

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 12 JULY 2022

### **1. Thai tourism sector booming again after Test & Go, Thailand Pass lifted**

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

Thailand has seen as many as 2.21 million foreign tourists in the first half of this year thanks to the scrapping of the Test and Go and Thailand Pass schemes. Citing the Tourism and Sports Ministry's data from January 1 to July 6 this year, government spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana said on Sunday that most visitors came from India (249,466), Malaysia (277,146), Singapore (137,739), the United Kingdom (128,369) and the US (112,791).

### **2. BoT sees tourist arrivals rising to 8m**

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

Foreign tourist arrivals could reach 8 million this year after recording higher numbers over the past few months, says the governor of the Bank of Thailand. The number of foreign travellers entering Thailand has risen to around 30,000 per day. If the increase in numbers continues until the end of this year, international tourist arrivals for 2022 could reach 8 million, higher than the central bank's forecast of 6 million, Sethaput Suthiwartnarueput, governor of the Bank of Thailand, said yesterday at a seminar on the economic outlook in the South. According to the central bank's economic data in May, there were 1.31 million foreign tourist arrivals during the first five months of this year. The numbers for May alone surged to 521,410, from 293,350 in April and 210,836 in March.

### **3. CRC allots B30bn for Vietnam strategy**

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

Central Group, Thailand's largest retail conglomerate, plans to invest 30 billion baht in Vietnam during 2022-26 to boost its sales in that country to 100 billion baht over the next five years from 38.5 billion baht last year. With such a spending allocation, Olivier Langlet, chief executive of Central Retail Vietnam, said the company also aims to double the contribution of omnichannel sales to 15% from 8% at present. The company also aims to become the number one omnichannel platform for food and property in Vietnam and seeks to expand its retail presence to cover 55 out of 63 provinces from 40 provinces now.

#### **4. Thai companies clinch Saudi deals worth THB11.6 billion**

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

Thai companies clinched 352 business deals worth an estimated 11.6 billion baht with Saudi counterparts at a Bangkok business-matching event, the Commerce Ministry said on 11 July. The July 6 event generated instant trade of 130 million baht, with another 11.5 billion baht expected during the rest of this year, according to Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) director-general Phusit Ratanakul Sereeroengrit. Hosted by the DITP and Board of Trade, the event drew representatives from 70 Saudi companies under the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce, most of whom are in the food-and-beverage, construction, healthcare, retail, transport, gem and jewellery industries. “Saudi businesspeople expressed strong interest in ordering more products from Thailand, saying that Thai products are of high quality, meet international standards, and suit the needs of Saudi consumers,” said Phusit.

#### **5. Govt extends ‘Tour Tiew Thai’ co-payment travel subsidy to Oct 31**

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

The “Tour Tiew Thai” travel subsidy has been extended and packages can be booked until October 31 for travel before the end of December. The co-payment scheme sees the government covering up to 40 per cent of the cost capped at 5,000 baht per trip. The subsidy, which aims to boost domestic tourism, will cover 200,000 people. The subsidy is only applicable to Thai nationals above age 18, and they can register via [www.ทัวร์เที่ยวไทย.ไทย](http://www.ทัวร์เที่ยวไทย.ไทย). Packages must be purchased from selected agencies and should be for at least two nights. Benefits under the Tour Tiew Thai campaign cannot be used in conjunction with the “Rao Tiew Duay Kan” (We Travel Together) campaign. As of press time, 65,545 rights had been snapped up, leaving 134,455 up for grabs.