



BANK OF THAILAND NEWS

Communications and Relations Office, Management Assistance Department
Tel. 0-2283-5016-7 FAX 0-2281-5648 www.bot.or.th

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The movement of the baht

The Bank of Thailand refuted the article in a local newspaper reporting that the current weakness of the baht was a result of the plan to early repay debts to the IMF. Mr. Thirachai Phuvanatanarubala, Bank of Thailand (BOT) Deputy Governor, said that the information is not correct because the official reserves is already sufficient for the repayment.

The movement of the baht has been in trend with the movement of the exchange rates of regional currencies. Today the baht is around 43.55 baht per US dollar. The percentage changes of currency values against the US dollar are as follows:

(minus sign for currency depreciation, plus sign for currency appreciation)

(Percentage change)

	Currency value today compared to the value of last week	Currency value today compared to the value of early September
Thai baht	-0.48	-3.05
Singapore dollar	-0.61	-2.19
Japanese yen	-0.36	-3.58
Korean won	-0.20	-2.28
Indonesian rupiah	-0.06	-1.88
Philippine peso	+0.04	-1.31

One of the reasons leading to the depreciation of the baht is that some oil companies expedited their payments of oil imported during the oil price hike. There was also repayment of debts by the government and private sector which occurs at end-quarter periods. However, the baht today appreciated 1.35 percent compared to its value on 2 January 2002, which stood at 44.16 baht per US dollar.

The BOT does keep a close watch on the movements of the baht in both the onshore and offshore markets.

Bank of Thailand

2 October 2002