

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Pattaya turns to domestic tourists

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

Pattaya City and tour operators will target Thai tourists instead of foreigners during the approaching traditional high season, with the country's reopening to international travellers again delayed. Pattaya mayor Sonthaya Khunplome said on Friday that the planned reopening of five tourist provinces, including Chon Buri, could be postponed from Oct 1 to Nov 1. Most vaccinated people in those provinces had received only their first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine and the Public Health Ministry was concerned about public safety. He said Pattaya City had already allocated budgets for events from October to the end of the year and he hoped they could attract Thai tourists.

2. State enterprises to ramp up investments

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

State-owned enterprises are projected to rev up their investments during 2023-2025 after the Covid-19 outbreak eases. The government's planning unit, the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), estimates state-owned enterprises will invest an average of 429 billion baht a year during 2023-2025. Rachada Dhnadirek, a deputy government spokeswoman, said many ailing state-owned enterprises were capable of rehabilitating their businesses during that period. In fiscal 2021, ending on Sept 30 this year, the government allocated 1.51 trillion baht as an operating budget and 291 billion baht as an investment budget for 44 state-owned enterprises.

3. NT, GBDi join hands to launch national healthcare database

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

National Telecom (NT) is joining forces with the Government Big Data Institute (GBDi) to launch a "Health Link" centralised platform to gather patients' records from around 100 hospitals to facilitate healthcare services. The platform, which leverages NT's cloud system, is expected to follow international standards for data storage and exchange. The move should make it easier for patients who transfer hospitals to share their medical records. People aged over 18 can apply for the system through the Pao Tang app developed by Krungthai Bank. The number of participating hospitals is expected to increase to 200 by the end of next year.

4. Thailand seeks FTA with Eurasian Union

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

Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit will chair the second round of trade talks with the commission by video link on Monday (September 27). The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) covers Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan – an economy of more than 180 million people and a GDP of over US\$1.9 trillion. It also boasts rich natural energy sources of oil, gas, coal and other minerals. The EAEU already has an FTA with two Asean member countries, Vietnam and Singapore.

5. Registration opens for travel subsidies on 3 million Thai trips

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

The government is urging the public to join the third phase of the “Rao Tiew Duay Kan” (We Travel Together) subsidy scheme and the “Tour Tiew Thai” co-payment scheme, both of which open for registration 24 September. The subsidy scheme is limited to 2 million travellers, who must reserve rooms at least seven days in advance. Registration opens from today at www.เราเที่ยวด้วยกัน.com for Thai nationals aged 18 and over and covers room bookings from October 15 October to January 31 next year.