

Thai News Update: 21 April 2020

1. Ministry floats ideas on exit strategy

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

The Public Health Ministry has proposed five requirements for an exit strategy from the Covid-19 lockdown, starting with 32 provinces. At a joint meeting between ministry officials and deans of faculties of medicine on how to ease the lockdown, all agreed some measures have to be relaxed although a return to pre-crisis normality is out of the question, said Kamnuan Ungchusak, an adviser to the Disease Control Department and to the public health minister on the Covid-19 situation. The meeting came up with five pre-requisites for the exit strategy. They will be proposed to the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration for approval.

2. Thailand-Mongolia to forge comprehensive and tangible cooperation

Source: Pattaya Mail ([Link](#))

H.E. Mr. Tugsbilguun Tumurkhuleg, Ambassador of Mongolia to Thailand, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister and Defense Minister Gen. Prayut Chan-o-cha on occasion of his completion of tenure. Prof. Narumon Pinyosinwat, Government Spokesperson, disclosed gist of the meeting as follows: The Prime Minister thanked the Ambassador for his significant role in promoting relations between Thailand and Mongolia, especially economic cooperation, as seen in the mutual trade value which has doubled according to the target mutually set 4 years ago. He also commended the Mongolian Government for effective preventive measures against COVID-19 which shows in a very few numbers of infected patients in the country. The Prime Minister expressed hopes that the incoming Ambassador would further forge mutual relations and cooperation in a tangible manner.

3. Airports prepare to welcome Thais from abroad

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

Airports of Thailand (AOT) is preparing to welcome Thais who will gradually return home via charter flights this week, Don Mueang International Airport general manager Flying Officer Sumpun Kutranon said today (April 20). “Currently, NokAir is the only airline still operating flights via the airport,” he said. “We were informed that **charter flights** from overseas will bring **returnees** to the airport this week. Most of the flights will arrive from Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea and Japan.”

4. AirAsia set to resume domestic flights in Thailand on May 1

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

AirAsia is set to resume domestic flights in various Asian countries, commencing with Malaysia on April 29, followed by Thailand (May 1), the Philippines (May 1), India (May 4) and Indonesia (May 7), subject to government approval. The resumption of services will initially start with key selected domestic routes, which will increase gradually to include international destinations once the situation improves and governments lift border and travel restrictions.

5. 71% of Chinese surveyed say they want to visit Thailand: international study

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

Thailand is one of the travel markets most impacted by Covid-19 in Asia, said a new international survey, with 71 per cent of Chinese questioned saying they would like to visit the kingdom once the situation normalises. Thailand hosted 39.8 million international visitors last year, with China accounting for nearly 11 million arrivals, said the newly released China Thailand Travel Sentiment Survey 2020, conducted in mid-April by C9 Hotelworks and Delivering Asia Communications (DAC), which focused on key demand factors in the country's reopening of the tourism economy.

6. Businesses in talks with govt to ease lockdown restrictions

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

The government has asked state agencies and the private sector to come up with a joint proposal on how to ease restrictions on public life, said Dr Taweessin Visanuyothin, spokesman of the government's Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration, on Monday (April 20). Among the tasks is to identify which zones are now safe from infection and which remain unsafe. The provinces that have registered no cases of Covid-19 infection might be the first places to enjoy a relaxation of restrictions. Authorities should also take and adapt lessons from other countries on easing measures, said Dr Taweessin.

7. Rubber authority plans joint venture for manufacture of medical gloves

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

The Rubber Authority of Thailand unveiled its plan to partner agricultural institutes and private companies to set up a rubber glove and medical glove factory due to rising demand sparked by the Covid-19 outbreak. The authority chairman, Praphan Boonyakiat, said that the factory, which will be located in Nakhon Si Thammarat province, will cost Bt500 million with production capacity of 1.8 billion units per year. Of total global production of 228 billion units

per year, Malaysia accounts for 136 billion. Thailand produces over 46 billion units of rubber gloves per year.

8. Exports unexpectedly rise

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

Thai exports unexpectedly rose 4.17% year-on-year in March, with a value of US\$22.4 billion, the biggest expansion in eight months. Even excluding gold, oil, and weaponry, exports last month expanded 2.12%, the Commerce Ministry reported on 21 April. "Electronic products such as computers and parts dominated the export rebound in the real sector and registered positive growth for a fourth consecutive month. Electronic products showed signs of recovery across major markets such as the United States, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea," said Pimchanok Vonkorpon, director-general of the Trade Policy and Strategy Office under the Commerce Ministry.