

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 28 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Asean and South Korea to deepen trade ties

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

Asean countries and South Korea agreed to improve their free trade agreement during the recent 18th Asean-Korea Economic Ministers Consultation held virtually from September 13 to 15, Vice Commerce Minister Sansern Samalapa said on Sunday. The meeting agreed to expand the existing Asean Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA) to provide tax exemption for additional products and promote trading between Asean members and South Korea," he said. "The ministers also urged the countries to exchange know-how in Covid-19 management to speed up their economic recovery after the outbreak situation has improved. "South Korea is especially eager to cooperate with Asean nations in various aspects, such as establishing an industrial innovation centre to promote innovation development and commercial adaptation of innovations in Southeast Asia and South Korea," added Sansern.

2. Call for concrete reopening plan

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

Business operators in soon-to-be-reopened provinces have urged the government to impose a clear and decisive plan to attract tourists back during the upcoming high season. "After getting an approval, the marketing campaign will need at least a month to generate demand, so operators and foreign travel agents want to hear an official announcement to manage high season bookings," said Charintip Tiyaphorn, president of the Tourism Council of Krabi. There are scheduled flights from Singapore and Malaysia due to fly to Krabi airport by Oct 31, and there will be flights from Scandinavian countries on Nov 1.

3. Ministry of Commerce presents "Design Excellence Award 2021"

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

The Thailand Office of Innovation and Value Creation of the Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) under the Ministry of Commerce presents the Design Excellence Award 2021 (DEmark 2021) in honor of the 98 business operators and designers who prove their excellence in various categories of design. The award presentation promotes the outstanding and unique designs that increase the value of Thai products. They have been introduced to worldwide markets through a live event on the "DEmark' Thailand" Facebook page.

4. CP to build tallest tower in Thailand on SRT's Makkasan land

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

The tower will be built by Asia Era One Ltd, a subsidiary of the Charoen Pokphand Group (CP), a news source revealed. The CP-led consortium won the bid for the SRT's high-speed train project connecting three airports (Don Mueang, Suvarnabhumi and U-Tapao) worth Bt224 billion in December 2018. The project also required the winner to develop the Makkasan land under a 50-year rent contract worth Bt50 billion, to paid in full to SRT upon area delivery. "CP Group aims to turn the Makkasan land into a super tower. With a height of 550 metres -- 120 storeys-- it will be the tallest building in Thailand with up to 2 million square metres of usable space," said the source. "CP will also earmark at least 50 rai of land around the tower to be a green space to serve as a lung for surrounding communities. The rest of the land will be a location for hotels, office buildings, retail shops, service apartment and other facilities."

5. CCSA issues 4-phase roadmap for reopening of provinces

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

The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) on Monday unveiled its plan to reopen the country over the next few months. Provinces will reopen in four phases according to factors that include their tourism revenue, geography and Covid-19 preventive measures. Pilot Phase (October 1-31): (Phuket and Samui sandbox schemes already launched in July and August) Phuket, Surat Thani (Koh Samui, Koh Pha-ngan and Koh Tao islands), Phang Nga (Khao Lak coastal area and Koh Yao island) and Krabi (Koh Phi Phi and Koh Ngai islands, Railay, Khlong Muang and Tub Kaak beaches).