

Thai News Update:1 June 2020

1. Thailand rises in Cloud Readiness Index

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

Thailand jumped one spot to ninth in the Cloud Readiness Index (CRI), thanks to improvement in international connectivity, data centre risk and privacy parameters, according to the Asia Cloud Computing Association (ACCA). In the sixth iteration of the association's CRI Index, which assessed 14 Asia-Pacific economies, Hong Kong stands in the pole position, up one spot from the 2018 index, followed by Singapore and New Zealand. According to the ACCA, Thailand's rise is attributed to the country's efforts to boost international connectivity, data centre risk protection and privacy safeguards. "Cloud infrastructure and cloud governance were its strongest segment," the report said.

2. FSMART lines up fuel vending machines for grassroots

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

MAI-listed Forth Smart Service Plc (FSMART), the country's largest top-up machine provider under the Boonterm brand, is set to launch fuel vending machines this month to tap low-income people living far from petrol stations. Narongsak Lertsuptavee, managing director of FSMART, said the company has received a permit licence to sell fuel via the vending machines. "This service will serve grassroots people who may fill tanks with only a small amount of petrol or cannot reach stations easily," he said. "They can fill their tanks via our vending machines." The company plans to set up 2,000 vending machines this year.

3. Finance Ministry seeks ways to boost bio-economy

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

The government may use the tools of the Finance Ministry to increase promotional privileges for investment in bio-economic corridors to entice investors. Anek Memongkol, deputy secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), said that in order to make investment more attractive, incentives from the Finance Ministry may be added to privileges for investment in bio-economic corridors awarded by the Board of Investment (BoI). "The government aims to develop bio-economic corridors in several regions to generate more income, especially in the farm sector," Mr Anek said. Under BoI law, the agency is allowed to offer the sector the highest privileges: a corporate income tax exemption for eight years and a 50% reduction in corporate income tax rate for five years once the tax holiday lapses.

4. Thailand passes record stimulus package to combat COVID-19 impact

Source: Channel News Asia ([Link](#))

Thailand's parliament approved on Sunday (May 31) a near-US\$60 billion stimulus package, the kingdom's biggest-ever cash injection, to revive an economy that has been hammered by the coronavirus. The 1.9 trillion baht (US\$59.7 billion) package would be a much-needed boost for Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy, expected to contract by 6 to 7 per cent in 2020. About US\$17.3 billion of the package will be given as aid to farmers and informal workers such as street vendors and those employed in massage parlours and bars who have seen their work dry up. The stimulus will also provide for a fund to stabilise markets and boost purchasing power, as well as US\$1.4 billion for "healthcare readiness", the government said, without providing further details on how the money would be spent.

5. Cambodia, Thailand tighten border control

Source: Khnertimeskh ([Link](#))

In Cambodia, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sar Kheng asked the administration in localities that border Thailand to increase professional measures at border checkpoints to prevent Cambodian workers from entering Thailand, which will shut its border until June 30 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. He said on May 27 that border gates are currently closed, so illegal migration to Thailand must be prevented, especially when the neighbouring country is still in the state of emergency.

6. Japan mulls easing entry limits for Thailand, 3 other countries: Yomiuri

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

Japan is considering easing entry restrictions on people from Thailand, Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand because of signs that novel coronavirus infections are declining in those countries, the Yomiuri newspaper reported, citing government officials. The government may relax the limits from as early as summer, the newspaper said 31 May. The visitors would be required to carry documentation showing that they had tested negative for the virus before leaving their countries, and would need to be re-tested when they arrive in Japan, according to the report.

7. MPs push Bt1.9-trillion Covid-19 aid package through Parliament

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

The Covid-19 financial aid package sailed through the House of Representatives on 31 May but opposition MPs attacked the Bt1.9-trillion aid as mostly benefiting big businesses. After five days of debate, the lower house voted in favour of the Bt1.9-trillion package proposed by

the government by issuing three related emergency decrees. MPs voted 274 in favour of the first decree enabling the Finance Ministry to borrow Bt1 trillion in order to provide support to people adversely affected by the virus outbreak, while 204 MPs abstained.

8. Phuket field hospital closes as last Covid-19 patients recover

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

Phuket's 1st Field Hospital is being temporarily shut down and put on standby as the last Covid-19 patients have recovered, Phuket Governor Pakkapon Tawipat said yesterday (May 31). "Today is the day that Phuket has zero Covid-19 patients," he said. "I would like to thank all officials and Phuket residents for their efforts and cooperation to make our province finally Covid-19-free. Our next job is to rehabilitate the province's economy, especially the tourism industry that has been severely affected by the outbreak."

9. Ramathibodi goes in for hospitable telemedicine services to reduce unsafe crowding

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

Since the government has enforced social distancing to prevent Covid-19 from spreading, Ramathibodi Hospital has employed telemedicine services to efficiently treat patients, director Dr Surasak Lela-Udomlipi said. Under telemedicine practices, the hospital classifies patients into three groups using colour coding. Those in stable condition are in the green group and receive medical consultation via telephone and their drugs by mail or from local pharmacies. Patients who require specialised medicine such as temperature-controlled drugs and drugs that have addictive substances are classified in the yellow group.