

Thai News Update: 13 September 2019

1. Study lists top Gen Y brands

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

Thai millennials' favourite brands in 2019 include Lazada, Grab Taxi, The Mall, Central, Cafe Amazon, Auntie Anne's, Krispy Kreme, Mister Donut, Watsons, Taokaenoi, Jobthai.com, Acer Computer, S&P and Makro, according to a new study by Influential Brands and Neo Target. The study was released ahead of next month's "2019 Asia CEO Summit & Award Ceremony" where hundreds of business and professionals from Thailand and overseas are expected to celebrate the best in business excellence. Vannee Leelavechbutr, founder and chief executive of Neo Target, a brand reputation consulting firm based in Bangkok, said Neo Target and Influential Brands (from Singapore) are co-organising the awards to celebrate extraordinary individuals and multinational organisations.

2. Workforce health MoU inked

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

Seven agencies signed a memorandum of cooperation on Thursday to promote health and well-being in the workplace and prevent occupational risks and work-related diseases. Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha presided over the signing of the agreement between the Interior, Labour, Public Health and Industry ministries, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, the Federation of Thai Industries and the Private Hospital Association. Gen Prayut said the labour force plays a vital role in propelling the economy and the country's development which is why the government has attached importance to improving the workforce of about 51 million.

3. Thailand works to speed up RCEP talks

Source: Vietnam Plus ([Link](#))

Thailand will hold bilateral negotiations with Japan, New Zealand and India in an attempt to finish talks on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) by November. Local

media quoted Auramon Supthaweethum, Director-General of the Trade Negotiations Department of Thailand, as saying that the country has scheduled bilateral negotiations with the three partners during the RCEP trade negotiating committee's meeting set for Vietnam's central city of Da Nang later this month, to thrash out differences on contentious issues such as opening markets for sensitive goods and services. The RCEP initiative was launched in November 2012 with the aim of boosting economic cooperation between 10 ASEAN countries and six dialogue partners, namely China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, India and New Zealand.

4. Thailand to strengthen status as medical hub of ASEAN

Source: Bio Spectrum Asia ([Link](#))

The ninth edition of MEDICAL FAIR THAILAND 2019 was inaugurated on 11 Sep 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The focus is on addressing the region's healthcare challenges and objectives as outlined by the Thai government and industry experts. The leading sourcing and networking exhibition explores dynamic healthcare industry to strengthen Thailand's status as a medical hub of ASEAN, in line with its Thailand 4.0 policy. Over 60 Thai companies covering a range of sectors from hospital equipment to diagnostics and medical technology, exhibit to reach local and regional markets showcasing Thailand's innovation potential. Considering the healthcare industry to be a priority sector for investment and further development, innovative business developers tries to reach their goals with services such as the incubation and accelerate programmes, as well as funding.

5. SRT set to seal rail deal this month

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

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) and Charoen Pokphand Group (CP)-led consortium is expected to sign a contract for the construction of a high-speed railway project linking three major airports this month, SRT acting governor Worawut Mala said on 12 September. He added that the contract is almost completely outlined, with only some wording for the contract set to be fine-tuned after public prosecutors approve the contract. The next step will be to submit the details, including an environmental impact assessment, to the Transport Minister and the Eastern

Economic Corridor Policy Committee and the cabinet. Mr Worawut said that after the contract is signed, the two leading entities will work together to prepare land for construction.

6. PTT reveals regional LNG trading plan

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

PTT, the national oil and gas conglomerate, wants to become a regional trader of liquefied natural gas (LNG) with a plan to increase the utilisation rates of two LNG facilities in Rayong and to develop markets in neighbouring countries. On 12 September PTT unveiled its LNG trading plan, aimed at providing small-scale distribution through marine vessels and heavy duty trucks, development of a gas pipeline and feeding LNG to a power generation system. Wuttikorn Stithit, senior executive vice-president for gas business, said PTT is ready to provide services after testing this business model for a few years. In addition, PTT joined the Energy Regulatory Commission's (ERC) sandbox and submitted two projects, including the LNG trading plan, to the ERC's programme to test the plans' energy innovation before implementation.

7. Mice held back by Phuket's regulations

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

The government's plan to push Phuket province as a world-class Mice (meetings, incentives, conventions, exhibitions) destination has been obstructed by numerous impediments, especially inefficient town planning and poor transport systems. Tanyawat Chanpinit, the Phuket deputy governor, said the province has a blueprint to build an exhibition hall to host international events with a capacity of 5,000. But town planning rules prohibit building a hall larger than 6,000 square metres and higher than 23 metres. Phuket was chosen by the government as one of five key Mice cities, along with Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Pattaya and Bangkok. The province has ample facilities for Mice travellers, with 600 hotels offering 40,000 guest rooms, 220 convention rooms and 615 meeting rooms. The island also has 14 piers and four private marinas.

8. Somkid pushes for resumption of FTA talks with EU

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

Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak is wooing the EU to revive talks on a Thai-EU free trade agreement after the next round of talks in October. He has also asked the EU to help

convince Airbus to invest in an aircraft repair centre in Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). Somkid said after meeting with EU diplomat Pirkka Tapiola on September 12 that he had been informed the EU is ready to negotiate an FTA with Thailand once again. FTA talks stopped in 2014 due to the military coup that year and a military-backed government running the country until elections this year. Now that Thailand has a democratically-elected government, talks are expected to resume after October, Somkid said.