

Thai News Update: 18 December 2019

1. Dusit launches gift card for seamless spending at all Thai properties

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

Dusit International, a leading hotel and property development company, has introduced Dusit Gift Card, redeemable for accommodation, dining and spa services at all of its properties in Thailand. Available via dusitgiftcard.com, two versions of Dusit Gift Card are on sales: the Memorable Stay Vacation Card, which ranges in price from Bt4,500 – Bt13,500 and is redeemable for stays of up to three nights with breakfast, and the Ultimate Indulgence Cash Card, which can be loaded with between Bt2,000 – Bt5,000 in credit towards the costs of accommodation, dining and spa treatments.

2. Deputy minister pitches new airport in Nakhon Pathom

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

The private sector will be invited to bid for a contract to build a new 25-billion-baht airport in Nakhon Pathom province, west of Bangkok. Deputy Transport Minister Thaworn Senneam said on 17 December that the demands of air transport keep rising every year, particularly private jets - with about 2,000 now operating in Thailand - and charter flights. Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang airports were already congested. The Department of Airports had conducted a study on building a new airport in Nakhon Pathom, at a cost around 25.45 billion baht, to take the pressure off the main airports and provide added convenience for travellers. He was speaking at a seminar to sound out interest in building the new airport. Mr Thaworn said the airport would require expropriation of about 300 blocks of land, affecting about 200 houses. Residents had already protested against the planned airport.

3. Finance panel okays 7% VAT on products ordered online from foreign countries

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

The Finance Ministry aims to tax online products from foreign countries to provide fair competition to Thai manufacturers. Finance permanent secretary Prasong Poontaneat said the tax reform committee approved the decision to collect 7 per cent value-added tax on goods ordered

online from other counties and also cancel the tax-free status on imported products priced below Bt1,500 to be fair to Thai manufacturers, who produce similar goods and who are charged 7 per cent VAT. The policy is now awaiting the green light from the cabinet. In reply to a question, principal adviser on Customs Control Development Chaiyuth Kumkun said that in the case where personal belongings in a foreign county were sent back to the host via mail, the owner of the belongings would not be taxed.

4. KBank gears up for risks and challenges next year

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

Kasikornbank (KBank) will face the challenge of deceleration in the growth of the global and local economies next year, resulting from the prolonged US-China trade war, said president Kattiya Indaravijaya on December 17. Some countries have already entered into a recession, she said, adding that the bank had estimated all the risks and challenges to come. Another lies in head-hunting for top-notch local and foreign IT experts, especially data scientists and programmers, to enhance its digital banking services. The bank, she said, has continued to seek out these IT geeks. "We visit leading international universities overseas every year to recruit crop of the cream IT students to work for the bank".

5. 'Tourism for All' programme returns for its 2020 edition

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), together with public and private sector partners, has just launched the fourth edition of its campaign "Tourism for All 2020" as a New Year's present for State welfare cardholders and disadvantaged Thais and is collaborating with 58 partners to offer cardholders entry fee discounts to attractions nationwide. The campaign also incorporates the "Dream Travel: Once in a Lifetime" programme, which offers state welfare cardholders who have volunteered to help their communities, including Village Health Volunteers (VHV), Bangkok Health Volunteers (BHV), Civil Defense Volunteers (CDV) and Social Development and Human Security Volunteers (SDHSV) the chance to win free 400 travel packages for their family.