

Thai News Update: 11 November 2020

1. EEC target invigorated

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

The Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Office plans to increase its investment of 1.7 trillion baht in targeted industries as global trade and investment are expected to rebound with US president-elect Joe Biden's rise to power. Officials are adjusting the five-year investment plan, which starts this year, and will forward the new version to Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow for approval in the next two weeks. "We see positive sentiment in the global economy after Joe Biden won the US presidential election," said Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general of the EEC Office.

2. Labour shortage a blessing for migrant workers

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

Migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia whose work permits expire next year are being allowed to continue working in Thailand for up to two more years. Permission for the legally registered migrant workers to stay longer was approved at the weekly cabinet meeting on Tuesday, according to deputy government spokeswoman Rachada Dhnadirek. She said the decision would benefit about 130,000 such migrant workers around the country but it only relates to those recruited under a labour agreement signed by the respective countries.

3. Safe reopening key to hotels' recovery

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

Reducing the mandatory quarantine period and reopening the border safely and slowly are the keys to tourism recovery for all stakeholders as domestic demand alone is not sufficient for survival, according to Minor Hotels. Small businesses will be hurt more than big players if the borders remain closed, with the unemployment rate expected to surge, said Michael Marshall, chief of commercial operations at Minor Hotels. He said even Minor, which has 534 hotels globally, has reopened just over 90% of its portfolio, but those properties have to rely on the domestic market.

4. 'Let's Go Halves' shopping subsidy could be extended

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

The Centre for Economic Situation Administration (CESA) will meet next week to decide whether to extend the "Khon La Khrueng" (Let's Go Halves) subsidised-shopping scheme, said Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow. The scheme, which runs from October

23 to December 31, offers about 10 million citizens discounts of up to Bt150 per day on purchases at participating stores, capped at Bt3,000 throughout the period.

5. THAI now selling products via Facebook

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

Thai Airways International (THAI) is selling more than 400 products via its TG Warehouse Sale Facebook store in order to generate extra revenue for the company, the firm said on 11 November. The move was initiated by THAI's management team to optimise the use of plates and utensils to suit the number of flights that are expected to decrease significantly over the next one to two years due to the Covid-19 crisis.

6. Honda launches 'clean energy' motorbike taxi service on Sukhumvit

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

AP Honda, the Thai subsidiary of Japanese automaker Honda Motor, has launched "Green Win by Honda" project, in which 50 Honda PCX electric motorbikes will be used to provide taxi services to Bangkokians. The project also includes the setting up of 10 battery switching stations, the first of which has been installed in the parking lot of a Holiday Inn hotel. This project, which has been launched in response to the government's initiative to promote electric vehicles, will provide motorbike taxi services along the BTS Sukhumvit line.