

Thai News Update: 22 September 2020

1. Work permits for Thai Elite

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

Thailand Elite Card plans to add work permit privileges for members who invest US\$1 million in Thailand, with the end of visa amnesty pushing member applications to a record high in August and September. Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said the adjusted privileges have to pass cabinet approval first, but the scheme should draw more investment to the country. The privilege for the work permit will only be granted to the top tier categories, which cost 1-2 million baht. These members must have a minimum investment of US\$1 million within one year. Investment types are the member's choice, but the government would like to focus on property investment, which has been battered by the crisis.

2. Thailand's Biggest IPO Since Pandemic Tests Foreign Interest in Shares

Source: Bloombergquint ([Link](#))

The share sale by a unit of Thailand's oldest conglomerate is set to test investors' interest in Southeast Asia's second-largest economy, as SCG Packaging Pcl rolls out its long-delayed initial public offering. SCG Packaging, a subsidiary of 107-year-old Siam Cement Pcl, is seeking as much as 39.5 billion baht (\$1.27 billion) to fund expansion and repay debt. Investor presentations for the country's biggest IPO since March begin 23 September. While China and Hong Kong held mega IPOs for companies including Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. and JD.Com this year, Thailand has lagged behind.

3. EGCO secures Bt7.8bn to extend Northeast pipeline

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

The Electricity Generating Group (EGCO) on 21 September reached financial agreements to extend its petroleum pipeline in the Northeast. Thepparat Theppitak, EGCO Group president, said that the Thai Pipeline Network Company (TPN), in which EGCO owns a 44.6 per cent stake, reached agreement with Bangkok Bank and China Development Bank for Bt7.8 billion over a 14-year tenure to construct a 342.8-kilometre underground pipeline with annual transport capacity of 5,443 million litres, potentially increasing to 7,330 million litres in the future.

4. PM advises rehabilitation focus for 20-year strategy

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

Thailand's economic and social development plan over the next two years should focus primarily on community-level economic development, enhancing competitiveness, upgrading human resources and infrastructure development, says the premier. Speaking at the annual meeting of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said on Monday the country's 20-year national strategy plan needs to be amended to focus more on rehabilitating society and economy, which have been wrecked by the pandemic.

5. Thailand Post offers app with no driver fees

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

Thailand Post, through subsidiary THP Distribution, plans to launch its own parcel delivery app allowing drivers to sign up for the platform to deliver packages with no driver-side fees. The state-owned courier also plans to allow convenience store chains to rent space at its 5,000 total locations as a new revenue stream. "Pool Space" is a delivery platform expected to begin service next year and will allow drivers to sign up for the platform and deliver using their personal vehicles without charging a fee to drivers for the first 3-5 years. The initiative is a way to provide jobs to Thais and modernise its delivery system.

6. Huawei invests B475m in 5G research hub at Depa

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

Huawei Thailand is investing 475 million baht to establish a 5G ecosystem innovation centre at the Digital Economy Promotion Agency's (Depa) headquarters to research 5G use cases and incubate 100 local small and medium-sized enterprises and startups for three years. The centre is a partnership with the Digital Economy and Society (DES) Ministry and Depa to find new ways to use 5G across industries. "This is an important milestone demonstrating the readiness of Thailand to be a digital hub in Asean by utilising 5G technologies to improve economic and social development," DES minister Buddhipongse Punnakanta said yesterday at the opening ceremony.

7. Surat Thani targets Mice for recovery

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

Surat Thani is gearing up for business travel, hoping to lure Mice (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) visitors as it looks to recover from the pandemic. Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) president Chiruit Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya said the

province is a unique tourism location with the infrastructure to serve as a Mice destination. TCEB has declared five Mice cities in Thailand: Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Pattaya, Phuket and Bangkok, with Nakhon Ratchasima and Songkhla provinces recently promoted by the bureau this month. On July 1, the agency introduced a new domestic Mice aid package that subsidises tour agents, organisers or hotels for each event, including 15,000 baht per group for a one-day activity and 30,000 baht for two days, one night.