

Thai News Update: 15 September 2020

1. Govt urged to launch long-term packages instead of handouts to help public, business Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

The private sector is calling on the government to launch long-term packages instead of relying on short-term handouts to help businesses, especially since up to 3 million people are expected to lose their jobs soon. Tanit Sorat, vice president of the Employers' Confederation of Thai Trade and Industry (EconThai), said businesses that were struggling to survive should be supported, while companies that are comfortable should be encouraged to keep their employees. Businesses should be categorised based on their needs so the authorities can help them effectively.

2. ADT targets 200m trips in 2021 Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The government should aim high in the domestic tourism market by targeting at least 200 million trips next year if Thailand wants to extend a lifeline to the industry, says the Association of Domestic Travel (ADT). "It's useless if the government doesn't set an ambitious goal, as we already witnessed soft domestic demand and insufficient stimulus this year could not save the vast majority of operators, nor those in the supply chain," said ADT president Thanapol Cheewarattanaporn. Some 30% of tour operators nationwide have left the business, while 50% remain temporarily closed, he said.

3. First industrial estate in Isan Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

Udon Thani Industrial City expects to spend 20 billion baht developing the first industrial estate in the Northeast on 2,170 rai in the province to serve investors considering relocating their production base from China to Asean. Managing director Phisit Piputvilaikul said his company is in talks with Chinese and Japanese businessmen looking for a new location for their business investment and expansion. "Our clients -- 70% from China and 30% from Japan -- want to buy land in the industrial estate to escape the impact of the US-China trade war," he said.

4. TBMA: Policy rate static throughout 2020 Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The Bank of Thailand's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is not expected to ease the policy rate for the remainder of this year as more government stimulus measures reduce the

likelihood of further rate cuts, says the Thai Bond Market Association (TBMA). The Policy Interest Rate Expectation Index for September was at 50, unchanged from the previous month's measure. This mirrors the market's view that the MPC will keep the benchmark rate stable at 0.5% at its Sept 23 meeting because the current rate is already low.

5. Cabinet mulls another long holiday to spur economy

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

The cabinet is thinking about declaring another long holiday, to allow people to travel and boost sagging local economies, Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam said on 15 September. Mr Wissanu said the idea was floated by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. Suitable dates had still to be decided. He agreed it should be a four-day holiday, including Saturday and Sunday. Mr Wissanau thought it should be in a month without any scheduled public holidays, such as November.

6. CPF board approves share-swap deal for Chinese subsidiary's acquisition plan

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

The board of Directors of Charoen Pokphand Foods Pcl (CPF) last Friday agreed to seek shareholders' approval for its subsidiary in China to acquire 43 companies in the swine business through the issue of new shares as payment to the seller. The move aims to integrate the business as one of the leading swine producers in China, which is the world's largest pig market worth US\$200 billion with an average annual growth of 8.3 per cent during the 10 years from 2010 to 2019 (according to China's National Statistical Office). Chia Tai Investment Co Ltd (CTI), whose main business is feed manufacturing and distribution in China, is an indirect subsidiary of CPF via CP Pokphand Co Ltd (CPP), a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

7. CP to employ 28,000 new graduates

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

Charoen Pokphand Group (CP) on 14 September announced plans to employ a total 28,000 new graduates to soften the unemployment crisis triggered by Covid-19. The new recruits will represent about 10 per cent of the total CP workforce, said CEO Suphachai Chearavanont. New graduates aged 25 and under from both vocational colleges and universities will be hired. Of the total, 8,000 will be hired by CP Foods (CPF), 12,000 by CPAll (7-Eleven), 5,000 by Siam Makro, and 3,000 by True Corporation. CPF will hire 4,000 for its operations in Bangkok and another 4,000 in provinces.