

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 13 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. 4 Bangkok hotels ranked among world's best this year

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

Four Bangkok hotels made it to the Travel+Leisure magazine's list of the world's best 100 hotels for this year. The list is based on votes collected from readers between January 11 and May 10, as destinations across the world are gradually lifting Covid-19 restrictions.

Here are the four hotels and their rankings:

4 – Capella Bangkok

41 – Mandarin Oriental Bangkok

55 – Four Hotel Bangkok at Chao Phraya River

73 – The Sukhothai Bangkok

2. Export outlook remains bright

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

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) has placed 10 export sectors in four groups based on the advantages they will gain from different stages of the pandemic, ranging from disease transmission to lockdown and slowdown periods. Exports from these sectors will gather momentum if there are no serious interruptions from the contagion's spread in the industrial sector and a shortage of raw materials is avoided, said the FTI. The global economic recovery is expected to drive the export segment this year, specifically the US and China, as many developed countries have vaccinated a significant proportion of their population against the highly contagious virus.

3. Durian gets priority fruit export status

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

Thailand aims to promote durian as the key fruit for upscaling green innovation in the agricultural sector to boost its export value, says the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. Agriculture and Cooperative Minister Chalermchai Sri-on told an online conference that durian would be regarded as a "special agricultural product". He was speaking during the recent Global Action on Green Development of Special Agricultural-Products: "One Country, One Priority" (OCOP). The conference was hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

4. Analyst urges Thai national blueprint

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

The government is being urged to come up with a national strategic blueprint to deal with the changing economic structure covering technologies, geopolitics, global warming, health and inequality management between the rich and the poor. Somjai Phagaphasvivat, an independent political and economic analyst, said Thailand is in dire need of a national strategic plan to rehabilitate the ailing economy once the virus crisis eases. "A national strategy to tackle changing technologies, geopolitics, global warming, health and economic inequality is essential," he said.

5. EEC infrastructure projects 41 per cent complete

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

The Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning (OTP) recently reported that construction of 69 infrastructure projects in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) had been completed during the first eight months of 2021. The 69 completed projects account for 41 per cent of all infrastructure projects in EEC areas," said the office. "Meanwhile, 65 projects, or 39 per cent, are under construction. Eight projects have been cancelled, while the rest have their construction process pending due to a variety of reasons, including waiting for land allotment and EIA [environmental impact assessment] study, and delayed procurement of materials due to the Covid-19 situation." The OTP said among the top priority projects that must be completed before the end of 2021 is the high-speed train connecting three airports (Don Mueang, Suvarnabhumi and U-Tapao).

6. VAT takes effect for overseas e-service

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

The new value-added tax for electronic services from abroad (e- service) levied by the Revenue Department became effective on September 1. Operators who provide electronic services abroad that are not registered for VAT in Thailand and have service income exceeding 1.8 million baht must register for VAT through the VAT for Electronic Service (VES) system on the Revenue Department's website. Legal entities or natural persons, both VAT-registered and non-VAT-registered, are included. Merchants who sell online, using Facebook advertising tools, will also be affected, and are to pay 7 per cent VAT when shooting advertisements via the website after September 1.