

Thai News Update: 30 June 2020

1. More groups of foreigners to be allowed entry from tomorrow

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

Additional groups of foreigners will be allowed to enter Thailand from tomorrow (July 1), the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) announced on Monday (June 29). The announcement, which was signed by CAAT director-general Chula Sukmanop and takes effect on July 1, stipulates that eleven groups of people will be allowed to enter the country via flights: 1. Persons with Thai nationality. 2. Persons who were invited by the prime minister or authorities responsible for the emergency. 3. Foreign spouses, parents or children of persons with Thai nationality. 4. Foreigners with residency rights in Thailand and others.

2. Thailand to allow limited number of foreigners into the country again

source: Thai PBS World ([Link](#))

Thailand's CCSA has agreed to reopen the country's borders gradually, initially for six groups of foreigners and citizens from Japan, South Korea, China, Singapore and Hong Kong. CCSA spokesman Dr. Taweessin Visanuyothin said 29 June that, initially, the number of foreigners to be allowed to enter the country will be capped at 200 per day, and they must go through 14-days of quarantine at alternative state quarantine (ASQ) at their own expense. Although no limits are set for the number of citizens Japan, South Korea, China, Singapore and Hong Kong, groups are limited to 10 at most and all must be tested for COVID-19 in their home countries and again upon arrival in Thailand. Additional restrictions will apply for travel within Thailand and they must arrive in Thailand only on repatriation flights, which carry Thais returning from abroad.

3. Thailand to lift ban on international flights in July - regulator

Source: Reuters ([Link](#))

Thailand will lift a ban on international flights on July 1, its aviation regulator said on 29 June. The announcement came after the government earlier on 29 June approved some foreign travel to the country including business travellers and foreigners with spouses, work permits or residency in the country.

4. 'Business bubbles' to let in only high-value, low-risk travellers

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

The National Security Council has outlined the criteria for allowing foreign businesspeople into Thailand under the "business bubble" arrangement expected to start in July. Council

secretary-general Gen Somsak Rungsita said those without a Thai work permit will have to ask permission from state agencies such as the Foreign Ministry or Board of Investment. A joint committee will also be set up to consider permissions, added Somsak, speaking in his role as chairman of the panel on easing Covid-19 restrictions.

5. Over 500,000 claimed jobless benefits in June

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

More than half a million Thais claimed jobless benefits in June, the Department of Employment reported today (June 30). “The number of people who claimed jobless benefits in June was 505,594,” department director-general Suchat Pornchaiwiseskul said. “However, some workers may be hired for work again after the government eased its lockdown.” Suchat also said that of that figure, 140,496 claimed benefits via the department's website, a drop when compared to the 166,009 in May, 267,351 in April and 144,861 in March.

6. Plan to reopen five islands to foreign tourists by August

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

The Tourism and Sports Ministry aims to reopen five islands to foreign tourists in three provinces – Phuket, Krabi and Surat Thani – by August. A ministry official revealed today (June 30) that in response to preparations to allow foreign tourists to enter Thailand by August, which is faster than the original schedule of between September and October, the ministry has discussed with the Phuket governor and tourism operators preparations for reopening of five islands in the three provinces.

7. Minister seeks solar rooftop revisions

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

Energy Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong has demanded a revision of conditions for the solar rooftop project within two months to encourage more households to produce and sell power to the state grid. He gave the order on 29 June after discussing obstacles to the project, especially the unattractive sale prices of photovoltaic (PV) electricity, with former Bangkok senator and outspoken activist Rosana Tositrakul, who leads energy advocacy group Thai Energy Reform. Thailand has allowed people to jointly generate electricity from solar energy since 2013, but there was little interest. The main problem is the power tariff included in the price is not high enough, said Mr Sontirat.

8. Shopping coupons for tourists arriving in Phuket by car

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand hopes to lure local travellers to this island province with the offer of 1,000 baht of shopping coupons for 500 families arriving by car under a "new normal" promotion starting on July 7. Naphasorn Khakhai, director of the provincial TAT office, announced the "Drive Thru Phuket" campaign on 29 June, to encourage Thai families to drive to the province and holiday there. The campaign will focus on domestic tourism involving small groups of visitors by focusing on quality, cleanliness and safety, said Ms Naphasorn.

9. Thais, Indonesia seek deal

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

Thailand and Indonesia have vowed to tighten bilateral trade cooperation to rehabilitate both economies following the Covid-19 pandemic. Sansern Samalapa, vice-minister of commerce, recently met Ahmad Rusdi, the ambassador of Indonesia to Thailand, with both parties agreeing to stress bilateral cooperation to help reboot the virus-hit economies of the two countries. Thailand has called on Indonesia to facilitate the import licensing procedure, especially for longan, as such processes remain relatively slow and only a handful of importers are permitted, he said.