

Thai News Update: 8 May 2020

1. Foreign domination predicted

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

The coronavirus pandemic is expected to drive Thailand's e-commerce growth by 30% in 2020, compared with the usual 15-20%, says e-commerce pioneer Pawoot Pongvitayapanu. Traditional retail businesses are likely to be disrupted by Chinese e-commerce players faster than expected, he said. Many local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will disappear within five years after e-commerce gains steam. Within a decade, online business is likely to be dominated by foreign players, said Mr Pawoot, founder of e-commerce platform Tarad.com and the former head of the Thai E-Commerce Association.

2. In full preparedness to reopen ICONSIAM, Siam Paragon

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

Global retail destinations – ICONSIAM, Siam Paragon, Siam Center and Siam Discovery have implemented maximum hygienic and safety measures with advanced aid of innovative technologies, to ensure safe reopening for all involved, business alliances tenants and shoppers with an ultimate goal to bring back ‘Siam Smiles.’ Naratipe Ruttapradit, Senior Executive Vice President, Operations, Siam Piwat Co., Ltd., the operator and a joint venture partner of global retail destinations ICONSIAM, Siam Paragon, Siam Center and Siam Discovery, said: “Preventive and hygienic measures which strictly comply with The Ministry of Public Health’s guidance have been our key priorities.

3. Thailand opens first chilled poultry market in Singapore

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

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives is pushing a new policy for the export of new agricultural products. The Department of Livestock Development has been continuously coordinating with the Singapore Food Agency until they agreed to expand the scope of Thai products to include chilled poultry meat. In the past, Thailand was able to export only frozen poultry meat, said Sorawit Thaneto, director-general of the Department of Livestock Development. Singapore classifies chilled poultry products as high-risk products since the product is chilled, stored at 0-4 degrees Celsius, can be cooked immediately, had good taste and is fresh but has a short shelf life, while frozen products are stored at temperatures not less than minus 18 degrees Celsius and have a long shelf life.

4. Thai chamber studying ramifications of Kingdom joining trans-pacific partnership

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

The Thai Chamber of Commerce has set up a taskforce with the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce to conduct a study on the pros and cons of Thailand joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. Kalin Sarasin, chairperson of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, said the study is expected to be completed in one month. Sanan Angubolkul, vice-chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, who chairs the taskforce, said they will hold the first meeting on May 8. It has also invited the opinions of the trade sector.

5. CP All gets franchise rights to operate 7-Eleven stores in Cambodia

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

CP ALL (Cambodia) Co Ltd has been granted franchising rights for the establishment and operation of 7-Eleven Stores in Cambodia for a period of 30 years. CP All (Cambodia), an indirect subsidiary of CP All Plc, on May 5 entered into a Master Franchise Agreement with 7-Eleven, Inc under which the parties may agree to extend by two additional 20-year terms. CP All (Cambodia) Co Ltd is a newly-incorporated subsidiary, established in accordance with the laws of Cambodia for the operation of the 7-Eleven business under the Master Franchise Business in Cambodia

6. Thai start-ups pitch to investors online via ‘Meet the Angels’ forum

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

Krungsri bank’s start-up incubator has launched an online service to match entrepreneurs with investors during the Covid-19 crisis. Krungsri Finnovate’s “Meet the Angels” forum allows start-ups to make virtual pitches twice a month to investors during the lockdown period and beyond. “We realise the magnitude of the challenges in this time of crisis, in particular for new rising start-ups,” said Sam Tanskul, managing director of Krungsri Finnovate.

7. DDC to expand testing for Covid-19

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

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) aims to test an average of 6,000 persons per million population, or 85,000 samples per month, for Covid-19, as part of long-term disease-control measures, DDC director-general Dr Suwanchai Wattanayingcharoenchai said on Thursday (May 7). “The DDC will use proactive measures to expand the scope of the testing to cover those residing in or returning from high-risk areas and having high-risk habits or careers, as currently we are mainly focused on those who have had close contact with confirmed patients,” he said. “Although Thailand is seeing fewer numbers of new cases, these measures are

necessary to prevent a second wave of the pandemic, which could happen if people do not follow social distancing practices.”