

Thai News Update: 10 July 2020

1. Follow seven steps for a safe return to Thailand

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

At the daily briefing on the Covid-19 situation in Thailand on Thursday (July 9), Natapanu Nopakun, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, announced the steps Thais and foreigners under 11 groups need to follow before they are allowed entry into the country. The steps are: 1. Contact the Thai embassy or consulate in your country to book a seat on a repatriation flight; 2. Foreigners must book a room at an alternative state quarantine site, get a fit-to-fly health certificate as well as a Covid-19 test that is negative and has been taken no more than 72 hours before departure. Foreigners are also required to have insurance coverage of US\$100,000 specifically for Covid-19. Thais, on the other hand, only need to provide a fit-to-fly certificate...

2. New protocol on fruit to China signed

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

At a teleconferenced International Energy Agency (IEA) forum on Friday (July 10), Energy Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong said Thailand had the potential to become a regional leader in the production of electric energy. The minister was co-chairing the meeting on the subject of transitioning to clean energy. In his speech on Thailand's policy and vision for dependable and sustainable power, Sontirat said since taking over as minister, he focused on the "energy for all policy" until it was sustainably implemented in both the private and public sectors. Now, he said, he is following up with a "re-energising Thailand" policy, which will focus on accelerating infrastructure investment and stimulating the economy through different projects.

3. Thai industrial investment tipped to recover strongly

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

Investment in Thailand's industrial estates will return to normal in the post-Covid-19 era, as companies from China and Taiwan are likely to relocate production bases to Thailand in response to the US-China trade war, said Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) governor Somchint Pilouk. The easing of the lockdown will also bring new investment in the estates, she added. The IEAT has launched promotional campaigns to draw more investment to the zones.

4. Khao Yai attracts most visitors over long weekend

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

The Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) announced on Friday (July 10) that the Khao Yai National Park attracted the most tourists over the July 4 to 7 long-weekend. Sompoch Maneerat, DNP's spokesperson, said 45,547 tourists had visited Khao Yai over that weekend, with the highest number, or 15,820, showing up on Sunday (July 5). However, many had to wait their turn because Khao Yai only allows 5,000 people to be inside the park at any given time. The spokesperson also said the numbers may be misleading because people have to book their visit to national parks, and many make bookings but don't show up or even cancel their booking.

5. PM defers security council meeting for discussions with economic team

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

A meeting of the National Security Council scheduled for Friday (July 10) has been postponed so that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha can meet with his team of economic advisers. The economic ministers are due to meet the PM on 10 July to discuss the latest economic situation and measures to support small and medium-sized enterprises. A report said that the prime minister will discuss the guidelines for helping the economy recover from Covid-19 impact. The meeting is scheduled for 10.30am.

6. Cabinet okays new Chachoengsao reservoir for EEC

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

The Cabinet on Wednesday (July 8) approved the Royal Irrigation Department (RID)'s proposal to construct a new reservoir in Chachoengsao province to support water demand in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). The Huai Khok Khian Reservoir project is part of the water development and management strategy to support the EEC from 2017 to 2037 under the 20-Year National Strategy. Thongplew Kongjun, RID director-general, said the National Water Resource Committee (NWRC) chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan had also approved the project.

7. PTT sells Asia's longest dollar bond, raises \$700m

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

PTT Plc, Thailand's largest energy company, raised US\$700 million from the sale of a 50-year bond in Asia's longest dollar corporate debt deal, and bankers believe the shift towards longer-dated tenors in the region will continue. The bonds were priced to yield 3.7% in the deal that was executed overnight Thursday, according to a term sheet seen by Reuters. It is

the longest tenor for a dollar debt transaction in the Asian region for a corporate, according to bankers who worked on the deal. In April, Indonesia was the first Asian sovereign issuer to sell a 50-year tranche as part of a deal which raised \$4.3 billion. The 50-year portion of that deal raised \$1 billion.

8. MotoGP plan approved

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

A plan to extend Thailand's role as a host of MotoGP races until 2025 was approved by the cabinet yesterday. The licence to host MotoGP events will expire this year. The proposal to renew the licence was drafted by the Tourism and Sports Ministry. Traisuree Traisanakul, deputy spokeswoman for Government House, said the government will pay for half of the 50 million euros (1.7 billion baht) needed to retain the MotoGP licence for five more years. Ms Traisuree said to secure the rest of the funds, the Sports Authority of Thailand can first seek private sector support before returning to the government for additional help.

9. PM accelerates 'New Normal'

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha is keeping faith with his "New Normal" to steer Thailand forward, prioritising public health safety and tackling the economic problems of the poor. The prime minister said his government was moving ahead with a package to employ 400,000 people. He also vowed to expedite efforts to address the economic woes caused by the pandemic by picking the most skilled people should he decide a cabinet reshuffle was the best way to proceed. Gen Prayut on 8 July led his team on a visit to the Bangkok Post, which he chose as the first stop on his tour of 10 publishing companies to listen to their opinions on how to move the country forward amid the Covid-19 crisis.

