

Thai News Update: 1 September 2020

1. BAAC to offer loans for upgradation of fishing boats

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

The Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) is arranging Bt5.3 billion for disbursement as loans to fishermen in 22 provinces for improvement of their boats and equipment to promote sustainable fishing in Thai waters. The move is part of the government's policy to reform the fishery sector. "To be eligible for the loan, applicants must be operators of fishing boats with capacity not over 60 gross tonnage," the bank's president, Apirom Sukprasert, said. The borrower will pay 4 per cent interest per year while the government will pay the rest."

2. EEC officials pitch high-tech training

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

Authorities are planning to sharpen the skills of 8,500 potential workers next year to serve 12 targeted S-curve industries in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) that are short on highly skilled labour in advanced technology. Thailand is struggling with a labour shortage as it adapts to digital disruptions, with the country unable to supply workers with qualifications that appeal to many companies. "The government wants to develop and improve labour skills to better serve and match the targeted industries," said Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general of the EEC Office.

3. National e-learning platform a big leap for education equality, says minister

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

The Education Ministry today unveiled its Digital Education Excellence Platform (DEEP), which gives students and teachers direct access to curriculums and modules via online classrooms. DEEP aims to give students in the most remote corners of the country access to the same resources as those in big cities, closing the gap in Thailand's notoriously uneven education system. On the new platform, students can also access Google and Microsoft learning tools via a single sign-on for the first time in Thailand.

4. Proposal on charter amendment up for consideration

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

The government whip will present the draft of charter amendments to the House on 1 September, Palang Pracharat Party spokesperson Patcharin Samsiripong said on Monday (August 31). Patcharin said the draft will be delivered to House Speaker Chuan Leekpai so it

can be added to the agenda of the September 23 to 24 meeting being held to discuss the setting up of a Constitution Drafting Committee. However, she said, the amendments will not touch chapters 1 and 2, which are related to the monarchy.

5. PTT eyeing LNG shipments to Yangon factories

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

Oil and gas conglomerate PTT has conducted a feasibility study to supply liquefied natural gas (LNG) for industrial use to industrial estates in Yangon, said the company's senior executive vice president for Gas Business Wuttikorn Stithit. Wuttikorn added that PTT estimates LNG demand in CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) markets as well as the Philippines and southern China at more than 1 million tonnes per year.

6. Korat trams to start running in 2025

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

Nakhon Ratchasima should have electric trams by 2025, said Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (MRTA) deputy governor Theeraphan Tachasirinugune 1 September, during the second market sounding for the city's Green Line route. The study of the system, which features 21 stations, should be ready to be presented to the MRTA board this year before being proposed to Cabinet. Bidding for private companies to jointly invest in the project is expected by the middle of next year.

7. EA keen on electric boats to help tourism

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

SET-listed Energy Absolute's (EA) move to diversify its renewable energy business into electric vehicles (EV) aims to not only tap the disruptive technology for automobiles, but also pave the way for the firm to bolster Thai tourism. Recently EA introduced its first plug-in electric passenger boat to cruise a section of the Chao Phraya River from Phra Nangklao Bridge in Nonthaburi to Saphan Taksin skytrain station, close to the central business district in Bangkok. EA deputy chief executive Amorn Saphaweekul said the company is conducting a test run for the boat to carry people from suburban areas to central Bangkok quickly, avoiding heavy traffic congestion.