

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 5 OCTOBER 2022

1. Apec summit in Bangkok a ‘golden chance’ to tackle Russia-Ukraine conflict: Don

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

Speaking to Krungthep Turakij newspaper, Don said that as the Covid-19 pandemic subsides, the world is facing fresh challenges from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, most notably food shortages and an energy crisis. November’s three international meetings in Southeast Asia are a crucial opportunity for countries to address these problems, he added. World leaders will gather at the Asean Summit in Phnom Penh, the G20 Summit in Bali and the Apec Economic Leaders’ Meeting in Bangkok. Apec member Russia has been hit with severe economic sanctions by other members of the trade bloc, including the US, over its invasion of Ukraine. May’s Apec summit in Thailand ended without a customary joint statement after five members staged a walkout in protest against Russia’s invasion.

2. ERC preps rules for clean energy providers

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

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) is preparing to select companies qualified to sell "clean electricity" to the government under its plan to bolster renewable energy supply in Thailand. Authorities are drafting selection criteria after the state plan to buy electricity from companies produced from renewable sources passed a public hearing held in early July. Khomgrich Tantravanich, secretary-general of the ERC, said state grid operators will buy electricity from licensed companies to develop renewable energy power plants, with combined generation capacity of 5.2 gigawatts, during the period 2022-2030. Authorities expect to receive proposals from companies during November and December, announcing a list of all qualified participants in January next year. The companies will be screened again, with the result set to be announced during May to June. Selected companies are expected to start commercial operations of their power plants between 2024 and 2030.

3. 6m foreign visitors so far this year

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

More than 6 million internationals visited Thailand this year with a 90% surge last month alone when compared to average figures, according to officials. From Jan 1 to Sept 1, the country welcomed 6.01 million visitors, a figure slightly higher than the Tourism Authority of Thailand's goal of 6 million, TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn said on Sunday. Of that,

Mr Yuthasak said most were Malaysians with 972,699 visitors, followed by 561,656 Indians, 410,563 Lao, 311,567 Singaporeans and 309,034 Cambodians.

4. Royal Cliff Hotel CEO calls for more government assistance to boost tourism

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

Royal Cliff Hotels Group CEO Vitanart Vathanakul said the Eastern Economic Corridor policy to promote Chachoengsao, Chonburi and Rayong as world-class tourist destinations would help attract foreign investment. He added that some of the the government's policies, such as Long Term Residency (LTR) visa personal income tax waiver, also would help attract foreign investors to eastern provinces. "Some foreign investors also took the opportunity to hold conferences in the eastern provinces, especially in Pattaya City," he said.

5. Tourism officials keen on central Asia

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

The Tourism and Sports Ministry is looking to new markets in Central Asia, particularly Kazakhstan, as post-Covid trends show strong demand for international tourism. Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakan said Central Asia, including several countries that were part of the former Soviet Union, has potential as a new market for inbound tourism because of short flight times of no more than seven hours and 30 minutes. In particular, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have higher potential for economic growth than other nations in the region. Popular destinations include Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and neighbouring countries within the CIS. Tourists from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are eligible to apply for visas on arrival from October this year to March next year for 30 days, up from 15 days previously.