

Airports of Thailand announce relief measures for operators affected by COVID-19

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The Airports of Thailand (AOT) has announced a slew of measures to help operators affected by COVID-19 outbreak.

In a press release, the AOT said that Thailand's tourism industry is affected by the Chinese government's outbound travel restrictions on group travels from January 27, 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak in China. Additionally, the situation has also raised travellers' fears over travelling to Thailand and the region.

To help Thailand's tourism industry, the Cabinet has established various measures to support the tourism industry. The Prime Minister had also issued orders to all sectors to expedite the operations, as far as possible, to reduce the economic and social impact in accordance to the Cabinet's resolutions.

On February 19, AOT held a Board of Directors Meeting to provide operators at the six airports with a 20% discount on fixed monthly fees from February 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021 and entrust the management to consider discount guidelines during 1 February 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022 to be further proposed to the AOT Board of Directors for consideration.

Beyond that, the AOT will also offer operators a discount on percentage-based fees with monthly/annual minimum guarantees. The percentage-based fees, except for monthly/annual minimum guarantees, will only be collected from February 1, 2020 – March 31, 2022.

Additionally, the AOT said it will extend payments of concession fees during February – July 2020 for another six months if requested by the operators.

As a result of the measures above, AOT expects to see a 5% decrease in its revenue based on the operating results in the fiscal year 2019.