

Thai News Update: 26 June 2020

1. Somkid comes up with new policy to ‘energise’ Thai economy

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

At a meeting held to discuss economic stimulus measures with the Energy Ministry, Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak came up with an “energy to create Thailand” policy for state enterprises such as PTT and the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) to follow. Somkid said that since there is a global slowdown due to Covid-19, PTT should adjust its approach and accelerate investment this year and the next, as well as make sure it does not miss the target. PTT should also find new sources to boost employment through options like connecting agriculture and tourism.

2. Industry agency comes up with scheme to help pull up souvenir makers

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

The Department of Industrial Promotion (DIP) has come up with guidelines to help souvenir businesses to get back on their feet within three months. Nattapol Rangsitpol, DIP’s director-general, said the department’s guidelines go hand in hand with the government’s Tiew Pan Suk (Trips to Share Happiness) scheme to stimulate tourism and grassroots economy. “The Covid-19 outbreak has brought the economic value of the souvenir business to less than Bt30 billion from February to April compared to Bt100 billion in the previous year due to a drop in the number of tourists,” he said.

3. Thai businesses urged to tap China’s growing online market

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

The government is urging Thai businesses to increase exports by finding Chinese online channels to sell their products. The Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) has ordered directors of Thai Trade Centres in China to monitor development of local online platforms, and also find new ways to promote Thai products in China to increase exports. Chinese online platforms play an important role in the Chinese market because the number of online shopping platforms and smartphone applications there is increasing significantly," said Somdet Susomboon, DITP director-general.

4. Central, AWS set up startup lab

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

Central Tech, the e-retail technology arm under Central Group, is partnering with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to establish the Central Tech Retail Lab to support startups with ideas that can

be incorporated into Central Group's operations, offering incubation, training, consulting and eventually commercial partnerships. Startups can submit their proposals to Central Tech via their website and those chosen by the company will receive varying levels of support based on how mature the startup is and how promising the technology.

5. AIS looks to leverage 5G network in EEC

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

Advanced Info Service is gearing up for 5G investment in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) and applying AIS's ultra-fast mobile broadband network to key sectors as part of efforts to forge an economic recovery in the wake of the pandemic. The key sectors include public health, industry, retail, tourism and those linked with sustainable development. The country's biggest mobile operator by subscribers also revealed it would launch the nation's first 5G network slicing technology in July. The technology helps design a network of each layer with consistency and flexibility, including the characteristics of each kind of industry and each area.

6. Thai vaccine could be ready by 'early next year', says Anutin

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

Thailand may start manufacturing a Covid-19 vaccine by early 2021, said the Public Health Ministry on 25 June. "The ministry is working with Bionet-Asia to develop a DNA-type vaccine for Covid-19, and the latest tests on mice show a significant antibody response," Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said on Thursday (June 25). Bionet is a Thai-French private company specialising in the development, manufacturing and supply of vaccines. Bionet-Asia president Withoon Wonghankul said the company will ask for FDA permission to begin simultaneous monkey and human trials of the prototype vaccine, which should help fast-track the process.

7. Tourism businesses urged to register for national health certification

Source: The Phuket News ([Link](#))

The SHA scheme aims to elevate Thailand's tourism industry standards and develop confidence among international and domestic tourists. It is also intended to prepare Thai tourism operators to be ready for the return of tourism post COVID-19, Dr Panpimol explained yesterday (June 24). "SHA is a safety standard for tourists to check the places that have been allowed to reopen," she said. "We also give business owners suggestions through the TAT website and send officers to inspect places periodically, in order to stimulate them to prepare for new normal and create health safety for business owners, workers, and visitors," she added.

8. Asean links up to help restore tourism sector

Source: Khmertimeskh ([Link](#))

Cambodia and its Asean member states are working together to restore the tourism industry in the region in the context of the pandemic spread, according to the Ministry of Tourism. Thong Rathasak, the Ministry of Tourism's director-general, who joined an Asean tourism committee meeting via video conference from June 15-23 said that the 10-nation Asean members had discussed the restoring Asean tourism sector and measures to contain COVID-19. He said after the meeting, the four- Asean tourism committee issued some important policies to restore the sector in the time of COVID-19 and after.