

## Thai News Update: 12 October 2020

### **1. New travel restrictions imposed in Mae Sot and Myanmar's Myawaddi**

**Source: Thai PBS World ([Link](#))**

Effective from 11 October, new travel restrictions have been imposed in the Mae Sot district of Thailand's northwestern province of Tak and Myanmar's Myawaddi Township, after two truckers from Myanmar, who crossed into Mae Sot, tested positive for COVID-19 on their return to Myanmar. Tak's official issued an order restricting the arrival of individuals and vehicles from Myanmar through the permanent border checkpoint. Under the new restrictions, six-wheel trucks or larger can enter Mae Sot with only the driver and one assistant on board. For four-wheel vehicles, only the driver is allowed to enter. All drivers and assistants may stay on Thai soil for only 7 hours. Overstaying risks detention for up to 14 days, with their employers bearing all the associated expenses.

### **2. TCG offers to provide credit guarantee for Thai firms eyeing CLMV countries**

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

State-owned Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation (TCG) is planning to offer its credit guarantee services to Thai businesses looking to invest overseas, TCG president Rak Vorrakitpokatorn said. However, he said, before it can do this, TCG will first have to call on the Finance Ministry to revise some of its rules. He added that while the sun is seen to be setting for some industries in Thailand, they still have the opportunity to enter overseas markets, especially CLMV countries, or Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

### **3. Trade Dept tightens law on import dumping**

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

The Department of Foreign Trade is drafting rules under the anti-dumping and countervailing duties law to protect the local private sector from dumping of imports. The new rules are expected to be finished soon, said director-general Keerati Rushchano. Thailand's second version of the law on the anti-dumping and countervailing duties took effect last November. The added measures will deal with imported products that are processed in order to evade anti-dumping and countervailing taxes.

### **4. Government to issue 120,000 land title deeds to locals in 50 provinces for farming**

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

The news circulating on several media outlets that the government is planning to issue land title deeds to local people in 50 provinces is true, the Digital Economy and Society Ministry

has confirmed. "The ministry's Anti-Fake News Centre contacted the Ministry of Interior to verify this information and was told it is correct," the ministry said on 11 October. The project is now being studied by the National Economic and Social Development Council and is expected to be carried out within fiscal year 2021, the ministry added.

#### **5. New finance chief to focus on boosting consumption, liquidity**

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

Thailand will focus on spurring domestic consumption and reopening an economy badly hit by the impact of the coronavirus crisis, the new finance ministry said on 12 October. The economy suffered its deepest contraction in 22 years in the second quarter as the pandemic hammered the key tourism sector and domestic activity. The other main tasks include boosting liquidity, supporting tourism and accelerating public spending, Arkhom Termpittayapaisith told reporters on his first official day at work. "The most urgent task is to boost liquidity for businesses affected by Covid-19 as the business sector accounts for 70% of GDP," he said.

#### **6. Dunkin' Donuts in B60m growth drive**

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

The Thai operation of Dunkin' Donuts vows to ramp up its expansion next year, planning to spend 60 million baht to open 40-60 new branches, up from 30 this year. Pakin Phenpakkul, managing director of Golden Donuts Thailand Co, the operator of Dunkin' in Thailand, said that although Dunkin' has been registered in Thailand for four decades, it still has room to expand because its business covers only 60 provinces across the country. Some provinces can support 4-5 new branches, he said. Mr Pakin said the company remains committed to continuing investment to open 30 new Dunkin' branches this year despite the Covid-19 pandemic that affected sales.

#### **7. Govt floats new plan for land bridge**

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

The government is considering the idea of a land bridge project connecting the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand via Ranong and Chumphon provinces. Deputy government spokeswoman Traisuree Taisaranakul on 11 October told a press briefing that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha wants to improve infrastructure to increase the country's competitiveness. "Prime Minister Prayut gave us the guideline that we must be prudent and look at financial feasibility, cost-effectiveness, environmental impact and public acceptance," Ms Traisuree said.

## **8. Survey on people's travel and spending points to an uphill road for tourism recovery**

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

About one-fourth of respondents in a government survey in September travelled upcountry during weekends and holidays and the majority of travellers spent less than Bt5,000 on the trip. “The survey was conducted in 884 districts in every province among 8,124 respondents,” Pimchanok Vonkorpon, director-general of the Commerce Ministry's Trade Policy and Strategy Office, revealed of the office’s survey on consumer behaviour. “Out of 27 per cent who said that they had travelled upcountry from July-September, 56 per cent said the objective was sightseeing, while 44 per cent travelled to visit their families.”