THAI NEWS UPDATE: 12 JANUARY 2022

1. SET unveils ambitious 2022-24 strategy

Source: Bangkok Post (Link)

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) plans to launch this year Live Exchange, a funding platform for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups, as well as the Thai Digital Assets Exchange (TDX) to develop a more inclusive capital market for Thai businesses of all sizes and scales. The bourse also unveiled its 2022-24 strategic plan on Tuesday under the concept "Connecting opportunities x Transforming possibilities" with the goal of revolutionising and connecting the capital market to ensure growth and sustainability for both businesses and society.

2. Govt to vaccinate 5.2 million kids against Covid-19 Source: Bangkok Post (Link)

The Education Ministry plans to vaccinate 5.2 million students aged 5 to 11 against Covid-19, government spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana said on 12 January. Thanakorn said Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha was briefed on the progress of the ministry's vaccination campaign for students who are between 12 and 18 years old and the plan to cover younger students aged 5 to 11. The prime minister was informed that there are about 5.2 million students between 5 and 11 years old in schools under the Education Ministry and other ministries Thanakorn quoted Prayut as instructing the Education Ministry to try its best to explain the need for vaccinations to parents of the 5.2 million kids to win approval from as many parents as possible.

3. Thailand to launch 'new chapter' of tourism Source: Bangkok Post (Link)

The Tourism and Sports Ministry promotion plan for 2022 will be themed "Amazing Thailand New Chapter", introducing new selling points from January and collecting a 300-baht entry fee from foreign tourists from April, government spokesman Thanakorn Boonkongwanchana said on Wednesday. The plan includes promotion of "white routes" for tourists in line with a bio-, circular and green economic development strategy for more sustainable and safe tourism, Mr Thanakorn said.

4. Central bank aims to tackle four expected economic risks in 2022 Source: The Nation (Link)

The Bank of Thailand (BOT) is preparing for four types of economic and financial risks that could occur in 2022 as the economy is still recovering from the impact of Covd-19, leaving

many sectors vulnerable. Speaking at BOT's Meet the Press event on 11 January, central bank governor Setthaput Suthiwart-Narueput said that this year economic recovery is seen to be in a K shape, where only certain sectors, industries or areas of the economy recover while others persistently lag behind. "The Thai economy should bounce back to before Covid levels not sooner than the first quarter of 2023," he predicted. "This is because our economy relies heavily on exports and tourism, while employment in related sectors will not bounce back anytime soon," he believed.

5. SET unveils strategy to build capital market 'for all Thais' Source: The Nation (Link)

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) on 11 January implemented a three-year strategy to create a modern capital market for the sustainability of business and social sectors. SET president Pakorn Peetathawatchai said the strategy would place the capital market at the centre of investment, making it work for everyone in the digital era. This would be achieved by promoting financial awareness among Thai people to improve their quality of life, he added. "Meanwhile, the SET is ready to support the business sector's role in taking care of society and the environment to boost the country's sustainability." Pakorn said the strategy would help create a modern investment ecosystem that meets demands of asset issuers, investors and stakeholders while boosting Thai capital market growth.