

## Thai News Update: 4 January 2021

### **1. Thailand to get 2 million shots of China's Sinovac**

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

Thailand will get its first lot of Covid-19 vaccines from China's Sinovac Biotech Ltd next month, allowing the country in the middle of a resurgence of the coronavirus outbreak to begin inoculating people with the highest risks for infections. The Chinese vaccine in three batches, with the first 200,000 doses arriving in February, 800,000 in March, and another 1 million in April, according to the Health Ministry. Thailand has also started local production of vaccines developed by AstraZeneca Plc under a technology transfer agreement, which is expected to be ready for distribution in May, the ministry said.

### **2. 18 products set to be added to GI list**

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

The government aims to add 18 more products to the country's geographical indication (GI) list this year, a move to generate income for local communities. Vuttikrai Leewiraphan, director-general of the Intellectual Property Department, said the addition of the GI-certified products will help raise sales from GI products to more than 7 billion baht in 2021. GI is a distinctive certificate used to identify a product as originating from a particular country, region or locality that has specific qualities, reputation or other unique characteristics. The certification typically increases market value for products sold in developed countries and protects the branding of these indigenous products by building consumer confidence in their quality.

### **3. EEC Office ready to propose investment perks until 2022**

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

The Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Office seems prepared to propose the government extend promotional privileges for investment in the EEC area until 2022 in a bid to sustain investment momentum. According to EEC Office secretary-general Kanit Sangsubhan, his office plans to declare 2021 as "an investment year in EEC" after the government began four key infrastructure development projects in the area. The four key infrastructure projects are a high-speed rail linking Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang and U-tapao airports; a renovation of U-tapao airport; Map Ta Put industrial port phase 3 and Laem Chabang port phase 3.

#### **4. Govt unveils new curbs**

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has issued a set of new restrictions taking effect on Monday in the wake of a new surge of the coronavirus, though customers are not banned from eating in restaurants and weddings are still allowed under certain conditions. The directives, signed by Gen Prayut as director of the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), were announced in the Royal Gazette on Sunday. The new restrictions will be applied to 28 red zone provinces including Bangkok. The 28 red zone provinces were officially announced in the Royal Gazette on 3 January.

#### **5. Finance Ministry focuses on three areas to revive Thai economy**

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

The Finance Ministry this year will have three areas of focus to revive Thailand's economy from the Covid-19 pandemic fallout, ministry spokesperson Kulaya Tantitemit said. First, the ministry will urgently push for economic revival through speeding up budget disbursement and state spending. The ministry also would streamline the tax structure to fit well with the economic and social change, added Kulaya, who also serves as acting director-general of the Fiscal Policy Office. Second, the ministry will adjust the country's economic structure by seeking ways to promote investment in new technologies, such as the next generation automotive, digital business and comprehensive medical business.