

Thai News Update: 5 August 2019

1. Pricing law up for amendment

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

The government looks set to amend the Price of Goods and Services Act, which has been in force since 1999, aiming to apply administrative sanctions instead of criminal penalties. Wattanasak Sur-iam, deputy director-general of the Internal Trade Department, said the new penalties will help the act comply with changing economic and business conditions. Administrative sanctions are broadly understood as those imposed by a regulator without the intervention of a court or tribunal. Mr Wattanasak said Whichai Phochanakij, director-general of the Internal Trade Department, has already agreed in principle to amend the act, with the amendment based on the precedent of amendments to the Trade Competition Act, which guards against unfair practices, also applying administrative sanctions instead of criminal penalties.

2. DPA pursues BoT nod to process e-wallet refunds

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

The Deposit Protection Agency (DPA) is seeking the Bank of Thailand's permission to get involved in the money refund process from e-wallet operators with an aim of facilitating convenience for service users. The agency discussed the service with the central bank, with consumer convenience to get money back from e-wallet operators as its focus, said president Songpol Chevapanyaroj. For the refund service, e-wallet operators must be allowed to be DPA members, he said. According to the central bank's regulations, e-wallet business operators are restricted to using money parked in the digital wallet for consumer payments, and this already ensures that money in the e-wallet is fully protected.

3. Yachting to lead Thai east coast tourism revival: boat-show organisers

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

Thailand's east coast has become a leading destination for visitors from around the world and a priority region in which businesses are looking to invest. Planned road, rail and air infrastructure improvements as well as inland investment in the Eastern Economic Corridor project are set to have a significant impact on business and leisure in the region, and the east coast's marine industry is well positioned to support this growth. Located at the heart of the region's marine industry and yachting tourism is Ocean Marina Yacht Club, the largest marina in Southeast Asia and home to the Ocean Marina Pattaya Boat Show which will take place for the eighth time from November 21-24, 2019.

4. RCEP deal likely signed by mid-2020

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

The Asia-Pacific trade agreement known as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is likely to be signed by the middle of next year, said Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit. "The latest round of talks have yielded many results, because the trade ministers from 16 countries were able to iron out most of their differences and continue the negotiations, ahead of the final meeting which will be held in Bangkok in November," Mr Jurin said. He was talking to the media after the 8th RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting in Beijing, which ended on 4 August.

5. Thai Airways inks discount deal with Hilton

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

Thai Airways International (THAI) is seeking more business partners to boost passenger numbers and add value for travellers. Siriphong Mangkalee, director of the Asean sales department, said the carrier on 1 August signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Hilton hotels. The MoU enables both international and domestic travellers showing THAI boarding passes on all routes to enjoy a discount for dining and spas at Hilton hotels in Thailand, including Hilton Sukhumvit Bangkok, DoubleTree by Hilton Sukhumvit, Millennium Hilton Bangkok and Conrad Koh Samui. The offer is good through the end of this year. Heidi Kleine-

Moeller, general manager of Millennium Hilton Bangkok, said Thailand is one of the most important markets for Hilton. "This partnership is the first step in our long-term cooperation to enhance the tourism experience for both business and leisure groups," she said.