the regasification process of liquefied natural gas (LNG). The process requires water to turn liquid to gas and releases wastewater after completion. Chansin Treenuchagron, PTT's president and chief executive, said

the group's executive board approved the use of chilled wastewater to add value to agricultural products. "We are drafting a business plan with relevant agro-industrial companies and local administration units, including the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand," Mr Chansin said. The tentative model is set to be a form of sharing economy for local agricultural communities under the government's Eastern Fruit Corridor (EFC).

4. Cabinet Gives Green Light To 3rd Runway

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

The cabinet on 17 April approved plans for a third runway at Suvarnabhumi airport at a cost of 21.79 billion baht, down from an initial 22.4 billion baht. The project was approved on the condition that Airports of Thailand (AoT) only sign the construction contract when the required environmental and health impact assessment (EHIA) report is approved by the National Environment Board, deputy government spokesman Lt Gen Werachon Sukondhapatipak said. The new runway is designed to have the capacity to handle up to 30 extra flights per hour.

5. Experian Reaches The Overlooked In Se Asia To Power Credit Offer

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

Experian's solution powers airtime advances which is especially relevant to Thailand with its high concentration of prepaid subscribers at up to 80 per cent. Experian on 17 April announced that it has powered over 4.8 billion credit offers since 2010 to the unbanked and underserved communities in Southeast Asia. Globally, that number has hit 8.1 billion. Through its proprietary technology, Experian leverages on telco subscribers' usage and behavioural data to create financial identities for individuals without formal credit profiles, accelerating financial inclusion in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.