

## Thai News Update: 14 November 2018

### **1. TAT Launches Campaign For Spontaneous Local Trips**

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has launched a new campaign called "Let's go no plan" to encourage Thais to visit second-tier provinces. TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn said the campaign is aimed to boost domestic tourism during the high season until the end of the first quarter in 2019. TAT expects the campaign will help boost revenue for domestic tourism to reach 1 trillion baht for this year as planned.

### **2. Govt Launches New Palm Oil Strategies**

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

The government is rolling out three measures aimed at tackling tumbling palm oil prices, including using it to produce electricity. Speaking after a cabinet meeting on 13 November, government spokesman Buddhipongse Punnakanta said the cabinet took note of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives' proposed measures intended to help shore up palm oil prices. He said 160,000 tonnes of palm oil will be used to produce power in order to reduce the domestic oil glut. The Energy Ministry was asked to proceed with the plan.

### **3. PM To Prioritise Asean Connectivity**

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha vowed on 13 November to push for greater ASEAN connectivity while highlighting Thailand's efforts to ease regulatory processes that could impede the digital and innovation economy to attract businesses and investors. He was speaking in Singapore at the Asean Business and Investment Summit 2018, ahead of the opening of the 33rd Asean Summit. Asean is currently chaired by Singapore but Thailand will take over in January, which the Thai premier described as a "great honour."

#### **4. Cabinet Nod For Tourism Measures**

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

The Cabinet on 13 November agreed in principle to back measures to stimulate Thailand's tourism in the early high season. Tourism and Sports Minister Weerasak Kowsurat said the Cabinet gave the green light for the "Amazing Thailand Grand Sale Passport Privileges" from November 15 until January 15, 2019. The Tourism Authority of Thailand will join the Finance Ministry to set additional special areas at tourism areas or department stores for tourists to facilitate convenient and quick refund of value added tax. Nattaporn Jatusripitak, adviser to the Prime Minister's Office, said that the Cabinet agreed in principle to review and offer relaxation to three types of visas with a two-month pilot period.

#### **5. Thailand 'Seeks Delay' In Asean Summit Next Year**

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

Thailand has proposed to host the first Asean Summit of the year in June instead of April when Bangkok chairs the group in 2019, as the country is worried about a delay in the next general election, sources said on 13 November. It is an obligation of the chair country to host two summit meetings of its leaders, one limited only to 10 members early in the year and another one with partners later in the year. While the Thai Election Commission has denied the possibility of delaying the election tentatively scheduled for February 24, there is the possibility of the poll being held any time between February and May.