

Thai News Update: 19 February 2021

1. Setting a digital agenda

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

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is putting cryptocurrencies and digital assets on the top of its agenda this year, urgently seeking a concrete direction for the regulation of emerging assets in an effort to support skyrocketing trade volume and to protect lawful users and the public. The SEC plans to raise these issues at what it calls a "retreat session" with the board of directors, scheduled for the second quarter this year to discuss the country's digital asset ecosystem, including perspectives from exchange operators and traders to develop a mandate and directions for regulatory amendments, said SEC secretary-general Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol.

2. Just wrap up your e-waste and give it to the postman

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

Householders can now hand their electronic waste (e-waste) to postal delivery staff, in a campaign launched by Thailand Post and Advanced Info Service (AIS) to protect the environment. The growing mountain of e-waste is causing problems around the world, as countries struggle to dispose of it safely. In response, Thailand Post launched the new campaign on 18 February as an extension of existing e-waste disposal points set up at post offices nationwide. "People can drop their old smartphones, tablets, chargers, headphones, power banks, and smartphone batteries into a box and give it to postmen," Thailand Post said, adding that the service is free of charge.

3. FTI sees way to expedite vaccine flow

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

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) is calling on the government to consider allowing the private sector to jointly import Covid-19 vaccines to distribute to their employees amid a growing concern over the state's slow progress in providing vaccinations. Although the Public Health Ministry said last week it was confident initial orders of two vaccines from the UK and China would arrive in Thailand later this month, playing down any prospects of a delay, the FTI wants the government to work with companies to speed up the process of vaccine distribution, seen as crucial in boosting investor confidence.

4. CPRAM invests B2.6bn in factory build

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

CPRAM Co, a food manufacturer under the Charoen Pokphand Group, the country's biggest agribusiness conglomerate, has resumed its investment this year, allocating 2.6 billion baht to build a new bakery factory in Chon Buri which is scheduled to open in June of next year. Managing director Wisade Wisidwinyoo said the investment in the new factory was postponed from last year because of the pandemic. The factory is now under construction on a 10-rai plot of land located in the Pinthong Industrial Estate in Chon Buri province. It has a production capability of 1.2 million pieces per day and would be well positioned to support growing demand in the company's bakery business over the next three years.

5. Arrival recovery hinges on state managing vaccines

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

Thailand's tourism recovery depends on the government's ability to distribute vaccines widely to create herd immunity, says the government think tank. Danucha Pichayanan, secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), said the government should formulate a better vaccine distribution plan focused on using human resources to inoculate people working in the tourism industry to build the confidence of foreign visitors. "The recovery of the tourism industry depends on the government's capability to arrange vaccine distribution," he said. "The faster the government distributes vaccines, the better the country's tourism industry recovery as well as Thailand's economic growth."