THAI NEWS UPDATE: 31 MAY 2021

1. PM proposes closer bilateral ties with South Korea through 3P strategy Source: The Nation (Link)

In a telephone conversation on May 28, the two leaders discussed continuing the momentum of the Thailand-South Korea Strategic Partnership and advancing bilateral cooperation, a statement issued by the Thai Foreign Ministry said. Prayut also expressed his support for South Korea as host of the Second Partnering for Green Growth and Global Goals 2030 or the Second P4G Summit, which the Thai PM will attend via live videoconference on May 31. Prayut highlighted promoting cooperation through linking of the two countries' corresponding national development strategies, including with South Korea's New Southern Policy and New Southern Policy Plus.

2. Mass vaccination to be launched from June 7 in 76 provinces Source: The Nation (Link)

Public Health permanent secretary Dr Kiattiphum Wongrajit said the ministry would allocate vaccines in line with the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA)'s plan. He explained that the communicable disease committees in each province would be responsible for conducting mass vaccination, recording the operation outcome via MOPH Immunization Centre (MOHP IC) platform, and issuing vaccination certificates to those who had already received two shots of vaccine. "We have urged public health agencies nationwide to prioritise vaccination of education staff to enable the opening of a new semester," he said.

3. TAT to organise Grand Sale in July to stimulate spending by Thais and expats Source: The Nation (Link)

TAT Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said discussions were going on with more than 300 partners and entrepreneurs in the tourism industry covering both products and services in the main tourist areas. The Amazing Thailand Grand Sale 2021 project is scheduled to be held from July 15 to September 15 under the concept "More amazing" to stimulate spending by both Thais and expatriates in Thailand. The concept will aim to promote Thailand as a shopping destination and help revive businesses in all sectors affected by the coronavirus crisis. A wide variety of gifts and privileges will be on offer to impress tourists and create a variety of shopping experiences both online and on-site, the TAT governor said.

4. IEAT studies possible new subsidiary Source: Bangkok Post (Link)

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) plans to set up a subsidiary to oversee new businesses, notably 5G wireless technology, to keep pace with the global economy. It set up a team to conduct a feasibility study of the plan last month and expects to produce the findings at some point between 2021-22. The IEAT and state agencies need to adjust to economic challenges, including those caused by the pandemic, said IEAT governor Veeris Ammarapala. The new company is expected to work in a wide scope of business fields, including projects related to 5G wireless technology, infrastructure management in industrial estates, water and waste water treatment as well as a maintenance business.