



BANK OF THAILAND NEWS

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The Bank of Thailand announced External Debt Status

The Bank of Thailand (BOT) recently announced that Thailand's external debt as of January 2001 has been declining continuously.

Dr. Bandid Nijathaworn, Assistant Governor of Information and Public Relations Group and BOT spokesman disclosed that at the end of January 2001, gross external debt amounted to US\$ 79.7 billion, a drop of 600 million dollars when compared with the previous month, this was due to private debt payment and the Yen's depreciation.

The private external debt has declined by US\$ 300 million, all of which were the debts of non-banking sector. This was due to the increase in debt repayment amounted to US\$ 800 million. Most of the concerned businesses were electrical industry, commercial sector, and chemical industry.

The banking sector debt of January had no change from the previous month. This was due to the closure of long-term debts repayment and the short-term borrowing.

The public external debts declined by US\$ 0.3 billion as a result of the Yen's depreciation from Y114.33 : US\$1 to Y116.38 : US\$1.

The structure of the external debt has improved as shown in the ratio of long-term to short-term debts at 81:19, while the ratio of private to public debts stood at 58:42 which are close to that of last year.

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