

Bangkok Post Bangkok Post Circulation: 70,000	Section: Business/NATIONAL Date: Wednesday 1 May 2019 Volume: – No: – Page: B3(Center) Col.Inch: 34.26 Ad Value: 51,390 PRValue (x3): 154,170 Clip: Full Color Headline: CK's growth search leads it to mammoth projects
--	--

CONSTRUCTION

CK's growth search leads it to mammoth projects

POST REPORTERS

SET-listed contractor Ch. Karnchang Plc (CK), Thailand's second largest construction company, vows to bid for large projects in both domestic and foreign markets, leveraging its extensive expertise, especially in managing large and highly complicated projects.

Plew Trivisvavet, board chairman of Ch. Karnchang, said the company will leverage its subsidiaries' diverse strengths in infrastructure development, including rail, road, energy and water supply systems.

Its subsidiaries include Bangkok Expressway and Metro Plc (BEM), CK Power Plc and TTW Plc.

"Such diverse business is key to generating constant income and dividend payments for the company, which also increases CK's risk management efficiency and business flexibility amidst industry changes," he said.

"With our expertise in advanced construction technology, CK maintains leadership and capability to participate in bidding for large construction projects in Thailand and overseas."

Chief executive Supamas Trivisvavet said the company is confident about maintaining growth momentum this year given a 49-billion-baht backlog.

"We aim to generate 25-30 billion baht, considering the positive growth trend in the industry for the next few

years. To achieve this goal, we will focus on three major areas: infrastructure projects in Thailand, the Eastern Economic Corridor [EEC] and overseas investment," she said.

Regarding local infrastructure, it is expected a number of projects that are ready to call for bids and public-private partnership (PPP) projects worth 1.77 trillion baht will be available this year. They include the 179-billion-baht Thai-Chinese high-speed train project Phase 1 from Bangkok to Nakhon Ratchasima, the 143-billion-baht MRT Orange Line from Thailand Cultural Centre to Bang Khun Non, the 30.4-billion-baht expressway from Rama III to Dao Khanong, the 84.6-billion-baht motorway from Bang Pa-in to Nakhon Ratchasima, the 55.6-billion-baht motorway from Bang Yai to Kanchanaburi, and the 397-billion-baht SRT double-track Phase 2 spanning nine routes.

The second focus is on EEC investment projects. Most are jointly developed by the government and private sector, such as the high-speed train project linking Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang and U-tapao airports worth 225 billion baht, and the U-tapao airport expansion project worth 200 billion baht.

For overseas investment, CK will focus on Asia, especially infrastructure projects under the PPP model. CK is particularly interested in low-risk projects

with the potential to generate significant returns.

The company is studying different investment avenues for the US\$400 million expressway construction in Yangon, Myanmar, as well as a water supply system development in Sri Lanka. It is also in discussion with the Laotian government over another hydroelectric power project there and expects progress shortly.

In 2018, CK reported total revenue of 31.2 billion baht, down 19.1% from 38.6 billion in 2017, with net profit of 2.49 billion, up 37.8% from 1.81 billion.

CK shares closed yesterday on the SET at 26.75 baht, up 75 satang, in trade worth 443 million baht.