

Thai News Update: 2 November 2020

1. TAT awaits upsurge from European travellers next year

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is hopeful the European market will revive following the outbreak, with the first group of Scandinavians expected to arrive later this year. Siripakorn Cheawsamoot, TAT deputy governor for Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Americas, said prior to the pandemic, the number of tourism receipts from the European market accounted for one-third of total revenue. The goal for next year is to increase the length of stay, rather than focusing on volume.

2. Cabinet asked to cut red tape to woo foreign investment in 3 areas

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

The Department of Business Development will ask the Cabinet to remove restrictions on three business types so that foreign firms no longer have to apply for investment permits from the Commerce Ministry. The three types fall under the Foreign Business Act's "List Three" – areas where Thai nationals are not ready to compete with foreigners, said the department's director-general Tossapon Tangsubut. The first area is Type 1 telecom licence services provided via another telecom operators' network. The second are treasury centres for managing foreign currencies for businesses and affiliates in the same group.

3. Company registrations in EEC drop over 14%

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

The number of firms registering in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) dropped 14.04 per cent to 4,879 in the first nine months of this year. Their registered capital was Bt13.947 billion, down 29.70 per cent, said Department of Business Development director-general Tossapon Tangsubut. The decline is due to Covid-19's impact on the global economy, he added. The property sector tops the rankings of new EEC registrations with 772 firms and total registered capital of Bt2.709 billion. Next comes the construction sector with 396 firms and Bt665 million in capital, and real estate agencies 189 firms and Bt508 million.

4. Top bankers pledge support to businesses affected by Covid-19 until early next year

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

As economic recovery remains fragile, the country's leading bankers said they would provide financial support to businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), until next year. The move follows the end of the blanket debt holiday supported by the Bank of

Thailand in October. Financial aid for groups in need will focus on debt restructuring and helping debtors to increase their ability to repay debt, according to the top five bankers. Manop Sangiambut, first executive vice president at Siam Commercial Bank (SCB), estimated that his bank needed to extend financial aid to debtors whose combined loans amount to about Bt300 billion of the loan portfolio of Bt630 billion in the third quarter of this year.

5. Brazil's zero tariff on rice imports to benefit Thai exporters

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

The Department of Foreign Trade has said that exporters of Thai rice would benefit from a Brazilian government decision since September to reduce import tariffs on paddy and rice to zero. The department director-general, Kirati Ratchano, explained that the Council of the Foreign Trade Chamber had announced since late September that zero tax would be collected from rice and paddy from September 11 to December 31. This measure is to ensure food stability in Brazil amid the Covid-19 crisis, he added. Kirati said that previously Thailand paid 12 per cent tariff on the export of rice and paddy to Brazil.