

Thai News Update: 20 October 2020

1. 3M Thailand joins ASEAN CARES: COVID-19 Relief Programme for the Most Vulnerable

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

ASEAN CARES programme is set to support refugees, migrants, lactating women and other vulnerable communities in Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand amid the COVID-19 crisis. 3M has joined hands with The United Way Worldwide, ASEAN Foundation, and Community Chest of Korea to help at-risk communities with food security and hygiene crises in Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand by launching the ASEAN COVID-19 Active and Robust Response (ASEAN CARES) programme. For Thailand, a total funding of \$84,000 has been pledged to support this project. The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a devastating health and socio-economic crisis across the region, putting marginalised people at a higher risk of poverty and food insecurity.

2. Cabinet to mull easing migrant worker rules

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

The Ministry of Public Health will work with the Labour Ministry to increase the supply of free migrant workers to needy employers, says Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul. Mr Anutin said he would raise the topic at 19 October's cabinet meeting in order to reduce employers' obligation to bring in new migrant workers, especially those from Myanmar. One specific issue Mr Anutin wants cabinet to discuss is the law that currently bans migrant workers from leaving the employer they were originally registered with and requiring them to switch to another one.

3. BoT okays extension of B500bn soft loan plan

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

The Bank of Thailand approved the extension of its 500-billion-baht soft loan scheme by six months, and allowed companies listed on the Market for Alternative Investment to apply for the loans, a previous obstacle to participation. The central bank announced the relaxation of the parameters on Saturday, with the existing scheme scheduled to expire on Oct 22. The existing conditions did not allow listed companies to participate in the soft loan scheme from April 22 to Oct 22. The rules did allow small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are performing loan customers of financial institutions with credit lines of no more than 500 million baht as of Dec 31, 2019, to apply for the loan scheme.

4. Thailand to welcome its first group of STV tourists today

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

The first group of 41 tourists travelling on the Special Tourist Visa (STV) from Shanghai will land in Suvarnabhumi Airport on 20 October at 5pm, a second group of 100 people from Guangzhou will fly in on October 26 and another group will be flown in from Shanghai on October 28. Yuthasak Supasorn, governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), said on Tuesday that flights for future STV tourist groups from Europe are still considering which airport they will land in, as it may depend on where the tourists have booked their 14-day mandatory quarantine.

5. Singha Estate reaches out to 100 agencies for sale of condo units to foreigners

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

Singha Estate plans to work with over 100 agencies to sell condos to foreigners, aiming to achieve sales of 70 per cent of units by year-end. Natthawut Matthayomchan, chief property development officer at Singha Estate Pcl, said that the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak had greatly reduced the company's sales which relied heavily on foreign customers. "As foreigners are not yet allowed to enter Thailand, we are planning to invite over 100 property agencies, both big and small, to help sell our condos to foreign customers who are interested in buying condos in Thailand," he said.