

Thai News Update: 5 July 2021

1. 'Essential' construction to resume

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

The government has agreed to allow some workers to move out of their sealed accommodation to resume work on essential and emergency cases, a source said on 4 July. The easing of the rule, which was put in place to curb the spread of Covid-19 in the capital and its surrounding provinces, was proposed by the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration last week and approved by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on 2 July, the source said. Construction projects which are allowed to go ahead include those which could cause damage to existing structures if they were delayed further or put passers-by and/or nearby communities at risk.

2. More than 1,300 visitors arrive in Phuket

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

More than 1,300 foreign visitors have arrived in Phuket over the past three days under the quarantine-free "sandbox" scheme. Nanthasiri Ronnasiri, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Phuket Office, said on Saturday 326 tourists arrived at the resort island on Thursday, 514 on Friday and 484 yesterday afternoon, bringing the total number of foreign visitors to 1,324 since the start of the scheme. Ms Nanthasiri said her Phuket office will collect tourist figures every day which will be made public. The government expects about 100,000 foreign tourists will travel to Phuket under the Phuket Sandbox Model during the third quarter of this year from July to September, kickstarting tourism again after a quiet patch.

3. Covid-19 vaccines developed by Thai researchers undergoing human trials

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

Three Covid-19 vaccines are undergoing human trials while more than 20 are in the research phase, the National Research Council of Thailand and National Vaccine Institute said. The government's Covid-19 Information Centre announced on 4 July that combined data from the two institutes revealed more than 20 vaccines are being researched and developed in Thailand, while three have started human trials. The three in human trials stage are:- ChulaCov19, an mRNA vaccine developed by Chulalongkorn University; HXP-GPOVac is an inactivated vaccine jointly developed by the Faculty of Tropical Medicine at Mahidol University and the Government Pharmaceutical Organization; Covigen is a DNA vaccine developed by Bionet Asia and Technovalia, which has started its first phase of human trials among 150 candidates.

4. Unemployment shows improvement in successive months

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

The unemployment rate in May improved to 2.7 per cent from 2.9 per cent in April, while it was even higher at 3.1 per cent in March, the Fiscal Policy Office said on 4 July. The statistics are based on the number of workers under social security who have applied for unemployment benefits,” said Phisit Phuaphan, director of the office’s Macroeconomic Policy Bureau. “Unemployment is showing an improving trend in the last two months, and is significantly lower than the country’s highest unemployment rate in October 2020 of 4.5 per cent.” Phisit added that the global unemployment rate in May was also picking up, as seen from the rate in large economies such as the United States and China.

5. CP Foods collaborates with fishermen to combat marine plastic pollution

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

Charoen Pokphand Foods Public Company Limited (CP Foods) has teamed up with partners and fishermen to upcycle plastic bottles collected from the sea into polo-shirts for employees. The objective of the pilot initiative is to help reduce the problem of plastic waste in Thailand. “As a leading food producer, CP Foods places great importance on responsible fisheries through the use of sustainable by-products such as fishmeal along with multiple mangrove conservation projects,” explained Pairoj Apiruknusat, CP Foods’ Executive Vice President for Integrated Aquaculture. “We are also promoting efficient marine waste management in line with the circular economy principle and the guidelines around the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”