

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 24 JUNE 2022

1. Thailand wants Egypt to speed up movement on trade panel MoU

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

The chief of Thailand's Trade Negotiations Department has asked her Egyptian counterpart to speed up deliberations on a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a joint trade committee (JTC), she said on 23 June. Oranon Supthaweetham, director-general of the department, said she recently met and held discussions with Wael Samir, director of the Asia Division under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MFTI), in Cairo. During the discussions, Oranon asked Samir to speed up the deliberations on the draft MoU for setting up a JTC so that the two countries would have a mechanism to drive economic cooperation and tackle trade disputes and obstacles.

2. Full resumption of business, other activities allowed

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

The government has declared the whole nation a green (Covid-19 surveillance) zone, allowing the full-scale resumption of business and other activities, as pre-arrival registration will end next month. The Royal Gazette on 24 June published the announcement to the effects by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha in his capacity as the director of the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA). Dated on Thursday, the announcement lifted Covid-related restrictions on business and activities according to green zone regulations immediately. Entertainment places can resume their pre-Covid closing hours, either midnight, 1am or 2am depending on relevant regulations.

3. Thai tourist trips to rise dramatically

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

Thai domestic tourism is expected to grow by 162% to 188 million trips and generate 720 billion baht this year, despite rising inflation and sluggish purchasing power, according to ttb analytics, the research arm of TMBThanachart Bank. The growth will be mainly driven by the further easing of Covid-19 controls from July, said the firm. All 77 provinces nationwide will be designated as "green" Covid-19 surveillance zones, allowing business operators to fully operate without restrictions, while the cancellation of Thailand Pass from next month is expected to improve tourism sentiment

4. Thailand lifts facemask mandate for outdoors

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

Wearing a facemask outdoors is no longer mandatory as the Covid-19 situation in Thailand is improving, an order signed by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said. Other Covid-19 restrictions have also been eased. An announcement published on the Royal Gazette website on 22 June said the following measures have either been lifted or eased effective immediately: All 77 provinces are classified as green or surveillance zones, while the tourism pilot area (blue zone) is cancelled. The order has also instructed the Public Health Ministry to coordinate with related agencies to boost public awareness on staying safe from Covid-19 as the country transitions into a post-pandemic era, as well as draw up a risk management plan in case a new outbreak occurs.