

## Thai News Update: 6 August 2020

### **1. New shipping routes set to sail**

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

The Marine Department is preparing to open a shipping route from Prachuap Khiri Khan's Bangsaphan district to Chon Buri's Sattahip district as well as other water routes in Bangkok, Pathum Thani and Samut Prakarn as soon as the Covid-19 situation improves further. Director-general Witthaya Yamuang said a number of private shipping operators have expressed an interest to operate on the Prachuap Khiri Khan-Chon Buri route. "The route's opening had been postponed indefinitely due to the Covid-19 lockdown, but we believe that when the situation improves further the route will open for shipping immediately," he said.

### **2. Shippers' Council wants govt help to secure payments from foreign importers**

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

The Thai National Shippers' Council will ask the Commerce Ministry to help secure payment from overseas companies that have delayed or declined to pay for imports received from its members. Council vice chairman Visit Limluecha said he wants Thai Trade Offices overseas or the Office of International Trade Promotion to collaborate with counterparts abroad on talks for the importers to meet their payment obligations, though he realised that this was a difficult task. He added that the payment delays or defaults stem from importers' lack of financial liquidity amid the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **3. CPF remains on guard against Covid-19**

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

Thailand's largest food company says it is using lessons from the Covid-19 epicentre in Wuhan, China to ensure 100-per-cent product safety as Thailand enters its 10th week without local transmission of the virus. Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF) has outlined its safety practices in all business units across the world – feed, livestock, processed food, logistics, warehouse and office – in a bid to guarantee its products' quality and traceability. So far, none of CPF's operations in 17 countries has been closed or disrupted due to the pandemic.

### **4. 'Safe and Sealed' brings hope for tourism rally**

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

Tourism operators are proposing a new inbound tourism plan, called Safe and Sealed, to replace travel bubbles and keep Thailand from realising the worst-case revenue scenario of 675 billion baht next year, down from 3.01 trillion baht in 2019. At 5 August joint meeting of

the Tourism and Sports Ministry and the private sector chaired by Tourism Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, tourism-related groups offered a proposal to let inbound tourists restart their trips to Thailand in the fourth quarter with safer screening and more flexibility for many countries than the bilateral travel bubble scheme would have afforded. Vichit Prakobgosol, president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents, said that while Thailand has started to welcome certain groups of foreigners, the total will be fewer than 100,000 visitors and cannot prevent tourism-related businesses from falling into bankruptcy.

#### **5. Thai farmers, food manufacturers will need to play by new Codex rules**

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

The Codex Alimentarius Commission has approved several food-related standards that could affect farmers and food manufacturers in Thailand, National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards secretary-general Juadee Pongmaneerat said. Juadee said the Codex meeting also approved the use of Xanthan Gum (INS415) as a food addition at the ratio of 0.19g per 100 ml of product and Pectins (INS440) at the ratio of 0.2g per 100 ml. “The National Bureau of Agricultural Commodities and Food Standards will inform farmers and manufacturers immediately in case the Codex meeting decides to cancel the use of any food additions that have been used in Thailand, to make sure that our manufacturing of food products is not in violation of international standards and that our exports can continue smoothly,” Juadee added

#### **6. Dusit Central Park project launches green landmark**

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

Dusit Central Park, the mixed-use joint venture project of Dusit Thani and Central Pattana, is introducing a rooftop park as a new green landmark at the 3.67-billion-baht project. Suphajee Suthumpun, group chief executive of Dusit International, said that because the city suffers from high PM2.5 dust levels, the rooftop park and Lumpini Park -- opposite the new project -- offer a respite for urban dwellers. The seven-rai, 20-metre-high rooftop park ranges from the third floor to the seventh floor of Dusit Central Park. The project is at the intersection of Rama IV and Silom roads.

#### **7. Rice strategy awaiting rejig**

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

Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit pledges to speed up adjustment of the Thai rice strategy as quickly as possible as the industry faces a slew of challenges including a strong baht and rising production costs. Mr Jurin said after presiding over a Thai hom mali fragrant

rice fair on 5 August that rice exports have fared poorly since the beginning of last year because of foreign exchange swings and the ascendant baht, making Thai rice more expensive than competing grains. "The ministry is pursuing a rice strategy to improve competitiveness, covering all systems including marketing, cultivation and R&D of new rice varieties," Mr Jurin said. "We are also working to find ways to reduce production costs for farmers, to make Thai rice more affordable."

#### **8. TOT readies 5G public services in EEC**

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

State telecom enterprise TOT is gearing up for 5G-related solutions in public services in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) through the 26-gigahertz spectrum range with an initial budget of 4.9 billion baht for network installation. The services include smart education, environment management for "smart city" initiatives, and support for vertical industries with a real-time cloud computing server. TOT expects to finish upgrading its core network and installing the new core network with 5G standalone (SA) technology under the 4.9-billion-baht budget within six months, said Djitt Laowattana, chairman of strategic committee and member of the TOT board. TOT set aside 13 billion baht for the total network installation, which is projected to be completed in a few years.