

## Thai News Update: 1 December 2020

### **1. Thailand shoots for top 10**

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

The government has set an ambitious goal to raise the country's standing in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) ranking, reaching the top 10 by 2022. To reach that level, both public and private sectors need to work closer together, says Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow. Mr Supattanapong said over the past five years, Thailand has improved many areas to facilitate the ease of doing business, including efforts to streamline the approval process for doing business, the adoption of digital systems in government services, the improvement of rules and regulations to catch up with changes in the business environment and the initiation of a host of infrastructure developments as well as the Eastern Economic Corridor.

### **2. Depa unveils digital roadmap**

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

The Digital Economy Promotion Agency (Depa) has introduced its digital blueprint for Thailand as a driver of digital transformation, to cope with rapid changes in technology, consumer behaviour and the business environment. The blueprint was crafted to ensure the success of Thailand's 20-year digital economy development roadmap, which started in 2016. Only 0.4% of companies in the industrial sector have achieved Industry 4.0 practices, where smart production is involved, the agency indicated.

### **3. BoT preps more measures for baht**

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

The Bank of Thailand plans to implement additional measures to help manage the baht's appreciation in December as part of a push to forge a new foreign exchange ecosystem. The central bank expects to implement additional measures as a policy package to properly manage two-way movement of the foreign exchange rate, said Chayawadee Chai-Anant, senior director of the economic and policy department. There are measures in the pipeline to manage movement of the foreign exchange rate for both the short term and long term, said Ms Chayawadee.

#### **4. BCPG to acquire more renewables**

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

BCPG Plc, the renewable energy arm of Bangchak Corporation Plc, has announced it is financially ready for its plan to acquire more assets for renewable power generation across Asia. Phatpuree Chinkulkitnivat, senior executive vice-president for finance and accounting, said the company recently increased its capital by 10.2 billion baht, enough for investment totalling 40 billion baht over five years. The company expects to spend 8 billion baht in capital expenditure this year and 18 billion next year. "The business expansion plan this year includes asset acquisitions and new investment," said Mr Phatpuree.

#### **5. BGJV, REPCO sign agreement**

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

ThanapongphanThanyarattakul, a best-selling author on the subject of digital transformation and founder of the Digital Transformation Academy, has collaborated with Bundanjai by SE-ED to launch English and Thai versions of "Digital Transformation Canvas" and "Digital Transformation in Action" (revised edition) in e-book format. The aim is that they will become a tool that helps revive the business world and spurs new growth. Thailand is not among the leading countries in digital strategies and digital transformation, ranking even lower than India despite having far higher GDP.

#### **6. Govt hopes to make Thailand one of the top countries for business in two years**

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

The government has set an ambitious target for itself – making Thailand one of the top 10 countries in the world for ease of doing business in the next two years, said Deputy PM Supattanapong Punmeechaow, who doubles as energy minister. Thailand was ranked 21 in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 list of 190 countries surveyed. He added that Thailand is ready on all aspects, especially logistics infrastructure, in order to achieve this goal.

#### **7. AOT revising Suvarnabhumi's Bt44bn northern expansion plan**

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

Airports of Thailand (AOT) is revising its planned Bt44-billion northern expansion of Suvarnabhumi Airport, said AoT president Nitinai Sirismatthakarn. The revision to bring the plan in line with the "new normal" concept is expected to take between one and two months to complete. The new northern terminal will have annual capacity for 30 million passengers. Also to be drawn up are details for projects to extend the existing passenger terminal eastwards and westwards, he added.