

## Thai News Update: 17 September 2020

### **1. Govt eyes new visa rules in bid to woo investors**

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

The government's Centre for Economic Situation Administration (CESA) on Wednesday (September 16) approved in principle amendments to the criteria of granting permanent residence and smart visa to foreigners in a bid to woo more investment, the National Economic and Social Development Council's deputy secretary-general Danucha Pichayanan said. The centre is considering the option of granting permanent residence to buyers of condominium units, provided applicants do not mortgage, sell or transfer this asset for five years after purchase.

### **2. Reopening to foreigners 'not risky'**

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

Reopening the country to foreign visitors will not raise the risks of local Covid-19 transmission from imported infections, according to the Department of Disease Control (DDC). Responding to the cabinet's resolution to allow long-stay foreign tourists to enter Thailand, Tanarak Plipat, deputy director-general of the DDC, insisted the move would likely not bring in Covid-19 infections, since the visitors would be subject to a stay at state quarantine facilities for 14 days. Regarding the case of a two-year-old Myanmar boy who tested positive after returning from Thailand, Dr Tanarak said Thailand was vigorously investigating this case. No special measures had been imposed in Ayutthaya province where the boy had stayed before returning to Myanmar, he said.

### **3. Phuket adopts more affordable posture**

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

Plunging travel demand from the international market has forced operators in Phuket to focus on potential domestic travellers and offer affordable products, aiming to smooth the province's reputation as an expensive destination. Virintra Papakityotsaphant, managing director of Nikorn Marine Group, a Phuket-based tour operator, as well as president of the Phuket Travel Agents Association, said only 10% of 60 members are open for business in the domestic market. The customers are mostly health volunteers and officials from sub-district hospitals that are part of the government's stimulus scheme.

#### **4. Egat collaborates for electronic waste management methods**

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

State-run Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) is teaming up with state and private agencies to study a business model for electronic waste management to better cope with the surge of hazardous rubbish in Thailand. Electronic waste, including household electrical appliances, reached 400,000 tonnes last year and the numbers have increased rapidly over the past decade, said Yongyouth Srichai, director of Egat's Electronics Waste Management and Social Responsibility division. The country needs a better disposal system for this type of waste, which has been poorly managed, he said. Some discarded electronic items are only sorted for recycling by the poor, while others that cannot be recycled are simply buried at landfills or burned in open air.

#### **5. Prayut meets economists to exchange views on Thailand's future**

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha held a meeting with economists from independent institutes, universities and financial institutions at Government House on Wednesday (September 16) to exchange ideas on steering the country forward. In a Facebook comment, Prayut said the topics of discussion included fiscal and monetary policies, tax system, upskilling of workers as well as measures the government should put in place to ensure economic recovery. The prime minister added that he was willing to listen to opinions from all sectors.

#### **6. GET officially transforms into Gojek today**

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

Gojek, Southeast Asia's leading mobile on-demand services and payments platform, officially launched its app in Thailand from 6am on Wednesday (September 16). Now customers in Thailand can order food via GoFood, hail motorbikes via GoRide, send parcels via GoSend and make digital payments via GoPay. The app is available for download via iOS and Android systems. The move follows GET app's recent announcement that it was rebranding as Gojek as part of its long-term strategy. GoViet, the company's operation in Vietnam, was also relaunched as Gojek on August 5.

#### **7. Top Thai energy producers sign pact to develop power plant in Vietnam**

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

Egco Group, Egat International and Ratch Group signed a joint development agreement on Wednesday (September 16) to develop the Quang Tri 1 thermal power plant in Vietnam. Santichai Osotpavapusit, Egat International's senior executive vice president, said: "The

thermal power project is fully supported by both Thai and Vietnamese governments, as well as Egat.”The Quang Tri 1 plant is located in Quang Tri province’s Hai Lang district. Egat International will hold a 40 per cent stake in it, while the remaining 60 per cent will be equally divided between Egco Group and Ratch Group.

#### **8. EECi project to get cutting-edge synchrotron light generator**

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

The Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECi) project will include a new state-of-the-art synchrotron light generator, which will greatly contribute to research and development in high-tech industries, EECi director Jengrit Khanatharana, who is also National Science and Technology Development Agency deputy director, said. “More than Bt9 billion has been invested to construct the new synchrotron light generator. Construction will start in 2021 and take around seven years to complete,” he said. The EECi is now 45 per cent complete and will be ready for operation by June 2021. The project area covers 3,454 rai in Rayong. Other facilities to be included in the project are biorefineries that will turn agricultural produce and leftovers into biofuel, an Industry 4.0 Centre and an Aerospace Development Centre.