

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 4 JANUARY 2022

1. Executives envision 2022 outlook

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

While 2021 was full of unexpected challenges from the pandemic, the Bangkok Post has turned an eye towards what 2022 might have in store for Thailand's business sphere. Our team of business reporters spoke with influential industry leaders across the economy, including banking, aviation, telecommunications, agriculture, hospitality, energy, online retailing and property. Some of the highlights are the interview with the chief executive of Thailand's largest private company Charoen Pokphand, and a discussion with tech visionary Jirayut Srupsrisopa, whose fintech company became the first of its kind to reach "unicorn" status in Thailand.

2. Cabinet approves 2.7% hike in budget for 2023 fiscal year

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

The cabinet on Tuesday approved a 3.185 trillion baht budget for the 2023 fiscal year, a government spokesman said in a statement. The budget was 2.74%, or 85 billion baht, higher than the previous year, spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana said. Thailand's 2023 fiscal year begins in October 2022 and ends in September 2023.

3. Test & Go to remain on ice for month

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

The government is to consider further delaying the resumption of the Test & Go scheme until the end of this month following the spike in Omicron cases in the country. Deputy Prime Minister and Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said that concern over the global Omicron outbreak previously prompted the government to originally suspend the entry of both Thais and foreign arrivals until today. However, Omicron infections have been detected among prior arrivals, he said.

4. Tourism Ministry eyes sandbox schemes for other tourist islands

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

We need a new campaign to attract foreigners who cannot enter Thailand under the Test & Go scheme until at least next month," Tourism and Sports Minister Pipat Ratchakitprakan said on Monday. The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) will evaluate the Test & Go scheme at the end of January after it was suspended on December 21 to curb the spread of the highly transmissible Omicron variant. The Test & Go scheme allows fully

vaccinated travellers to enter Thailand without having to quarantine and the CCSA was scheduled to reevaluate the suspension on January 4.