

THAI NEWS UPDATES: 28 APRIL 2021

1. EXIM Thailand launches relief schemes for Thai CLMV businesses

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

EXIM Thailand is offering the SMEs a 3-year credit facility of up to THB20 million at 3.99 per cent interest per annum. Meanwhile, its clients in the Myanmar market can get principal debt suspension of up to 12 months for long-term loans. Thai exports to CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) fell more than 11 per cent in 2020 and continue to suffer this year amid resurgent Covid-19 and tensions in Myanmar, said EXIM Thailand president Rak Vorrakitpokatorn. As a result, Thai SMEs trading in the CLMV need swift liquidity injections to overcome the short-term challenges they face.

2. Phuket still scheduled to reopen in July, says Deputy PM

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

Under the Phuket sandbox scheme, foreign tourists who have received two doses of Covid-19 vaccine will be allowed to visit the island from July 1 without quarantining. The scheme will then be expanded to Krabi, Phang Nga, Koh Samui, Pattaya and Chiang Mai in October before the country reopens fully on January 1, 2022. Supattanapong, who doubles as energy minister, confirmed the schedule for reopening was still on track amid confidence that 50 million of Thailand's 70-million population will be vaccinated this year.

3. Govt to slash rice export tax

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

The cabinet on 27 April approved in principle the Commerce Ministry's plan to reduce surcharges for Thai rice exporters on rice shipments under the EU and UK quotas. Rachada Dhnadirek, a deputy government spokeswoman, said the export surcharge has been reduced to 1,500 baht per tonne for grains bound for the EU and 1,200 baht a tonne for shipments to the UK. For 2021, the EU has granted Thailand a quota of 17,728 tonnes of white rice and 48,729 tonnes of broken rice while the UK has offered a quota of 3,727 tonnes of white rice and 3,721 tonnes of broken rice tariff-free. However, rice exporters had to pay a surcharge of 2,500 baht per tonne to the Commerce Ministry.

4. Commerce Ministry to hold talks with Myanmar

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

Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit is planning to hold urgent talks with Myanmar as Naypyidaw is preparing to ban Thai drink exports worth 10 billion baht via land transport from May 1. The decision is believed to be related to the political mayhem in Myanmar. All types

of drinks, including soft drinks, instant coffee and sweetened condensed milk, will only be allowed for export via ship to Myanmar, which means higher export costs for Thai businesses. The authorities on both sides need to talk "so we can ask them their reasons for this decision and find solutions to the problem", Mr Jurin said.

5. Thailand to order another 500,000 Sinovac doses as 3rd wave rises

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

A total of THB321.604 million has been set aside for the vaccine shipment as Thailand battles a third wave of infections that has seen daily cases soar beyond 2,000. The budget will be divided into THB271.25 million to buy the doses, THB18.99 million value-added tax, and THB31.36 million for vaccine management at the regional level, according to government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri. As of Sunday, only 1.39 per cent of Thailand's population had received at least one dose of vaccine, according to Oxford University's "Our World in Data" report. Research suggests 60-70 per cent of the population must have Covid-19 antibodies to reach herd immunity.