

## Thai News Update: 24 July 2020

### **1. Taiwan extends visa-free treatment for Thailand, Brunei, Philippines, Russia**

**Source: Taiwan News ([Link](#))**

Taiwan will extend visa-free treatment for nationals from Thailand, Brunei, the Philippines, and Russia even though travel bans on those countries remain in place due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The visa-waiver treatment given to the four countries will last through July 31, 2021, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) via a statement issued on Thursday (July 23). It noted that due to the global pandemic, the travel restrictions on those countries will remain effective until the Central Epidemic Command Center has further announcements."

### **2. PTT moves closer to decision on Ohio petrochemical plant with storage deal**

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

State-owned oil and gas company PTT Plc said its US unit took a step forward on its proposed chemical plant in Ohio that will turn ethane into plastics with an agreement to develop a natural gas liquids storage facility. PTT Global Chemical America (PTTGCA) signed an agreement with Energy Storage Ventures LLC to build a facility to store and transport natural gas liquids (NGL) for PTTGCA's proposed complex. "Our impending partnership ... brings us one step closer to a final investment decision," PTTGCA President and Chief Executive Toasaporn Boonyapipat said in a statement on 22 July. In June, PTTGCA said it delayed making a final investment decision to build the ethane cracker, which analysts estimate will cost US\$5.7 billion, from the first half of 2020 to the first half of 2021 due to the coronavirus.

### **3. Thai investors urged to look overseas for higher returns**

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

Bualuang Securities, a subsidiary of Bangkok Bank, is advising investors to look abroad in order to manage risk and achieve higher returns than are available in the Thai stock market. Thai investors urged to look overseas for higher returns. Bualuang Securities, a subsidiary of Bangkok Bank, is advising investors to look abroad in order to manage risk and achieve higher returns than are available in the Thai stock market. Chaiyaporn Nompitakcharoen, deputy managing director of Bualuang Securities' Non-Institutional Broking Group, said the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) now has a limited upside, adding that investors should consider alternative stocks not available on the SET, such as shares in e-commerce, software,

and healthcare businesses."The company is cooperating with overseas partners to enable investors to invest in places such as the US, Vietnam, and Hong Kong stock markets," he said. "Aside from selective investments, investors can also make themed investments or invest in the Exchange Traded Fund [ETF]."

#### **4. Bangchak subsidiary taps new green energy business**

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

BCPG Public Company, a leading renewable energy enterprise under Bangchak Corporation, has said that the company is preparing to enter the new business of District Cooling System (DCS) for buildings in newly emerged cities. Bundit Sapianchai, president and CEO of BCPG, said: "DCS is a new business under the green energy initiative that has potential markets in office buildings, shopping malls, convention centres, community malls, airports, universities, industrial estates and mixed-use buildings," he said.

#### **5. TAT offers free holidays to Covid-19 heroes**

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has launched a "Holiday for Heroes" project to pay back medical personnel for their work on Covid-19 frontline. The project is comprised of gift schemes, free trips and many special privileges, which will not just provide opportunities to tourism operators, but will also serve as an award for doctors, nurses and other medical staff who have worked hard looking after Covid-19 patients. TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn said the project aims to show gratitude and provide medical personnel in both public and private sectors a chance to take a break after having worked hard over the past several months.

#### **6. Govt prepares Bt600m budget to buy UK vaccine**

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

The government is planning to spend Bt600 million to buy doses of the Covid-19 vaccine being developed by Oxford University in the UK. A former Thai health minister has contacted Oxford over the possible purchase, though other countries including South Korea were trying to do the same, said Deputy Health Minister Sathit Pitutecha. Oxford University this week reported its prototype vaccine had triggered a strong immune response in humans, with commercial manufacture expected to begin by the end of this year. Thailand's most advanced Covid-19 vaccine programme, at Chulalongkorn University, has conducted successful tests on monkeys and expects to deliver a vaccine by mid-2021.