

Thai News Update: 4 May 2020

1. ‘We Love Thailand’ campaign to stimulate domestic tourism

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

The Tourism Council of Thailand is preparing to start its “We Love Thailand” campaign in collaboration with the Tourism and Sports Ministry and the Tourism Authority of Thailand to stimulate domestic tourism after the Covid-19 situation normalises, council president Chairat Trirattanajarasporn said. “This campaign will promote new local products and attractions, especially those involving tourism communities,” he said. Chairat also said domestic tourism needs to be promoted for one to two years while the market waits for foreign tourists to regain confidence.

2. Planes allowed 12-hour window for take-off and landings at airports

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

Aircraft will be allowed to take off and land at airports between 7am and 7pm as part of efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19, Chula Sukmanop, director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand, said on Sunday (May 3). Airports that have reopened for domestic flights are: Phitsanulok, Phrae, Mae Sot in Mae Hong Son province, and Lampang province. Airports for both domestic and international flights are: Khon Kaen, Nakhon Phanom, Buri Ram, Roi Et, Loei, Sakon Nakhon, Udon Thani, Ubon Ratchathani, Chumphon, Trang, Nakhon Si Thammarat, and Ranong.

3. Processed food awaits snapback

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

Thai processed food exports are expected to recover in the third and fourth quarters this year after falling 13.3% in the first quarter. According to Visit Limlurcha, president of the Thai Food Processors Association, Thailand's processed food exports fetched 120 billion baht in the first quarter, down from 138 billion baht in the same quarter last year. "We expect processed food shipments to remain tepid in the second quarter, but the situation is likely to improve healthily in the third and further quarters as many countries are likely to ease their lockdown measures and allow some businesses such as restaurants, hotels, seminars and catering to reopen, resulting in more spending and consumption," he said.

4. Japan to help shift output to Asean from China

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

Japan will launch a subsidy programme to encourage domestic manufacturers to transfer their overseas production bases to Southeast Asia, as the coronavirus pandemic has greatly disrupted their supply chains heavily dependent on China. The 23.5 billion yen (7 billion baht) programme, incorporated into the government's emergency stimulus package to ease the economic fallout from the pandemic, will help firms diversify their supply chains by financially assisting the construction of production facilities as well as feasibility studies in Asean countries. The initiative came after many automakers and other manufacturers suffered a shortage of parts produced in China after the new coronavirus outbreak started late last year in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

5. Bangkok's Chinatown comes alive as lockdown eases

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

Thailand's loosened restrictions on some businesses after progress in containing the coronavirus has started to bring life back to the streets, including the hawker-food heaven of Bangkok's Chinatown. The kingdom was the first country outside China to record a case of the coronavirus, back in January, but the national daily tally of new cases fell to single digits for the week ending on Sunday, with a total of 2,969 confirmed infections and 54 deaths. The government has welcomed the progress with a relaxation of some lockdown rules, allowing food stalls and restaurants outside shopping malls to reopen, and allowing shops to sell alcohol for drinking at home.

6. Taiwan-Thailand Medical Technology Collaborating Center to Ease the COVID-19 Pandemic

Source: C Times ([Link](#))

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) has been promoting the New Southbound Policy and funding local institutions to establish "Science and Technology Innovation Center (STIC)." MOST subsidized Pingtung Christian Hospital to establish the Taiwan-Thailand Medical Tech., Science & Humanities Development Center. The Center integrates resources from South and Southeast Asian countries and provides several millions of medical supplies to the U.S. and Europe. Cooperating with the Taiwanese corporations in Thailand and Vietnam, the Center utilizes Made-in-Taiwan products to facilitate the supply and demand chain for medical goods and services through free trade and financial platforms in Cambodia.

7. Officials give thumbs up to reopen 2 Bangkok malls today

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

Officials from the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration, City Hall and police on 2 May inspected two luxury shopping malls in Bangkok, to ensure their readiness to reopen for limited business. The Supreme Commander of Thailand's defence forces Pornpipat Benyasri, in his capacity as the CCSA chief, led the inspections of Siam Paragon and Central Chidlom, two of the city's biggest malls. He said both are well prepared and their measures meet or surpass the required standards. He asked for the full cooperation of the public by doing their part in observing good health and hygiene practices to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

8. Baby steps for reopening businesses

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

City Hall has issued guidelines on the implementation of the government's relaxation of Covid-19 containment restrictions for 10 clusters of businesses and venues starting on 3 May. The guidelines were announced on Saturday after a meeting of Bangkok's communicable disease control committee chaired by Pol Lt Gen Sophon Phisutthiwong, deputy Bangkok governor. Restaurants, food stalls and street food vendors including those with space of more than 200 square metres are required to set up a body temperature checking point at the entrance and ensure customers keep 1m-1.5m away from one another, said Pol Capt Phongsakon Kwanmuang, the City Hall spokesman.