

## Thai News Update: 1 April 2021

### **1. Govt lures wealthy foreigners**

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

The government has set a "proactive economic plan" aimed at drawing at least 1 million high-income foreign tourists and foreign investors in the new S-Curve industries as part of efforts to free the country from the middle income trap. Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow said that a meeting of the Centre for Economic Situation Administration (CESA), chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, approved last Friday in principle a plan to promote investment and tourism for a post-pandemic economic recovery. Concerned agencies have been given one month to present details of the plan before the next meeting of the CESA, he said.

### **2. Operators banking on Songkran**

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

Hotel and airline operators have high hopes the upcoming Songkran celebration will revive sluggish tourism sentiment as the second wave of the pandemic wanes. Thirayuth Chirathivat, chief executive of Centara Hotels and Resorts, said forward booking for the Songkran week has been outstanding for the whole month, even though it pales in comparison to 2019 levels. Bangkok, Pattaya, Hua Hin and beach destinations such as Phuket already received more than 70% forward booking. He said those hotels might be fully booked between April 11-14, despite the lack of a subsidy campaign from the government, which has yet to start the new phase.

### **3. CAAT seeks 20,000 vaccine doses for aviation staff before country reopens in July**

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

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) has asked the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration to allocate 40,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine so that aviation staff can be inoculated by July. "The vaccine will be given to approximately 20,000 aviation personnel, who are expected to come into close contact with foreign tourists when selected provinces reopen starting this July," CAAT chairman Suttipong Kongpool said on Thursday. The Centre for Economic Situation Administration last week approved the Phuket "tourism sandbox" programme proposed by the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

#### **4. TAT releases new video abroad to attract foreigner tourists**

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) broadcast its latest TV commercial “Wait No More” in foreign countries under the concept of “Amazing Moments, Amazing Thailand”. The 30-second video aims to promote Thailand as a top travel destination for foreign tourists who have been waiting to escape the stressful health situation in their home countries due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The video portrays Thailand’s “amazingness” from dawn till dusk, from underwater to the sky, from the calmest moments to the most exciting ones, and the range of delicious Thai cuisine from street food to local Michelin Star restaurants.

#### **5. You can now renew your driver’s licence 6 months before it expires**

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

The Department of Land Transport (DLT) has extended the period in which people can apply to renew their driver’s licence, from three months before it expires to six months, director-general Jirut Wisanjit said. “This extension will cover a driver’s licence for personal vehicles, tractors, steam rollers and public vehicles,” he said. “The move aims to reduce crowding at branch offices as the number of people wanting to renew their licences has been climbing.” The department will also extend the validity period of the online training course via [www.dlt-elearning.com](http://www.dlt-elearning.com) from 90 days to six months since the day the candidate finishes the course.