

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 19 JULY 2022

1. Bangkok tops Agoda's top 10 best summer getaways list

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

Bangkok has topped many lists before and its latest achievement is being named the best summer destination in a recent survey conducted by the online travel agency, Agoda. attaya City in Chonburi won eighth place in the list of top 10 summer destinations. The other cities on the list are Jeju Island, Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo, Seoul, Singapore, Bali, Manila and Penang in that order. Agoda said Bangkok topped the list thanks to the easing of travel restrictions and the reopening of entertainment venues and tourist attractions. Bangkok has also been chosen as the top destination in Asia-Pacific by travellers from the US and the United Kingdom, followed by Manila and Tokyo.

2. Cabinet signs off on B3.22bn port deal

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

The cabinet has approved a public-private partnership deal worth 3.22 billion baht to manage the Map Ta Phut Industrial Port in Rayong province. According to Rachada Dhnadirek, a deputy government spokeswoman, the joint venture deal to run the Map Ta Phut Industrial Port will be handled by the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) and Thai Connectivity Terminal (TCT). The concession with the current operator is scheduled to expire on Sept 16 this year. Under the new joint investment deal, the IEAT will allow TCT to operate and make use of Map Ta Phut Industrial Port's existing assets worth 963 million baht for 30 years, while TCT has pledged to invest 2.25 billion baht to upgrade the port and operate additional services related to containers, such as the installation of cranes to lift containers, container repairs, cleaning services, and the container yard development.

3. IEAT seeks Japanese bioindustrialists

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

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) is encouraging 30 Japan-based companies specialising in bioindustry to invest in Thailand. The government wants to promote foreign investments under bio-, circular and green (BCG) economic development as well as 12 targeted S-curve industries in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), said Veeris Ammarapala, governor of the IEAT. BCG production encourages manufacturers to adopt techniques that can add value to products and have minimal or no impact on the environment

while the S-curve industries include electric vehicles, smart electronics as well as affluent, medical and wellness tourism. "We have met Japanese companies and encouraged them to invest with us," said Mr Veeris.

4. Foreign actors to get tax exemptions

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

Foreign actors shooting on location in Thailand will be granted a tax exemption, as a part of the government's bid to get more foreign filmmakers to shoot in the country. Culture Minister Ittiphol Kunplome said the measure, which is aimed at increasing government revenues from international film productions, will be in place until 2027. Since a similar scheme, in place from 2011 to 2015, successfully attracted many major production companies, the National Film and Video Committee decided to bring it back to help revitalise the economy, Mr Ittiphol said. The move was finalised after the committee studied a report prepared by the Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, he said.