

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 27 AUGUST 2021

1. Labour Ministry moves to create more jobs in EEC

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

The Labour Ministry is speeding up efforts to create almost 400,000 jobs in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) to help those affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. This move came after the National Economic and Social Development Council indicated that unemployment in the country has risen due to the Covid-19 crisis. Labour Minister Suchart Chomklin said he had instructed the Department of Employment to conduct a survey on employers' demand for workers. "According to the survey, there are 31,556 jobs available in the three EEC provinces – Rayong, Chonburi and Chachoengsao," he said.

2. Fruit exports up almost 50% in first 7 months

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

Exports of fresh and processed fruits in the first seven months (January to July) generated 131.16 billion baht, up 48.31 per cent year on year, the Commerce Ministry said on 26 August. The ministry is targeting at least 180 billion baht in revenue from fresh and processed fruit exports this year, up 30 per cent year on year, said Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit. The minister credited the rise in fruit exports to four promotional activities – online business matching, a department store promotion campaign, Thai Fruit Golden Month, and sales via foreign platforms such as India's BigBasket and China's Tmall. "In China alone, Thai Fruit Golden Month in eight cities generated up to 15 billion baht," said Jurin, who expects the same promotion in five more cities to yield another 5 billion baht.

3. Thailand will have 100 smart cities by 2022, promises DES minister

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

In line with the Thailand 4.0 economic strategy and the 20-year national development agenda, the country should have at least 100 smart cities by next year, Digital Economy and Society (DES) Minister Chaiwut Thanakamanusorn said on 26 August. The minister said the words "smart city" can be defined in many ways, but for his ministry, it stands for a city that uses modern, intelligent technology and innovation to boost efficiency in city services and management. Also, he said, administration costs should be low, and resources used to the optimum to serve the population. Chaiwut said smart cities should be designed, so they are not just liveable cities but also provide residents with a good quality, sustainable lifestyle.

4. Chamber pushes digital health app

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

The private sector has offered guidelines to "open a safe city" and recommends using a Digital Health Pass to reopen business. Thai Chamber of Commerce chairman Sanan Angubolkul said the chamber and a working group proposed relaxing restrictions on economic activities so entrepreneurs could safely resume business operations. "The private sector believes relaxing restrictions to allow businesses to resume their operations should take into account the risk associated with business areas and the nature of the business," said Mr Sanan. "We can use current information to determine the risk of an area, instead of solely relying on the number of infected persons. This can be determined from vaccination coverage for the population in an area and for at-risk groups, the capacity of public health services such as the remaining number of yellow/red beds or the number of ICU patients, and the proportion of deaths per infected people."

5. Krungsri Securities Plc. to pioneer “Debt Crowdfunding Portal”

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

Krungsri Securities Plc. (KSS) is preparing to launch the first “Debt Crowdfunding Portal” among Thai securities firms, aiming to provide Thai SMEs with easier access to financial resources via debt crowdfunding bonds. The new alternative fund-raising vehicle for business expansion will enhance competitiveness and drive growth of the Thai economy. It will also drive Krungsri Group’s Medium-Term Business Plan covering 2021-2023 by strengthening the ecosystem and partnerships and continuing with the ongoing development of services that are more relevant to customers and more efficient.

6. SPCG retains Japan project's start date

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

SET-listed SPCG, a pioneer in solar farm development in Thailand, is maintaining its plan to start operation of its Ukujima Mega solar project in Japan in 2023, despite delays in investment caused by the pandemic. The 480-megawatt power generation facility is one of three on-ground solar farms to be developed to offset revenue and profit decreases as the company's 36 solar farms in Thailand, with a combined capacity of 260MW, will see their adder tariff expire in five years, said Pipat Viriyatranon, director of SPCG's finance department. The eight-baht tariff, introduced by the government to encourage investors to build solar farms, is added to the electricity rate, allowing SPCG to sell electricity to the state grid at a higher price for 10 years after the operation dates.