

Thai News Update: 12 January 2021

1. Influx of foreign funds expected despite drop in confidence index: Fetco

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

The Federation of Thai Capital Market Organisations (Fetco) Investor Confidence Index for the next three months has fallen by 19.1 per cent to 130.63 due to uncertainty over recovery of the tourism industry, global conflicts, economic slowdown and new round of Covid-19 infections. Fetco chairman Paiboon Nalinthrangkurn, however, said investors' confidence remains high over hope for an influx of foreign funds, economic recovery and better turnover from listed companies. He added that investors were drawn to shares in the banking, petrochemical and technology industries, and had no interest in shares in the tourism, fashion and print media industries.

2. Mass transit vow reaffirmed

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

The government has vowed to continue infrastructure and electric rail development projects in Bangkok and adjacent provinces covering a total of 559 kilometres with 336 stations by 2029. According to Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow, the government is committed to completing the 20-year mass rapid transit master plan for Bangkok Metropolitan area (2010-29). The master plan calls for the development of 14 routes of electric rail projects serving the Greater Bangkok area. Of the 14 planned routes, nine routes covering 168km including an extension of the Green Line from Mor Chit-Saphan Mai-Ku Kot with seven stations, and the first phase of the 1.8km Gold Line from Krung Thon Buri station to Khlong San station are already up and running.

3. Ministry preps B200bn for new relief measure

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

The Finance Ministry is preparing to inject financial aid worth around 200 billion baht to combat deteriorating economic conditions during the prolonged Covid-19 crisis. Such financial relief will be disbursed through state-owned financial institutions by implementing policies to enhance liquidity and take care of various groups of debtors, said Kulaya Tantitemit, acting director-general of the Fiscal Policy Office. Of the 200 billion baht, 100 billion is the leftover liquidity from first-phase government measures issued to tame adverse effects of the outbreak.

4. Atta seeks vaccinated arrivals

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

Offering an estimate of 80% of inbound travel companies closing, the Association of Thai Travel Agents (Atta) encourages the government to allow vaccinated visitors to visit the country without quarantine in the third quarter to boost demand. Around 30% of 10,000 registered inbound tourism companies have shuttered permanently, while half have stopped their operations temporarily because Thailand cannot receive international visitors, said Vichit Prakobgosol, president of Atta. Only 20% of inbound operators remain in business by pivoting to the domestic market, which is ravaged by the new spike in local transmissions. "Operators have to fight until the last breath to maintain business, at least until the third quarter when there's hope for a new flow of tourists," Mr Vichit said. "If inbound tourism can restart, the country's economic recovery will get back on track."

5. 'MorChana' application users get relief from data usage fee

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

Mobile operators AIS, True, DTAC, NT (National Telecom Plc) and 3BB will not charge data usage fee for users of the "MorChana" (Doctors Win) application for three months, starting January 11, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) said on 11 January. The move follows discussions the NBTC held with mobile and internet operators to come up with measures to help alleviate people's financial burden amid the new Covid-19 outbreak, NBTC acting secretary-general Trairat Wiriyasirikul said.

6. Susco unveils 5-year investment plan to open more gas stations

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

Oil company Susco plans to invest Bt2 billion over five years, with the goal of having 300 gas stations nationwide by the end of 2025. "This plan should help increase the company's market share beyond the current 3 per cent," said Chairit Simaraj, managing director of Susco Plc. "This year, we plan to invest Bt550 million to add 20 gas stations to our existing portfolio of 240 stations nationwide, as well as renovate 50 stations in Bangkok and big cities. Susco will also focus on non-oil businesses by adding Lawson 108 convenience stores, Starbucks and D'Oro coffee shops, KFC and Subway restaurants to their gas stations.