

Thai News Update: 28 January 2021

1. Bans eased as cases fall

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

Dine-in restaurants will be allowed to remain open until 11pm and alcohol can be served in all provinces except Samut Sakhon, which remains a maximum and strict "dark red" control zone. The adjusted measures were on 27 January agreed upon by the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) subcommittee assigned to consider easing Covid-19 restrictions. The panel is chaired by National Security Council (NSC) secretary-general Natthapol Nakpanich. These, along with other measures, will be proposed at a CCSA meeting chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha for approval on Friday, CCSA spokesman Taweasilp Visanuyothin said.

2. Agreement inked on B200bn Patong revitalisation project

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

A 200-billion-baht project to revitalise tourism and public transport infrastructure in Phuket's Patong municipality was agreed 27 January. Stakeholders, which include Prince of Songkla University, the Patong municipality administration, AMR Asia Co Ltd, Present Technology Co Ltd, and the Thai Association of Town Planning, yesterday signed an agreement to initiate the project. The revitalisation project will include the introduction of the electric vehicle (EV) as a mode of public transport in the area, as well as upgrades to the area's tourism infrastructure. Pun Thongchumnum, Prince of Songkla University's vice president for the Phuket campus, said his university would supply academic expertise to support the project to make Patong a more attractive destination for both tourists and investors.

3. SCG Ceramics eyes solar opportunities

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

SCG Ceramics Plc, a subsidiary of SCG Cement-Building Materials, will diversify into the solar energy business this year to increase its earning channels as growth in the Thai ceramic industry in 2021 will remain unchanged amid the pandemic. Managing director Nampol Malichai expects the renewable energy business will contribute 5% of the company's total revenue. "SCG Ceramics aims to develop solar energy systems, with power generation capacity of 20-50 megawatts a year for factories, especially those in industrial estates," he said. The company is focussing on the domestic market since demand is growing and Thailand is also a major production base.

4. Nation Multimedia Group branches into coffee business

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

Nation Multimedia Group (NMG) launched Nation Coffee on 28 January, as a step into the food and beverage industry. Nation Coffee will sell food and beverages, especially tea, coffee and baked goods, and will also supply goods to other businesses in the sector, as per the company's objectives. Its registered capital is Bt10 million, divided into 100,000 ordinary shares at the par value of Bt100 per share. Of the total capital, Bt2.5 million has been paid up.

5. Thailand 4th among 98 countries studied for best response in handling pandemic

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

Australian analysis centre, Lowy Institute, has come up with a ranking for countries in terms of managing the Covid-19 pandemic in 36 weeks after the 100th case was confirmed. It evaluated 98 countries based on the availability of data across six indicators that were used to construct this index. The country topping the list as the best in controlling the outbreak is New Zealand (94.4 points), followed by Vietnam (90.8), Taiwan (86.4), Thailand (84.2) and Cyprus (83.3). Meanwhile, Brazil (4.3), followed by Mexico (6.5), Colombia (7.7), Iran (15.9) and the United States (17.3) are said to have the worst management among 98 countries.