

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Energy policy panel approves initial 20-year national power plan

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

The Energy Policy Administration Committee chaired by Energy Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow on 20 September approved the first revision of the National Power Development Plan of 2018-2037, a source said. This version reportedly includes the objective of securing national energy stability by producing clean energy, reducing carbon emission and helping Thailand become a decarbonised society. The objective will be implemented between 2021 and 2030. The committee has also tasked the Energy Policy and Planning Office (EPPO) and Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency (DEDE) to revise the annual production capacity of power plants fueled by coal and natural gas, boost their capacity through the use of renewable energy (biomass, biogas, solar, wind, community and industrial wastes), as well as consider buying electricity generated by hydro-power plants from neighboring countries.

2. Thailand called upon to reassess impact of CPTPP

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

Thailand needs to re-evaluate the impact of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), after China formally applied to join the trade bloc on Sept 16, according to the chief trade negotiator. Auramon Supthaweethum, director-general of the Trade Negotiations Department, said many parties have been interested in and closely watching the CPTPP which is expected to become a larger market once China becomes a new member of the bloc. "China's application to join CPTPP will increase alliances and expand the Chinese trade and investment opportunities with CPTPP members, especially in terms of participation in the supply chains of the CPTPP members. That will strengthen China as a source of raw materials and key production bases of the region," she said.

3. Cabinet approves B27 bn relief measures, extends travel scheme

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

The Cabinet approved on 21 September a further 27 billion baht in relief measures and extended a scheme to boost domestic travel to the end of February, as the government deals with the country's biggest coronavirus outbreak to date. The relief support, such as a subsidy on utilities, will be offered to welfare card holders, government spokespersons told a news conference.

4. Ministry preps extra funds for Q4

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

The Finance Ministry will pump additional money into the economic system in the fourth quarter to further improve the flagging economy amid the prolonged Covid-19 pandemic, said director-general of the Fiscal Policy Office (FPO), Kulaya Tantitemit. Ms Kulaya said the fresh money to be injected in the fourth quarter might be higher than that previously planned for the last quarter. The fresh money will mainly come from three sources: the 500 billion baht borrowing under the existing second emergency loan decree, the 2022 fiscal budget, and the state enterprises' investment budget.

5. Prayut unveils Thailand's climate vision at UN

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

After South Korean boy band BTS set the stage at the United Nations in New York, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on 20 September presented Thailand's contribution to the global battle against climate change. Speaking via video link at the SDG Moment of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, Prayut told world leaders that Thailand was tackling sustainable development goals (SDGs) with its Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) and 20-year national strategy. The SDG Moment is an annual event held to spotlight sustainable development goals which were signed back in 2015 in Paris. Prayut said the Thai government was coordinating with every sector for development under the SEP. He added that Thailand had presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in July.