

## Press Release

15/02/2000

### **Banpu Adds-Up Investment on Coal and Power Projects**

Mr. Chanin Vongkusolkrit - Group President of Banpu Public Company Limited reported the Company's investment plan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half (January 1 - June 30, 2000) that it plans to invest mainly in energy-related business, specifically on coal and power projects.

According to Group President, the Board of Director yesterday approved the Company to purchase shares in BLCP Power Limited (BLCP) from Loxley Energy Limited for 600,000 shares, 15% of the registered capital. Total purchase price will be approximately Baht 58 million and will be financed by part of the proceeds from debentures issued in November 1999. The expected return on equity (ROE) is approximately 20% throughout the investment period. This will provide the company with an opportunity to expand its coal market in the future.

Currently, BLCP Power Limited is the developer of 1,400 MW coal-fired power plant under the Independent Power Producer Scheme (IPP) initiated by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand.

The Board of Director of the Company has also approved the investment in Ban-Sa Mining Company Limited. The Company, through its subsidiary, will purchase 184,513 common shares of Ban-Sa of approximately 30.75 % of the registered capital. Total purchase price will be Baht 26 million and will be funded by its cash flow from operation. The expected ROE is approximately 29%.

Currently, Ban-Sa holds a 51% stake of Chaing Muan Mining Co.,Ltd who is the coal developer in Thailand. Its current coal reserve is approximately 3.07 million tons. Prior to this transaction, the Company has 51% of Ban-Sa's registered capital. After the transaction, the Company will become a 82% shareholder of Ban-Sa and will both directly and indirectly have 67% stake in Chaing Muan Mining Co., Ltd".