

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 25 MAY 2022

1. Jurin gladly presents “BCG Model” to APEC2022, targets enhancing of SMEs and Micro SMEs’ capabilities in global market

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

Mr. Jurin Laksanawisit, leader of the Democrat Party, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, as the chairperson of international seminar “APEC BCG Symposium 2002”, along with Mr. Jose Miguel Ahumada, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile, Dr. Rebecca Sta Maria, APEC Executive Director, APEC Secretariat, and Ministry of Commerce’s executives presided over the opening ceremony of “APEC BCG Symposium 2002” at Ballroom A-B on 23rd Floor of Centara Grand at CentralWorld Hotel. BCG Model consists of 3 key factors. 1. Bio Economy: aims at utilizing biodiversity in the APEC Economic Zones and Thailand for economic benefits. 2. Circular Economy: aims to increase efficiency in use of existing resources and also minimize hazardous waste or reduce. In addition, using the leftovers or maximizing economic benefits from byproducts or reuse. Finally, recycle refers to convert used items to reusable products with the environmentally friendly process. 3. Green Economy will lead economic development through encourage an environmentally conscious in both the manufacturing and service sectors. Subsequently, the manufacturing and service sectors become more environmentally friendly.

2. Cabinet okays extension of hotel subsidy scheme

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

The cabinet has acknowledged the extension of the fourth phase of the "We Travel Together" hotel subsidy scheme to assist the tourism sector. Danucha Pichayanan, secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), said the cabinet on Tuesday approved the extension of the fourth phase of the scheme, which will be extended until September from May 31, as ratified on May 6 by the Centre for Economic Situation Administration (CESA). However, he said the cabinet has yet to decide on whether to add 1 million room nights to the campaign to help the tourism sector, as approved earlier by CESA. The We Travel Together scheme was launched in July 2020 to stimulate local tourism, which was clobbered by the first wave of the pandemic.

3. SCG unit eyes Asean top spot

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

SCG Chemicals, the petrochemical arm of Siam Cement Group, expects to become the largest petrochemical producer in Asean, thanks to a significant increase in output, especially

from the Long Son Petrochemicals (LSP) complex project in Vietnam. The bright prospects have been highlighted by SCG Chemicals as the company applies for a listing on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. "LSP is scheduled to operate within the first half of 2023. Its construction is more than 90% complete," said Tanawong Areeratchakul, president of SCG Chemicals. The company is running petrochemical production facilities in Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, with a combined capacity of 6.9 million tonnes. Once LSP starts commercial operations, the capacity will increase to 9.8 million tonnes, the highest in Asean.

4. New PM2.5 criteria to meet international standards

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

The National Environment Board on Tuesday tightened safe standards for particulate matter of 2.5 micrometres or less in diameter (PM2.5) in a bid to prevent further impact on people's health. Under new levels, the 24-hour standard has been changed to 37.5 micrograms per cubic metre of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) from the previous 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This standard will come into effect on June 1 next year. Meanwhile, the annual standard has been changed to 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ from the previous of 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, which will come into effect after it is announced in the Royal Gazette. The adjustments come as Thailand has used the same standards for more than ten years, Pollution Control Department director-general Atthaphon Charoenchansa said.

5. Phuket 'ready' to host major events

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

Phuket is signalling its readiness to host major international events, with two tourism events slated to take place next month as part of its bid to promote investments and revive the island's economy. Deputy governor of Phuket Pichet Panapong on 25 May said Phuket will host the Thailand Tourism Congress 2022 (TTC 2022) and Thailand Travel Mart Plus 2022 (TTM+ 2022) next month. The TTC will be held at Beyond Resort Kata from June 6-8, while the TTM+ will run from June 8-10 at Angsana Laguna Phuket. Over 400 guests, which include representatives from government agencies, tourism-related business and academics, have been invited to attend the TTC, while over 700 people are expected to attend the TTM+, including travel agents and journalists, Mr Pichet said.