

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 26 AUGUST 2021

1. Restaurants accept dine-in rules

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

Restaurant operators say they are receptive to Public Health Ministry plans for reopening, which involve tough Covid-19 protocols including a requirement for diners to show vaccination proof. The so-called sandbox concept for the restaurant business, to be applicable to 29 strictly-controlled dark red provinces, is expected to be proposed by the Public Health Ministry at tomorrow's meeting of the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA). Under this scheme, all staff in a restaurant have to be 100% inoculated and all of them have to be tested with rapid antigen test kits every 5-7 days. Moreover, the restaurants have to operate in ventilated places while customers have to show vaccine certificates.

2. SEC proposes tighter rules for digital asset businesses

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

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has proposed additional rules pertaining to the custody of clients' assets in digital exchanges to enhance protection for digital asset investors and to close any legal loopholes that may expose investors' assets to relevant risks. The SEC began a public hearing on 25 August to seek public comments on the proposed amendments to the regulations on the custody of clients' assets by digital asset business operators. According to the draft of the proposed additional regulations, the new rules aimed to prevent any digital asset businesses from misappropriating their clients' assets for the benefit of other customers or people or for any objectives other than bank deposits.

3. Project a boon for high tech

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

Thai and Chinese authorities have agreed to launch the Thailand-Guangdong cooperation project to promote high-tech industries, including electric vehicles (EVs), as well as the green economy in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) area. The project, which also covers digital and 5G wireless technology, healthcare and smart city development, is expected to boost investment and take Thai industries to the next level. "It is a collaboration between EEC and China's Greater Bay Area [GBA] which includes Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao," said Industry Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit. Mr Suriya, together with Ma Xingrui, governor of Guangdong, on 25 August co-chaired the Thailand-Guangdong High-Level Cooperation Conference on stronger strategic synergy between the GBA and the EEC for a better future via video conference.

4. ALRO to push farmers to grow herbs with export potential in the EEC

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

The Agricultural Land Reform Office (ALRO) has urged Thai farmers to grow hemp, cannabis and green chiretta (fah talai jone) using high technology to boost their incomes. The study of kratom would also be conducted with the aim of achieving sales of THB8 billion from exporting these herbs. Captain Thamanat Prompow, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding by the ARLO and the Eastern Economic Corridor Office (EEC) on cooperation in the development of integrated herbs in the EEC on 24 August. “The herbal market tends to expand annually as herbs have the potential to promote people’s health. I believe that Thai herbs will shift to exports in the near future,” said Thamanat.

5. Phuket’s Karon area to get ‘smart poles’ as part of govt’s smart city initiative

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

Phuket’s Karon subdistrict will be the first area to get smart poles, nicknamed “lucky poles”, as part of the government’s smart city initiative, the Karon mayor said on 25 August. The government aims to pilot the smart pole project in 14 communities nationwide, and Karon has been selected because its economy relies on tourism,” said mayor Jadet Wicharasorn. “The campaign also aims to improve Karon’s telecommunication grid, put power and telecom lines underground, install smart CCTV cameras and IoT [internet of things] equipment to turn Karon into a true smart city.” Thanaphan Tantisattayakul, managing director of United Technology Enterprise (UTE), which has won the contract for the project, said UTE will establish a digital infrastructure in Karon using smart poles. This will be a key feature to attract tourists