

Thai News Update: 8 April 2020

1. Cabinet gives green light to B1.9tn stimulus

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

The cabinet on 7 April approved 1.9-trillion-baht spending to help people and businesses affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), including 600 billion baht for six-month cash giveaways and 500-billion-baht soft loans for small and medium-sized businesses. The package, the third phase of the stimulus programme to shore up the economy, will be backed by three executive decrees. The first decree will allow the government to borrow 1 trillion baht from May this year to September next year.

2. Only 200 people to be allowed to enter country each day

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

The Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement saying not more than 200 people will be allowed to enter the country each day. The statement came after an order that planes would be prohibited from landing until April 18. The number of 200 was decided upon after discussions between related agencies in order to systematically manage entry into the country and make appropriate arrangements for people entering, especially 14-day quarantine in specified areas.

3. Covid centre 'working to bring Thais home'

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

The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) is working with related agencies to bring Thais stranded in airports across the world home as the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) has extended a ban on all commercial flights to Thailand until April 18 to support the country's campaign to contain the coronavirus. According to the CCSA, almost 200 Thais trying to return home are now stuck at airports in several countries — 15 in Japan, 60 in South Korea, 60 in the Netherlands, 60 in the US, and one each in the UK and Qatar. "We are doing our best to bring Thai people home. All 197 will be taken care of by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MFA]. Other Thais who are stranded abroad can also contact Thai embassies and/or consular offices in their areas for help," CCSA spokesman Dr Taweessin Visanuyothin said.

4. CP will start production of medical masks in Thailand

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

4 weeks ago the Charoen Pokphand Group announced plans to build a factory specifically to start the production of medical masks for medical personnel and Thai citizens. CP has now

bought an automatic medical mask machine from China with the ability to produce 50,000 medical masks per day. In the past 3 weeks, the CP group has been constructing the medical mask factory and is now 80% completed. The 1st automatic medical mask machine arrived 2 days ago (April 5) at Suvarnabhumi International Airport on flight YG 9021 from China.

5. Ninja' robots to help treat infected

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

Chulalongkorn University has launched a line of robots to assist medical staff in providing telehealthcare to Covid-19 patients as the number of local infections continues to rise. "The country is now at war with a virus which can infect anybody. We will send an army of robots to help hospitals nationwide," Bundhit Eua-arporn, the president of Chulalongkorn University, told a press conference yesterday at Chulalongkorn University Alumni Association (CUAA). The launch of the robots came after the university's Covid-19 Emergency Operation Centre introduced a strip test last month to lift the burden on overworked medical staff. Patients can undergo screening by giving blood via a prick to the fingertip.

6. HRH Princess Sirindhorn assigns Chaipattana Foundation to set up fund to fight COVID-19

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand ([Link](#))

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has instructed the Chaipattana Foundation to set up a fund to help hospitals and health care providers in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The fund is to support the procurement of medical equipment and supplies for hospitals and health care providers who are treating patients with COVID-19 and other diseases. Donations can be made by transferring money to Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) account 067-300487-3. For more information, please call 02-447-8585 to 8, extensions 109, 121 or 259, in normal office hours during the week.

7. Thailand to launch training schemes for jobless amid COVID-19

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand ([Link](#))

Thailand will launch training programmes for unemployed people as part of the third series of its government's stimulus measures to ease the impact of the COVID-19 on the economy, said Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. The Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation Ministry is set to organise training programmes for 40,000 workers who lost their jobs because of the pandemic, said Supachai Pathumnakul, deputy permanent secretary of the ministry. He noted the training programmes are estimated to cost 144 million THB (4.5 million USD) and will be funded by the central budget in fiscal 2020. The programmes will be

supported by 80 universities, covering language skill development for tour guides, tourism and business management for entrepreneurs, and farm-related development.

8. No import duties on virus related goods

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

The Cabinet on Tuesday (April 7) approved the Finance Ministry's draft regulations to waive import duty for materials that can be used to cure, diagnose or prevent the Covid-19 virus, government spokesperson Narumon Pinyosinwat said. The waiver will come into effect retroactively from March 26 and will be valid until September 30. Initially, the waiver was to go into effect from the date the new regulations were published in the Royal Gazette until September 30.