

Thai News Update: 27 August 2020

1. Siam Motors' Fazer R drone sprays farms

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

Siam Motors has diversified its business to agriculture, hoping to benefit from the state policy to promote farming innovations under the Agriculture 4.0 policy. Siam Motors (41%) partnered with Thai Yamaha Motor (34%), Mitsui and Co (15%), and Chartsiri Sophonpanich (10%), president of Bangkok Bank, to set up a new company named Siam Yamaha Motor Robotics (SYMR) and develop a drone -- an unmanned aerial vehicle designed to assist farmers in spraying pesticides. Agriculture 4.0, the government's industrial economic model, aims to shift traditional agriculture into smart agriculture.

2. THAI ready to fly in tourists from 6 nations, even China

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

Thai Airways International Plc is ready to arrange special direct charter flights from six countries to Phuket under the government's plan to revive the subdued tourism sector, said acting president Chansin Treenuchagron. The six countries are Denmark, Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong. The airline can make two flights per month on each of these routes, Chansin said. THAI is expected to begin these special flights in late November. The airline will even increase the flights on these routes if it sees rising demand, he said.

3. AIS opens e-sports studio

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

Advanced Info Services (AIS), Thailand's largest mobile operator, has launched the AIS e-sports studio to support Thai training to compete at competitions around Southeast Asia. Winners of competitions hosted by AIS will be able to practice e-sports at the studio. The studio brings together high-speed internet networks and equipment to support e-sports, primarily for training in preparation for the next regional competition. Competitions hosted by AIS include the AIS e-sports Thailand Campus Championship 2020, a university challenge that uses the digital infrastructure of AIS 5G and AIS Fibre, with a maximum speed of 1,000/1,000 megabits per second.

4. PM in talks to reopen country for foreign tourists

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said on 26 August he was in talks with state agencies on how to open the country to foreign tourists after the Covid-19 situation improves. Being discussed are the timing for reopening and which provinces will be the first to open for foreign tourists. The first phase may only see a small number of tourists allowed into the country and their areas of possible travel limited, he added. The Thai Hotel Association (THA) recently urged the government to reopen the country to foreigners, as hotels struggle with near-zero occupancy rates and some small operators are forced to close.

5. Julius Baer's Thai joint venture targets 1trn slice of wealth management business

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

A joint venture between Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) and Swiss firm Julius Baer Securities is targeting a large slice of the wealth management business for high net worth individuals. Wealth management for individuals worth over Bt100 million is a market worth Bt10 trillion and growing at 9.9 per cent per year. The joint company – SCB-Julius Baer Securities – is targeting a market share of Bt1 trillion or 10 per cent in the next five years. At 1 trillion, SCB-Julius Baer would become one of Asia's top 20 private banks by assets under management, based on Asian Private Banker's 2019 league table.

6. Thailand Voted Best Place for Starting Business

Source: Thai Business News ([Link](#))

Thailand was voted to be the world's best place to start business for the second consecutive year, according to the Department of Business Development. Wuthikrai Leeviraphan, director-general of the department, said that recently U.S. News & World Report posted its list of "Best Countries to Start a Business 2020" and Thailand ranked first for the second year in a row because it took only six days and five procedures to start a business in the country. Last year the same agency also ranked Thailand in the first place. "This year the department will further improve services for operators to start business. Time and procedures for the process will be shortened. It will cooperate with other organizations and apply artificial intelligence to serve businesses and people. This is for Thailand to attract more foreign investors," Mr Wuthikrai said. (TNA)