

Thai News Update: 10 December 2018

1. Ministries Enlisted To Cut Fertiliser Costs

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

Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak has urged the Commerce and Agriculture and Cooperatives ministries to work with manufacturers to cut fertiliser prices by 30% to support the farm sector. Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak has urged the Commerce and Agriculture and Cooperatives ministries to work with manufacturers to cut fertiliser prices by 30% to support the farm sector. Commerce Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong said Prime Minister Prayut Chan o Cha ordered the two ministries to jointly address the problem of high fertilizer prices.

2. CP Betting Big On Poultry, Shrimp Output In Vietnam

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

CP Vietnam Corporation plans to invest heavily in food production in Vietnam, especially in poultry and shrimp. CP Group recently announced its plans at the 25th anniversary of operations in Vietnam. Montri Suwanposri, president of CP Vietnam, said that since 1993 the group has invested 32.82 billion baht in CP Vietnam. He said Vietnam's economy has performed well, with 6.5% GDP growth annually. In addition, the country has a large working population and a stable political situation, both positive factors for investment. Vietnam has also joined free-trade agreements with many countries, spurring exports.

3. Kirapat Discusses MEA Plans

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

The newly appointed governor of the state-run Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA), Kirapat Jiamset, vows to transform the organisation for the digital era and improve services in anticipation of disruptive technology in the coming years. Mr Kirapat, 57, has worked in materials management and technology for a long time. His most prominent jobs were the underground wire project in Bangkok's central business district (CBD) during 2014-17, as well as the introduction of the digital

platform in the power distribution service area of the MEA, covering Bangkok, Nonthaburi and Samut Prakan.

4. Second Batch Of New Year Gifts For Low-Income People

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

The Government on 9 December transferred a second batch of funds into the bank accounts of another 4.2 million state-welfare cardholders who are entitled to Bt500 each as part of the Bt5.5-billion New Year gift programme for Thailand's 11.1 million low-income earners. People whose ID card numbers start with 31, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 were able to withdraw the cash from Krungthai Bank's ATM machines on 9 December. On 7 December, the government transferred funds into the accounts of the first batch of 4 million cardholders, whose ID cards begin with the numbers 32, 33 and 34.

5. ASEAN cities to 'GET SMART'

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

Thailand to lead smart-city project with Bangkok, Phuket and Chonburi featuring prominently in cross-border partnership. Thailand will play a leading role in implementing the smart-city network covering 26 cities in the 10 ASEAN countries as the Kingdom takes over as the bloc's chair next year, Digital Economy and Society Minister Pichet Durongkaveroj said this week. Bangkok, Phuket and Chon Buri will feature prominently in the smart-city programme, with a focus on advancing cross-border partnerships for sustainability in seven key areas – the economy, governance, people, living, mobility, the environment and energy.