

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 18 AUGUST 2021

1. TAT estimates 2021 tourist revenue at THB625 bn, most from domestic travel

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) estimates total revenue from tourism in 2021 will be THB625.7 billion, most of which, or THB540.7 billion, would come from domestic tourists who are expected to make 100 million trips across the year. The number of total foreign tourists was forecast to be 1.2 million. They are expected to contribute around THB85 billion in revenue to local tourism businesses. “The tourism industry must adapt to the changing behaviour of travellers due to the pandemic,” TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn pointed out on Tuesday. “As the Covid-19 situation in many countries is improving, the competition in the global tourism market in 2022 will be even fiercer,” he predicted.

2. Targets set for new PTT businesses

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

National oil and gas conglomerate PTT Group says it intends to maintain the momentum of its new business development, including electric vehicles (EVs), over the next five years. It wants to have new businesses generate 30% of net profit by 2030, whereas last year the new businesses made up less than 1% of total net profit. PTT expects to produce the first EV in 2023. EV production is among the new businesses under PTT's "Future Energy and Beyond" scheme. Others include life science, energy storage system, artificial intelligence and robotic development, renewable energy and pharmacy.

3. TAT hopes Sputnik V nod will lure Russian visitors

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

Thai tourism hopes to add 500,000 Russian visitors to its 1 million international tourists this year after the Sputnik V vaccine was endorsed for the sandbox programme, says the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT). "Russia was one of our tourism sources with 1.4 million visitors prior to the pandemic. An influx of Russian tourists to Greece and Turkey amid the pandemic proves that there's demand from this market," said TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn. He said the agency made an earlier forecast of 1.2 million international tourists this year, but due to a resurgence of Covid-19 everywhere, the total number may drop to 1 million.

4. China okays longan shipments from 56 exporters

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

China has agreed to buy longan from 56 Thai exporters provided they strictly follow set procedures of cleaning the fruit. The country had initially banned longan imports from 75 Thai exporters because the fruit was found covered in mealybugs. Of the exporters, 66 had been banned in November last year and nine in March this year. Deputy Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Mananya Thaiset thanked China for the decision and hoped Thai exporters will improve their procedures in line with China's requirements.

5. AirAsia joins crowded food market

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

Thailand's online food delivery competition is expected to intensify with Malaysia-based AirAsia Group's launch of the airasia super app and the rollout of its "airasia food" delivery service. The app is operated by airasia digital, the digital arm of the airline AirAsia Group. The news comes as e-commerce giant Shopee is recruiting rider partners for its new food delivery service, called ShopeeFood, to generate new revenue from its large customer database. The service is expected to be launched this quarter. Amanda Woo, chief executive of airasia super app, said airasia food was launched in Bangkok as a new service that caters to people's new-normal lifestyle while supporting local merchants and communities.

6. Cabinet okays Communicable Diseases Act draft amendment

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

The Cabinet on 17 August approved a draft amendment to the Communicable Diseases Act in a bid to enhance measures to effectively combat the outbreak of communicable diseases in either normal or critical situations. Deputy government spokeswoman Traisuree Taisaranakul said the draft amendment was proposed by the Public Health Ministry. She said emergency public health management was added to the draft amendment to separate management in normal conditions away from a critical situation that may affect public order or state security. Traisuree said announcement of a State of Emergency may therefore not be necessary in the future.