THAI NEWS UPDATE: 25 AUGUST 2022

1. Chula Engineering and AIS 5G showcase AIS 5G PLAY GROUND & 5G GARAGE Source: The Nation (Link)

The Faculty of Engineering at Chulalongkorn University has partnered with AIS 5G since the initial trials of 5G in 2018 to the present. They have launched an R&D 5G centre, the first ever "AIS 5G PLAY GROUND & 5G GARAGE" in Thailand in Chula Engineering's Centennial Memorial Building. Chula Engineering has installed a LIVE Private Network with 5G base stations on 2 frequencies: 2600 MHz and 26 GHz (mmWave), and other activities to support research into 5G innovation for both students and faculty. This support provided by industry will strengthen the country as a whole.

2. Price of instant noodles up by one baht Source: Bangkok Post (<u>Link</u>)

The Commerce Ministry has bowed to requests from the manufacturers of instant noodles, allowing Mama, Wai Wai and Yum Yum brands to raise their prices by one baht per packet in line with soaring production costs, effective from today. Internal Trade Department director-general Wattanasak Sur-iam said the approval came after the department thoroughly studied the production costs of the three brands, including raw materials such as wheat, palm oil, packaging, energy and labour costs, acknowledging their production costs have indeed increased as claimed. The five instant noodle producers comprise Thai President Foods Plc; Thai Preserved Food Factory Co, maker and distributor of Wai Wai instant noodles; Wan Thai Foods Industry Co, manufacturer of Yum Yum instant noodles; Nissin Foods (Thailand), manufacturer of Nissin instant noodle brand; and Chokchaipibul, manufacturer of the Suesat brand.

3. Thailand expects **4.5**m foreign tourists from Jan to Aug Source: Bangkok Post (Link)

Thailand expects 4.5 million foreign tourists will have visited by the end of August this year as entry rules were eased to support the vital tourism sector, government spokesperson Anucha Burapachaisri said on Thursday. Between Jan 1 and Aug 16, there were 4.02 million foreign tourists, led by visitors from Malaysia, India, Laos, Singapore and the United Kingdom, Mr Anucha said in a statement. The government is aiming for 10 million foreign tourists this year, he said.

4. Varawut promotes BCG Model and sustainable forest management in the Fifth APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry Source: The Nation (Link)

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Varawut Silpa-archa presided over the Fifth APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF5), which was held from August 23-25 at Le Meridien Hotel in Chiang Mai province. It is the first time in 19 years that the APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry is held in Thailand. The MMRF5 aims to promote cooperation in technical, operational, and financial aspects among members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to achieve sustainable economic development, reduce greenhouse gas emissions through forest management, and efficiently tackle climate change issues. The MMRF5 was held under the theme of APEC 2022 meeting that is "Open. Connect. Balance.", with the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model as the overarching thinking.

5. TAT drives Bangkok-Pattaya caravan to stimulate tourism Source: The Nation (Link)

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and five partners launched a caravan drive from Bangkok to Pattaya on Tuesday in a bid to stimulate tourism. ts partners are the PTT Dealer Association, PTT Oil and Retail Business, CP All, Dhipaya Insurance and the Office of SMEs Promotion. TAT executive director for Tourism Products Thapanee Kiatphaibool said the caravan, which is a part of the "Road Trip" project, aims to enable PTT gas stations nationwide to create a good relationship with locals. The activity features cash handouts to the Khao Kheow Open Zoo and the Royal Thai Navy Sea Turtle Conservation Centre for improving animal welfare and releasing sea turtles for environment preservation, she said.