

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 9 JUNE 2022

### **1. B300 tourism fee postponed**

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

The 300-baht tourism fee faces a delay in implementation, beginning in the fourth quarter at the earliest, while the cancellation of Thailand Pass is expected from July 1, according to the Tourism and Sports Ministry. "Fee collection for tourists arriving by land requires further study, such as determining if the fee amount should be less than 300 baht because the average length of stay for these visitors is only 1-2 nights," said Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, Tourism and Sports Minister. The tourism fee was previously on the agenda for the cabinet meeting this week, but the ministry withdrew the proposal to sort out fee collection for land entry.

### **2. Thai solar panel manufacturers win US reprieve**

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

Thai solar cell exports have a brighter outlook for at least two years after the Biden administration on Monday announced a two-year pause on imposing any new tariffs on such products made in Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam. Pitak Udomwichaiwat, director-general of the Foreign Trade Department, said the US president's decision is good news for Thai solar cell producers and exporters, who will now avoid any new import tariffs until 2024. According to Commerce Ministry data, Thailand's solar cell exports have expanded continuously, with the key markets comprising the US, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Japan and mainland China. In 2021, Thailand shipped US\$1.07 billion

### **3. PTT planning to produce medical consumables**

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

National oil and gas conglomerate PTT Plc is to move into the production of medical consumables amid growing demand, especially in ageing societies, under a new partnership with petrochemical and plastic manufacturers. The company, through its subsidiary IRPC Plc, recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Innobic (Asia) Co, the biotechnological arm of PTT, and Panjawattana Plastic Co (PJW) to jointly conduct a feasibility study on the new business, covering product design and development, state regulations, and a long-term business model. The firms said they wanted to seize a new business opportunity as many countries, including Thailand, are now ageing societies and are battling non-communicable diseases.

#### **4. Thailand's key policy rate to stay at 0.50 per cent**

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

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the policy interest rate at 0.50 per cent per year. PC secretary Piti Disyatat said on 8 June after the meeting that four members voted to maintain the policy rate at 0.50 per cent while three members voted to raise the policy rate by 25 basis points. The committee speculated that the Thai economy could grow continuously and has a chance to recover better than expected because domestic demand and foreign tourist arrivals were picking up.