

Thai News Update: 23 November 2020

1. NESDC works to expedite spending

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

The government has set a target to disburse at least 70% of the 400-billion-baht budget scheduled for social and economic rehabilitation in fiscal 2021. Danucha Pichayanan, secretary-general to the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), said by the end of September next year (the final month of fiscal 2021) at least 70% of the rehabilitation budget is targeted to be disbursed to help expedite economic recovery. He said the spending plan should be divided into three phases, averaging 100 billion baht each, with the second phase aimed at strengthening the farming sector, water resource development and creating more jobs. The plan is scheduled for proposal to the cabinet soon, said Mr Danucha.

2. Road to recovery paved by clean fuel

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

The state and private sectors are stepping up efforts to give Thailand a new clean look, with economic activities fuelled by clean energy. New power plants and cars will be powered by energy that is friendlier to the environment. The move is not only because oil and gas reserves are shrinking, but the government also wants its investments in renewable energy projects to drive the economy during the recovery, lasting well into next year. Authorities set a target to have 30% of total energy consumption in 2036 derived from renewable resources, almost double its current share.

3. THAI to pursue MRO project at U-Tapao despite delays

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

Thai Airways (THAI) intends to continue the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) project at U-Tapao Airport even though it cannot invest in any project during its rehabilitation period, a THAI report said. The report said collaboration between THAI and Airbus in the MRO project has been delayed due to the Covid-19 situation and its impact on the aviation industry. In September, the Bankruptcy Court approved rehabilitation plans for the national flag carrier.

4. Floral treats in store for Bangkokians

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

A garden of bright sunflowers awaits visitors at the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's BMA Flora Festival next month. More than 30,000 sunflowers will light up the field in the heart of the city, at the railway park on December 1. Visitors need to no longer go as far as

Lopburi, Saraburi, or up north for floral treats. Bangkok will launch the first flower field on December 2 at Vachirabenjatas Park (Railway Park), Chatuchak, with more than 30,000 sunflowers over an area of 4 rai (0.64 hectare) from December 1-20. From January 12-31, there will be a rose periwinkle viewing festival at Wanaphirom Romklao Park, Lat Krabang district, with more events to come, the BMA said.

5. SuperRich Currency Exchange to launch overseas transfers next year

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

Thailand's SuperRich Currency Exchange Co Ltd expects to launch an overseas money transfer service in the second quarter next year, said its chief executive officer Piya Tantivechayanon. The move to seek new revenue sources comes in response to the decline in foreign tourist numbers amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The new service will be available via SuperRich branches and its mobile application and e-wallet. The company said it would also expand its partnerships to add more privileges and benefits for customers.

6. TAT to design special packages for unique group of tourists

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) will next year launch campaigns and special travel packages that target a new, unique group of tourists. Thapanee Kiatphaibool, TAT executive director of tourism products, said the aim was to create travel packages for single people, such as boat trips to temples where the traveller can make merit and pray for a partner. She added that TAT has already discussed this idea with boat operators and a package should be ready before the end of this year.