

## Thai News Update: 4 February 2020

### **1. Medical staff flying to Wuhan to evacuate Thais 'well equipped'**

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

Fifteen medical staff who have volunteered to evacuate Thai people stranded in the coronavirus-hit Wuhan city in China will employ the highest caution against the virus and are equipped with full protective gears, Dr Suwanchai Wattanayingcharoenchai, Department of Disease Control director-general, and Dr Apichat Wachiraphan, director of Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute, said in a joint statement on February 3.

### **2. Oil traders offer deals to service cars**

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

The Energy Ministry is cooperating with six oil traders to discount prices of products and services for vehicle maintenance to attract motorists, in an effort to deal with the PM2.5 dust problem in the energy sector. PTT, Bangchak, Esso, Caltex, PT and Shell are the six traders. The discount period runs from Feb 3-29. Nantika Thangsuphanich, director-general of the Energy Business Department, said engine oil and lubricants are being offered at 25-50% discount. Some vehicle check-ups are eligible for free service and special discounts for spare parts such as lube and air filters.

### **3. State to push promising products**

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

Some 30 product items have promising export prospects and need special effort from the government to increase shipments, says the Commerce Ministry's planning unit. Pimchanok Vonkorpon, director-general of the Trade Policy and Strategy Office, said agricultural, food and industrial items are among the products, contributing a combined 25% of total export value. Last year, those products expanded by an average of 13% despite the world's economic slowdown and continued trade war. According to Ms Pimchanok, farm products include fresh, frozen and dried fruit, frozen chicken, dairy and dairy products, wheat and other finished food products, and food

seasonings, while the industrial goods are radios, phones, watches and parts, motorcycles and parts, soap and skincare products, clothes and tableware.

#### **4. Thais lead in mobile banking, gaming**

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

Thailand ranked No.1 for internet users engaging in mobile banking, as well as time spent on game consoles, according to the Digital 2020 report. The report was published by We Are Social Inc agency in partnership with social media solutions provider Hootsuite, focusing on digital, mobile and social media trends around the world. Regarding the use of banking and financial services apps, Thailand remained in the pole position among 46 countries in the report for the second year in a row. Some 65% of Thai internet users aged 16 to 64 said they used mobile banking or financial service apps each month, the report said.

#### **5. Dusit signs deal with Vietnam's General Technology to build upscale hotel in Hanoi**

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

Hotel and property development company Dusit International has signed a long-term agreement with Vietnamese real estate developers General Technology Joint Stock Company to build and operate Dusit Tu Hoa Palace in Hanoi's affluent Tay Ho district, at the northern end of the city's largest freshwater lake, West Lake. Comprising 207 rooms, the upscale property will put guests at the heart of a vibrant lakeside community renowned for its international restaurants, trendy cafes, chic nightlife venues, and fascinating lakeside temples, according to a company statement on February 3. Noi Bai International Airport is 30 minutes away by car, while Hanoi's Old Quarter, the city's business hub and main tourist destination, can be reached in 15 minutes.

#### **6. Pinthong plans industrial estate in EEC**

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

Pinthong Industrial Park plans to set up Pinthong Industrial Estate 7 in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), the company's chief operating officer, Surat Pattanawongyuenyong, said recently. The company will purchase additional land plots of between 2,000 rai and 3,000 rai in the EEC, which covers Rayong, Chonburi and Chachoengsao. Recently the company and the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand jointly set up Pinthong Industrial Estate 6 in Rayong. He said the EEC zone is attractive for foreign investors, especially from China.