

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 11 OCTOBER 2021

### **1. FTI wary of oil price surge, baht**

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

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) has asked the government to carefully deal with two key economic issues -- the global oil price surge and baht depreciation -- to avoid a greater burden on the pandemic-plagued economy. Higher oil prices will increase production costs and the price of goods, while a sluggish economy will partly affect the baht's value, according to the FTI. The Energy Policy Administration Committee resolved on Oct 4 to put a cap on diesel prices of 30 baht per litre starting today until the end of the month to help reduce living costs for consumers. "Global oil prices are on the rise, which affects retail prices for oil and gas. The government should carefully deal with this issue," said Supant Mongkolsuthree, chairman of the FTI.

### **2. Thailand gets WHO stamp of approval for job standards**

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

Thailand's National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for vaccines was given a Maturity Level 3 mark – the second-highest in the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s classification system. The classification was announced on August 27 by Dr Marieangela Simao, assistant director-general to WHO's Access to Medicines and Health Products, at the virtual International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) held between September 20 to 24. Government spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkonghchana explained that evaluation is based on the quality, safety and effectiveness of vaccines distributed in a country. Thailand getting the third level means its vaccine supervision system is stable and integration work systematic.

### **3. Bangkok's Khlong Ong Ang walking street open every weekend from Oct 15**

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

In a bid to generate income for locals and boost tourism, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has decided to make the Khlong Ong Ang walking street accessible every weekend from October 15. The street will be open to tourists every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 3pm to 8pm, Bangkok governor Aswin Kwanmuang said. He added that the market will operate under strict control measures, including getting all vendors to undergo a weekly Covid-19 test. They will also be required to clearly display their identification and test results.

#### **4. Thailand Pavilion a huge draw at World Expo 2020**

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

The Thailand Pavilion at Dubai's World Expo 2020 is so popular that it attracts up to 8,000 visitors daily and there are usually long queues at the food counter. Government spokesperson Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana said this has pleased Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha immensely and he is confident that the Thai economy will recover quickly post-pandemic. The World Expo 2020 is being held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from October 1 to March 31, 2022. It was initially scheduled for October 20, 2020 to April 10, 2021, but had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **5. Big money sandbox hastens reopenings**

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

The government is set to reopen five more provinces to foreign tourists next month after the Phuket sandbox pulled in more than 2 billion baht during the past three months. Government spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana said yesterday Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has hailed the success of the sandbox scheme. The Phuket sandbox, which was launched on July 1, was followed by Samui Plus and the Phuket Extension, all of which had contributed 2.33 billion baht to the economy as of Sept 27, he said. As of last Thursday, a total of 43,026 foreign tourists have visited the island province and 779,502 nights of room bookings between July and February next year were made, he said.