

Thai News Update: 7 September 2020

1. FPO: Next stimulus hinges on past outcome

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

Results of the three government stimulus measures will be assessed to determine whether additional stimulus policies will be unveiled, says the Fiscal Policy Office (FPO). The three measures concern tourism, consumer spending and state welfare for low-income earners. The Finance Ministry and other related government agencies are discussing a strategy to manage the economy in the next phase of the pandemic, said FPO director-general Lavaron Sangsnit. The government previously rolled out stimulus measures to entice Thais to travel as the tourism industry was crippled by international travel restrictions and poor sentiment as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Phuket reopening delayed

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

The government's plan to reopen the resort island of Phuket as a model to welcome back foreign visitors has hit a snag after the country last week saw the first case of local Covid-19 infection in more than three months. Yuthasak Supasorn, governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), said the launch of the so-called "Phuket model" scheduled for next month as part of efforts to revive the local economy, is likely to be pushed back. He said TAT officials are visiting Phuket this long weekend to discuss disease control measures with business operators, adding the proposed model to bring back foreign tourists may have to be adjusted if the country faces a second wave of the Covid-19 outbreak.

3. Govt wants to create jobs for elderly folk

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

The government aims to create jobs for about 200,000 elderly people by next year. It also wants to get all businesses and public facilities offering care to dependent senior citizens registered and certified to ensure their practice standards, said Rachada Dhanadirek, a deputy government spokeswoman. Some aspects of government policy towards this group need to be tweaked to ensure they enjoy quality of life, she said. The government has drawn up an operation plan for the elderly for implementation until 2022 to prepare the country to deal with the transition to a so-called ageing society, said Ms Rachada. Among the areas that still need to be fine-tuned is the need to create jobs for 195,000 elderly people, which the government aims to achieve by next year, she said.

4. Resumption of tourism between China and Thailand 'not happening any time soon'

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

A senior official of the Chinese embassy in Bangkok has ruled out early reopening of tourism between China and Thailand, as the two countries are not ready to open the sector. China has been recently reopening for domestic tourism, but has not yet welcomed foreign tourists, or urged Chinese people to travel abroad, said Yang Xin, minister counsellor and deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Thailand. Even Chinese tourists want to visit Thailand, but Thailand is unlikely to open for foreign tourists, he said in an exclusive interview to Nation Multimedia Group.

5. Stepping into the void

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

Continuity of much-needed fiscal policy and government stability are now in doubt as the surprise resignation of former finance minister Predee Daochai offers a glimpse of the broken promises of the Palang Pracharath Party (PPRP)-led coalition. After less than a month on the job, Mr Predee, a former executive at Kasikornbank, left the helm of the Finance Ministry, citing health problems. But according to media reports, Mr Predee disagreed with his deputy, Santi Promphat of the PPRP, over the reshuffle of high-ranking officials, in particular who should head the Excise Department. Other contentious issues that may have contributed to Mr Predee's resignation were a revamp of the board of directors of state-owned enterprises and an overhaul of the ministry's procurement process.