

Thai News Update: 14 October 2020

1. Thai-Danish milk makers eyes China, Vietnam, confident it will achieve Bt12 bn target

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

The Dairy Farming Promotion Organisation (DPO), producer of Thai-Danish milk, aims to penetrate five major cities in China as well as Vietnam via e-commerce channels, and is confident of achieving its target of Bt12 billion in sales by 2021, said senior board member Arthit Petcharat. "Owing to the Covid-19 outbreak, more customers are switching to online shopping for consumer products, prompting us to use e-commerce as a leading platform to penetrate new markets overseas, especially China and Vietnam which have large customer bases," he said. "Next year we are planning to enter Kunming in the first quarter, and will then expand to five major cities namely Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Chengdu.

2. Foodland to open largest supermarket in Nawamin

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

Foodland Supermarket Co Ltd, the wholly Thai-owned chain, is set to open its largest grocery store in the Nawamin area tomorrow, about six months later than planned because of the pandemic. Somsak Teraphatanakul, the founder and the company's chairman, now 88, said the Nawamin outlet is the largest Foodland branch, located on a 6.5-rai plot with an investment cost of up to 1 billion baht. The five-storey building covering 2,500 square metres features a Foodland supermarket with new decoration; logistics centre; cooking school; 120-seat Took Lae Dee quick-service restaurant; Gourmet Primo Co, a business unit of Bangkok Air Catering Co (BAC); cold storage for meat and vegetables; and a new service, Grab & Go.

3. Ratanakorn looks to diversify

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

Ratanakorn Asset Co saw the warning signs of a Pattaya property glut, diversifying to help the Chon Buri-based developer survive the pandemic. Managing director Jugkarut Ruangratanakorn said the company prepared its liquidity for a possible crisis in the property sector since 2018. "We diversified into other sectors that can contribute to the property business, such as lifestyle, services, healthcare, wellness, spa, food and beverage, co-working spaces, education centres, and now we are starting with warehouses," he said. The company redefined itself as a business development operator at its own properties, ranging from land,

hotels, condos, low-rise houses, fresh markets, wholesale and retail to factories, schools and community malls.

4. Thai Beverage begins B1bn expansion

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

Thai Beverage, the Singapore-listed Asean food and beverage company, is expanding its food business in the domestic market, vowing to splash about 1 billion baht on its food empire in fiscal 2021, starting from Oct 1. Nongnuch Buranasetkul, the company's senior vice-president and chief of food business, said the company is committed to continuing investment this year, albeit in a more cautious manner, by upgrading efficiency and productivity as well as bringing the company's food brands to a wider base of customers. The new investment is mostly to open 40-50 new restaurants this year, compared with 29 stores in the previous fiscal year.

5. BBL tier one back to normal

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

Bangkok Bank (BBL) expects tier-one capital will return to a normal ratio of 18% this year after issuing adequate tier-one capital (AT1) last month. The capital buffer should be sufficient to cope with the prospects of higher non-performing loans (NPLs) and economic uncertainties for the next three years, said executive chairman Deja Tulananda. The banking sector faces a higher likelihood of rising bad debts because of the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. The bank's tier-one capital rate is around 17.5% and the ratio will increase to 18% by the end of this year, supported by retained profit, he said. BBL expects to be able to manage higher uncertainties for the next three years based on its solid capital buffer, in line with the Bank of Thailand's requirement, said Mr Deja.

6. Elite Card to dangle more privileges for foreign investors

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) plans to boost foreign investment in real estate via its Elite Card long-stay visa programme, said governor Yuthasak Supasorn. The TAT-owned Thailand Privilege Card, which runs the programme, aims to lure more investors with two stimulus schemes it will propose to the Centre for Economic Situation Administration (CESA). The "Flex One" scheme will offer 5 to 20-year visas to foreigners who buy properties worth at least Bt10 million. The cards, worth Bt500,000 to Bt2 million, will be purchased by property developers and then passed on to foreign clients.

7. Cabinet gives initial nod to Bt180m training program for auto businesses in EEC

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

The Cabinet on 12 October approved in principle to spending more than Bt180 million to provide training for personnel in the auto business based in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), government spokesperson Anucha Burapachaisri said. The project, proposed by the EEC Office, will cover 9,500 members of staff from participating auto firms. Training will include courses on technology management for 2,300 supervisors and staff at the managerial level. Also included will be courses on 4.0 industry, which will be provided to 3,600 staff at the operations level and 3,600 workers at the labour level.

8. Over Bt180m set aside for participation in Dutch horticultural expo

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

The Cabinet has agreed to earmark Bt187.64 million to fund Thailand's participation in the Expo 2022 Floriade Almere in the Netherlands, deputy government spokesperson Ratchada Dhanadirek said on 12 October. This expo will give Thailand a chance to promote horticultural and agricultural products along with traditional Thai health goods as well as help build a global trade network, she said. Thailand also plans to use the event to promote arts, culture and tourism as well as boost bilateral relations, she added. The Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry will soon start preparing for the event, which will run from April 14, 2022 to October 9, 2022.