

Thai News Update: 15 December 2020

1. Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation has key role in SME funding

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

Loan guarantees by a government agency are key in allowing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) better access to funding sources amid higher risks caused by the pandemic, says the Bank of Thailand. Although commercial banks have not withdrawn loans at a significant level from the central bank's 500-billion-baht soft loan scheme, there are other channels facilitating SMEs' access to funding sources, especially the loan guarantee programme of the Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation (TCG), said Bank of Thailand governor Sethaput Suthiwartnarueput. "Given the higher risk profile of SMEs, these businesses face difficulty in accessing loans. Loan guarantees as a part of any scheme is a solution," he said.

2. Energy Ministry starts work on 'integrated energy blueprint'

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

The Energy Ministry has kicked off the process of drawing up what it calls Thailand's integrated energy blueprint on Monday by holding a workshop on the plan with relevant parties. Kulit Sombatsiri, the ministry's permanent secretary, said the plan is divided into a five-year short-term plan (2022-2027), a five to 10 year mid-term plan and a 20-year long-term plan. The Cabinet had in October asked the ministry to put together five energy plans issued in 2018, namely power development, alternative energy development, energy conservation, gas management and oil plan.

3. SET offers new guidelines for investing in the new normal

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

President of the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) Pakorn Peetathawatchai on Monday unveiled three guidelines to help drive the Thai capital market in the "new normal" era. The guidelines are: Increasing fundraising opportunities: SET will launch a third stock market to help small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) and start-ups raise funds. Foreign companies will also be helped to raise funds via the Thai stock market. Developing products to meet investors' demands: SET will offer more overseas investment opportunities to help investors diversify their investments. Transitioning to the new normal era: It is necessary for SET to adapt so it is in line with the new normal, because now investors are paying more attention to stocks related to the environment, social causes and good governance that generate good returns.

4. Thai start-up making ‘good progress’ on Covid vaccine

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

A Thai pharmaceutical start-up will today sign a deal to produce experimental doses of its Covid-19 vaccine for use in human trials. Baiya Phytopharm is among several Thai organisations making progress towards a vaccine for the virus, said State Enterprise Development Planning Subcommittee chairman Thewin Wongwanich on Monday. Thailand has already signed a Bt6 billion procurement deal for 26 million doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine, but is also building up its own vaccine research programmes.

5. Construction of key transport hub Bang Sue Central Station completed

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

Civil construction of Bang Sue Central Station, which will serve as the hub of high-speed train connecting three airports (Don Mueang, Suvarnabhumi and U-Tapao), as well as the 10 stations of the Red Line urban train route, is now 100 per cent complete. The Red Line is expected to open for commercial use by November 2021. The Red Line that runs between Bang Sue and Rangsit stations will help shorten travel time between the city’s heart and urban areas to only 30 minutes thanks to the high-speed 120kph train. It is expected to transport at least 272,500 passengers per day. Public test runs will start from March 2021 until the official opening in November.

6. Thai-listed companies lead the way in ACGS awards

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

Thai-listed companies achieved the highest average score in the 2019 Asean CG Scorecard (ACGS) for the sixth consecutive year, making up the majority of the Asean Asset Class Award recipients, said Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol, secretary-general at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Asean CG Scorecard is aimed at raising international visibility among Asean public-listed companies (PLCs) with outstanding corporate governance (CG) practices, comprising of three categories, namely Asean Asset Class PLCs , Asean Top 20 PLCs, and Country Top 3 PLCs. Ms Ruevadee said Thai-listed companies occupied the majority of recipients by constituting 42 of 135 companies in the Asean Asset Class PLCs, which awards only companies scoring at least 97.50.

7. TAT partners with Tinder to trap singles

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is partnering with famous dating app Tinder to promote domestic trips for single tourists. "Tourism connects people, and some people might end up being lifetime partners. Tourists can also help support tourism and the economy

during tough times," said Thapanee Kiatphaibool, TAT deputy governor for tourism products and business. The Single Journeys campaign consist of nine tourism routes: Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lop Buri-Saraburi, Udon Thani-Loei, Chumphon-Surat Thani, Phuket, Pattaya and Ayutthaya. During the pilot programme, the TAT will introduce three tourism campaigns in December and January.

8. CPN takes outlet strategy further for holiday season

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

Central Pattana (CPN), the operator of luxury outlet Central Village, is pushing ahead with its outlet strategy by promoting even steeper discounts of up to 90% during the year-end holidays. Thai architectural design and various marketing campaigns helped Central Village win the Asia-Pacific Property Awards 2020 Retail Development category. "Central Village is distinct from our typical retail development projects. It offers high-quality products at affordable prices and is indeed a haven for shoppers that has become an important jigsaw piece to complete Thailand's retail development sector," said Nattakit Tangpoonsinthana, executive vice-president of marketing at CPN.