

## Thai News Update: 30 December 2020

### **1. EEC retains 3-year target of Bt100bn investment**

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

The Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Office has maintained its target of investment in the EEC zone over the next three years at Bt100 billion, despite the gloomy global economic outlook. Meanwhile the number of investors granted EEC promotion certificates in the first 11 months of 2020 rose 62 per cent, indicating investors are confident to continue investing, said Luxmon Attapich, the office's deputy secretary general for Investment and International Affairs. In 2021, the EEC will focus more on wooing investment from industries benefiting from the Covid-19 pandemic fallout, including the digital, health and logistic businesses.

### **2. SET aims to launch measures to tackle stocks with low free-float ratio**

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

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) will launch measures to control stocks with a low free-float ratio to prevent share-price volatility as in the case of Delta Electronics. The price of Delta shares on 29 December closed at Bt438 per share, down Bt122, or 21.79 per cent, after hitting a new high of Bt838 on Monday. SET president Pakorn Peetathawatchai said the price of Delta shares rose and fell sharply because their free-float ratio was low and not from “concentrated trading” by investors. To contain share-price volatility, he said SET would come out with short- and long-term measures after taking into account varied opinions and making a proposal to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

### **3. ERC expects draft rules on buying electricity from communities to be announced by Feb**

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

The Office of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) expects the draft on regulations for purchasing electricity from community power plants to be announced by February, secretary-general Komkrit Tantravanich said on 30 December. “The office had on November 16 finished drafting the principles and conditions for buying 150 megawatts of electricity under the feed-in tariff method from VSPPs [very small power producers] under the community power plant campaign,” Komkrit said.

### **4. Cabinet meet okays decree draft on extension of permits**

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

A Cabinet meeting on 29 December approved the draft of a royal decree that would allow the extension of various permits by paying a fee without the applicants having to file for the

extension first, government deputy spokeswoman Traisulee Traisaranakul said. The royal decree will cover permits under the following laws:- Export Commodity Standards Act BE 2503;- Plants Act BE 2518;- Cemeteries and Crematoria Act BE 2528; Veterinary Sanatoriums Act BE 2533; - Public Health Act BE 2535;- Hazardous Substance Act BE 2535;

#### **5. Cabinet earmarks Bt11.3 billion for projects to curb new wave of Covid**

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

The Cabinet on 29 December approved Bt11.3 billion for 10 projects to curb the new round of Covid-19 infections, deputy government spokesperson Ratchada Thanadirek said. The Bt11.3 billion is part of the Bt45 billion the government had earmarked to fight the outbreak from the Bt1 trillion borrowing under the emergency decree. The 10 projects are divided into three groups, the first of which will be granted Bt4.33 billion. The first group, focusing on curbing the outbreak, will cover five projects.

#### **6. Minister suggests EVs are the future**

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

The state's proposed car trade-in programme, originally planned as an initiative aimed at stimulating car purchases in the New Year amid tepid sales during the pandemic, has resulted in electric vehicles (EVs) becoming a hot topic. Although the plan was shelved so more studies can be carried out, particularly in relation to whether the programme should include EVs, Industry Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit stressed that EVs are the future of motoring in Thailand. The future of EV sales should become clearer once the government and carmakers conclude planned talks next month regarding the proposal of imposing a higher excise tax on vehicles with internal combustion engines in an effort to promote more environmentally friendly vehicles, such as Evs.

#### **7. Changes to 'We Travel Together'**

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

Thai tourists who make hotel bookings under the Rao Tiew Duay Kan (We Travel Together) co-payment scheme will be able to postpone or cancel reservations if they have health concerns following the new wave of local Covid-19 infections. Finance Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith said collaboration is under way with the Ministry of Tourism and Sports to allow for postponements or cancellations in the wake of growing outbreak concerns. The ministry is holding talks with the tourism and hotel associations to address the matter, he said. The Comptroller-General's Department and Krung Thai Bank will add a feature to "Pao

Tang" app, which is used for identification and payment in the scheme, to allow tourists to cancel or postpone their reservations. He said hotel bookings might be postponed by six months or possibly longer.

### **8. Cabinet backs 8 special holidays**

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

The cabinet on 29 December approved eight special holidays for next year, including regional ones, to stimulate tourism. Deputy government spokesperson, Traisuree Taisaranakul, said Friday Feb 12 would be a Lunar New Year holiday, which is not normally an official one. April 12, a Monday, will be another Songkran holiday and July 27, another Monday, will be a holiday in lieu of Buddhist Lent Day. Another holiday to be observed for the first time next year is Prince Mahidol Day on Sept 24. Prince Mahidol, the King's grandfather, is recognised as the father of modern medicine in Thailand.