

Thai News Update: 4 August 2020

1. Thai e-vehicle industry set for rapid growth

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

The Electric Vehicle Association of Thailand (EVAT) says the EV market in Thailand is the most advanced among Asean countries and will grow quickly during 2025 to 2030. EVAT chairman Yossapong Laoonual said several of the association's requirements for the EV industry have been adopted by the government. However, EV investment and production have moved slowly due to high operating costs. EV technology will be cheaper from 2025 and become more accessible to normal people, he predicted. He added that the EV industry in Thailand was more advanced than in Malaysia, Indonesia or Vietnam, since Thai producers were already up and running. Also, foreign auto companies were interested in investing in EV production in Thailand since it has long been a production base for normal cars.

2. CP clan ranked 21st richest in the world

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

The family behind the Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group was named the 21st richest family in the world by Bloomberg this month. The Chearavanont family, which still holds the top spot in Thailand, owns assets worth US\$30.7 billion (Bt958 billion). The Chearavanont empire was first founded in 1921 and now covers the sectors of agriculture, food manufacturing, retail and telecommunication across 21 countries. Since Thailand was hit by the Covid-19 crisis, CP Group has launched several projects to help out, such as building a Bt100-million factory to make face masks and spending close to Bt200 million on food for both medical personnel on the frontline and Covid-19 patients.

3. Banpu acquires wind farm in Vietnam as part of plans for greener future

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

Banpu Public Co Ltd, a leading integrated energy solutions company in Asia-Pacific, is acquiring the El Wind Mui Dinh Wind Farm, which marks a key milestone in the company's long-term investment in Vietnam. The US\$66-million (Bt2.06-billion) acquisition, subject to adjustments outlined in the sales and purchase agreement, was made through BRE Singapore, an associate company in which Banpu holds a 50 per cent share through Banpu Next. Banpu secured a feed-in-tariff of \$0.085/kWh for a period of 20 years in a power purchase agreement with Vietnam Electricity.

4. BCPG acquiring 4 solar plants

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

BCPG, a renewable energy business arm of Bangchak Corporation, has announced a takeover deal for four solar power plants in Thailand with a total production capacity of 20 megawatts to further expand its green energy empire. The firm recently signed a shareholders' agreement with Eternity Power for the acquisition of 99.99% of shares in RPV Energy, the operator of four solar power plants in three provinces. The photovoltaic power plants, which have already started commercial operations, consist of a 5MW power plant in Lop Buri, a 5MW facility in Prachin Buri, and two others with a total capacity of 10MW in Kanchanaburi.

5. Cabinet nod sought for 2 new rail routes worth B153bn

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

The cabinet will be asked this month to approve two new train route extensions in the North and Northeast worth a combined 153 billion baht. The routes are Den Chai-Chiang Rai-Chiang Khong in the upper North and the Ban Phai-Mukdahan-Nakhon Phanom in the upper Northeast. The former will branch out from the main northern line in Phrae while the latter breaks from the upper northern line in Khon Kaen. Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob said the Den Chai route covering 326km will cost 85 billion baht to build and the Ban Phai route spanning 355km comes with a price tag of 68 billion baht.

6. CAAT lifts entry ban on select foreigners

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

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) has lifted an entry ban on four groups of foreign nationals, in line with the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration's (CCSA) easing of Covid-19 travel restrictions. CAAT director Chula Sukmanop said the agency's easing of travel restrictions for non-Thai nationals, which will take effect on 4 August, does not apply to ordinary tourists, but only to select groups of foreigners. The four groups are non-Thai nationals with a certificate of permanent residency, including their spouses and children; non-Thai nationals with work permits, including their spouses and children; non-Thai nationals permitted to enter under a special arrangement; and migrant workers whose employers are allowed to bring in workers.