

Thai News Update: 2 January 2019

1. Thailand To Promote Single-Windowclearance System For Border Trade

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

In a push for digital transformation within the Asean region, member countries will join forces to implement the Asean Single Window (ASW) for all 10 nations in the trade bloc by the end of next year . At the beginning of this year, five Asean countries – Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia – launched the ASW. The ASW aims to integrate the different national single-window systems of the Asean countries in order to expedite cargo clearance and boost cross-border trade via enabling the electronic exchange of trade-related documents among Asean members.

2. Future Monetary Policy Tightening Would Be Gradual: Bank Of Thailand

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

The Monetary Policy Committee expects any future policy tightening would be gradual after the central bank's first rate hike since 2011 in December, minutes from its last policy meeting showed on 2 January. The Bank of Thailand's policy committee voted 5-2 to raise the one-day repurchase rate by 25 basis points to 1.75%, to curb risks to financial stability. After the increase, the rate is still only 50 basis points above its all-time low. The committee viewed that "accommodative monetary policy would remain appropriate in the period ahead, and that the policy rate increase would be gradual and not in a continuous manner as in the past," the minutes said.

3. Telecoms Offer Digital Hand To Improve Business Performance

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

The digital transformation in Thailand is expected to attain macroeconomic scale and impact in 2019 and beyond as organisations accelerate their transformation to become a “Digital Native Enterprise”, says Phanchanok Vanichsangsoption, associate market analyst from IDC Research (Thailand). She says a digital native enterprise will have five defining characteristics: the ability

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to create innovation at exponential speed, customer centricity in everything it does, empowered workforce, technology and data as its lifeblood, and an “outside-in” approach. The emergence of 5G will further spur digital transformation as the 5G New Radio standard will take mobile computing performance to the next level with high-speed, always-on, always-connected Internet links with real-time responsiveness, she says.

4. Activists Demand Cheaper, Public-Focused Power Plan

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

An advocacy group is planning to ask the Energy Ministry to revise its Power Development Plan draft, which it says has failed to raise people's awareness on energy saving and may ultimately burden consumers with high electricity charges. The call for a revision comes as Thailand gears up to launch its national Power Development Plan (PDP) for 2019-2037, which was put up for public hearings in Bangkok and four other regions last month. The final hearing on the PDP draft took place in Bangkok on Dec 24, after similar hearings were held in Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Surat Thani and Chon Buri.