

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 3 NOVEMBER 2021

### **1. Unlocking of bars in Bangkok to be considered on Nov 15**

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

After Thailand opened its doors to fully vaccinated tourists on Monday, the National Security Council (NSC) met with tourism operators the following day to assess the situation. General Supot Malaniyom, NSC secretary-general, said the council will meet tourism operators every two days and collate data for the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), which will be presented every 15 days. He said the opening of entertainment venues, bars and pubs will rely very much on the trend of new Covid-19 infections, the emergence of clusters and the rate of hospital beds occupied by Covid patients.

### **2. Transport Ministry to embark on 40 mega projects worth Bt1.4 trillion in 2022**

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

Transport Ministry has revealed its plan of handling mega projects in fiscal year 2022 in a seminar “Thailand Opportunity for Sustainable Economic Growth” organized virtually on Thursday (October 28). The Ministry is planning to start and continue 40 projects in 2022 with combined investment value of Bt1.4 trillion,” said Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob. “Of these, Bt516 billion worth of investment will be in projects that we already signed the contracts, while Bt974 billion will be an investment in new projects.” Saksayam further added that among the 13 projects that already signed the contract, one will involve building road infrastructure (worth Bt32.22 billion), one is about land transport (Bt2.86 billion), seven will be of rail transport (Bt476.15 billion), and four will involve air travel (Bt5.71 billion).

### **3. Thailand approves seven types of Covid vaccines for visitors**

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

Seven Covid-19 vaccines have been approved in Thailand which will not require mandatory quarantine for visitors from 63 countries. However, those who enter the country need to obtain the Thailand Pass under specified conditions. Here are the approved vaccines, according to the Foreign Ministry’s Department of Consular Affairs:

- CoronaVac (Sinovac)
- AstraZeneca
- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- Covilo (Sinopharm)

- Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)
- Sputnik V.

#### **4. Sirindhorn Dam floating solar project starts lighting up Thailand**

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

The 45-megawatt hydro-floating solar hybrid project in Sirindhorn Dam, believed to be the largest in the world, began delivering power to the national grid from October 31. Boonyanit Wongrukmit, governor of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat), said on Tuesday that this solar project will not only strengthen Thailand's energy security but also reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions by about 47,000 tonnes per year. The project generates electricity from both solar power and hydropower and was built to provide support during peak consumption hours.

#### **5. IEAT promotes creation of 'correctional' estate project**

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

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) is preparing to invite companies to join a project to build "correctional industrial estates" in five provinces, including those in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). The project, which is aimed to upskill inmates and give them factory jobs, is expected to be developed in Chon Buri, Rayong and Chachoengsao, which form the EEC zone, as well as Samut Prakan and Samut Sakhon. These provinces are Thailand's major production bases for various industries which require a large number of workers, said Veeris Ammarapala, governor of the IEAT. Justice Minister Somsak Thepsutin said earlier the project should help the government relieve overcrowding in prisons and reduce employment of migrant workers from neighbouring countries.

#### **6. Egat eyes 2nd floating farm**

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

State-run Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) looks forward to building its second floating solar farm in Khon Kaen after commencing commercial operation of the hydro-floating solar hybrid project at Sirindhorn Dam in Ubon Ratchathani. Claimed to be the world's largest hydro-floating solar hybrid facility, the 45-megawatt Sirindhorn project passed a three-month trial, following delays due to the Covid-19 impact. Egat governor Boonyanit Wongrukmit said his agency is preparing for the construction of the second floating solar farm at Ubolratana Dam in Khon Kaen, with a capacity of 24MW. The government granted permission to Egat to run floating solar farms with a total capacity of 2.725 gigawatts at its 15 dams nationwide over the next 20 years.