

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 22 JUNE 2022

1. Bangkok ranked second best city for digital nomads

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

Bangkok is the world's second best city in which to work as a digital nomad because of its mix of accommodation, WiFi spots, transport and cuisine, according to a new study by the UK-based flexible working solutions provider The Instant Group. The study revealed Bangkok was only surpassed by Lisbon, Portugal in the rankings. Bangkok's impressive position was attributed to delectable local food, the availability of over 15,000 high-speed WiFi spots, stellar transport options as well as the cheapest accommodation available globally, averaging £27 (1,174 baht) a night for an Airbnb. Key factors for flexible nomadic workspaces are affordability, weather, broadband speed, scenery and transport, with Bangkok scoring well in all these categories.

2. Cabinet approves 8 moves to ease living cost crisis from fuel price

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

The Cabinet on 21 June approved a new round of eight measures to soften the impact of rising fuel prices on people's cost of living from July to September. Existing measures scheduled to expire on June 30 will be extended and new ones added, said Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. Prayut said the government was doing its best to relieve hardship, especially for poor people and businesses, adding that he did not expect the fuel-price crisis to end soon. He also asked government agencies to prepare long-term plans to deal with the rising oil price's impact on energy and food prices.

3. Thailand successfully negotiates trade deal with EFTA

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

After more than 20 years of trying, the Commerce Ministry finally succeeded in negotiating a free trade pact with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). EFTA, an intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, was set up in 1960 for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between members. Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit met foreign and trade ministers from the four countries for lunch on 20 June at a restaurant in the Icelandic town of Borgarnes. "Senior EFTA executives have been invited to an official meeting in Thailand from June 28-30 to further discuss free trade agreements as well as future socio-economic development projects

between Thailand and EFTA members,” Jurin said. “We expect the free trade negotiations to be completed within two years.”

4. Foreigners shooting films in Thailand won't be taxed for next five years

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

Foreign actors shooting movies in Thailand will be exempted from paying tax for the next five years in a bid to attract filmmakers to Thailand and boost the country's soft power. Deputy government spokesperson Ratchada Thanadirek said the Cabinet approved the move on 21 June. Income from foreign filmmakers has increased significantly, from an average 3.5 billion baht per year during 2017-2020 to 5 billion baht in 2021, she said. “The government already has a measure to promote movie shooting in Thailand by providing a cash rebate of 20 per cent of what filmmakers spend in Thailand, capped at 75 million baht,” said Ratchada.

5. IKEA plans to open region's first city store on Sukhumvit

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

IKEA, a Swedish home furnishing brand, is scheduled to open its first Southeast Asian urban store in Bangkok by the end of next year. Leonie Hoskin, retail manager of IKEA Thailand and Vietnam, said the company had rented 12,000 square metres on the third floor of the EmSphere retail complex with a 25-year lease, in order to open its first city store on Sukhumvit Road. “We chose the Sukhumvit location because it is an iconic neighbourhood widely known not only to local customers, but also foreigners,” she said. “It comprises 300,000 households within just a 5-kilometre radius, and Sukhumvit is within walking distance from the BTS and MRT. This fantastic location will bring IKEA very close and more accessible to many people. It will strengthen The EM District, a world-class business and lifestyle destination.” IKEA Sukhumvit plans to hire 200 employees, providing a complete range of room sets, the market hall, self-service counters, and an IKEA restaurant similar to those offered at its existing stores in Bang Yai and Bang Na.