

Thai News Update: 16 October 2020

1. Publicity necessary for scheme to attract 10 million registrants, FM told

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

Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha has instructed the Finance Ministry to publicise the “Kon La Khreung” (Let’s Go Halves) economic stimulus package so more people use the scheme, Finance Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith said on 16 October. This is the first day that the government has allowed Thais over the age of 18 who do not hold a state welfare card to register for daily discounts on food, drink and other necessities of up to Bt150, capped at Bt3,000 per person via the website.

2. Foreign investors ‘confused by emergency rule’

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

Foreign investors need more details of what they can or cannot do in Thailand under the state of emergency imposed on 15 October, said Thai Chamber of Commerce chairman Kalin Sarasin. He added that foreign investors had inquired whether they can go ahead with holding seminars and meetings in Thailand, after the emergency ban on gatherings was imposed on Thursday. Chambers of commerce in the provinces had also asked him if they will be able to continue with planned activities, he said.

3. PTTEP receives AREA 2020

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

PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP) has been honoured with the CSR award in Green Leadership at the Asia Responsible Enterprise Awards 2020 (AREA 2020), Singapore. The award is made for the company’s Forest Restoration Project for Eco-Learning at Sri Nakhon Khuean Khan Park (Khung Bang Kachao). PTTEP has cooperated on the project with Chaipattana Foundation, the Office of Royal Projects, the Department of Forestry, Kasetsart University since 2013. With the objective of preserving the green area in Khung Bang Kachao under the royal initiative of H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn’s, the project has been developed under a natural classroom concept.

4. Multi-family office to allocate over \$120 million USD to its Thai and Southeast Asian Private Equity Platform, 9 Basil

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

Blueprint Forest (BPF), a value oriented investment firm of a multi-family office, has on 15 October announced the allocation of \$120 million to its South East Asian strategy 9 Basil to

help fuel enterprises in Thailand and across the Southeast Asian region. Backed by respective families in Asia, 9 Basil's 1st private equity fund intends to invest in businesses across the financial services, consumer brands, supply chain, and real estate sectors as well as distressed assets. The launch of 9 Basil brings BPF Group's portfolio of funds to four, including Lossless Capital, Open Forest and Blueprint Forest. The group has increased assets under management by over \$500 million USD since 2019.

5. CCSA clears 500 Elite Card members

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

About 500 Thailand Elite Card members have been approved by the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) to visit the country, according to Thailand Privilege Card Co (TPC). Of the total, 52 card holders, mostly from Germany and Britain, have already entered the country, said Somchai Soongswang, president of TPC, a state-owned enterprise that operates the Thailand Elite Card programme under the Tourism Authority of Thailand. In August and September, the company received 900 new membership applications a month from foreign investors and entrepreneurs, compared with 400 a month before the pandemic.

6. Thailand warms to China's ventures

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

The Chinese government is ready to enable an expansion of investments in Thailand and connect its Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) with the Thai government's flagship Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi pledged on 15 October. The GBA is a megalopolis, also known as the Pearl River Delta Economic Zone, consisting of nine cities and two special administrative regions in southern China. The pledge was made by Mr Wang during his meeting with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha at Government House, said government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri.

7. Centara set to launch Cosi in Krabi

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

Centara Hotels & Resorts, the hotels arm of Central Group, will launch its Cosi brand in southwest Thailand with the planned opening of Cosi Krabi Ao Nang Beach on Oct 23. The hotel, which caters to younger travellers, features a series of red hawk murals -- a motif chosen to symbolise freedom -- created for Cosi Krabi by award-winning street artist Rukkit Kuanhaweth. The hotel also includes The Hub, a centralised meeting and co-working space. Cosi Krabi's 142 rooms come equipped with power shower, free Wi-Fi, smart TV, bedside USB ports, in-room safe and a small retro fridge.