

## Thai News Update: 17 February 2021

### **1. Thailand's edible insects make leap into global market**

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

The crunch of Thailand's insect delicacies may soon be heard all around the world, after Mexico agreed to import Thai cricket products. Mexico's National Food Safety and Quality Service has approved the import of Thai house crickets (*Acheta domesticus*) in the form of powder, reports the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS). "Mexico's approval ... is the first step for Thai edible insects to penetrate the global market," said ACFS secretary-general Pisal Pongsapich.

### **2. Thai gaming industry could shoot up to Bt33 billion in 2021: DEPA**

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

The Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA), the operating arm of the Digital Economy and Society Ministry, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Thai Game Software Industry Association (TGA) to promote the creation of games and digital content to give the country's digital economy a fillip. "The MOU aims to reduce digital disparity among Thais as well as promote games and digital content that would help strengthen social and economic stability," DEPA president and CEO Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin said.

### **3. Draft plan on plastic waste management gets Cabinet green light**

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

A Cabinet meeting approved a draft action plan to manage plastic waste proposed by the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry under a road map that started in 2018 and will end in 2030, a news source said. "The plan aims to reduce plastic waste by banning four types of products by 2022 and bringing at least 50 per cent of seven types of plastic products into the circular economy by means of reusing and recycling," the source said.

### **4. Thai Airways jet to land with first vaccine batch on Feb 24**

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

Thai Airways International (THAI), as the national carrier, has been assigned to fly 200,000 doses of CoronaVac vaccine from China to Thailand on February 24. Flight TG675 will depart Beijing at 6.50am (local time) and arrive at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok at 11.05am. The Airbus A350-900 will be carrying the first batch of 2 million vaccines that Thailand has ordered from Chinese company Sinovac. The vaccine will be carried in

temperature-controlled containers. CoronaVac can be safely stored at normal fridge temperatures.

#### **5. PTTEP move strengthens investment in Malaysia**

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

PTT Exploration and Production Plc (PTTEP) has started its natural gas production at Rotan and Buluh deepwater fields of Block H off the coast of Sabah, Malaysia, marking its move to strengthen investment in Malaysia. The production will increase the company's petroleum supply and sales volume in the neighbouring country. The first gas production in Block H came after its wholly-owned subsidiary PTTEP HK Offshore Co successfully completed the Lang Lebah-2 appraisal well in the Sarawak SK 410B Project. The drilling result registered a new record for PTTEP's largest gas discovery.

#### **6. Lazada makes moves to invigorate sales**

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

E-commerce giant Lazada has vowed to amplify its investment in key marketing campaigns and roll out a series of new solutions, including a cross-store platform promotion tool this year to spur customer spending amid the pandemic. According to mobile data and analytics platform App Annie, Lazada saw 26 million active users in December last year, with its key rival Shopee closing in with almost 25 million users. In terms of top mobile app usage in Thailand last year, Lazada ranked fifth, with Shopee at sixth. "This year, Lazada will continue its investment, particularly in marketing for major sales campaigns, which must be higher for 11.11 and 12.12 than last year," said Werapong Goo, senior vice-president of e-commerce at Lazada Thailand.

#### **7. NESDC lists steps to win confidence**

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

The state planning unit, the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), has urged the government to expedite economic cooperation in a move to build up the confidence of foreign investors. Danucha Pichayanan, NESDC secretary-general, said accelerated economic cooperation would enable Thailand to enjoy better benefits more quickly from a global economic recovery and an upward trend in world trade and stimulus packages among the leading economies. "The government is still counting on foreign investment to drive the Thai economy this year," said Mr Danucha. "If the government comes up with a more proactive role to make further progress in regional economic cooperation,

there is the belief that foreign investors would make a faster decision in terms of investment in Thailand."