

Thai News Update: 29 October 2020

1. AIS betting on leading e-sports regionally

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

Thailand's e-sports market is expected to reach 30 billion baht in value next year, up 10% from 27 billion baht this year, although growth remains smaller relative to other key Asean markets as gaming in Thailand is perceived negatively among members of the public. Mobile operator Advanced Info Service (AIS) believes Thailand still has the potential to become the leader in the e-sports business in the Asean in terms of market size and the number of players in the future.

2. Rayong residential market to see rebound in 2021

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

The residential market in Rayong will improve next year, led by low-rise housing segment, while a recovery in Chon Buri is foreseeable in 2022, according to the Real Estate Information Center (REIC). Vichai Viratkapan, REIC acting director-general, said new residential sales in Rayong in the second half of 2021 would total 2,525 units worth 6.14 billion baht, close to the five-year average for this period at 2,663 units. The largest number of units being sold will be low-rise houses with 2,338 units worth 5.7 billion baht and the rest will be condo units.

3. Pattaya upbeat on China, Russia arrivals

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

Pattaya aims to welcome travellers from low-risk areas in Russia and China in the post-outbreak period, allotting an 80-billion-baht budget for seven development projects to fix persistent problems next year. Pattaya mayor Sonthaya Khunpluem said the city is now working with tourism operators, such as the Thai Hotels Association's eastern chapter, to establish a tourism committee which will draw up a reopening plan under the Pattaya model by November.

4. Phangan voted 'third best' island

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

Koh Phangan in Surat Thani has been voted the third best island in Asia, according to the readers' choice awards by travel magazine Conde Nast Traveler. Provincial governor Wichawut Jinto on 28 October said that Koh Phangan has been hailed as one of the best islands in the world. It was rated among the "five best tourist islands in Asia". Topping the chart were Cebu and the Visayan Islands in the Philippines. Mr Wichawut said the magazine presented Rin Nok

beach on Koh Phangan where more than 30,000 mostly foreign tourists attend full moon party nights.

5. DITP and Huawei Sign MOU to Collaborate on Digital Technology Courses for SMEs and Generation Z

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

The New Economy Academy (NEA), under the Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP), Ministry of Commerce; and Huawei Technologies (Thailand) Co., Ltd., yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to co-develop digital courses to boost the business sector. The signing ceremony, held today at Huawei's company in Bangkok, was witnessed by Mr. Jurin Laksanawisit, Democrat Party leader, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, and Mr. Abel Deng, CEO of Huawei Technologies Thailand.

6. More than Bt1bn foreign investment approved in Sept

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

The Department of Business Development approved foreign investment worth a total Bt1.074 billion in September. The investment came from 22 foreign entities who would employ a total of 138 Thai workers, said director-general Tossapon Tangsubut. Most of the foreign investors are from Japan, Singapore and the Netherlands. The department's foreign investment committee has granted permits to 201 foreign investors in the first nine months of this year (January-September), with total investment of Bt8.083 billion.

7. EU launches €5m project to protect Asean biodiversity from illegal loggers

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

The European Union has announced a project to help Asean countries reduce illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance and promoting trade in legal timber. The €5-million (Bt183.4 million) "Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade in ASEAN" project will be run over the next three years by the European Forest Institute. Southeast Asia is among the world's major deforestation hotspots, and ranks among the highest in terms of severe biodiversity loss. Between 2005 and 2015, the region lost about 80 million hectares of forest, a rate of deforestation which would result in over 40 per cent of its biodiversity disappearing by 2100.