

Thai News Update: 18 June 2020

1. BoI approves B42bn of investment plans

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

The Board of Investment (BoI) has approved five investment project applications worth about 41.8 billion baht and measures to strengthen the agricultural sector and agro-industry, the state investment agency said 17 June. Of the pledges, Thai Oil will invest 24.1 billion baht to produce 250 megawatts of electricity using oil waste, while B.Grimm Power will spend 6 billion baht on a natural gas-fired power plant, the BoI said in a statement. Summitr Group will invest 5.5 billion baht to produce about 30,000 electric battery-powered vehicles a year, mainly for the domestic market, the BoI said.

2. Thailand strives to find new foreign investment incentives

source: Khasood english ([Link](#))

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said 16 June that he had already instructed the Board of Investment (BoI) to redesign incentive packages to lure businesses and manufacturers to relocate their factories in Thailand. “The global economy is expected to fall in the next year or two in the fallout of COVID-19 pandemic, which had serious implications to Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) worldwide,” said Somkid. But investors from China, Japan, China’s Hong Kong and China’s Taiwan are showing interests in Thailand, he added. Investors from the aforementioned economies have shown interests in relocating to new locations that could support their types of businesses, including food, processing of farm products, logistics and manufacturing of metal equipment, he said.

3. Scrapping foreign stake limit ‘will boost Thai aviation industry’

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

The move to allow wholly foreign-owned companies to manufacture aircraft and aircraft parts in Thailand will boost foreign investment in the country, said Kobsak Potrakool, deputy secretary-general to the prime minister for political affairs. The Cabinet recently approved a draft amendment drawn up by the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) that will scrap the requirement for aviation-related manufacturers to be at least 51-per-cent Thai-owned.

4. BoI adjusts farm perks to promote BCG economy

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

The Board of Investment (BoI) has approved adjusting investment privileges and conditions for agriculture categories to promote the bio, circular and green (BCG) economy. Duangjai Asawachintachit, the BoI's secretary-general, said the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on 17 June approved a new agriculture category applying to high technology, namely plant factories. A plant factory is a closed growing system that uses artificial control of light, temperature, moisture, carbon dioxide and minerals as well as the biological environments such as contamination of diseases and insects from water, air and plants.

5. Taiwan to let in Thai business people

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

Taiwan will from the start of next week ease border controls put in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and will allow in business travellers from Thailand and some other lower-risk countries, though they will have to be tested and quarantined. Taiwan has never gone into total lockdown and life has continued largely as normal due to its early and effective prevention work and a first-rate public health system. While it has largely lifted domestic restrictions, Taiwan has been more cautious about opening up its borders, which have been shut to most foreign visitors since mid-March.

6. Thai Government releases more details on 22 billion baht domestic tourism campaign and package

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

The Cabinet on 17 June approved in principle three 4-month tourism campaigns worth 22.4 billion baht, aimed at kickstarting the tourism sector running from July to October. The government will be offering tourism packages and subsidies in three separate campaigns, starting with tourism packages for Village Health Volunteers and staff at subdistrict health promotion hospitals, who have worked tirelessly during the COVID-19 outbreak. To finance this offer, the government will provide a 2.4 billion baht tourism budget for 1.2 million health volunteers and health promotion hospital staff, to enable them to take a 2-day, 1-night trip or longer with a tour company. The budget will provide an allowance up to 2,000 baht for their tour package costs.

7. Phuket entrepreneurs offered loans to kick-start business

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

Local businesses in Phuket are being offered a financial kick-start as the holiday province prepares to welcome back tourists after months of Covid-19 lockdown. City Hall on 16 June (June 16) hosted a meet-and-greet between local entrepreneurs and providers of loans and other financial services, in a bid to get businesses back on their feet after the long shutdown. Phuket governor Pakkapong Taweepat said 85 per cent of the province's GDP came from the services and tourism sectors, which had been battered by the pandemic. The absence of visitors for the past two and half months had left tourism businesses with no revenue and huge debts, he added. Local authorities had therefore liaised with 15 financial institutes to bring support measures for residents and entrepreneurs.

8. Cabinet approves move to open aviation maintenance, manufacturing to 100% foreign businesses

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

The Cabinet has endorsed the draft of an emergency decree allowing 100 per cent foreign-owned entities to be granted licences to run three aviation-related businesses. The businesses are Type 1 aviation maintenance facilities, aircraft manufacturing, and manufacturing of key aircraft components. Chula Sukmanop, director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand, said that the draft will amend existing legislation by raising the limit on foreign ownership in these segments from 49 per cent to 100 per cent. It will also oblige applicants to transfer technology to Thai staff and employ Thai workforces. The council of state is expected to spend three months examining the draft, said Chula.

9. BoI green-lights investment privileges for 5 mega projects

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

The Board of Investment (BoI) has approved investment privileges for five mega projects worth over Bt41.83 billion, in a bid to kick-start Thailand's economic engines as the country emerges from lockdown. BoI secretary-general Duangjai Asawachintachit announced the move – expected to include exemptions on corporate tax and import duties – on Wednesday (June 17) after a BoI board meeting chaired by Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha. The five operators and projects chosen to receive privileges are: 1. Sammitr Motors Group, 2. Thai Oil Public Co Ltd, 3. Envicco Ltd; 4. B Grimm Power (Laem Chabang) Ltd, 5. Bangkok Arena Ltd.