

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 13 MAY 2021

### **1. Asean market connectivity enhanced with addition of Philippines**

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

The entry of the Philippines into the framework is the latest step towards enhancing capital market connectivity in the region. The Asean CIS Framework is an initiative under the regional capital markets integration plan endorsed by Asean finance ministers in 2009 to facilitate cross-border product access and fund distribution for investors and issuers respectively. With SEC Philippines' participation in the Asean CIS Framework, qualified investment companies in the Philippines and their fund managers will now be able to offer eligible funds to retail investors in the other three member jurisdictions, and vice versa. Syed Zaid Albar, chairman of the SC congratulated SEC Philippines, saying: “Under the Asean CIS Framework, retail investors are able to tap into a wider choice of funds from beyond their borders, and fund managers can offer their products cross-border under an efficient approval system.

### **2. Phuket banking on 129,000 arrivals**

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

Phuket is set to welcome 129,000 international tourists in the first three months of the quarantine-free programme, while the government will team up with airlines to subsidise 100,000 one-way domestic air tickets, says the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT). TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn said the reopening initiative -- Phuket Sandbox -- is expected to attract 30,000-40,000 tourists per month with long-haul markets being the main target. He said seven-day tour packages in Phuket will cost around 150,000-200,000 baht per person, which is significantly higher than average spending per of around 50,000 baht per trip prior to the outbreak. Tourists have to board a direct flight to the island to ensure safety, but if time slots at the airport are fully booked, tourists can transit at Suvarnabhumi airport via a sealed terminal.

### **3. EV charging industry to reach B14bn**

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

Sharge Management Co, an electric vehicle (EV) charging solution provider, expects the Thai EV charging equipment market to reach 14 billion baht in value by 2025 as a result of growth of the industry in the country. The increase is mainly the result of the government's policy to promote EVs, a global trend, and new technologies to support the EV industry as well as an ongoing campaign for carbon neutrality. The environmentally friendly movement is aimed at achieving net-zero carbon emissions by requiring countries to strike a balance between emissions and absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Sharge co-founder and

managing director, Peerapatr Sirichantaropart, said global automakers are launching more EVs into the global market at prices below 1 million baht.

#### **4. Huawei Contribute to Thailand through Technology-Empowered Healthcare**

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

In Bang Khun Thien Hospital, the largest field hospital in Thailand on the frontline of the fight against COVID-19, the doctors are using 5G telemedicine and a set of digital technologies to enhance the handling of the pandemic and support the hi-speed and convenient communication network for the staff working onsite, aiming to boost safety for the medical staff and patients and reducing the risk of infection transmission. This is made possible by the recent cooperation between Huawei Technologies (Thailand) Co., Ltd and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES) in strengthening Thailand's public health sector, especially for the field hospitals, to accommodate the increasing number of COVID-19 patients in Thailand and to support hospitals improve their medical capacity and hi-speed communication network.

#### **5. Online trade fairs to boost export value**

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

The International Trade Promotion Department is set on hosting more virtual trade fairs and online business activities in order to boost the country's exports in the second half of the year. According to Somdet Susomboon, the department's director-general, the agency is preparing a schedule of more than 30 virtual trade fairs and online business activities this year mainly in the second half to boost exports by more than 4%. "We are optimistic that Thailand's export prospects in the second half will fare better than the first half, driven by a recovering global economy and economic growth in major trading countries such as China, the United States, Japan and Europe," he said. "As a result of Covid-19 vaccine distributions worldwide, consumers will have more confidence in engaging in economic activity and this will drive the world's economic recovery."

#### **6. Asean, Pacific partners may rejig pact**

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

Asean, Australia and New Zealand are looking to revamp the Asean-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) which has been in force for a decade to help revitalise trade and investment in the bloc after Covid-19. Auramon Supthaweethum, director-general of the Trade Negotiations Department, who participated in the 12th meeting of the joint commission on AANZFTA via teleconference late last month, said the meeting considered upgrading the pact to align it with the changing trade situation especially on issues about non-tariff measures

(NTMs), the rules of origin, certification of origin, self-certification, customs procedures and trade facilitation, trade in services and investment (e-commerce, telecommunication and financial services), state procurement, trade competition, consumer protection, sustainable trade and development. The meeting aimed to decide on changing the pact by 2022.