

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 16 AUGUST 2021

1. TAT plea to amend sandbox plan

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is asking the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) to approve the so-called 7+7 model allowing tourists to stay in Phuket for seven days before visiting other locations. Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana, a secretary attached to the Prime Minister's Office, said on Saturday the TAT has come up with the so-called 7+7 formula, which means tourists who complete their seven-day stay on the island can visit and spend another seven days in other tourist destinations taking part in the model.

2. Vaccine tourism set to spike

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

Outbound tour operators expect increasing demand for vaccine tourism in the fourth quarter because of the delay in procurement of high-quality vaccines in Thailand. Suthiphong Pheunphiphop, president of the Thai Travel Agents Association (TTAA), said even if local travellers are able to take outbound trips in the fourth quarter, which would be the best-case scenario, the number might be fewer than 10,000 people as slow vaccine rollouts in many countries are considered to be an obstacle.

3. IEAT prepares estate in Chachoengsao

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

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) plans to build a new industrial estate in Chachoengsao worth 4.85 billion baht in two years to serve new industries, including electric vehicle assembly. The estate is in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). The new industrial estate, a joint investment between IEAT and the Double P Land Co, aims to serve the EEC high-tech industrial hub, with prospective investors expected to come from various modern industries, including the energy storage segment. The new industrial estate is named Bluetech City. "The government expects Bluetech City will generate 33.2 billion baht in economic and investment value and create around 8,300 jobs in the EEC," said Veeris Ammarapala, governor of IEAT.

4. US' diplomatic overtures to Asean

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

The visit by US Vice President Kamala Harris to Southeast Asia later this month underlines the importance of the 10-member bloc to US foreign policy strategy under Joe Biden's

presidency. Besides helping to shore up Washington's engagement in the broader Asian region, which shrank under Mr Biden's predecessor Donald Trump, Ms Harris's trip is strategically aimed at countering China's growing influence globally. Ms Harris will "share the Biden administration's vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific" when she visits Singapore and Vietnam from Aug 22 to 26, her office said in a statement. In talks with officials, she will raise trade and security issues, including in the South China Sea, and promote economic cooperation.

5. Industrial estate to come up in EEC for modern auto industry

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

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) has approved the establishment of Chachoengsao Blue Tech City Industrial Estate in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) to support the modern automotive industry. The Chachoengsao Blue Tech City Industrial Estate will be a joint venture with Double P Land Co Ltd on approximately 1,181 rai (189 hectares) of Khao Din land plot in the Bang Pakong district of Chachoengsao province with an investment of THB4.856 billion. The estate is approximately 44 kilometres from Suvarnabhumi Airport, about 60 kilometres from Laem Chabang Port and 119 kilometres from Map Ta Phut Industrial Port. It is expected to be operational within two years. Chachoengsao Blue Tech City Industrial Estate Project is divided into approximately 70 per cent business area and approximately 30 per cent total utility and green area.