

Thai News Update: 11 June 2020

1. Bangkok 35th most expensive city for expats

Source: Thailand Business News ([Link](#))

According to Mercer's 2020 Cost of Living Survey, Hong Kong tops the list of most expensive cities for expatriates, followed by Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in second position. Tokyo and Zurich remain in third and fourth positions, respectively, whereas Singapore is in fifth, down two places from last year. New York City ranked sixth, moving up from ninth place. Other cities appearing in the top 10 of Mercer's costliest cities for expatriates are Shanghai (7), Bern (8), Geneva (9), and Beijing (10). The world's least expensive cities for expatriates, according to Mercer's survey, are Tunis (209), Windhoek (208), Tashkent and Bishkek, which tied to rank 206.

2. CPF to manufacture foods based on Circular Economy principle

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

Charoen Pokphand Foods PLC (CPF) is set to increase rations of renewable energy and promote sustainability in its value chain in line with the Circular Economy principle and the UN's sustainable development goals. Mr. Wuthichai Sithipreedanant, senior vice president for corporate social responsibility and sustainable development of CPF, said the company has adopted the Circular Economy principle to optimise resource use efficiency. He explained that CPF has proactively looked for solutions to reduce food loss and food waste generated in its business and to increase energy and water consumption efficiency as well as using more renewable energy and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, it has continuously reduced the use of single-use plastic throughout the company's value chain and taken efforts to design environmental-friendly food packaging.

3. Inter-provincial bus company to apply for 'Amazing Thailand SHA' certification

Source: Pattaya Mail ([Link](#))

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) recently join an activity initiated by the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health to campaign for safety and health practices to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 infections. Dr. Danai Teewanda, Deputy Director – General, Department of Health, led a delegation to meet with the management and staff of Nakhonchai Air Bus Company to provide knowledge on the Amazing Thailand Safety and Health Administration: SHA certification project.

4. Foreign investors eager to return

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

The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) is encouraging the government to allow foreign investors to enter Thailand as part of efforts to cope with the sluggish economy. It is preparing to propose measures to screen business travellers to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, who chairs the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), which has maintained a restriction on foreign arrivals to contain the virus. Kalin Sarasin, chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, said on Wednesday foreign investors want to enter Thailand to resume business expansion and investment. JSCCIB has drawn up measures to cope with Covid-19 and facilitate investors at the same time, he said. Mr Kalin believes "they will follow the government's [health] guidelines".

5. Japan to let in 250 foreigners per day

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

Japan plans to ease its coronavirus travel restrictions by letting in up to around 250 foreign travelers per day from Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Vietnam, government sources said. The quota, which Japan aims to introduce this summer, will initially apply to businesspeople such as executives and engineers, the sources said, adding that the government taskforce on the virus response is expected to finalize the details of the plan soon. Japan currently has an entry ban in place for 111 countries and regions, with foreign travelers who have been to any of these areas within the last two weeks being turned away.

6. Transport Ministry to expropriate more land for high-speed rail

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

More land needs to be expropriated for the construction of a high-speed railway linking Bangkok's two airports with U-Tapao airport in the East coast. The Transport Ministry, however, has assured the bid-winning consortium led by Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group that the necessary land will be handed over by January or February next year as planned. Chaiwat Thongkamkoon, Transport Ministry's permanent secretary, said overall the high-speed rail project has been proceeding as planned after the Bt224-billion contract was signed in October last year.

7. ADB brings together experts to find formula for speedy recovery in Southeast Asia

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

The Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s president, Masatsugu Asakawa, has set up a panel of experts in the subjects of economics, finance and health to help ministers, central bank

governors and other senior officials in Southeast Asia identify options that they can tap into to quickly bounce back after the Covid-19 pandemic. “We are providing a platform for ministers and well-known experts to discuss the immediate challenge posed by Covid-19 and identify areas worthy of additional analysis for the future,” Asakawa said during an online event on Tuesday (June 9).

8. Ministry plans to cash in on misused agricultural land

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

Deputy Agriculture Minister Thammanat Phromphao said on Wednesday (June 10) that the ministry is planning to generate revenue from lands under the Agricultural Land Reform Office (ALRO) that have been misused by communities, hotels and resorts, and rent them to those who wish to continue using those lands. “The income from the rent will be added to the Agricultural Land Reform Fund, which currently has around Bt4 billion, to be used for land reform for agricultural purposes nationwide,” he added. “The ministry has no intention to confiscate the land and turn them into farming areas, as that would require a substantial budget to remove the buildings as well as other facilities that the hotel or resort owners have built on those lands.”

9. Change of consumer behaviour in new normal boosts online sales

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

E-commerce in Thailand this year will rise by 35 per cent or Bt220 billion due to the "new normal" brought on by the government's lockdown measures amid the Covid-19 crisis, Priceza.com revealed on Wednesday (June 10). Priceza.com is a leading price comparison website in Southeast Asia and currently operates in Thailand and Indonesia. According to the Department of Business Development, the value of e-commerce in Thailand has been growing continuously from 2014 and by this year, the market value is expected to hit Bt200 billion.