

## Thai News Update: 22 October 2020

### **1. CCSA approves more quarantine packages for foreign tourists**

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

The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has okayed two quarantine packages for tourists – wellness quarantine that will be held at a medical spa and wellness resort and a long-term care package for the elderly. Taweessin Visanuyothin, spokesperson for CCSA, said the centre met on 21 October to discuss seven matters, namely:• The successful trip of a government delegation from China. Permission for British and Czech sailors to enter the country.• Deciding citizens from which countries can enter the Kingdom under the special tourist visa.

### **2. Finance Ministry okays plan to develop Benjakitti Forest Park**

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

The Finance Ministry has given the green light to the Treasury Department and the Royal Thai Army to start developing Bangkok's Benjakitti Forest Park from next month. Deputy Finance Minister Santi Promphat said Bt652 million will be earmarked for the project, which should be completed by February 2022. The agreement will be signed on Monday. Santi said the development will be done in two phases – the first will involve improving the landscape and planting more trees, while the second will include the construction of museums, which should be ready by February 2022.

### **3. MRTA approves Phuket tram project study**

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

The Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (MRTA) board on 21 October approved the findings of a study on Phase 1 development of a tram system in Phuket, said MRTA governor Pakapong Sirikantramas. The first phase, costing Bt35 billion, will run 42 kilometres from Phuket Airport to Chalong intersection. The MRTA will now forward the findings to the transport minister. He added that the findings are expected to be tabled in Cabinet next October.

### **4. More big firms opting for sustainability bonds to raise funds**

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

More firms, especially major listed companies, are showing interest in raising funds by issuing environmental, social and governance (ESG) bonds, said Securities and Exchange Commission secretary-general Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol. Eleven major companies have

issued green bonds, social bonds and sustainability bonds in the two years up to October 21, raising Bt90 billion. The upward trend for ESG bonds is continuing, she said.

#### **5. UK, Thailand launch 'Smart City Handbook'**

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

Britain and the Thai Digital Economy and Society Ministry have jointly launched a "Smart City Handbook" to promote partnerships in smart city development between the two countries. The handbook is part of a plan for broader cooperation between British and Thai governments on smart cities. It outlines the smart cities landscape across Thailand, as well as providing examples of interesting UK smart city projects and expertise. Other activities include ongoing projects under the UK's Global Future Cities Programme with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to create an improved flood management system for Lat Phrao, and planning a data centre to support the collection and use of data for decision-making in Bangkok.

#### **6. Nissan to hire more than 2,000 new workers for Samut Prakan plants**

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

Nissan Motor Co's unit in Thailand plans to hire over 2,000 new workers as the company seeks to shore up its last remaining large-scale production base in Southeast Asia. Nissan Motor Thailand Co will begin taking on new employees at its plants in Samut Prakan province, the company said on 21 October. The unit employed 4,171 workers as of March 31, according to figures from the Japanese automaker, meaning the new hires will increase the Thai division's workforce by roughly 50%. The hiring push in Thailand comes as Nissan begins the monumental task of restructuring its global operations and cutting 300 billion yen (\$2.9 billion) in annual fixed costs as it attempts to weather a steep drop in sales.