

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 20 MAY 2022

1. PTT and PTTEP sign an agreement to collaborate on Oman crude oil to ensure Thailand's energy security

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

Mr. Auttapol Rerkpiboon, President and Chief Executive Officer of PTT Public Company Limited (PTT) has presided over the signing ceremony of the Sale and Purchase Contract of Oman crude between PTTT and PTTEP Oman E&P Corporation (POC) and PTTEP MENA Limited. The contract has been signed by Mr. Disathat Panyarachun, Senior Executive Vice President, International Trading Business Unit, PTT, and Mr. Montri Rawanchaikul, Chief Executive Officer, PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP). Mr. Kris Imsang, Chief Operating Officer, Downstream Petroleum Business Group, PTT, also witnessed the signing ceremony.

2. UK, India, Germany top source markets

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

The Covid situation in China, which has some 40 cities under full or partial lockdown, bodes ill for the return of Chinese visitors to Thailand this year. As a result, the UK, India and Germany are the top source markets in 2022 and Thailand is being urged to focus more on domestic and high-spending tourists. "Before the pandemic, China was the driving force for the global outbound tourism industry and the No.1 source market for Thailand and other destinations in Southeast Asia," said Mr Paul Pruangkarn, chief of staff at Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA). "I would assume China will only slowly reopen, most likely starting with domestic interprovincial travel as the first step. Most industry stakeholders agree that Chinese travellers will most likely resume overseas trips in 2023. However, the situation is always evolving," he said.

3. CCSA to mull 'green zone' plan Friday

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

The Ministry of Public Health will on Friday propose new Covid-19 zoning with some provinces to be classified as "green zones", according to its permanent secretary, Dr Kiattiphum Wongrajit. The ministry's proposal to the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) involves the revised zoning of Covid-19 hit provinces only, with surveillance "green zones" added to the current high surveillance "yellow zones" and "blue zones" promoted for tourism in the colour-coded system, he said. Although no further easing of Covid-19 restrictions is proposed by the ministry, the provincial communicable disease

committees in "green zones" can consider further relaxations and what activities may resume, he said.

4. Government to focus on agricultural research for sustainable growth

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

The Agriculture Department plans to establish a research team on economic crop breeding and genomic technologies to ensure the sustainability of Thailand's agriculture. The department would make this proposal during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) ministerial meeting on agriculture and food, director-general Rapeepat Chansriwong said on Thursday. He added that many laboratories need to be improved to boost the country's agricultural potential. "If we have plenty of research centres and laboratories, this business will become sustainable," he said. Rapeepat said the export value of durians since last year was more than THB800 billion, adding that durian is considered Thailand's identity and soft power.