

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 2 JUNE 2021

1. Local Covid vaccine ‘ready for clinical trials’

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

In a Facebook post, deputy government spokesperson Traisulee Traisoranakul said the vaccine, developed by Dr Kiat Ruxrungham from Chulalongkorn University, will be tested on 100 volunteers this month. The clinical trial also aims to work out the right dosage for immunization. Once the trial is successfully completed, the first lot of vaccines will be produced in the US, before Thailand’s BioNet-Asia begins mass production in September.

2. BoT launches car loan debt programme

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

The Bank of Thailand has implemented a new auto loan debt mediation programme, aiming to help 100,000 borrowers ease their debt burden during the pandemic. The central bank and auto loan creditors plan to offer the scheme until July 31. Many auto loan borrowers are struggling with debt repayment because of the ongoing pandemic. The scheme covers three groups. The first group is borrowers whose debt is not classified as a non-performing loan and their cars have not been seized.

3. Cabinet okays measures worth B164bn

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

The cabinet on 1 June approved a combined 164 billion baht worth of fresh measures to help alleviate the hardships of people affected by the pandemic as well as to fund public health projects. Government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri said the budget for the measures comes from the 1-trillion-baht loan under the decree issued last year to ease the impact of the Covid-19 outbreaks. According to Mr Anucha, of the total 17.1 billion baht is earmarked to fund three projects related to public health services, including vaccine distribution and vehicle procurement to patrol at-risk groups.

4. TCEB eyes small groups to spur Mice

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

The Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) aims to attract small corporate groups under the Phuket sandbox scheme as the Mice (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) industry is projected to slowly return to normalcy by 2025. TCEB president, Chiruit Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya, said the Phuket model represents an opportunity to welcome corporate groups for meetings and provide incentives at destinations ready to welcome visitors

via direct flights. At present, five airlines have announced direct services to Phuket, including Thai Airways, Emirates, Singapore Airlines, El Al Israel Airlines and Qatar Airways.