

## Daily Thai News Updates: 9 January 2018

### 1. Exports seen rising 5.5% in 2018 - Shippers' Council

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

Exports, a key driver of Thai growth, rebounded strongly in 2017 after three years of contraction. On 9 January, the Thai National Shippers' Council, a group of Thai shippers said the country's exports are expected to rise 5.5% in 2018 after increasing at least 10% in 2017. In the first 11 months of 2017, exports increased 10% from a year earlier, according to customs data, even though the baht has strengthened significantly. The currency hit a 40-month high against the dollar on 8 January.

### 2. BoT Signs Currency Swap with China

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

The Bank of Thailand has reached an agreement to extend bilateral currency swap worth 70 billion yuan (370 billion baht) with the People's Bank of China (PBC) for another three years. The swap transactions between the Bank of Thailand and the PBC will provide access for both central banks to the currency of the other party. This should bolster confidence in the private sector as well as for financial institutions on the availability of local currency for cross-border trade and investment settlement," said a Bank of Thailand's statement.

### 3. Thai Banks Forecast at least 4% growth for 2018

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

The research houses of two Thai banks have painted an upbeat picture for the country's economic growth in 2018, forecasting its pace will be at least 4%, underpinned by exports, domestic investment and tourism. But they expect private consumption to remain a drag on economic growth this year. Economic Intelligence Center (EIC), a research unit under Siam Commercial Bank (SCB), predicts the Thai economy in 2018 will grow 4% similar to 2017, said Phacharaphot Nuntranas, head of economic and financial market research.

#### **4. TCG Plan to Hike SME Credit Access**

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

The state-owned Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation (TCG) plans to extend its credit guarantee service for leasing and factoring offered by non-bank companies from this quarter, in a move to give small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) better access to finance. On January 5, The Royal Gazette announced TCG can provide its service to non-bank financial institutions for which commercial banks and/or specialized financial institutions hold a 51% stake.

#### **5. Two Banks to offer B110bn in Lending**

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

The second phase of the government's welfare and subsidy scheme, which will go before the cabinet for approval on January 9, will contain a 110-billion-baht loan from two state-owned banks to allow the poor better access to financial sources, employment training and hopefully jobs. The Government Savings Bank (GSB) has prepared 15 billion baht worth of lending through four loan schemes, said Chief Executive and President Chatchai Payuhanaveechai.

#### **6. Study Sharpens insights into Asian Marketing Trends**

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

ASIA MARKETING Federation (AMF) and Marketing Association of Thailand (MAT) have launched the first special report on the eight top trends of marketing in Asia 2018. The report is the synthesis of the professional foresight and consolidated wisdom of the Asian marketing fraternity. The project is initiated by AMF Founder and Patron Hermawan Kartajaya, and significantly contributed from its various member countries in Asia. Asia Marketing Federation is the networking body of marketing associations in Asia. AMF has a critical mission as the premier regional body which effectively promotes the interests of marketing in Asia and strengthens the Asian marketing fraternity. Its member countries include Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

## **7. NHSO seeks 9% hike in Budget for Current Year**

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

The National Health Security Office (NHSO) is seeking a Bt193.92 billion budget for the country's universal healthcare scheme in the 2019 fiscal year. This is an increase of about Bt16.55 billion or 9.3 per cent on the budget approved for the scheme in the ongoing fiscal year. The 2019 fiscal year will start on October 1. Public Health Minister Dr Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, who chairs the NHSO board, revealed the figures yesterday. Piyasakol said the estimated budget has increased because of rising costs – including inflation, soaring medicine prices, higher pay for medical personnel and greater benefits for people covered. The scheme covers about 48.57 million Thais offering most types of medical services for free. The NHSO offers its services through participating medical facilities, mostly state hospitals.