

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 9 JUNE 2021

### **1. PM asks economic team to study G7 move on reforming global tax**

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

The G7 group of advanced economies announced a historic accord on Saturday to set a minimum global corporate tax rate, taking the first step in reversing a four-decade decline in taxes paid by multinational corporations. The deal reached at the G7 meeting in London by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States is a major breakthrough for the Biden administration's efforts to get corporations worldwide to cough up tax owed to the state. In this regard, Prayut said the move may be both a boost and bane on Thailand's move to attract foreign investments, including in the Eastern Economic Corridor.

### **2. Private firms allowed to purchase Covid-19 vaccines: CCSA**

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

Local and private organisations have been allowed to procure Covid-19 vaccines, according to a Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) announcement published in the Royal Gazette on Tuesday. The move aims to ensure that at least 70 per cent, or 50 million people nationwide, will be vaccinated in a bid to create herd immunity. Under Covid-19 vaccine management guidelines, local and private organisations can procure vaccines from government agencies such as the Department of Disease Control, the Government Pharmaceutical Organisation, the National Vaccine Institute, the Thai Red Cross Society and the Chulabhorn Royal Academy. However, the procurement must be in line with laws and guidelines issued by the CCSA, the prime minister, provincial governors or provincial communicable disease committees.

### **3. FTI eyes Sinopharm vaccines**

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

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) is in talks with Chulabhorn Royal Academy to conclude a purchase deal for Chinese-made Sinopharm vaccines aimed at improving confidence in the manufacturing sector after the Thailand Industry Sentiment Index (TISI) sank for two straight months during the third wave. The FTI said earlier it wanted to buy 300,000 doses from the academy, but it needs to be certain of the exact demand among members of the FTI. Supant Mongkolsuthree, chairman of FTI, said it is conducting a final survey among 10,000 member firms to find out how many of them want to buy Sinopharm vaccines for their staff.

#### **4. HERMÈS Unveils Its First Digital Flagship Store In Thailand**

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

Hermes.com launched in Thailand on 2nd June 2021. Conceived in the same spirit as Hermès stores, which draw on their creativity and conviviality, as well as their window displays, objects, services and narratives, the new hermes.com website combines e-commerce and content at a single address. The new website is in touch with the times and the current habits of its contemporaries. Initiated and designed with an omni-channel approach by the house's specialists, it offers a fluid and pleasant browsing experience. At hermes.com, you can treat yourself to a long-desired object or stumble upon an unexpected piece as you move from one page to the next. In just a few clicks, visitors can explore the creativity of wide-ranging collections from the house's sixteen métiers.

#### **5. Cabinet gives nod to Phuket plan**

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

The cabinet 8 June agreed in principle on the so-called Phuket Sandbox, a foreign tourism reopening programme scheduled to kick off next month as a prelude to a tourism revival in Thailand's 10 most popular tourist destinations. Proposed by Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), the tourism reopening plan, designed to be implemented in the third and fourth quarters of this year, has already been approved in principle by the Centre for Economic Situation Administration (Cesa), said Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha after the weekly cabinet meeting. Starting with the resort island of Phuket, the reopening plan will from July 1 welcome tourists from countries with low- and medium-risks of Covid-19 transmissions who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, said the PM. About 400,000 people in Phuket, or more than 60% of its entire population, have already been vaccinated against Covid-19 as well, he said.

#### **6. PM orders changes to Phuket tourism scheme ahead of July 1 opening**

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on 8 June ordered adjustments to the Phuket sandbox scheme but said the island was still scheduled to reopen for foreign tourists from next month. The scheme will allow quarantine-free entry for foreign travellers to Phuket from July 1, before being rolled out at other tourist destinations in October. Speaking after Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, Prayut said the proposed adjustments will be sent to the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) before being returned to the Cabinet for approval. The PM said tourists travelling to Phuket must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and have a certificate to prove it. Phuket has so far vaccinated around 400,000 of its residents, or more than half the population, as it bids to achieve herd immunity with 70-per-cent vaccinated by July.

## **7. Law to regulate social media content in the pipeline**

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

A proposal for legislation to control social media content in Thailand was raised by the prime minister at 8 June Cabinet meeting, government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri said. rayut cited recent legislation in India to regulate social media, including various blogs, the spokesman said. India's new rules require internet platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to erase content that authorities deem unlawful and to help with police investigations, including identifying the originators of "mischievous information". Burapachaisri said the Council of State will now study details of similar laws passed in other countries before proposing legislation to the Cabinet for regulating social media in Thailand.