

Thai News Update: 21 April 2021

1. Thais can get vaccine passports to travel overseas

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

The certificate will be written in English and will contain the holder's name, personal information as well as details of the Covid-19 vaccination. It can be used for travelling overseas. This certificate will only be issued to people who have received vaccines that are registered under Thailand's Drug Law or are certified by the World Health Organisation. The document must carry the signature of the Department of Disease Control's director-general or chosen nominee, as well as a stamp of the agency. One vaccine passport will only certify one individual.

2. Cabinet unlocks registration for biochemical factories to boost BCG business

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

The Cabinet on 20 April approved draft ministerial regulations covering three types of biochemical plants. The move is aimed to support the Bio-, Circular and Green Economy (BCG) model that has been adopted by Thailand. Government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri said the draft regulations will apply separate rules to the biochemical industry and the chemical industry. This would benefit the environment as well as operators in the biochemicals business, which has been targeted for government investment as an S-Curve industry, he added.

3. Phuket hopes to overcome virus crisis and welcome foreign tourists from July

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

Governor Narong Woonciew meanwhile voiced confidence that his province would be able to deal with the health crisis. Under the scheme, foreign tourists who have been inoculated with a Covid-19 vaccine will be allowed entry into the province from July 1 without having to undergo quarantine. Phuket authorities wholeheartedly believe the scheme will draw tourists back to the province. Narong told the press that the province is trying to control and defeat the present Covid-19 wave in order to attract more domestic tourists from May and receive foreign tourists from July.

4. CEOs vow to speed up jabs rollout

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

The chief executives of 40 companies on 20 April rallied behind the government by launching a campaign to expedite the procurement of vaccines and pull the country out of its economic

malaise as soon as possible. The "Connect the Dots" campaign was agreed at a teleconference which worked out ways the private sector can support the government in hastening the national vaccine programme. Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC) chairman Sanan Angubolkul said the CEOs felt the vaccination rollout, which has seen just 0.4% of the population inoculated so far, was proceeding too slowly.

5. New international driving permit issued from May 1, said government

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

The Department of Land Transport will issue the new international driving permit from May 1. The new permit covers 84 countries under the Vienna Convention. Thai applicants for an international permit must include their current driving licence, a copy of their passport, ID card, and two passport-style photos. Applicants must also mention the country or countries they plan to drive in. Foreign applicants must present their passport, work permit (paper or digital), or smart visa to department officials. However, those who already have a foreign licence under the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic 1968 can use it in Thailand from May 1.

6. New IEAT boss vows to finish Smart Park

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

The newly appointed governor of the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT), Veeris Ammarapala, vows to make significant progress in the Smart Park development project as he officially took on IEAT's top job yesterday. The former adviser to Justice Minister Somsak Thepsuthin becomes the 12th IEAT governor, succeeding Somchint Pilouk whose term ended on the same day. The IEAT board agreed to appoint Mr Veeris and forwarded his name to the cabinet for approval last month. Among key IEAT tasks the new governor will carry out during his four-year term is the Smart Park industrial estate development project in Map Ta Phut, Rayong, spanning 1,384 rai. It is being built to help drive new investments in the Eastern Economic Corridor, Thailand's high-tech industrial hub.

7. Egat, PTT weigh up gas project

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

The state-run Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) and national oil and gas conglomerate PTT plan to jointly study a project to develop a floating storage re-gasification unit (FSRU), dubbed a giant ship, in the Gulf of Thailand to supply gas to a new power plant. The plan is meant to help ease stress on the limited electricity supply in southern Thailand. The FSRU is designed to have an annual carrying capacity of 5 million tonnes for imported

liquefied natural gas (LNG). It is primarily expected to feed gas to a new Egat-run power plant in Surat Thani's Phunphin district, said an energy official who requested anonymity.

8. IGCC plant to supply power to Fukushima

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

Banpu Power Plc's (BPP) newly acquired power plant in Japan's Fukushima Prefecture has started supplying electricity to Fukushima and parts of the Tokyo metropolitan area as the firm expects to earn revenue in the second quarter. The power generation arm of non-oil energy conglomerate Banpu acquired 2.5 billion baht's worth of shares in Nakoso IGCC Management (Nimco), which owns the 543-megawatt Nakoso IGCC power plant. BPP, which invested through its wholly-owned Banpu Power Investment Co, now owns a 13.4% share in the Nakoso IGCC power plant. This acquisition has added 73MW of power generation capacity to BPP's portfolio, calculated on its equity-based ownership.

9. Court allows Nok Airlines to submit rehabilitation plan by May 15

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

Nok had filed to enter the rehabilitation programme on July 30, 2020, and received court approval on November 4, after which the court set a March 15 deadline for the airline to submit its rehabilitation plan. The company asked for a one-month extension to April 14, and then again to May 15, citing that it is working on suitable measures to pay back creditors and restructure its organisation so it can stay afloat amid the Covid-19 situation, which required a detailed study. The airline also said the delay in drafting the plan was due to several public holidays in April, which have hindered the gathering of necessary information.