

Thai News Update: 30 March 2021

1. Chamber pledges economic revival

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

The Thai Chamber of Commerce vows to help revitalise the economy in 99 days under its "Connect the Dots" policy, with faster Covid-19 vaccine distribution at the core. By connecting the dots, the chamber means it will work as a focal point to connect the state and private sector and individuals to jointly drive economic rehabilitation in the 99-day period, said newly appointed chairman Sanan Angubolkul. Speeding up Covid-19 vaccination is the core policy as fast vaccination will restore business confidence and supports the state plan to reopen the country from July. "Thailand is slow in distributing vaccines. This will result in a slow economic recovery," said Mr Sanan.

2. PTT partners Abu Dhabi oil company, energy giants to launch secondary futures market

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

PTT has joined hands with Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (Adnoc) -- the producer of Murban crude -- and eight of the world's largest energy companies and the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) to launch ICE Futures Abu Dhabi (IFAD). The official opening ceremony of IFAD is scheduled for March 29. Auttapol Rerkpiboon, president and chief executive officer of PTT Pcl and other co-founders will join the event. PTT's senior executive vice president, International Trading Business Unit, Disathat Panyarachun said that by foreseeing the benefits of being a co-founder, not just a player in the market, TBU decided to establish PTT MEA Ltd (PTT MEA) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, which is 100 per cent owned by PTT International Trading Pte. Ltd. (PTTT).

3. Commerce Ministry boosts Thai food exporters with Covid Prevention Best Practice Certificate

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

The Commerce Ministry has launched the "Thailand Deliver with Safety" campaign to boost confidence in Thai food products during the Covid-19 pandemic, highlighting safe manufacturing practices. In 2020, four government ministries – Commerce, Public Health, Agriculture and Cooperatives and Interior – jointly signed an MOU on Covid-19 Prevention Best Practice in production of food for export, aiming to grant Certification of Compliance with Covid-safe practices to Thai businesses whose manufacturing practices meet international standards.

4. CP gets ready to take over management of Airport Rail Link in October

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

CP Group has started sending working groups to study the Airport Rail Link as it will be taking over the network's operation from October 24 onwards, Suthep Panpeng, director-general of SRT Electrified Train (SRTET), said on Monday. He added that CP will hire some 490 employees when it takes over, while SRTET will transfer the 256 staff currently running the Airport Rail Link to the new SRT Dark Red Line. He said changes will become noticeable from July or August when CP employees start joining. Suthep added that based on the deal with CP, the Airport Rail Link will be rebranded and the train station upgraded.

5. Some advice for holidaymakers heading to Thailand

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

Thailand has decided to reduce its mandatory quarantine period for foreign arrivals from 14 days to 10 days from 31 March onwards. The quarantine period will be further reduced to just seven days for travellers who have been inoculated against Covid-19. However, travellers from high-risk countries will still be required to quarantine for 14 days. Meanwhile, the Centre for Economic Situation Administration (CESA) decided on March 26 to launch the Phuket "tourism sandbox" for vaccinated tourists from July 1 as proposed by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

6. Anutin vaccine plan comforts investors

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

The government does not plan on preventing private hospitals from importing Covid-19 vaccines from any producers after they are approved from the Food Drug Administration, while pledging to deliver 61 million vaccine doses to vulnerable populations by the end of this year, says Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul. A concrete vaccine plan is one factor expected to build up investor confidence, causing analysts to upgrade their forecasts for the SET Index this year. Mr Anutin was invited by the Federation of Thai Capital Market Organizations (Fetco) on 29 March to meet with securities analysts and provide updates on the progress of the vaccine plan, including the government's scheme to reopen the country. These plans are thought to be guidelines for determining the direction for Thailand's economic recovery.