

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 7 JULY 2022

1. Govt plans to charge foreigners more than Thais for hotel rooms

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

Foreign tourists may soon find Thailand a more expensive destination than in the past two years with the country now planning to raise hotel rates to pre-pandemic levels to support a faster recovery of the industry. The Tourism and Sports Ministry plans to ask hotel operators to implement a dual-tariff structure under which foreign visitors may be charged rates similar to pre-pandemic days while locals may continue to enjoy discounted rates, Traisuree Taisaranakul, a government spokeswoman said in a statement on 6 July.

2. Saudi investors eye EV prospects during EEC visit

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

Saudi Arabia has become the latest country to show an interest in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), with prospective investors looking in particular at five key industrial areas, notably electric vehicles (EVs), during a tour of the zone. Around 100 prospective Saudi investors, led by Krayem Alenezi, member of the board of directors of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce, recently visited the EEC to get first-hand information about the zone, which covers parts of Chon Buri, Rayong and Chachoengsao. The government aims to turn the EEC into Thailand's high-tech industrial hub.

3. Matching event bears fruit with Saudi Arabia

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

Thai businesses and Saudi counterparts have vowed to tighten their partnership after signing 18 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on 6 July on business deals covering food, travel, hotels and agarwood. According to Krayem S. Alenezi, a board member of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce, which led more than 200 Saudi companies from various sectors including gems and jewellery, construction materials, travel and hotels to participate in the Thai-Saudi Business Matching event in Bangkok, the visit is part of Saudi Arabia's ongoing efforts to expand trade and investment under "Saudi Vision 2030", which seeks to reduce the nation's dependence on oil, diversify its economy and develop public service sectors. The country also has large projects in logistics development that aim to connect with Thailand's flagship Eastern Economic Corridor development plans to upgrade the logistics systems of both countries, he said.

4. BCG startups see strong growth

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

Startups associated with the bio, circular and green (BCG) economy model are the next wave of growth but they need the right incentives to make them thrive amid the economic challenges and cautious investment, say industry experts.. "BCG is Thailand's national agenda for sustainable growth and inclusiveness," said Narong Sirilertworakul, president of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA). "The model focuses on four strategic sectors -- food and agriculture; medical and wellness; energy, material and biochemicals; and tourism and the creative economy." He was speaking at a recent virtual seminar, called "World Business Angel Investor Week 2022", coordinated by the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAIF).

5. Public Health Ministry aims to make Thailand 'herbal hub'

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

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul on 6 July expressed confidence that Thailand would generate revenue of at least 48 million baht from traditional and alternative medicines this year. The minister unveiled his goal while making a speech to kick off the Thailand Herbal Expo 2022 or the 19th National Herbal Exhibition and annual academic meetings on Thai traditional and alternative medicines at the Impact Arena in Muang Thong Thani, Nonthaburi province. In the speech, Anutin noted that Thailand is recognised in the international community for its expertise in the use of herbs in traditional and alternative medicines.

6. DITP, Siam Piwat sign pact on promoting Thai products abroad

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

The Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) signed a memorandum of understanding with leading retail developer Siam Piwat on 5 July to promote Thai products on the international market. The MoU was inked at the Design Excellence Award (DEmark) Show 2022 at IconSiam shopping complex in Bangkok. The exhibition, which features more than 405 interesting product designs by Thai entrepreneurs, is being held until Sunday.

6. Free parking at Suvarnabhumi Airport for July holidays

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

Zone C parking at Suvarnabhumi Airport will be free during two sets of long holidays this month in a bid to boost tourism and reduce the financial burden on travellers. Free parking will be allowed for Asanha Bucha and Buddhist Lent, from midnight on July 12 to midnight July 18 (7 days in total), and on the occasion of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn's

birthday, from midnight on July 27 to August 1 midnight (a total of 6 days). Suvarnabhumi operator Airports of Thailand (AOT) announced on Wednesday that waiving of parking fees at Zone C, which is designated for long-term parking and has a capacity for 718 vehicles, aims to reduce the financial burden for travellers and promote tourism during the holidays. The airport will also provide free shuttle bus services from the parking lot to passenger terminals. The bus leaves every 15 minutes and is available 24 hours a day during the above-mentioned periods.