

Thai News Update: 11 February 2021

1. Thailand to conduct Phase 1 clinical trials on locally produced Covid vaccine in March

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

Thailand will start conducting Phase 1 clinical tests on a locally produced inactivated Covid-19 vaccine from March 1, Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul told the press on Wednesday. He also said that once the tests are complete, the Government Pharmaceutical Organisation (GPO) will produce 25-30 million doses in its Saraburi plant, The minister went on to say that the government has already purchased 61 million doses as part of an AstraZeneca/Siam Bioscience deal and 2 million doses from China's Sinovac.

2. Online logistics business talks with Myanmar, Laos create over Bt130 million in trade value

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

The Department of International Trade Promotion's online business matching (OBM) negotiations with Myanmar and Laos to help Thai logistics operators has yielded a trade value of more than Bt130 million, director-general Somdet Susomboon said on 10 February. The two sets of OBM negotiations covered joint ventures, business cooperation, transportation and building a network between Thai operators and their counterparts in Myanmar and Laos. Online negotiations between Thai logistics operators and their Myanmar counterparts on December 18, 2020, created a trade value of more than Bt10.9 million, and talks with Laotian operators on January 26 yielded a trade value of over Bt120 million.

3. BoI privileges considered for investors in Bt846m cross-border transport centre in Nakhon Phanom

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

The Board of Investment (BoI) has agreed in principle to a public-private partnership project to build a cross-border transport centre in Nakhon Phanom to promote border trade between Thailand and Laos, Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob said on 10 February. "The project, to be overseen by the Department of Land Transport, will comprise an inland container depot and a distribution centre. It is believed that this project will boost the development of factories and warehouses in the areas," he said.

4. SC Asset buying 30 plots for development

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

SET-listed developer SC Asset Corporation plans to invest 25 billion baht in 2021-22 for the acquisition of at least 30 new plots to develop residential projects worth a combined 35 billion baht. Chief executive Nuttaphong Kunakornwong said the new plots will be used for low-rise housing developments, including single detached houses, duplex houses and townhouses in Greater Bangkok. "Real demand in low-rise houses remains healthy, particularly among those with cash," he said. "This sector will continue to be robust, even though the crisis is expected to last until next year."

5. Govt to set up innovation centre in EEC

Source Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) on 10 February signed a memorandum of understanding with SIASUN, China's leading robotics and automation company, to jointly develop an innovation centre in the Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECi). The MoU, which the NSTDA signed with the company's Asia-Pacific subsidiary, SIASUN Automation (Singapore), will see the establishment of the SMC-SIASUN Innovation Centre, which will work towards creating an ecosystem for the development of automation, robotics, and intelligent (ARI) systems in Thailand. The collaboration will also strengthen the position of the Sustainable Manufacturing Centre (SMC), which will help Thai industries make the transition towards "Industry 4.0", observers say.

6. SCG identifies opportunities in health, well-being

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

SET-listed Siam Cement Group (SCG), Thailand's largest cement maker and industrial conglomerate, is seeking a new business opportunity by expanding its investment in health and well-being businesses to serve new lifestyles. The spread of the pandemic has encouraged people to take better care of their health, creating both a challenge and an opportunity for businesses to adjust to the change, the company said. SCG wants to develop its core businesses to suit consumers' lifestyles, SCG president and chief executive Roongrote Rangsiyopash said 10 February.