

Thai News Update: 15 July 2020

1. Water resource authority unveils seven top-priority projects in EEC

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

The Office of National Water Resource (ONWR) has revealed the details of seven water resource management projects to be implemented in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) areas before presenting them to the National Water Resource Commission meeting on July 22. “There are many urban development projects in Rayong, Chonburi and Chachoengsao provinces which might be facing the risk of water shortage for consumption and industrial usage,” ONWR secretary-general Somkiat Prajamwong said. “The government has assigned the ONWR to build 38 water reservoirs and water resource management projects in the areas. This is expected to increase water resources by 872 million cubic metres.”

2. Cabinet approves Asean-China transport plan for 'new normal'

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

The Cabinet 15 July approved an Asean-China agreement on transportation and logistics to boost trade and combat the cross-border spread of Covid-19. Ministers also agreed to receive free assistance from the World Bank on phase 2 of a project to reduce ozone-destroying HCFC gases. Government spokesperson Narumon Pinyosinwat said the Cabinet green-lighted the draft of the Asean-China Transport Joint Statement ahead of the Asean-China Transport Ministers Meeting on Covid-19 on July 16. The joint statement demonstrated Asean and China’s commitment to fighting the outbreak and its severe impact on the global economy, travel and tourism, manufacturing, retail, transportation, supply chains and financial markets.

3. EU launches Covid-19 recovery programme in Thailand

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

The European Union on 15 July launched two projects under the Bt90-million “EU Covid-19 Response and Recovery in Thailand” programme. The two-year programme aims to boost the capacity and participation of Thai civil society organisations (CSOs) in mitigating the health, social and economic impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable Thais. The programme has three key components: immediate relief for households impacted by the outbreak; sustainable social and economic recovery by boosting livelihoods of affected communities; and building communities’ resilience to withstand future challenges.

4. Palm oil prices on the agenda

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

The cabinet on 14 July ordered working panels be set up to tackle oil palm prices in five southern provinces while instructing the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) and the Energy Ministry to accelerate purchasing additional crude palm oil to help boost domestic palm oil prices. Rachada Dhnadirek, a deputy government spokeswoman, said that the cabinet acknowledged the national oil palm management guidelines approved by the National Oil Palm Policy Committee, which met on June 4. The national oil palm management guidelines call for establishment of subcommittees and working panels to address problems in five southern provinces: Chumphon, Surat Thani, Krabi, Phangnga and Nakhon Si Thammarat.

5. Labour Ministry resumes migrant permit services

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

The Labour Ministry has resumed services nationwide by adopting social-distancing measures in order to complete the legalisation process for migrant labourers who registered online by March 30. Employment Department chief, Suchart Pornchaiwisetkul, said foreign workers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos who registered online by March 30 must complete the remaining work permit renewal steps. They must receive health examinations at government hospitals and then submit the results to an immigration office for a visa stamp. After that, they can apply for a work permit online on the department's website without travelling to a provincial immigration office, said Mr Suchart.

6. CPN and TAT launch joint effort

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

Central Pattana (CPN) is partnering with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to spur domestic tourism through discount promotions at 33 shopping centres. The Shop & Travel in Thailand campaign will give away 17 million baht in electronic vouchers from July 15 to Sept 15 and offer 80% discounts on Aug 8 and 90% discounts on Sept 9. CPN has applied strict measures at shopping centres to respond to the pandemic and has shared its master plan with other businesses and venues. In addition, Central Pattana has joined partners in cross-promotions to spur Thai tourism. For instance, CentralFestival Samui is partnering with the TAT, the Thai Hotels Association and Bangkok Airways to hold the Samui Unlock Sale, offering flight ticket promotions, hotel deals and holiday packages at special prices.

7. Bangkok gears up for motor show as restrictions ease

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

Bangkok on 14 July prepared to host its twice-postponed annual auto show, with organisers saying it would showcase the country's success in containing the coronavirus. From Detroit to Geneva, motor shows have been forced to cancel due to the Covid-19 pandemic, throwing the future of the industry's traditional way of marketing new models into doubt. The 41st Bangkok International Motor Show opens to the public on 15 July after being pushed back twice since March. "This is more than the motor show, but also Thailand's reputation because the other event organisers will be watching," said Prachin Eamlumnow, chief executive of head organiser of the event, Grand Prix International. Thailand will be the first to host a motor show on this scale since the pandemic, he told reporters.