

Thai News Update: 9 June 2020

1. Innovative fruit packaging in bid to boost export, online sales

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

The packaging centre for the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TPC) has come up with three new packages for fresh fruit – a box that keeps out the odour of durian, a corrugated box for transporting ripe mango and a smart label indicating the level of sulphur residue on packed longan fruit. Dr Pattra Maneesin, director of the institute, said TPC had in collaboration with Safer Pac Thailand developed thermoform packaging that keeps durian fresh for a longer period and does not allow the stink to escape.

2. Japanese firms ask for traveller quota

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

Japanese investors and companies are requesting the Thai government reopen the country to 100 Japanese business travellers per day, as they are eager to return here to make new investments and fill executive-level vacancies. "Japanese companies want to know when authorities will allow foreigners to travel to Thailand because they want to resume business expansion and investment," Montri Mahaplerkpong, vice-chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), said on 8 June. The companies recently made their request through the FTI after the government eased the business shutdown in May.

3. Shared pantries installed near industrial estates to help workers

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

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) has set up community pantries in neighbourhoods near industrial estates and ports nationwide, to help people suffering amid the Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown. The authority has also set up a pantry at its headquarters in Makkasan, Bangkok. IEAT governor Somjin Piluek said the move was also aimed to enable businesses in industrial estates and people in nearby communities to share items to help those who face difficulties in their daily lives.

4. Chansin joins THAI board

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

Thai Airways International (THAI) has picked Chansin Treenuchagron, a former president of the state-owned oil and gas conglomerate PTT Plc, as a new board member to replace Pailin Chuchottaworn who abruptly resigned late last month. Mr Chansin was appointed last Thursday but it was only made known to the public on Monday when THAI informed the

Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET). THAI on 8 June also informed SET also that its board of directors had proposed that Mr Chansin be tasked with leading the drafting of an additional rehabilitation plan for the organisation, which it has already secured permission by the Central Bankruptcy Court to amend, effective last 4 June. The court admitted the national airline's request for rehabilitation under the bankruptcy law on May 27.

5. Govt eyes easing of entry ban

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

The government is considering easing entry restrictions for foreign visitors possibly in the third or final quarter of this year, with priority given to those arriving from coronavirus-free areas, says Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. He said relaxing inbound travel restrictions is the first step in kickstarting the tourism industry, but the government has to be prudent in screening travellers and implementing an efficient tracking system to reduce the risk of a second wave of infections. Mr Somkid said visitors from countries or areas where Covid-19 outbreaks have been contained are likely to be the first to get the green light and that he has already raised the issue with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.

6. Govt preparing aid for people, businesses in third quarter

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

The government is expecting more negative effects from Covid-19 in the next few months and preparing to compensate businesses and people who have not received aid. Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said the Finance Ministry has been tasked with introducing new measures to stimulate consumption and tourism in the third quarter. "It is very important to stimulate internal consumption and tourism since Thailand can no longer rely on exports," he said. Finance Minister Uttama Savanayana said that since the economy has now changed, the question is how to take care of businesses and people for the next six months, how each industry should adjust and how the government should help.

7. Resumption of 108 train services on track

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

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) will resume 108 inter-provincial train services nationwide from June 11 under the government's third phase of lockdown relaxation. SRT governor Nirut Maneephan said on Monday (June 8) that as the lockdown has been eased further, more people have started to travel to other provinces. "The SRT decided to resume 108 train services, which comprise long-distance, urban, ordinary and local trains," he said.

8. Big Motor Sale 2020 to hit Bangkok in August

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

One of the country's largest international motor shows will go ahead as planned in Bangkok in August, the organisers confirmed today (June 7). Big Motor Sale 2020, showcasing everything from small electric vehicles to multimillion-baht supercars, will run for nine days after the government eased lockdown measures to allow businesses to resume operations. "We will organise this exhibition from August 21 to 30 this year at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC) to stimulate the automotive industry," said its organisers, Yanyont Square Group (YSG).