

Thai News Update: 25 November 2020

1. Govt kickstarts education scheme to upskill e-vehicle workforce

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

The ministries of Industry and of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation have joined with the Vocational Education Commission to produce skilled personnel for Thailand's next-generation automotive industry. The three agencies will collaborate to develop courses and activities for both students and teachers in order to upskill the workforce. The Higher Education Ministry will also work with the sector to survey demand for personnel. The findings will be used to plan education strategies for universities and related institutes.

2. Thailand's Indorama takes \$100m ADB loan to reduce ocean plastic waste

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

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Indorama Ventures (IVL) Plc have signed a \$100-million (Bt3.04 billion) financing package to reduce the environmental impact of plastic by boosting the capacity of IVL's plastic recycling plants in Thailand, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The plants will recycle polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastics widely used in bottles. The finance package comprises \$50 million from ADB and \$50 million from the ADB-administered Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund (LEAP). A \$150 million loan will be provided by the International Finance Corporation, and \$50 million from Germany's DEG.

3. Banpu to invest at least \$1bn over next 5 years

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

Energy firm Banpu Plc expects to set aside at least US\$1 billion (Bt30.4 billion) for its five-year investment plan (2021-2025), said chief executive officer Somrudee Chaimongkol. The budget would be spent on business expansion through joint investment, takeovers, and boosting existing production capacity, she added. She said the company expects continued growth of Ebitda (Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation) from the fourth quarter this year into next year, thanks to improving gas and coal prices in the fourth quarter...

4. THA urges government to pursue travel bubble strategy

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

The Thai Hotels Association (THA) has called on the government to continue its travel bubble plan with other potential countries besides China, while allocating more financial support to hotels. As Beijing has extended the ban on outbound tour groups and is maintaining 14-day mandatory quarantine for all arrivals, the Thai government should seek other low-risk countries

to start travel agreements, said Marisa Sukosol Nunbhakdi, THA president. Singapore, Vietnam, South Korea and Taiwan are the countries which reported 60 cases per million population, a similar situation to Thailand.

5. Pantip hub offers new channel for expanding entrepreneurs

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

Thai entrepreneurs will be given a new online and offline market channel to boost their trade during the sluggish economy with the AEC Trade Centre-Pantip Wholesale Destination, scheduled to open on Nov 31 in Bangkok. The centre is inside a newly renovated building in the now-defunct Pantip Plaza, a former hub of IT products in the Pratunam area. It covers an area of 30,000 square metres. Developer Asset World Corporation (AWC), recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) to allow FTI members to sell their products at the centre and through its online platform.

6. Minister wants protection for e-commerce platform

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

The Digital Economy and Society (DES) Ministry is seeking to have all e-commerce platforms registered with the Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) to ensure cybersecurity in this 3-trillion-baht industry. The call was made as DES Minister Buddhipongse Punnakanta yesterday held a meeting with representatives from e-commerce platforms Lazada, Shopee, JD, Shopback and Thailandpostmart along with officials to discuss ways to level up security protection among e-commerce service providers.