

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 12 OCTOBER 2021

1. PM sets Nov 1 for reopening to foreign tourists from low-risk countries

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said on 11 October that he will push for the opening up of the country to fully vaccinated foreign tourists from at least 10 countries on Nov 1, as the government earlier planned. Gen Prayut said in a nationally televised broadcast that fully vaccinated tourists from at least 10 low-risk countries would be allowed to enter Thailand by air with no quarantine requirements. The prime minister named the United Kingdom, Singapore, Germany, China and the United States among the first group of countries to benefit from the move. "I have instructed the CCSA and the Ministry of Public Health to urgently consider within this week to allow, as of Nov 1, international visitors to enter Thailand without any requirement for quarantine if they are fully vaccinated and arrive by air from low-risk countries," he said.

2. Foreign investment soars in nine months of 2021

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

Thailand has continued attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first nine months of this year, with an increased number of investment project applications, Thailand's Board of Investment (BoI) said. The total value of FDI applications received by the BoI from January to September rose 220 per cent compared to the same period last year, to a total value of Bt372.06 billion from 587 projects, the latest data from the BoI shows. "Top three countries that have most investment value are Japan (Bt67.8 billion), the United States (Bt26.9 billion) and Singapore (Bt26.8) billion," said Duangjai Asawachintachit, BoI secretary-general.

3. Thailand urged to join CPTPP trade pact soon

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

The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) said that it will call on the PM as well as ministers of foreign affairs and commerce to reconsider the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). anan Angubolkul, chair of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade, said China, the United Kingdom and Taiwan have already started negotiating with CPTPP's existing 11 members. He pointed out that if Thailand keeps putting off the decision, it may lose out on trade opportunities with neighbouring countries like Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore. CPTPP currently comprises Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

4. Tie-up initiates cold delivery platform

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

Parcel service operator Kerry Express Thailand (KEX) has partnered with agri-business firm Betagro Group to launch Kerry Betagro Co --- a new courier company specially designed to deliver frozen and refrigerated foods. Under the service name Kerry Cool, the unique courier service is set to become Thailand's first cold delivery platform for frozen and refrigerated foods. The firm revealed that its delivery method is suitable for various products, from chilled fresh produce and meat to frozen foods.

5. BoI incentives push for 'Industry 4.0'

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

The Board of Investment (BoI) approved incentives yesterday to encourage entrepreneurs to accelerate upgrading their production and machinery to "Industry 4.0" standards. Speaking after a BoI meeting chaired yesterday by the prime minister, BoI secretary-general Duangjai Asawachintachit said the incentives approved include a three-year corporate income tax exemption covering 100% of investment for Industry 4.0 upgrades. Eligible investors are required to use local content for at least 30% of their production. Applications must be filed by the end of 2022. Companies that receive approval will be required to fully implement their upgrade plans within three years from the date of issuance of the BoI certificate.