

Thai News Update: 21 October 2020

1. Foreign tourists return after 7 months

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

Thirty-nine Chinese tourists arrived in Bangkok by air on 20 October, marking the return of foreign tourists to Thailand after a seven-month hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. The tourist group from Shanghai, which entered the country under the newly created special tourist visa, will undergo 14 days of quarantine at facilities in the capital before setting off to its destination. Yuthasak Supasorn, governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, said the majority of the tourists, who are allowed to stay in Thailand for a total of 30 days, have voiced their desire to hit the beaches after quarantine ends.

2. THA touts expat discounts

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

The Thai Hotels Association (THA) is introducing a stimulus campaign targeting expatriates by offering a 1,000-baht discount on 5,000 room nights and urging the government to move an existing domestic campaign onto e-commerce platforms. Marisa Sukosol Nunbhakdi, THA president, said the campaign is a bid to support the hotel industry during the tough economic situation, particularly after the debt moratorium ends in October. The hotels in the new Expat Travel Bonus programme include THA members who have hotel licences and meet Amazing Thailand Safety and Health Administration Hygiene Standards.

3. Govt aims to honour climate change pact

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

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will submit the country's first-ever climate change draft to the cabinet for approval by the end of this year. The document is being drafted by official experts at the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (Onep). "The climate change draft will help the country protect the environment and drive the economy," said Environment Minister Varawut Silpa-archa. The purpose of the new law, said Mr Varawut, was to help the government and related sectors meet the goals it supported with the Paris Accord of 2016. That agreement requires participant countries to take measures to limit the rise in global temperatures to no more than two degrees Celsius.

4. 10 international airlines selling flights to Thailand

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

Ten international airlines have started selling tickets to Thailand and the first group of special tourists is landing in Bangkok today (October 20), the Transport Ministry said. All foreign arrivals will be required to follow procedures set by the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration, including a mandatory 14-day quarantine in alternative state quarantine (ASQ) facilities. The airlines selling tickets to Thailand are Emirates, Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways, Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa, Swissair, Austrian Airlines, EVA Air and KLM.

5. Ministry builds database to ensure equal opportunities for disabled people

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

The Social Development and Human Security Ministry is building a database of disabled persons in Phitsanulok province, so they are covered by state welfare and can participate in career development schemes, Minister Chuti Krairiksh said recently. The project, developed in collaboration with the Public Health Ministry and Naresuan University, will cover more than 30,000 people in the province. The aim of the scheme is to ensure all disabled people have equal opportunities, the minister said.