

Thai News Update: 1 October 2019

1. Economic ministers to meet next Monday for economic and tourism ‘Council of War’

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

The council of economic ministers will meet on October 7 in Bangkok, to discuss the current economic and tourism situation. Kobsak Pootrakool, the deputy secretary-general to the PM for political affairs, says the meeting will confront obstacles facing the country’s tourism industry. “The ministers will also discuss the country’s export situation”. The Nation reports that the Commerce Ministry will present the latest export report to the meeting as well as the measures to boost exports for the rest of 2019. He added that the council wants to tackle all problems in the tourism sector, which is entering the high season. He said that all issues are up for discussion.

2. KRABI ‘Krabi Premium’ launched by the Tourism Authority of Thailand

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

Despite the strong value of the Thai baht, an upcoming vegetarian festival in Phuket is expected to attract a large number of Chinese tourists and bring the resort island province about 2 billion baht in tourism-related revenue, said the Phuket Tourist Association, the province's main association relating to tourism business operators. The vegetarian festival, which will run from 28 September until Oct 7, will draw a large number of Chinese tourists since this period coincides with celebrations of China's national day, said association president Bhumikitti Ruktaengam on 27 September. The province is also expecting to welcome an unusually high number of visitors from neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia during the same period

3. PM orders immediate action to address haze in Bangkok

Source: Thai PBS News ([Link](#))

Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has ordered authorities immediately to activate prepared measures to mitigate the haze, which has returned to Bangkok and its suburbs. Expressing concern about the haze, especially the PM2.5 dust particles, the Prime Minister

pleaded with construction site operators and industries in Bangkok and neighbouring provinces to reduce their dust emissions. He also advised people in high risk areas to wear face masks when they are outdoors. The Pollution Control Department on 30 September reported that 13 areas in Bangkok, two in Nonthaburi province, one in Pathum Thai, five in Samut Prakan, two in Samut Sakhon and one in Nakhon Pathom have excessive levels of PM2.5 dust particles.

4. Economic ministers to discuss tourism, exports at Oct 7 meeting

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

The council of economic ministers will meet on October 7 to discuss the current economic situation and also seek solutions for obstacles facing the tourism industry, Kobsak Pootrakool, deputy secretary-general to the prime minister for political affairs, said. The ministers will also discuss the country's export situation, he added. The Commerce Ministry will present the latest export report to the meeting as well as the measures to boost exports for the rest of this year. He added that the council wants to tackle all problems in the tourism sector, which is entering the high season. The meeting will also focus on gross domestic product this year meeting the target of 3 per cent.

5. Tata Steel finds a new buyer for Thailand unit

Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))

Tata Steel is all set to sign a deal with a new buyer for its steel unit in Thailand. The company has also received interest from multiple players to acquire its assets in Singapore. The two assets are being sold as part of Tata Steel's plans to completely exit South East Asia. "We should close the transaction to sell our unit in Thailand soon. We have already signed an MoU and hopefully, in the next month or two that transaction will close. Then we still have the Singapore unit for which we have received interest from buyers," T V Narendran, Managing Director, Tata Steel told BusinessLine. Narendran did not disclose the names of potential buyers.

6. Somkid: Extend tourism scheme

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

Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak has suggested the government's 1,000-baht cash giveaway and 15% cash rebate scheme be extended until the end of the year to boost consumers'

consumption and year-end tourism. Mr Somkid said on 30 September the scheme, if extended, will help stimulate tourism in the country during the final quarter, typically the high season. This will help offset a slowdown in foreign tourist arrivals, especially from China. “The Finance Ministry should study the possibility of increasing the budget and duration of the scheme,” he said. “The ministry needs to determine what kind of budget would be needed to subsidise the scheme.”

7. Govt considers expanding limits on ‘Eat, Shop, Spend’ scheme

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

Deputy Prime Minister for economic affairs Somkid Jatusripitak said on 30 September that the government is considering expanding the 10-million participants limit in the “Eat, Shop, Spend” scheme as the campaign has earned an overwhelming response. The Finance Ministry will also look into the possibility of boosting the Bt19-billion budget. “Interest in this project is widespread and we were asked to extend the campaign,” Somkid said. Kobsak Pootrakool, deputy secretary-general to the prime minister, said he has called on agencies who monitor the economy to write a summary report on the current economic state, which will be presented to the Cabinet on October 7.