

## Thai News Update: 6 June 2019

### **1. Energy Ministry Has High Hopes For Solar Scheme**

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

The Energy Ministry expects the solar power project for household rooftops to achieve its projection of 15,000 participants by year-end thanks to the popularity of the trend globally and declining investment costs in the sector. The number of households using solar power has increased significantly since the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) opened its household solar power scheme last month, with plans to buy electricity from individual producers of up to 100 megawatts this year at 1.68 baht per kilowatt-hour.

### **2. Plastic Reduction Efforts 'A Success'**

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

The Pollution Control Department (PCD) says the first year of the country's effort to reduce plastic waste has been successful and has received cooperation from the business sector. "Our plan to reduce plastic waste is in its early steps and voluntary, but we received strong cooperation," said Suwanna Tiasuwan, deputy director-general of the PCD at a meeting to mark the first anniversary of government's campaign to reduce plastic waste. "We see voluntary bans of single-use plastic bags and we see better law enforcement related to plastic waste management."

### **3. Feeling Heat From Trade Spat, PTT Looks To Boost Efficiency**

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

National oil and gas conglomerate PTT Plc says it's feeling pressure from the US-China trade war as disruptions to supply chains for resins complicate the group's plastics business. PTT is responding by cutting operating costs and enhancing efficiency. Chief operating officer Auttapol Rerkpiboon said the impact of the trade conflict has gradually spread to several PTT subsidiaries, particularly petrochemicals and oil refining. The plastic resin in olefins and aromatics supply

chains is a fundamental raw material for everyday-use plastic for packaging, film, fibres, building materials and textiles.

#### **4. Private Sector Calls For Stimulus**

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

The private sector wants the new government to introduce economic stimulus packages to support economic expansion in the remainder of the year as growth slows. The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) will ask the new government to launch an economic stimulus package especially tax incentives to encourage domestic spending, Predee Daochai, chairman of the Thai Bankers Association (TBA), said after the JSCCIB meeting on 5 June. Tax measures to boost spending and the property sector could support domestic consumption and the Thai economy in the remainder of the year, he said. Because disbursement of the 2020 fiscal budget will be delayed by the process of forming the new government, an urgent economic stimulus is necessary, he added..

#### **5. Consumers in ASEAN Consider The Excessive Use Of Plastics To Be A Serious Problem**

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

Consumers in Southeast Asia are increasingly aware of the environmental issues facing their countries, with waste being the top environmental concern, according to Ipsos Business Consulting, a global growth strategy consulting firm. It spoke in detail about the challenge of plastic pollution in Asean at an event organised by the British Chamber of Commerce in Thailand on June 5. Ipsos Business Consulting told the assembled audience that 49 per cent of respondents in an online survey of 3,928 consumers (across three countries) felt that dealing with waste is now the top priority for their country, with 55 per cent of respondents considering the excessive use of plastics to be a serious problem.

#### **6. Cabinet Nods To 3 Tax Measures**

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

The Cabinet on 4 June approved three tax measures, Nattaporn Jatusripitak, a spokesman for deputy prime minister Somkid Jatusripitak, said after the meeting. The first is a tax measure to boost the use of biodegradable plastic packaging with the aim of reducing plastic waste. The

companies that purchase this kind of packaging could deduct the expense of purchasing it from their taxes at the level of 1.25 times. This will cover the period of January this year to December 31, 2021, he said. For example, if the company spent Bt100 purchasing biodegradable plastic, it could deduct Bt125 from taxes. The measure will help the government reduce its cost of dealing with waste, he said. It is estimated that this measure will cost the government Bt1.3 billion in revenues but help promote the use of biodegradable plastic, he said.