

Thai News Update: 9 September 2020

1. Govt earmarks Bt140bn from 2021 budget for Covid relief

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

The government has earmarked a total of Bt140 billion from the 2021 central budget to combat the impacts of Covid-19, said Budget Bureau director Dechapiwat na Songkhla. He added that the amount covered both necessary spending and emergency cases. Of the total, Bt99 billion is allocated for spending under the prime minister's authority. The entire Bt140-billion budget allocation will be spent on measures to relieve impacts of the outbreak, in addition to existing stimulus packages funded by the Bt1.1 trillion being borrowed by the government.

2. Phuket Airport practises dealing with tourists in new normal

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

Phuket Airport held a dress rehearsal on Tuesday (September 8) on dealing with international tourists as per the government's "Phuket Model" programme. The rehearsal covered every step, starting from the arrival of tourists and screening them, to filling documents and delivering tourists to the quarantine facility. Thanee Chuangchoo, the airport's general manager, said the exercise was held in collaboration with other agencies including Customs, Immigration Bureau and Tourist Police. He added that the airport wants to be ready in case the government decides to allow foreigners to land in Thailand.

3. EECi biorefinery project almost 50% complete

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

The Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECi) project is 45 per cent complete and will be ready for operation by June 2021, EECi director Jengrit Khanatharana, who is also the National Science and Technology Development Agency deputy director, said. The project area will cover 3,454 rai in Rayong. "In the first phase of the EECi, we will focus on establishing model biorefineries that will turn agricultural produce and leftovers into biofuel and bio-plastic palettes, an important raw material for many bioproducts," he said.

4. Energy Ministry set to announce criteria on electricity purchase under community project

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

The Energy Ministry is planning to soon announce criteria for the purchase of electricity under its community power plant project, which has a target of 1,933 megawatts by 2024, a

news source from the ministry said. This project is under the government's power development plan, from 2018 to 2037, also known as PDP 2018. The project will be piloted in four areas, the first two in Chiang Mai's Mae Jam district and Prachuap Khiri Khan's Thabsakae district, which were proposed by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand. The other two are being proposed by the Provincial Electricity Authority.

5. Nissan ends 3 models in Thailand

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

Nissan has ended production of Sylphy, Teana and X-Trail models in Thailand and has turned to subcompact, small multi-purpose and electric vehicles. Nissan Motor (Thailand) Co wrote to its dealers nationwide on Aug 31 announcing that production and distribution of the three models was ending on Sept 1, under its changed marketing and sales plan for Thailand, a reliable source confirmed. The company was placing emphasise on subcompact cars, small multi-purpose vehicles, commercial vehicles and vehicles using alternative energy and electricity, the letter said.

6. Revised gold trading rules to shield baht due soon: BoT

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

The government aims to revamp the trading regime for gold by the end of the year to prevent bouts of currency strength when the precious metal climbs in value. Gold exports represent about 1% of Thailand's gross domestic product, compared to just 0.1%-0.2% in other markets, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Shipments tend to rise alongside prices, pushing up the baht as foreign exchange flows into the country. "We are in the process of adjusting the ecosystem of gold investment," Bank of Thailand (BoT) Governor Veerathai Santiprabhob said in an interview Tuesday in Bangkok. "We need to have the foreign-currency deposit ecosystem. It's in process, a few banks are working with us, it should be rolled out very soon. It should be this year."

7. Cabinet approves B23bn graduate job creation scheme

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

The cabinet on 8 September approved measures to create jobs, the prime minister said, as the government tries to revive an economy devastated by the coronavirus pandemic. But planned cash handouts had not been discussed yet, Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha told a news briefing. Last week, the government announced fiscal stimulus plans worth a combined 68.5 billion baht. The prime minister said that the Labour Ministry planned to create 12-month-long jobs for 260,000 graduates from universities and vocational schools. The positions would be among 1

million jobs that the ministry was preparing for people and it would present the job vacancies in an upcoming job expo, Gen Prayut said.