

## Thai News Update: 25 June 2020

### **1. Thailand eyes opening borders to those from Australia, NZ, Japan, Taiwan and some Chinese cities**

**Source: Thai PBS World ([Link](#))**

Thailand's National Communicable Diseases Committee has approved a proposed relaxation of travel restrictions, to allow certain foreigners, from countries deemed as low risk, such as New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Taiwan and some Chinese cities, to enter Thailand. Thailand's Public Health Minister, Anutin Charnvirakul, who chaired the meeting today (Wednesday) said that, in the initial stage, Thailand will pair with countries considered low risk, under a travel bubble tourism arrangement, which will be reassessed periodically. The first to be allowed into Thailand again are members of the diplomatic corps, foreigners who need to visit Thailand for economic and social reasons, such as businessmen, investors and expatriates with residences in Thailand.

### **2. Thailand to launch project for medical, wellness tourists**

**source: XinhuaNet ([Link](#))**

Thailand will carry out a tourist project called the Medical and Wellness Resort of the World for visiting foreigners, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said. The Medical and Wellness Resort of the World project will welcome foreigners under the so-called Travel Bubble campaign, which is yet to be launched between Thailand and several other countries including China, Japan and South Korea. They may come to Thailand to undergo medical treatments for illnesses, which will be entirely irrelevant to COVID-19, or to restore their health and wellness, Yuthasak said.

### **3. Japan business travellers first foreigners to be allowed back in Thailand**

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

About 100 businesspeople per day from Japan – the largest foreign investor in Thailand – will be among the first foreigners allowed back into the country as the lockdown eases. Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam made the announcement on Wednesday (June 24) after talks with Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) president Atsushi Taketani. The number of hotels acting as alternatives to state quarantine accommodation will also be increased, Wissanu added.

#### **4. BBS group revs up engines for Thailand's third major airport**

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

The BBS consortium is confident in its ability to develop the Bt290 billion U-Tapao Airport and Eastern Aviation City mega-project, and expects more than 200 million passengers in 2030. Prasert Prasarttong-Osoth, a billionaire businessman and adviser to consortium member Bangkok Airways, told a press conference on 25 June that U-Tapao International Aviation Co Ltd (BBS Joint Venture Group) is ready to construct the Rayong-based project as part of national infrastructure development in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC).

#### **5. High-tech Smart Park to get nod**

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

The cabinet is expected to approve the 12-billion-baht Smart Park industrial estate this September, the first step to make the eastern coast a high-tech industry hub in the region. The approval will kick-start construction expected to begin early next year in Rayong which, together with Chon Buri and Chachoengsao, make up the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), covering 30,000 rai of land. It is among the first projects in the EEC, designed to serve 12 targeted S-curve industries, ranging from robotics and medical technology to aviation and aerospace, said Somchint Pilouk, governor of the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT).

#### **6. NBTC signs deal with airports to back 5G**

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

The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) has signed a deal with the Department of Airports (DoA) to support 5G technology for its regional airports, with Krabi airport serving as a pilot project. The two agencies signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for technical cooperation on a 5G study and services at the NBTC office on Wednesday. The move forms part of the smart airport project. 5G tech solutions will be applied to Krabi airport, which is one of 29 airports overseen by the DoA, said NBTC secretary-general Takorn Tantasith. Huawei Technologies Thailand, the local operating unit of the Chinese tech giant, also plans to sign another MoU with the DoA to support free 5G tech solutions and equipment worth 10 million baht for the project.

#### **7. Govt pushes mega motorway plan**

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

The Transport Ministry is calling for a detailed course of action to implement a master plan to construct eight new motorways that will run parallel with rail routes, to better improve transport

links with neighbouring countries. The eight routes proposed at yesterday's meeting between the Department of Highways (DH), the State Railway of Thailand (SRT) and other state agencies have a combined length of 4,930 kilometres. The meeting was chaired by Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob. The proposed routes are grouped into two clusters, namely the North-South line and the East-West line.