

Thai News Update: 14 January 2021

1. PTT Global Chemical concocting merger-acquisition plan

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

PTT Global Chemical Plc (PTTGC) is developing a merger-and-acquisition plan with a focus on businesses where it still has production lines, said chief executive officer Kongkrapan Intarajang. The M&A plan will become clearer as the year progresses, he added. He explained that the Covid-19 fallout meant some companies were now considering selling businesses at low prices, opening opportunities for M&A deals.

2. Transport Ministry wants Bt325bn for 2022 infrastructure plans

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

Transport Ministry has asked for a budget of Bt325 billion for 2022, of which Bt324 billion is earmarked for 50 infrastructure projects, said minister Saksayam Chidchob. The remaining Bt1 billion is for upgrading the transport system, he added. Of the 50 projects, six will be developed by the Highways Department at a cost of Bt240 billion, two by the Rural Roads Department at a cost of Bt28 billion and one by the Expressway Authority of Thailand worth Bt955 million.

3. Government looks to BCG initiatives to drive growth

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

The government vows to rev up promotion of the bio, circular and green (BCG) economy to help drive economic growth over the next five years. The first meeting of a management committee to drive the BCG economy chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha yesterday approved a five-year strategic plan to promote BCG between 2021 and 2026. According to Gen Prayut, the government agreed to place BCG on the national agenda to speed up development because the sectors can increase the value of farm products and BCG is part of a global development trend. The BCG strategic plan covers four sectors: farm and food; healthcare and medical services; energy and biochemicals; and tourism and the creative economy.

4. Price controls for 55 items

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

The government has retained its price control on 55 products and service items including medical face masks, a synthetic fibre used as a raw material to make medical face masks, alcohol and alcohol-based hand sanitiser, and recyclable paper. The meeting of the Central

Committee on the Prices of Goods and Services chaired by Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit on 13 January decided to maintain the price control list for 55 items, 50 of which are products and five services. The list is scheduled to be proposed for cabinet approval next week.

5. Thailand's first factory quarantine facility up and running

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

Pattaya Food Group (PFG) has converted its factory in Samut Sakhon into the country's first factory quarantine facility for treating and isolating Covid-19 patients, the government's Covid-19 Information Centre posted on its Facebook page on 13 January. "The factory used to manufacture canned foods under the Nautilus brand, but it is now a 600-bed quarantine facility," the centre said.

6. ADB commits \$2m to promoting climate-smart agriculture in Thailand's North

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

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government announced a US\$2-million grant to help promote the adoption of climate-smart agriculture in the North of Thailand. The grant, provided by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, will see local governments teaching highland farmers climate-resilient practices and providing technology for improving productivity, value addition and food traceability, while tapping local knowledge to enhance food security in a changing climate. The grant was launched in a virtual ceremony attended by Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Chalermchai Sri-on, the ministry's permanent secretary Thongplew Kongjun, ADB Thailand's director Hideaki Iwasaki, and Asian Institute of Technology president Eden Woon.