

Thai News Update: 24 June 2020

1. Thailand pledges Bt3.3m for UN Covid-19 fund

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

The Cabinet on Tuesday (June 23) agreed to sign a pact on donating funds to the United Nations Covid-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund to help countries affected by the pandemic. Deputy government spokesperson Ratchada Thanadirek said the fund aims to raise US\$2 billion and will be operated for two years. “The Cabinet has given the Thai ambassador, who acts as a permanent representative of Thailand to the United Nations, to sign the pact with the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP],” she said. “The Foreign Ministry has earmarked US\$100,000 or about Bt3.3 million for the fund.”

2. BoI, EEC to hurry new S-curve perks

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

The Board of Investment (BoI) and Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Office have been ordered to speed up rejigging promotional privileges for five new S-curve industries to make them more enticing for foreign investment. Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general to the EEC Office, said the Eastern Economic Policy Committee chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha found promotional privileges for five of the government's new S-curve industries need revision to make Thailand competitive with other countries.

3. Malls want CLMV traffic

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

Mall operators Siam Piwat and The Mall Group are urging the government to allow resumption of flights from CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam) nations in an effort to reboot the retail business. Mayuree Chaipromprisit, senior executive vice-president for marketing at Siam Piwat, said the company would like to ask the government to permit foreign tourists from the CLMV group to visit Thailand, citing the low number of coronavirus cases in those countries. She said the government should also come up with concise preventive measures for CLMV tourist groups.

4. Airlines to get new relief measures

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

Aircraft parking charges will be waived and a discount on landing and takeoff fees offered to all domestic and international airlines in the latest relief package approved for aviation operators, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT). The package was

given the green light at a Civil Aviation Committee (CAC) meeting chaired by Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob on 23 June. The move improves on relief measures provided at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic to help airlines save on expenses, that had included a 50% discount on parking fees.

5. Defence-tied industrial estate on tap

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

The Defence Ministry plans to invite foreign business people to invest in Thailand's first defence industrial estate in Kanchanaburi under the public-private partnership model, as the government seeks to reduce the nation's reliance on foreign weapons imports and position Thailand as a global arms dealer. The project, to be developed on 3,000 rai of military-owned land in Bo Phloi district, will make Thailand an exporter of military products for neighbouring countries under government-to-government contracts. Next week the ministry will invite weapons makers and sellers, including those working with Thai firms, for a talk on project details, deputy defence permanent secretary Naphon Sangsomwong said on 23 June.

6. Sri Sa Ket shallots, garlic join GI registration list

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

The government has added shallots and garlic from Sri Sa Ket province to the country's geographical indication list, raising the number of Thai indigenous products with GI registration to 126 products in 76 provinces. Deputy Commerce Minister Weerasak Wangsuphakijkosol said farmers in Sri Sa Ket have been famed for growing shallots and garlic for a long time, thanks to suitable geographic and climatic conditions in the province and cultivation techniques passed down from generation to generation. Sri Sa Ket shallots and garlic have a distinctive and unique smell with a taste different from produce grown in other locations.

7. Master plan for Bt6.5-trn circular economy unveiled

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

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation has unveiled its plan to boost the gross domestic product of the country's bio-circular green (BCG) economy, to strengthen Thailand's economic sustainability. Minister Suwit Maesincee said that if things go as planned, the BCG sector's GDP will surge to Bt4.4 trillion in next five years from the current Bt3.4 trillion. The value could reach Bt6.5 trillion in 2030, he added.

8. Rayong ‘smart park’ expected to generate over Bt1.3bn per year

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

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IAET) is expected to begin construction of a Bt2.37 billion "smart park" industrial zone in Rayong early next year, said governor Somchint Pilouk. The project is part of the government’s flagship Eastern Economic Corridor infrastructure programme and is scheduled for completion in three years. The IEAT board approved the project in January this year, and it will be submitted to the National Economic and Social Development Council next month.

9. More Thai routes open as airlines ease out of lockdown

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

The Department of Airports is overseeing a steady increase in the number of routes and flights offered by two airlines, while new routes will open after the fourth phase of lockdown easing. Director general Tawee Gasisam-ang said Thai Lion Air on June 19 increased flights from Bangkok to Nakhon Si Thammarat airport to two per a day. Thai Lion Air has also opened new routes from Don Mueang, with services to Udon Thani (two flights a day), to Khon Kaen (two flights a day), to Krabi (two flights a day), and to Phitsanulok (one flight a day).

10. Cabinet gives nod for Asean agreement on agri-products standards

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

The Cabinet has approved the framework on standards and conformity that aims to facilitate trading in agri-products among Asean countries. The Multilateral Arrangement for the Mutual Recognition of Agri-food Standards and Conformity Assessment was proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Deputy Government Spokesperson Rachada Thanadirek said on Tuesday (June 23). “The ministry has proposed Thailand’s policies toward the arrangement with an aim to reduce non-tariff barriers in trading of agri-food products among Asean’s members,” she said.