

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 14 FEBRUARY 2022

1. Commerce hopes 10-tonne Thai jasmine rice donation will hook Chinese consumers

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

Thailand's Commerce Ministry donated 10 tonnes of Thai jasmine rice to poor women and children in China's Fujian province recently in a bid to raise awareness of Thai rice and penetrate the Chinese market. Phusit Ratanakul, director-general of the Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP), said the activity was organised by the department's Fujian branch in cooperation with the Xiamen Mifeng C&O Trading company.

2. Reform of EV duties urged

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

The Finance Ministry plans to propose to the cabinet a reduction of the import duty for electric vehicles (EVs) to 40%, 20% and zero percent, each depending on the engine size, says Deputy Finance Minister Santi Promphat. He said smaller EVs should be subject to lower import tax rates than larger ones as part of the ministry's plan to promote their adoption. The ministry also considered an appropriate subsidy to support consumers' EV purchases, said Mr Santi. EV producers can qualify for all government support measures if they set up manufacturing bases in Thailand, he said.

3. Fortinet sees security demand in Asean

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

Fortinet, a global cybersecurity company, aims to increase its subscription-based services in Asean to capture a surge in demand and deal with heightened cyberthreats in the digital world. "As many businesses are accelerating digital innovation to transform themselves in key growth areas, they could be more exposed to cybersecurity risks," said Peerapong Jongvibool, vice-president for Southeast Asia and Hong Kong at Fortinet. "With a surge in remote work and usage of edge and cloud computing, Internet of Things and 5G, we see cyberthreats that could take advantage of them." There has been an increase in cyber-attacks on states and business supply chains, with the assaults becoming more sophisticated. For example, a ransomware attack on the Colonial Pipeline in the US in May 2021 forced the disruption of the pipeline network, demonstrating the risk to critical infrastructure from cyber-attacks.

4. NokAir to start flying from Nakhon Ratchasima to Chiang Mai, Hat Yai, Phuket later this year

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

Low-cost airline NokAir has applied to start operating domestic flights to and from Nakhon Ratchasima Airport, which has been shut since 2019, a source said. Some 26 kilometres from downtown Nakhon Ratchasima, the airport first opened on December 5, 1997, to serve the domestic market. However, after years of running at a loss due to low passenger load, the airport was closed. During all of 2019, the airport had only served 39 passengers. “NokAir will operate seven flights between Nakhon Ratchasima and Chiang Mai, Hat Yai and Phuket,” the source said. “The airline expects to start providing the flights by the second and third quarter of this year. It also plans to add six airplanes to its domestic fleet within 2022.”