

## Thai News Update: 12 November 2020

### **1. Asean MoU on essential goods signed**

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

Thailand and fellow Asean members have clinched a deal to ease the flow of essential medical goods and supplies to fight the pandemic. Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit said he and fellow Asean economic ministers virtually signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Tuesday to facilitate the imports and exports of 152 medical goods amid the ongoing pandemic. Under the MoU, Asean members have agreed to refrain from implementing unnecessary measures or obstacles in trading essential medical goods such as medicines and medical supplies.

### **2. CP steps up sustainable push**

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

Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group is stepping up efforts to build up sustainable businesses, including its goal to become a carbon-neutral and zero waste company in 10 years to catch the global trend of circular economy. CP chief executive Suphachai Chearavanont yesterday did not elaborate action plans to cut carbon dioxide emissions and reduce waste but only reiterated the intention to be more environmentally friendly. The group, which founded CP for Sustainability in 2015, has been increasingly interested in various sustainability ideas, including clean technologies like rooftop solar panels. It published a sustainability report, which covers economic, social and environmental issues, for the first time this year. The move is in line with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) which awakens organisations to their impact on the environment.

### **3. Digital hub status 'within reach'**

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

Thailand is setting its sights on boosting its digital infrastructure and creating an ecosystem that will position it as the digital hub of Asean, a seminar was told on 11 November. Technology is at the core of Thailand's development as the country moves into the era of Thailand 4.0, Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwon said. Thailand, he said, is developing its technological infrastructure to pave the way for becoming a digital hub in the region. The deputy prime minister was presiding over the Powering Digital Thailand 2021: Huawei Cloud & Connect event co-hosted by the Bangkok Post and Huawei Technologies Thailand. The

event is being held until Saturday at Convention B2, 22nd Floor, Centara Grand at CentralWorld.

#### **4. SET, SEC work on easing rules so foreign companies can be listed in Thai stock markets**

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

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) are working on improving regulations so foreign companies can be listed in the Thai stock market. SET president Pakorn Peetathawatchai expects foreign holding companies, infrastructure funds and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to be able to raise funds both in primary and secondary markets by next year. He said SET also plans to set up a third stock market to help start-ups, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and social enterprises to raise funds. This third stock market should be ready to go into operation by the second or third quarter next year.

#### **5. PTT to review plan for Bt5.7bn Ohio plant**

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

PTT has instructed its US arm to review plans for a chemical plant in Ohio, citing a change in investment conditions. The company said Joe Biden's victory in the US presidential election would result in a change in American trade and investment policies. Meanwhile the Covid-19 pandemic was also affecting consumer behaviour, it added. The move comes after PTT Global Chemical (PTTGC)'s plan to build a Bt5.7-billion petrochemical-to-plastics plant in Ohio hit a snag in July when joint partner Daelim Industrial of South Korea pulled out.

#### **6. 2nd round for co-payment**

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

The Finance Ministry is preparing to roll out the second phase of the co-payment scheme early next year following a positive response to the first phase of the scheme. The ministry is considering increasing the number of registrants for the second phase, but the final figure has yet to be finalised, said Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, the finance minister. The value of the government subsidy for the second phase is being deliberated as it is related to the fiscal budget, said Mr Arkhom. The second-phase co-payment scheme will use funds allocated from the 1-trillion-baht loan decree. Of the 1 trillion baht, the scheme will use funds from the 400 billion baht designated for economic and social rehabilitation through projects aimed at creating jobs, strengthening communities and building infrastructures.

## **7. Govt planning to extend co-payment shopping scheme as ‘New Year gift’**

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

The Finance Ministry is considering launching a second phase of the “Khon La Khrueng” (Let's Go Halves) subsidised-shopping scheme early next year as a “New Year gift” to consumers, said minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith on 11 November. The scheme, which currently 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. Arkhom said that the ministry is also mulling whether to raise the subsidy from Bt150 per day. All details would be finalised next month, he added.