

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 4 AUGUST 2021

### **1. NESDC launches ‘Shared Kitchen’ project for Covid relief**

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

The project is also offering work to stall owners in the NESDC’s restaurant, which is temporarily closed under disease-control restrictions. The NESDC has joined hands with the “Community x Covid” network of people from nearby Nang Loeng market, who are helping to distribute 200 food boxes per day in five local neighbourhoods. The food is being handed out in the communities of Wat Sunthorn Thammathan, Chakkraphatdi Phong, Suppha Mit 1, Suppha Mit 2 and Wat Sommanat. Current and former executives and staff of NESDC donated the money to hire the restaurant stall owners to prepare food for “Shared Kitchen”. The project will continue until the donation money runs out or the Covid-19 situation improves.

### **2. Huawei to invest US\$100 million in Asia Pacific startup ecosystem over 3 years**

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

Huawei has been helping Singapore build the first startup hub in APAC since 2020, and has expanded the program to Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia in the past year. At the summit, Huawei also announced that this program would focus its efforts on developing four additional startup hubs. Huawei announced its plan to invest US\$100 million in startup support today at its inaugural Spark Founders Summit, which took place simultaneously in Singapore and Hong Kong. Huawei said the investment would go towards its Spark program, which aims to build a sustainable startup ecosystem in the Asia Pacific region over the next three years.

### **3. Thai fruit exports soar in first half of 2021**

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

Thai agricultural exports rose 20 per cent in the first six months of 2021, driven by soaring sales of fresh fruit, the Commerce Ministry revealed on Wednesday. Fresh fruit exports were up by 42.21 per cent from the same period last year, earning \$2.89 billion or THB88.9 billion. “Durians saw the biggest jump in exports at 58.24 per cent year on year, followed by longan [up 51.43 per cent], mango [50.09 per cent] and banana [18.59 per cent],” said Phusit Rattanakul Sereeruengsit, director of the Ministry’s Trade Policy and Strategy Office (TPSO).

#### **4. Thailand and Switzerland cooperating to produce Covid-19 vaccine**

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

Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai met with his Swiss counterpart Ignazio Cassis on Tuesday for talks on investment in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) and cooperation to produce Covid-19 vaccine. Cassis agreed to push Swiss investment in the EEC as well as cooperate with Thailand to support recovery from the impacts of Covid-19. No details were given of Switzerland's vaccine-production plans in Thailand. Cassis is on a tour of Southeast Asia to coincide with Switzerland's donation of 100 respirators and 1 million antigen test kits to help Thailand's battle against Covid-19. The 26-tonne shipment of medical equipment was flown from Zurich to Bangkok last week.

#### **5. PM donates 1 tonne of fruit to front-line medics**

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

Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha has dipped into his own pocket to buy 1 tonne of Thai fruit from agricultural cooperatives as a gift for medical workers and volunteers caring for Covid-19 patients, government spokeswoman Ratchada Thanadirek said on Tuesday. Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha has dipped into his own pocket to buy 1 tonne of Thai fruit from agricultural cooperatives as a gift for medical workers and volunteers caring for Covid-19 patients, government spokeswoman Ratchada Thanadirek said on Tuesday.