

Thai News Update: 25 January 2021

1. Govt to sell B60 bn of savings bonds to finance stimulus measures

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

The government will sell 60 billion baht of government savings bonds next month to help finance stimulus measures to mitigate the impact of its latest coronavirus outbreak, the finance ministry said in a statement on 25 January. The bonds are part of a larger 1 trillion baht borrowing plan to cope with the epidemic.

2. Private sector gets the nod to import Covid-19 vaccine

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has allowed the private sector to import Covid-19 vaccine, Government Spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri said on 25 January. He said private firms, however, must first register the vaccine with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by submitting documents regarding the vaccine's quality, safety and effectiveness for Thai people."The FDA would evaluate the vaccine's quality, safety and effectiveness before allowing private firms to vaccinate people," he said.

3. Online queue compulsory for visa extension

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

The Immigration Bureau has urged people to make an online queue for visa extension due to the virus and apply before January 29. Applicants who require visa service, such as foreigners who have stayed in the Kingdom for over 90 days and tourists who needs short-term visa extension service for Tourist visa (TR 60) and Special Tourist Visa (STV) are urged to join the online queue before the service date. The move is aimed at conforming with the government's policy on precautionary measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19, by reducing overcrowding, maintaining social distancing and facilitating customer service.

4. PTG Energy to roll out EV charging stations from February

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

Filling station operator PTG Energy Plc will roll out charging points for electric vehicles as part of its business plan this year, said vice president Rangsun Puangprang. The first phase of the quick-charge service is set to launch early next month at five PT filling stations in major provinces, before expanding to 30 stations by the end of this year. PTG said it will also partner with other companies to launch "ultra-charging" stations to serve large EVs such as

trucks and buses. Each ultra-charging station requires investment of Bt40 million-Bt50 million, as a plot of 5-10 rai is needed.

5. Egat plans world's largest floating solar farm in June

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

State-run Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) expects to operate a 45-megawatt floating solar farm it claims to be the largest in the world in Ubon Ratchathani in June after a delay caused by the pandemic. Egat signed a contract with B.Grimm Power Plc, which will serve as an engineering, procurement and construction firm to develop photovoltaic panels worth 842 million baht on Sirindhorn Dam, where an Egat hydropower plant is operating. Power generation on a water surface requires 450 rai of land, equivalent to an on-ground solar farm. The facility was originally scheduled for operation in December last year, but the launch was postponed due to the pandemic.