



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 February 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 February 2001, gross external debt amounted to US\$ 78.6 billion, when comparing with that of the end of January 2001, has decreased by 1.1 billion dollars due to private and public debt payment and the Yen's depreciation..

The private external debt has reduced by US\$ 0.8 billion which US\$ 0.6 billion were the debt of non-banking sector. This was due to the increase in debt repayment amounted US\$ 0.7 billion. Most of the businesses were chemical industry electricity industry, and commercial sector. For the banking sector debt of February, has reduced US\$ 0.2 billion payments which most of them were the reduced long-term debts from BIBF previous and due loan payment

The public external debt of February 2001 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 close to that of last year.

The trend of external debt in March 2001 will be reduced by the Yen's weakness and the debt payments.

Bank of Thailand

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