

Thai News Update: 30 September 2020

1. Myanmar agrees to allow cross-border goods transport

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

Myanmar has accepted Thailand's proposal to resume goods transportation with the condition to change drivers at the border to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The Second Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge has become lively again, as several vehicles began transporting goods from the Thailand side at 6am on 30 September. On September 28, Thailand had requested Myanmar to allow trucks that were stranded on the Thai border to transport the goods or they would suffer losses of Bt80 million to Bt100 million a day.

2. EU to allow duty-free import of over 24,000 tonnes of Thai rice in October

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

The Commerce Ministry is getting ready to issue a certificate for exporting 24,883 tonnes of rice to the European Union under zero tariff in October. Kirati Ratchano, deputy director-general of the Department of Foreign Trade, revealed on 29 September that on September 22, the European Commission issued a notification on the remaining quota for white rice (white rice, Thai jasmine rice, Thai fragrant rice and parboiled rice) for October without limitations of import duty. EU importers are required to apply for an import licence within the first 10 business days of October.

3. Asean-Canada FTA to help boost Thai exports

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

The Asean-Canada free-trade agreement is expected to boost Thailand's economic growth by 1.97 per cent, the Department of Trade Negotiations' deputy director-general Duangathid Nithiutai said. He was citing a region-based feasibility study conducted by the Economic Research Institute for Asean and East Asia. Bilateral trade between Thailand and Canada last year stood at US\$2.55 billion, of which \$1.6 billion accounted for Thai exports. Key products exported to Canada include canned seafood, rice, computers and computer components.

4. Ministry: Economy may contract less than forecast

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

The economy is likely to shrink less this year than the record 8.5% projected previously, helped by stimulus measures, the Finance Ministry said on 29 September, as the government tries to revive a coronavirus-hit economy. The shrinkage could be less than the central bank's latest projection for a 7.8% contraction, Lavaron Sangsnit, head of the finance ministry's fiscal policy

office, told a briefing. On 29 September, cabinet approved measures expected to inject 81 billion baht into the economy in the final quarter of this year, he said.

5. Cabinet gives greenlight to ‘Let’s Go Halves’ scheme

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

The Cabinet gave the go-ahead on Tuesday to the three-month economic stimulus package called “Khon La Khrueng” (Let’s Go Halves) in a bid to stimulate domestic consumption. Under the Kon La Khreung scheme, 10 million people will get daily discounts on their shopping of up to Bt150, capped at Bt3,000. The scheme will open for merchants to register through the website from October 1. Under the second scheme, 14 million welfare cardholders will receive an extra monthly discount of Bt500 on their shopping from October 23 to December 31.

6. B3,000 freebie for 10 million

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

The cabinet on 29 September approved a scheme to make a co-payment of a maximum 3,000 baht per person for 10 million consumers over a three-month period. The co-payment scheme, which is scheduled to be implemented from Oct 23 until Dec 31, is intended for Thai citizens aged 18 and above. They need to sign up for the scheme from Oct 16 onwards. The co-payment would subsidise half the price of the products, government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri told the media at a briefing on 29 September. The maximum amount from the government will be limited to 150 baht per day and 3,000 baht per person throughout the period, he said.

7. Phuket ready to open up

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

Phuket is gearing up to receive its first group of tourists from China who are expected to arrive next week under the Special Tourist Visa (STV) scheme. In the initial stage of reopening, the first flight, scheduled to land on Oct 8, is expected to carry 120 tourists from Guangzhou. The visitors will stay in alternative state quarantine for 14 days as part of disease control measures. Phuket governor Narong Woonsiew said on 29 September that all authorities concerned are ready to welcome the visitors with Covid-19 labs, supplied by the Department of Communicable Disease Control, now installed at Phuket airport.

8. Cabinet gives green light to Smart Park in Rayong

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

The Cabinet on 29 September approved the Industry Ministry’s proposal to develop a smart park worth Bt2.37 billion in Rayong province, deputy government spokesperson Ratchada

Thanadirek said. The park will occupy 1,383 rai, 621 rai of which will be allocated for the industrial zone, 150 rai for the commercial zone, 373.35 rai for utilities and infrastructure, and 238.32 rai for the green buffer zone. The park aims to woo advanced industries, such as robotics, aviation, digital and medical businesses.

9. BoI eyes new schemes to woo investment, foreign talent

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

The Board of Investment (BoI) is planning to come up with several schemes to woo investors and help those affected by the Covid-19 outbreak, BoI secretary-general Duangjai Asawachintachit said on 29 September. She added that BoI will propose next month that its board consider adding clinical study as a new type of medical equipment business that can enjoy tax privileges. She said clinical study is one of the fundamentals of the medical equipment industry. Applications for BoI tax support in the production of medical equipment has surged after it began offering certain additional benefits to investors in April.