

Thai News Update: 15 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. Great Wall surveys potential EV buyers in Thailand

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

Chinese automaker Great Wall Motor (GWM) has started a campaign to promote electric vehicles (EVs) by jointly conducting a survey with the National Institute of Development Administration (Nida) on Thai motorists' perceptions of the technology. Some 77.7% of 1,000 car buyers from six provinces -- Bangkok, Chon Buri, Nakhon Ratchasima, Nakhon Sawan, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Samut Prakan -- indicated they are open to learning more about EVs, according to the findings. The interviews were conducted during November and December 2020, with most respondents (49.6%) living in the capital. "Our campaign called 'Get to Know Thai Consumers' underlines GWM's consumer-centric strategy," said GWM Thailand managing director Narong Sritalayon.

3. Govt outlines steps, rules for migrant amnesty

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

The Labour Ministry has outlined the steps required to register illegal migrants from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar under the government's workers amnesty programme, which officially commences on 15 January. Both employed and unemployed migrant workers are eligible for the scheme approved by the cabinet on Dec 29 last year, which was mainly designed to help monitor migrant workers' conditions in the country in the wake of a second Covid-19 wave that has spread to over 50 provinces. Once registered, a worker will be entitled to stay and work in Thailand for two years -- along with a dependent, who must already be in Thailand and less than 18 years of age at the time of registration.

4. Thailand urges talks on Dawei SEZ after construction setback

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

Thailand is keen to push forward development of Myanmar's Dawei special economic zone (SEZ) and deep sea port, said deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow on 14 January. He was speaking in his capacity as chairman of the Myanmar-Thailand joint high-level committee for development of the Dawei SEZ and related projects. The Dawei SEZ has been hit with repeated delays, and faced another setback last month when Myanmar cancelled contracts with the Italian-Thai Development Company and partners to develop its first phase.

5. Okay given for Bt300 foreign tourist entry fee

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

The National Tourism Policy Committee has approved the Tourism and Sports Ministry's proposal to collect a Bt300 fee from every tourist entering the country, said minister Phipat Ratchakitprakarn on 14 January. The online fee will become effective once the measure is published in the Royal Gazette. The money collected will go to the tourism promotion fund. Phipat said the fee would help fund management and development of Thai tourism, as well as insurance for foreign tourists during their stay.