

## Thai News Update: 9 July 2020

### **1. Thai cabinet approves \$3.2 bln plan for reviving virus-hit economy**

**Source: Reuters ([Link](#))**

Thailand's cabinet on 8 July approved a budget of up to 100 billion baht (\$3.2 billion) for projects aimed at reviving an economy hit by the coronavirus outbreak, the prime minister said. The projects will mainly support households and farmers as well as providing jobs, Prayuth Chan-ocha told a briefing. "This is the first phase that will cover many stages of projects... and we will prepare the second phase," he said.

### **2. New protocol on fruit to China signed**

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

The cabinet on 8 July approved a proposal to sign a protocol on quarantine and inspection of exported and imported fruit via a third country between Thailand and China, aiming to increase bilateral fruit shipments. Rachada Dhnadirek, a deputy government spokeswoman, said the protocol will allow Thailand to export fruit through more border checkpoints in China and Thai exporters can use transport routes to address problems and facilitate shipments. The protocol will be officially signed by the Thai Agricultural and Cooperatives Ministry and the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) after the pandemic eases.

### **3. Thaicom-CAT tie-up for CLMV**

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

SET-listed Thaicom says a joint venture it recently formed with CAT Telecom would serve as a hub for low earth orbit (LEO) satellite service in the Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) market, catering to demand for high-speed internet via 5G tech and innovative applications. The establishment of the joint venture, called Nation Space and Technology Co, was reported by Thaicom to the Stock Exchange of Thailand late last month. In the JV with registered capital of 10 million baht, Thaicom holds a 75% stake, while CAT holds 25%.

### **4. FTI to seek Cabinet measures for boosting liquidity of SMEs**

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

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) will propose to the Cabinet meeting on Thursday (July 9) measures to increase the liquidity of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), FTI chairman Supant Mongkolsuthree said. "The Covid-19 crisis has dragged on for longer

than we expected, therefore the government should extend aid measures to help business operators,” he said. “For example, the postponement of debt repayment that was originally set at six months from April to September, should be extended by at least two years, as many SMEs are still unable to resume their operations at full capacity. The inability to repay debts could result in business shutdowns and massive unemployment.”

#### **5. Job creation, tourism thrust of Bt92-bn stimulus projects okayed by Cabinet**

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

The Cabinet has approved the first batch of economic stimulus projects worth Bt92.4 billion and also allocated Bt15.5 billion to support job creation and tourism-related projects. Traisulee Traisoranakul, the government’s deputy spokeswoman, said the Cabinet on Wednesday (July 8) agreed in principle to okay the first batch of economic stimulus projects under the Bt400-billion emergency package to shore up the economy impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The combined cost of the first 186 projects approved in principle is Bt92.4 billion. The final approval will follow shortly, Traisulee said.

#### **6. Covid-19: Thailand expects to delay plans for ‘travel bubble’ on virus surge**

**Source: Hindustan Times ([Link](#))**

Thailand expects to delay plans for so-called travel bubbles given a resurgence in coronavirus infections in countries that had managed to contain the initial outbreak, a senior official told Reuters on 8 July. Thailand partially lifted a three-month ban on foreign visitors this month and had been planning to further boost tourism, a key contributor to its economy, by creating travel bubbles later in the year with countries like Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong that had managed to contain the virus. But fresh outbreaks are creating uncertainty, Tourism Authority of Thailand Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said. “The travel bubble that was going to begin in the fourth quarter could be delayed,” he added. The government had previously said the travel bubble could begin in September.

#### **7. TAT Launches “Amazing Thai Tay Competition 2020”**

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Central Region in partnership with Thai Smile Airways, AirAsia, Nok Air, AVIS Rent A Car Thailand, dtac, Canon, KEEN, RyoReview and Forever-Young.asia are holding the “Amazing Thai Tay Competition 2020” to promote tourism under the concept “Thailand is beautiful everywhere, in every style”. The initiative invites Young people to take part in the competition to create 10 different inspiring travel ideas by searching for seldom-visited destinations and cool new experiences in 5 regions

around Thailand. After documenting their stories for others to see, they'll have the chance to win prizes worth a total of THB 500,000.