

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 6 MAY 2021

1. Govt unveils B225bn relief plan

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

The government will hand out 7,000 baht each for four million people with high purchasing power and launch a new phase of "Khon La Khrueng" co-payment scheme as part of a new relief package worth 225 billion baht. The total sum is aimed, through various schemes, to help 51 million people affected by the latest wave of Covid-19 which had claimed 318 lives with cumulative infections of 74,900 as of 5 May 2021. Under the new package which will go before cabinet next week, the government will launch a "Ying Chai Ying Dai" (the more you spend, the more you get) scheme to give away e-vouchers to people from July to September to encourage them to buy food, products and services through the government's e-wallet.

2. Chiang Mai sandbox on course for October

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

The Chiang Mai sandbox model will go ahead as planned on Oct 1 and target tourists from Asia as operators expect to receive a windfall from the Phuket sandbox. Punlop Saejew, president of the Tourism Council of Chiang Mai, said the sandbox will take place in Mae Rim and Mae Taeng districts, which have abundant natural resources but a low population density. To commence with the plan, the two districts will require around 400,000 vaccine doses for local residents. However, vaccines for these residents have not been confirmed as the limited quantity of doses available must be distributed to other higher risk areas around the country first.

3. Saksayam pushes for megaproject

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

Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob has urged agencies to expedite the southern land bridge megaproject, which will connect the Gulf of Thailand with the Andaman Sea. After participating in a video conference on the project, Mr Saksayam said 16-metre-deep ports will be constructed at both ends, with direct connections to the nation's rail and highway networks. The ports will accommodate both goods and passenger transport, with the potential for pipeline transport, he said.

4. Investment applications rise 80% in first quarter 2021

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

The value of planned investment in applications made in the first quarter of 2021 rose 80% to 123 billion baht as proposed foreign direct investment (FDI) more than doubled, an investment agency said on 5 May. FDI projects had a combined application value of 62 billion baht in the January-March quarter, a 143% increase from the first three months of 2020. South Korea, China, and Singapore were the top three source countries of FDI applications, the Board of Investment (BoI) said in a statement. The medical sector attracted the most investment with a total of 29 projects worth 18.4 billion baht, over 100 times more than a year earlier, it said.

5. Committee given 50 days more to study CPTPP

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

Deputy spokeswoman Ratchada Thanadirek said the additional days were granted after the previous study period ended on April 15. “Thailand will discuss with other CPTPP members about the advantages of the agreement if the study concludes that we should join the grouping,” she added. The CPTPP is a free-trade bloc involving Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam.