

Thai News Update: 15 June 2020

1. Tourist attractions get ready for tomorrow's Phase 4 easing

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

Thailand's Interior Ministry has ordered all provincial governors to manage their tourist attractions in preparation for Phase 4 of Covid-19 lockdown relaxation, which begins tomorrow. The ministry's permanent secretary said on 13 June that after Thai PM Prayut Chan-o-cha ordered related authorities to manage beach attractions, the ministry instructed provincial governors nationwide to manage their tourist attractions as follows: Prepare tourist attractions, including natural, community, and historical attractions, to welcome tourists with a focus on managing tourism to drive the economy and prevent the spread of Covid-19; Arrange areas in tourist attractions, such as stores, venues, rest and event areas, and parking spaces to enable people to maintain social distancing etc.

2. Lampang, Kanchanaburi considered for sustainable city plan

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

The National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) has employed Chulalongkorn University to study and come up with a plan for a Sustainable Future City (SFC), the council's deputy secretary-general Anek Memongkol said. The study, for which Bt9.5 million has been earmarked, will take 12 months to complete. He added that this study will target pilot development projects in Lampang and Kanchanaburi, which were chosen because of their location in economic corridors and the readiness of their municipalities.

3. Thailand ranks second in the world in recovery from Covid19 Coronavirus crisis according to Global Covid-19 Health Index

Source: The Pattaya News ([Link](#))

The Prime Minister has thanked all Thai people for their contribution to the fight against COVID-19, saying that everyone has helped place Thailand second among countries recovering best from the COVID-19 epidemic. Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha thanked all Thai people for their discipline, strength, patience and effort to prevent the spread of the viral epidemic, that helped Thailand rank as the best placed country to have recovered from COVID-19 in Asia, and rank second among 184 countries recovering successfully from COVID-19 worldwide.

4. Thailand consumer confidence index falls to 31.3 due to lack of income in tourism sector

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

Despite the easing of restrictions imposed on businesses to help control COVID-19, which allows them to operate more freely again, there are still many businesses that lack income, causing many entrepreneurs to lack confidence in the economy. They would like the government to ease the restrictions on tourism, and help the business sector to resume its normal activities as soon as possible. The consumer confidence index fell to 31.3 in May as the indicators of all factors such as consumption, investment, tourism, the agricultural sector, industrial sector, trade, services, border trade and employment, dropped in all regions especially the southern region where the confidence of entrepreneurs is at its lowest level of only 28.4, as tourism has been hit heavily and rubber and palm oil planters have also experienced a price slump.

5. Thailand approves ‘Travel Bubble’ concept for international visitors

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

In addition to the announcement of Phase 4 restrictions being eased, the government’s COVID-19 center has agreed on a resumption of international tourism within a ‘Travel Bubble’ with precautionary measures in place to prevent another viral outbreak. The Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration’s (CCSA) Spokesman, Dr Taweessin Visanuyothin revealed the government has approved in principle the reopening of the country to international visitors, but limited to those from countries where the outbreak is well controlled.

6. Southeast Asia's fruit express to China

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

China has become a major destination for fruit exports from Asean, with Guangxi, Guangdong, Yunnan and Hunan provinces in the south emerging as key markets thanks to their geographical proximity and close trade with Southeast Asian countries. China last year imported 6.83 million tonnes of fruit worth US\$9.5 billion, representing year-on-year increases of 24% and 25%, respectively, according to the China Chamber of Commerce. Thailand was the top exporter by value, followed by Chile, the Philippines, Vietnam and New Zealand. In terms of fruit types, Thai durian enjoyed the largest export volume, accounting for about half of all fruit exports, followed by longan, mangosteen and young coconut.

7. Foreigners to be allowed in

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

One thousand foreign visitors are expected to be allowed entry to Thailand per day and the standard 14-day Covid-19 quarantine rule will be waived, according to an implementation plan for "travel bubbles" to be submitted for the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA)'s approval on 10 June. These visitors, who in the beginning will be mostly business people and patients seeking medical treatment in Thailand, must come as part of bilateral cooperation on tourism between Thailand and selected countries which have managed to contain the coronavirus, Traisuree Taisaranakul, deputy government spokeswoman, said on 14 June.

8. Govt accord set to tackle tax evasion

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

The Revenue Department has signed an agreement on mutual tax cooperation with 160 countries -- a move that will enable Thailand to tackle tax evasion by foreign e-service providers. Ekniti Nitithanprapas, the department's director-general, said by signing the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, Thailand can request information about registered companies for tax evaluation if they operate digital platforms in Thailand. The agreement, which is aimed at facilitating international co-operation to ensure better application of national tax laws, will plug loopholes that may arise after the enforcement of a bill amending the Revenue Code.

9. SRT to seek Cabinet approval for 2nd phase of double track railway in September

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

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) is reportedly expected to submit its investment plan for the second phase of double rail-track development for the Cabinet's consideration in September. The agency is working on additional details of the project before it's presented to the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) later this month. The council had earlier queried the project on several issues, including its commercial viability and how it will benefit SRT, even though the state-agency has insisted the double-track railway will benefit the country's transport system.

10. Poll: Chiang Mai number one tourist destination for Thais

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

Bt20 billion is expected to be spent to stimulate tourism as an online poll said most Thais see Chiang Mai as their number one tourist destination. The stimulus project is going to be proposed to the Cabinet tomorrow (June 16) and will include registration for tourism operators

who want to receive the subsidy. Meanwhile, an online survey by Suan Dusit Poll revealed that 31 per cent of 1,116 Thais questioned ranked Chiang Mai as the number one tourist attraction they would love to visit. Almost 83 per cent believed strict sanitation would also prove effective, 78.5 per cent felt all tourists must be screened, 74 per cent said wearing face masks is a must and almost 73 per cent felt cleaning one's hands is necessary.