

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 10 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. MQDC executive wns ‘Excellence Award’ from Times of India

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

Ms. Chulamas Jitpatima, Country Director for India, MQDC, received a “Times Excellence 2021” award for “Real Estate” from The Times Group India which publishes The Times of India, the world’s largest-circulation English-language newspaper. The award reflects how MQDC’s Whizdom Club in New Delhi applies the company’s principle of sustainnovation for sustainable well-being and introduces Thai design and technology to India, such as the AVA anti-viral carpet.

2. Japan Freight Railway opens representative office in Bangkok

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

Japan Freight Railway Co has opened a representative office in Bangkok to scale up feasibility studies on business opportunities in Thailand. The company in the Japan Railway group said it obtained governmental approval on Sept 2 for the opening of the office, its first outside Japan, in Wattana district. It has two staff members, including a locally hired employee. Japan Freight Railway has been providing support for local freight railway services since 2015 under an accord between Japanese and Thai transport authorities, while looking for a foothold in the Southeast Asian country. The new office enables the company to gather information and conduct various other activities more broadly than before by taking advantage of its now-how on transport and maintenance operations.

3. Digital industry set to record strong growth

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

Thailand's digital industry is expected to see double-digit growth this year, buoyed by a strong digital service sector, according to the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (Depa). The digital industry is projected to reach 727 billion baht in value this year, up from 650.5 billion baht in 2020. "The digital industry will achieve double-digit growth this year as users continue to shift to use digital services," Depa president Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin said in a virtual event that disclosed the agency's Thailand Digital Industry 2020 survey results. The survey was jointly conducted by research and technology training provider IMC Institute.

4. Bangkok among 5 more provinces reopening to foreign tourists on Oct 1

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

Bangkok, Chonburi, Phetchaburi, Prachuap Khiri Khan and Chiang Mai will reopen to foreign tourists on October 1, the government said on Thursday. The second phase of

reopening the country follows the success of tourism “sandbox” schemes in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi and Surat Thani over the past two months, said government spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana. Phuket sandbox tourists had spent an average of 6,000-7,000 baht per trip, bringing total tourism income of 1.634 billion baht to boost recovery of the island’s economy, said Thanakorn. The five provinces set to reopen under phase 2 are now accelerating vaccination and launching tourism campaigns such as the Bangkok Sandbox, Hua Hin Recharge, and Charming Chiang Mai. Phase 3 of the plan will see another 21 provinces open in mid-October.

5. Govt pushes ahead with reopening plans

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

The government is preparing to move forward with its reopening plan in five provinces including Bangkok early next month, after the two-month success of its Sandbox scheme in the first phase. Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha wants to reopen certain provinces by mid-October, a process set in four phases to cover all regions, to help businesses rebound from Covid-19. For the first phase, the government started three projects in four provinces: the Phuket Sandbox and Samui Plus schemes on July 1 and July 15, respectively, followed by two provinces, Phangnga and Krabi, under the 7+7 extension plan in mid-August.