

Thai News Update: 20 January 2021

1. CAAT chooses top man from Aerothai as its new chief

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

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) has elected executive vice president of safety and standards at Aeronautical Radio of Thailand (Aerothai) Suttipong Kongpool as its new chairman, Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob said on 20 January. “Of the 12 incumbents, three who won the highest number of votes were Suttipong [461 votes], current CAAT chairman Chula Sukmanop [451 votes] and Cherdphan Chotikhun from Thai Airways International [448 votes],” he said. “The new chairman should be appointed before the end of January.” Saksayam said the new chairman will work on CAAT’s current policies that aim to strengthen the civil aviation industry amid the Covid-19 crisis and improve industrial standards from several aspects to prepare for when business returns to normal.

2. Digital asset trade imminent

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

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) will launch a digital asset trading platform in the second half of this year to allow trading on all types of digital token assets excluding cryptocurrencies. The SET says cryptocurrencies do not meet its product qualifications and could facilitate money laundering, while causing harm to the bourse's image as a "high trust" exchange. SET executive vice-president Kitti Sutthiatthasil said the digital asset platform will be similar to other popular e-commerce marketplaces such as Amazon, Lazada or Shopee, but all products on SET's platform will be digital token assets. He said tokens traded on the platform must meet at least one of three conditions.

3. Ratch takes up THAI's BAFS shares

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

Ratch Group, Thailand's largest private power producer by capacity, has become a major shareholder in Bangkok Aviation Fuel Services (BAFS) by acquiring shares worth 2.7 billion baht from debt-ridden Thai Airways International (THAI) in a move to capture growth from the aviation fuel industry in the post-pandemic period. Yesterday, the company reported to the Stock Exchange of Thailand it won an auction to purchase 98.9 million shares of BAFS from THAI in December. The shares account for 15.53% of total issued and paid-up shares in BAFS. THAI maintains 7.06% ownership in BAFS after the shares were transferred to Ratch on 19 January.

4. MEA increases purchase price for household solar in Bangkok and vicinity

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

The Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA) has increased the price at which it purchases solar power from households, government spokeswoman Ratchada Thanadirek revealed on 19 January. In a move to encourage households to install solar panels and generate electricity by themselves, the MEA has raised the purchase price from Bt1.68 to Bt2.20 per unit for 10 years in Bangkok, Nonthaburi and Samut Prakan. Electricity purchase from public solar generators will expand to hospitals and schools soon, Ratchada added.

5. Special co-paying scheme planned for SMEs

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

The Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion (OSMEP) is planning to launch a special “Let’s Go Halves” scheme to help SMEs save on operating costs, OSMEP’s director-general Veerapong Malai said. For instance, he said, the scheme can help co-pay fees charged for the inspection of export products, which in some cases goes as high as Bt10,000 per product, he said.