

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 20 JANUARY 2022

1. Thailand's population: 66,171,439

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

The official population of Thailand as of Dec 31, 2021 was 66,171,439, according to an announcement of the central domicile registration office published in the Royal Gazette on 19 January. The announcement was signed on Jan 7 by Thanakom Jongjira, director of the central domicile registration office. Of the whole population, 65,197,783 hold Thai nationality and 973,656 have non-Thai nationality.

2. Minister wants early revival of 'Test and Go' policy for foreign tourists

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

Thailand had started allowing vaccinated international travellers from certain countries from November 1, 2021, exempting them from a lengthy quarantine which had been a mandatory requirement for over a year. The government, however, temporarily suspended Test and Go registrations from December 22 due to the spread of the Omicron strain of Covid-19. Statistics last week, from January 11-14, showed new infections peaking at around 7,000-8,000 people per day. The number of cases would tend to decrease from now, while the death toll was at a steady level, Phiphat said.

3. First Thai rice shipment delivered using Laos-China railway

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

A first shipment 1,000 tonnes of Thai rice has been delivered using the Lao-Chinese railway to Chongqing, marking a new chapter in exports to China, the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry announced on 20 January. Exports of other farm products using the new rail link would follow, Alongkorn Polabutr, adviser to the agriculture minister, said. He said the initial shipment of rice was carried in 20 carriages and had already reached Chongqing. More would follow. The railway, which commenced service early last month, opened the possibility of extending export routes to other Chinese provinces and farther, to Central Asia, East Asia, the Middle East, Russia and Europe.

4. Bangkok showcases 30,000 sunflowers at Rod Fai Park

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

Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's Environment Office has organized the "Bangkok Flora Festival" from January until July of this year as a New Year gift for Bangkok residents and to promote domestic tourism. In January, the festival has been held at Wachirabenchathat Park, also known as Rod Fai Park in Chatuchak district, and features 30,000 sunflowers and

other decorative plants in the 4-rai exhibition area. The second phase of the festival will be held in March at Wanapirom Romkiao Park in Lat Krabang district and will feature spider flowers as the highlight. The third phase will be held in May at Mahakarn Fort Park in Phra Nakhon district. The event will focus on variety of cosmos.

5. Committee finalised for data protection act

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

The committee responsible for spearheading tasks for the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) has been established, unlocking the process ushering in necessary subordinate regulations as the law is set to be fully enforced in June. The first meeting of the Personal Data Protection Committee is expected to take place in early February. The PDPA paves the way for the establishment of the 16-member committee, which has a broad range of powers regarding the promotion and protection of personal data. These include drafting a master plan on personal data protection, issuing notifications or rules for the execution of the act, and advising the cabinet on the enactment or revision of the existing laws to protect personal data.