

## Thai News Update: 3 February 2021

### **1. Cleantech Solar powers up paint giant's three factories with solar energy**

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

AkzoNobel, the maker of paint brands like Dulux, has signed a long-term agreement with Cleantech Solar to set up three rooftop solar systems at its manufacturing sites in Thailand and Malaysia. The solar power systems have been fully funded by Cleantech Solar, which will also operate and maintain the system throughout the contract. The systems have been set up in AkzoNobel factories in Chonburi and Samut Sakhon in Thailand and in Nilai, Malaysia.

### **2. PTT OR sets final IPO price at Bt18 per share**

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

PTT Oil and Retail Business (OR) set its final Initial Public Offering (IPO) price at Bt18 per share on 3 February. Earlier, the Securities and Exchange Commission allowed OR to offer 3 billion newly issued shares with a par value of Bt10 per share to the public on September 16 last year. OR's Registration Statement and Prospectus consequently became effective on January 14, with the preliminary price range being Bt16-18 per share. Separately, OR chief executive officer Jiraporn Khaosawas said 530,000 individual investors have subscribed for the company's shares via three banks – Kasikornbank, Bangkok Bank and Krungthai Bank.

### **3. Depa trains teachers to roll out coding**

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

The Digital Economy Promotion Agency (Depa) has rolled out the "dTeachers" training programme aimed at improving teacher's skills in instructing students how to code programs, hoping to help 400 teachers from 78 schools by the end of this year. Primary and secondary schools -- either private or state-owned -- are the target of this project. The project should upgrade the digital coding skills for teachers, such as those providing coding study materials, said Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin, president of Depa.

### **4. Soft loans tweaked for SME access**

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

The Finance Ministry is preparing to amend the soft loan decree to allow greater low-interest loan access for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The ministry and the Bank of Thailand have agreed in principle to amend the decree, but a proposal has to be submitted to the parliament's commission committee before any amendment can be made, said Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, the finance minister. Ministry officials are studying details on criteria

amendment and the amendment process is expected to commence before September, said Mr Arkhom.

### **5. Direct hotel bookings rise on trips**

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

Hotel websites ranked third among booking channels in 2020 after a surge in domestic trips spurred more direct bookings, according to SiteMinder. Brad Haines, regional vice-president for Asia-Pacific at SiteMinder, a Sydney-based distribution hospitality platform provider, said the domestic market was one of the key factors influencing the trend. As local residents are more familiar with the area they plan to visit, they can go directly to hotel websites that can better represent the hotel, its services and characteristics. The government's subsidy on hotel rooms called "We travel together" also supported strong growth in direct bookings.