

Thai News Update: 10 June 2020

1. Industrial group supports Thailand joining CPTPP

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

The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) supports the move to make Thailand a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) to boost the nation's international trade in the post-pandemic period. The panel's stance, unveiled on 9 June by the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), comes after a one-month study of the pact jointly conducted with the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce. FTI chairman Supant Mongkolsuthree said the CPTPP will be a new tool for the country to move forward in the global economy.

2. New food delivery apps seeking a bite

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

Competition in food delivery apps is expected to intensify as a series of newcomers jump into the 35-billion-baht market, with some aiming to leverage customer insights for their other businesses. GrabFood, Get, Line Man and Foodpanda are the major food ordering apps in the Thai market. More competitors have entered the segment, including Siam Commercial Bank (SCB), which unveiled food delivery platform Robinhood on 8 June. Robinhood is waiving the gross profit (GP) fees collected from food merchants as part of its strategy to draw eateries and customers onto the platform.

3. Travel agents hopeful of domestic tourism

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

The Thai Travel Agents Association (TTAA) aims to attract 1 million outbound tourists who booked tour packages over Songkran but failed to use them because of the pandemic to travel domestically instead, in hopes of raising 20 billion baht in tourism revenue. TTAA president Thanapol Cheewarattanaporn said that if the government lets people travel domestically without facing a 14-day quarantine, 80% of outbound tourists are willing to travel within the nation as an alternative because they are confident that the country is safe.

4. PTT eyes importing more than 700,000 tonnes of LNG this year

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

Thailand's top oil and gas conglomerate, PTT Plc, aims to import between 660,000 and 770,000 tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) this year, said Wuttikorn Stithit, PTT's senior executive vice president for the gas business unit. The Energy Ministry has given PTT the job

of developing Thailand into a regional LNG hub. The company has already tested the LNG reload and filling service for LNG-fuelled vessels in the first quarter of this year.

5. Schools, colleges, theme parks set to reopen under 4th phase easing on June 15

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

Activities related to education and health will be allowed to restart under the fourth-phase easing of disease controls, expected to commence on June 15. Dr Taweessin Visanuyothin, spokesman of the government's Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), revealed today (June 10) that the draft for fourth phase easing will be discussed on Friday (June 12) and covers three categories – education, the economy, and health. The spokesman added that concern was focused on education since students' studies had been badly affected by the virus. The draft includes both major and minor measures that must be applied by schools, universities and other educational facilities when they reopen.

6. Department offers Thai workers chance to go overseas

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

Once the Covid-19 crisis has been resolved, the Department of Employment (DOE) aims to send more than 50,000 workers overseas by September. Suchat Pornchaiwiseskul, the department's director-general, said this move is in line with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha's policy send the Thai workforce overseas. "We expect to send 20,120 workers to Taiwan, 3,818 to Japan, 6,421 to South Korea, 2,488 to Malaysia, 2,934 to Singapore and 2,840 to Israel," he said. He added that Thai workers are known worldwide for their discipline and skills, and sending them abroad is possible now that Thailand has been able to control the spread of Covid-19 effectively.

7. Great progress reported in most EEC infrastructure projects

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

The Transport Ministry's Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning (OTP) announced that of the 168 infrastructure projects in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) 121 were either under construction or had been completed. The 168 infrastructure projects are valued at Bt988.948 billion. OTP also said that of the remaining projects, two were waiting for the allocation of funds in 2021, six had been turned into public-private partnerships, nine had either been postponed or suspended and 30 had not started yet.

8. THAI wins some success in negotiating with creditors

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

Thai Airways international (THAI) has successfully completed negotiations with creditors in three countries, namely Switzerland, Germany and Japan, and is planning to seek bankruptcy protection in the United States before it starts negotiating with creditors there. This progress was reported to the Cabinet by Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam in his capacity as chairman of the rehab monitoring committee. THAI has until August 17 to come up with a rehabilitation plan to present to the Central Bankruptcy Court.

9. Asia's largest bird sanctuary reopens in Chai Nat

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

Chai Nat Bird Park, the largest aviary in Asia, has reopened for free throughout June to help stimulate tourism in the country after travel restrictions to contain Covid-19 were lifted. The park 200 kilometres north of Bangkok has been thoroughly sanitised to ensure the safety of visitors, and most attractions have reopened. Park staffer Saisunee Ngerchang said the aviary is strictly following Public Health Ministry's preventive measures for Covid-19. More than 700 birds of various species are back on show for tourists, though the egg museum, selfie spots and the aquarium remain closed.