

Thai News Update: 21 January 2021

1. IB eases re-entry for residents

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

Foreigners with Thai residency whose re-entry visas require them to return to Thailand within one year from the date of March 26 last year will be allowed to stay abroad until further notice, the Immigration Bureau (IB) said on 20 January. The agency said it has decided to relax the one-year re-entry requirement dating back to March 26 last year as the coronavirus outbreak still restricts all modes of travel. This makes it very difficult for stranded foreign residents to make it back to Thailand. Deputy bureau chief Pol Maj Gen Archayon Kraithong said the temporary easing of the re-entry rule was intended to help foreigners with Thai residency who are still stranded overseas.

2. Thai govt keen to push Dawei SEZ development despite Italian-Thai setback

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has been handed a detailed summary of Myanmar's cancellation of contracts with the Italian-Thai Development Company and partners to develop the first phase of the country's Dawei special economic zone (SEZ) and deep-sea port. The National Economic and Social Economic Council (NESDC)'s summary includes details of infrastructure projects in the zone, said NESDC secretary general Danucha Pichayanan.

3. Export-Import Bank tasked with relieving credit crunch on 7 Thai airlines

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

Finance Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith has asked the Export-Import Bank of Thailand to find ways of providing credit to local airlines to help them counter the Covid-19 impact on the aviation sector. Arkhom said the ministry would find a solution as soon as possible, insisting that the government was not ignoring local airlines' problems. He said the government wanted to provide financial assistance to all business groups that were struggling amid the impact of the outbreak, but had to consider each case carefully.

4. KBank venture capital arm invests in Robowealth

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

Beacon Venture Capital (Beacon VC), the corporate VC arm of Kasikornbank (KBank), announces Series A investment in Robowealth. Thanapong Na Ranong, managing director of Beacon VC, said the firm focuses on investing in high-potential startups whose innovation

and services can deliver real value to KBank customers through the creation of new financial products or services. This is the first time Beacon VC has invested in a startup that already has a working relationship with Kbank. KBank and Robowealth, together with Lu International, launched the application FinVest in late 2020.

5. Steps to boost SME liquidity

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

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) has proposed five measures to increase liquidity for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) under the state's 500-billion-baht soft loan programme in a fresh move to relieve the impact of the ongoing outbreak that has caused a drop in the Thailand Industrial Sentiment Index (TISI) for the first time in eight months. The five measures, which include unlimited loan values and controlled interest rates, are aimed at easing borrowers' difficulties in gaining loans and not burden them excessively during the amortisation period. The FTI plans to discuss its proposal with the Bank of Thailand (BoT) on Friday.