

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 10 JUNE 2021

1. Govt targets 3m foreign tourists this year

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

Thailand is targeting three million foreign tourists this year, tied to a phased reopening to vaccinated visitors later this year, the state tourism agency said on 9 June. The target is lower than the four million tourists projected by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) in April, when the country's biggest coronavirus outbreak so far emerged. After launching a mass vaccination campaign on Monday, the country will allow inoculated foreign tourists to visit Phuket island without a quarantine next month in a pilot scheme before reopening nine other provinces in October, after a year of tight entry restrictions.

2. S. Korea seeks travel bubbles with Thailand, other countries

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

South Korea is eyeing travel bubble agreements with Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, Guam and Saipan. The South Korean Culture, Sports and Tourism Ministry said on 9 June the government is seeking travel bubble agreements with Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, Guam and Saipan that will allow group trips as early as July for fully vaccinated people. Under the proposal, the bubbles would be limited between Incheon airport and a designated airport in the second country. It would mark the first step in the recovery of South Korea's tourism and airline markets, the ministry said. The government has been in talks with Singapore and Taiwan to sign such exclusive travel partnership and plans to add locations like Thailand, Guam and Saipan, Pulse reported

3. Mass vaccine rollout pushes Thailand up in Asean ranking

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

Thailand has now risen to the third spot among Asean countries that have administered the highest number of Covid-19 jabs, Chulabhorn Royal Academy secretary-general Dr Nithi Mahanonda said in a Facebook post on Wednesday. As of June 9, more than 60 million Covid-19 jabs had been administered in Asean countries. In terms of jabs delivered, Asean countries are ranked as follows: Indonesia: 30,155,028 • The Philippines: 6,314,548 • Thailand: 5,443,743 • Cambodia: 5,005,585 • Singapore: 4,392,067 • Malaysia: 3,790,121 • Myanmar: 2,994,900 • Vietnam: 1,354,856 • Laos: 1,034,588 • Brunei: 58,450

4. House approves B500bn Covid-loan decree

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

An executive decree allowing the government to borrow 500 billion baht for Covid-19 assistance, treatments and research was approved by the House of Representatives on 9 June. MPs voted 270-196 to pass the decree, with two abstentions and one member deciding not to vote. It allows the Finance Ministry to raise 500 billion baht, but loan contracts must be signed by Sept 30 next year, according to Finance Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith. About 30 billion baht is earmarked to buy medical supplies, drugs and vaccines, and for research and the development of vaccines.

5. E-service effort gets underway

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

The Commerce Ministry is moving ahead with its e-service development effort, allowing traders of nine key agricultural products to seek permission online to move farm goods. Wattanasak Sur-iam, director-general of the Internal Trade Department under the Commerce Ministry, said the department has developed and rolled out an online system for issuing permission to move nine imported agricultural products within the country. The nine products are garlic, onion, palm oil, fresh cassava and cassava chips, maize, mature coconut, white coconut meat and dried coconut meat, paddy rice, as well as wheat and barley used as raw materials for feed meal agricultural products.

6. Phuket seeks funds for app to track foreign tourists

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

Phuket is seeking funds and technical support from the government to develop a mobile application to track tourists visiting the island from next month under the Phuket Sandbox tourism reopening programme. The app will be connected to the database systems of state agencies, including the local immigration, labour and public health offices, to provide a Covid-19 surveillance system, provincial governor Narong Wunsiew said on 9 June. The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) predicts 129,000 foreign tourists will visit Phuket in the next three months, he said, adding the province has also asked the TAT to attract Thai tourists to Phuket as well.