

Thai News Update: 29 June 2020

1. B.Grimm aiming for second LNG licence for power plant

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

SET-listed B.Grimm Power (BGRIM) will ask the government to grant it a second licence to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) as it is developing a new gas-fired power plant. In May, the firm was approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission to import 650,000 tonnes of LNG a year to feed its existing five gas-fired power plants. "If we have new gas-fired power plants, we have a right to ask for a new shipping licence to ship in additional gas volume," said Preeyanart Soontornwata, B.Grimm Power's president.

2. CPF brushes up CP Fresh Mart model

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

Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF) is launching a new supermarket concept to support future expansion of existing Fresh Mart mini-markets nationwide. Prasit Boondoungprasert, chief executive of the SET-listed flagship of agribusiness and food conglomerate CP Group, said the company is scheduled to open the first prototype CP Fresh supermarket in Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima next month. The new CP Fresh, with an investment cost of 30-40 million baht, will have 500 square metres of space, or five times the size of the original CP Fresh Mart format.

3. Thailand low-cost airline 'NokScoot' shuts down for good

Source: Pattaya Mail ([Link](#))

The board of NokScoot airline resolved to permanently terminate its operation for seeing no possibility of rehabilitation after the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. He also urged ASEAN members to conclude the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, to strengthen the regional grouping, which will help to reboot their economies quickly and promote investment in the digital economy. The board expected NokScoot shareholders to endorse the resolution in their meeting in 14 days. The employment of 425 staff was terminated and they will receive compensation according to law.

4. Thailand's Somkid pushes to kick-start stalled PPP projects

Source: Phnompenhpost ([Link](#))

Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak on 26 June called on state enterprises to take action after public-private partnership (PPP) projects worth a combined 1.09 trillion

baht (\$35.3 billion) have stalled due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Speaking at a meeting with the PPP committee, he said a little delay is acceptable, but projects should not be postponed by a year. Several PPP investment projects have not been able to get off the ground for six to 10 months. Somkid also said he had met with executives of PTT Pcl and the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand on Thursday and asked them to speed up their investment by bringing next year's projects forward. The investment should also focus on creating more jobs. His statement reflects concerns about rising unemployment due virus-induced business shutdowns and sharp economic contraction. The Bank of Thailand recently predicted that the Thai economy this year will shrink 8.1 per cent, the worst ever recorded in history.

5. Thaicom, CAT go into joint venture to strengthen nation's telecommunications structure

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

Satellite operator Thaicom Plc and state telecom agency CAT Telecom Plc announced they have gone into a joint venture to help strengthen the country's telecommunications infrastructure as well as boost the growth of the digital economy and satellite industries. The new partnership has resulted in a joint venture firm called "Nation Space and Technology Co Ltd", with a registered capital of Bt10 million. Thaicom will hold a 75 per cent stake, and CAT the rest. Thaicom's chief executive officer Anant Kaewruamvongs said the joint venture will enhance a strategic partnership between the two companies. Thaicom's long experience and expertise in the satellite industry, with CAT's extensive know-how in providing digital solutions will help them leverage advanced solutions and services for various applications and industries.

6. Fruit native to Pak Chong poised for GI stamp

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

Deputy Commerce Minister Weerasak Wangsuphakijkosol will visit Nakhon Ratchasima province on Friday (July 3) to oversee the production of "Petch-Pak-Chong Sugar Apple", a fruit that could be promoted as the province's geographical indication (GI). The minister said that officials from the Department of Intellectual Property would be sent to work with local growers and traders to facilitate the GI registration. The fruit's value will rise, generating more revenue for farmers and entrepreneurs, he added. The 'Petch Pak Chong' is a mixed species of cherimoyas. It is heart-shaped and has a smooth skin.

7. State of emergency extended until end of July

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

The state of emergency was extended for another month, until July 31, at Monday (June 29)'s meeting of the government's Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA). The meeting, which was headed by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, considered the fifth phase of lockdown easing, the state of emergency, and the reopening of Thailand's border to foreigners. The CCSA reportedly extended the state of emergency to aid the fifth-phase easing and the reopening of schools and colleges on July 1. Businesses set to be reopened on July 1 include pubs, bars and entertainment venues.

8. EEC committee planning assistance for entrepreneurs, labour hit by Covid-19

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

The Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Policy Committee has said that measures are being planned to help entrepreneurs and labourers affected by the Covid-19 situation so as to boost the economy in the EEC areas, Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general of the committee, said. Among the measures that will be rolled out, top priority would be given to providing soft loans to SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises] and expanding export markets to countries that were also recovering from Covid-19, such as the CLMV group [Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam], China, Taiwan and Japan," he said. "We will also focus on solving the unemployment problem by providing necessary career training to upskill and reskill existing labour in the EEC areas for emerging high-technology industries."