

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 15 OCTOBER 2021

### **1. CCSA okays reopening of 15 provinces to welcome back foreign tourists from Nov**

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

A Center for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) meeting on Thursday agreed to reopen 15 more provinces to foreign tourists between November 1 and 30, spokesman Dr Taweasilp Visanuyothin announced. However, certain measures for entering the kingdom may still strictly be in effect, such as requiring every tourist to be fully vaccinated and taking a RT-PCR test. The provinces that are expected to reopen to foreign tourists are: Bangkok, Samut Prakan (Suvarnabhumi Airport) Krabi (the whole province), Phang-nga (the whole province), Prachuap Khiri Khan (Hua Hin, Nong Kae) Phetchaburi (Cha-am) and others.

### **2. 29 foreign companies allowed to invest in Thailand in September**

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

29 foreign companies have been allowed to conduct businesses in Thailand under the Foreign Business Act by Commerce Ministry's foreign business committee in September, said Sinit Lertkrai, deputy commerce minister on 14 October. These foreign companies have invested over 559 million baht in Thailand and generated up to 742 jobs for local people," he said. "Most of these companies are from Japan, Singapore and South Korea respectively." "Allowing more foreign companies to invest in Thailand will help promote knowledge and technology transfers especially in the areas of diesel fuel desulfurization using hydrogen, carrier gas attraction, IT system for hospital, and laboratory statistics analysis," he added.

### **3. Thai-Malay border provinces may reopen in Dec if 70% population jabbed**

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

If the four southern border provinces can vaccinate 70 per cent of their population in time, they may be able to reopen their borders connected to Malaysia from December 1, Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said after a meeting with Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, who visited the provinces to monitor the Covid-19 situation. Phiphat discussed with the Royal Thai Consulate-General of Penang the possibility of including Kedah in a so-called "travel bubble" between Malaysia's Langkawi and Koh Lipe in Satun as ferries can connect the two countries.

### **4. Extravaganza to cost up to B600m**

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

The Tourism and Sports Ministry expects to use a budget of 500-600 million baht to host twin concerts in Bangkok and Phuket after it was confirmed that two prominent artists --

'Lisa' and Andrea Bocelli -- will perform to celebrate the country's reopening. "Bringing both artists to Thailand is beyond economic value, particularly Lalisa 'Lisa' Monaban, the young Thai K-pop singer, who is a huge inspiration for the youth of the country," said Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn. He said both singers have been confirmed to perform in Thailand, with the Italian tenor's performance set to take place in Bangkok at Sanam Luang, with the Grand Palace as the background.

#### **5. Quarantine being lifted, more provinces being opened**

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

There will be no quarantine for fully vaccinated air travellers from five countries from Nov 1, and destinations in more provinces will also be opened to foreign tourists. Taweessilp Visanuyothin, spokesman for the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration, said the CCSA resolved on 14 October to allow in fully vaccinated visitors from Britain, the United States, Germany, Singapore and China if they pass an RT-PCR test before arrival - for an initial period from Nov 1 to Dec 31. Travellers from these five countries were considered as having low-risk of Covid-19 infection. They would not have to quarantine. The number of destinations opened to tourists would also expand from four provinces - Phuket and parts of Surat Thani, Phangnga and Krabi provinces - to 17 provinces of economic significance. This would include all of Bangkok, Samut Prakan (only Suvarnabhumi airport), Prachuap Khiri Khan (Hua Hin district) and all of Krabi and Phangnga, Dr Taweessilp said.