

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 19 MAY 2021

### **1. Depa vows to help local companies register patents**

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

The Digital Economy Promotion Agency (Depa) is gearing up to support local firms seeking to register patents for digital work through its intellectual property (IP) voucher programme in a bid to promote the digital economy and the country's IP index. The programme offers businesses up to 100,000 baht from Depa in assistance for patent registration. Depa president and chief executive Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin said the IP voucher programme is one of several key policies that Digital Economy and Society (DES) Minister Chaiwut Thanakhamanusorn wants to push. The minister wants Depa to work with the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) to support the scheme, which would be a boon to the country's sustainable digital economy and IP index, Mr Nuttapon said.

### **2. Bangkok gets its 4th vaccination station, 21 more to be set up within May**

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

Shots will be administered to up to 3,000 people from 8.30am to 4.30pm at this site daily, the governor said. The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), in cooperation with the Board of Trade, has set up vaccination stations in three locations so far – Central Plaza Lat Phrao, the Mall Bang Kapi and Samyan Mitrtown. The aim is to set up 25 such stations across the city by the end of this month. Meanwhile, jabs are currently being administered to registered at-risk frontline workers such as teachers, bus drivers, garbage collectors, delivery and daycare centre staff before it is rolled out to the general public in June.

### **3. FTI to bring back 'Faster Payment'**

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

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) is bringing back its "Faster Payment" scheme to urge large companies to speed up debt repayments in a fresh attempt to help their trading partners - - mostly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) -- solve liquidity problems amid Covid-19. Last year, the FTI launched the three-month scheme to help affected businesses reduce the payback period which usually lasts 60-120 days. "Faster Payment" encourages companies to settle their debts within 30 days after invoices are issued. The scheme ended in December last year when Thailand was facing a second Covid-19 outbreak that flared up in Samut Sakhon, a major industrial hub.

#### **4. Cabinet backs cut in Social Security Fund offerings**

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

Employers and employees are going to be allowed to reduce their contributions to the Social Security Fund (SSF) between June to August to help those struggling financially because of the pandemic. Labour Minister Suchart Chomklin said on 18 May the cabinet approved his ministry's proposal to cut SSF contributions from employers and employees under Section 33 of the Social Security Act to 2.5% of monthly salaries, down from 5%. In February and March, the contribution rate was cut from 5% to 3% for employers and employees, but the rate has returned to 5% since then.

#### **5. B.Grimm becomes a major shareholder in EEC-DT**

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

B.Grimm Joint Venture Holding Ltd is investing in EEC-DT Green Power Co (EEC-DT) to help make infrastructure more energy efficient with minimal impact on the environment. The latest share purchase in EEC-DT not only makes B.Grimm a major shareholder, but also promotes its effort to operate under a sustainability concept. With the investment, B.Grimm Joint Venture Holding holds a 30% stake, DTGO Corp owns a 37% share, EEC Engineering Network Co holds a 25% share, and Naree Phinyawatana holds 8% share.

#### **6. New COVID-19 measures for Simummuang market vendors imposed this week**

**Source: Thai PBS ([Link](#))**

Thailand's largest fruit and vegetable market, Simummuang, located in Pathum Thani province, has imposed new restrictions on its traders and workers, effective today for seasoned and imported vegetable sections, and this Friday (May 21st) for the rest of the market, according to the market's Facebook page. The new measures require Thai nationals to show their ID cards and foreign migrant workers to show their passports, as well as a COVID19-free health certificate, issued after May 7th. Blood test certificates, or tests conducted before May 7th, are not accepted. These restrictions are not being applied to customers, who are free to enter the market around the clock, provided that they wear face masks all the time, wash their hands with sanitation gel and maintain strict social distancing.