

Thai News Update: 23 March 2021

1. Phuket to submit reopening plan

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

Phuket will submit its reopening plan to the Centre for Economic Situation Administration (CESA) for approval this Friday in a bid to let inoculated tourists visit without quarantine in July, while Samui also hastened the reopening process with a sealed model. Yuthasak Supasorn, Tourism Authority of Thailand governor, said the reopening plan, known as the Phuket Tourism Sandbox, will depend largely on vaccine allocation to the Andaman island as it must achieve herd immunity by inoculating 70% of the population before letting foreign visitors in by that date. The plan, to be submitted to CESA on March 26, will include a vaccination proposal, indicating the number of doses needed and the timeline of inoculation that will be suitable for a safe reopening

2. Thai shop weaves world's biggest bamboo hats

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

Sukhothai residents have found a new way to stay cool in the blistering heat of Thai summer. Local shop Thai Chana Suek has fashioned what it says are the world's largest hats made from bamboo. The remarkable headgear measures 2 metres in width, offering plenty of shade for the wearer – and even a few friends. Worawut Inkhamma, owner of Thai Chana Suek, explained that the products were probably the biggest hats people can wear. Each took around one day to weave and sew. The price tag is Bt1,600.

3. Grab joins AIS, TikTok for vendor perks

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

Super app Grab has joined hands with leading mobile operator Advanced Info Service (AIS) and short video-sharing social network TikTok to provide incentives for online vendors under the GrabExpress Sellers Club project as part of its strategy to tap into the social commerce boom. "We've seen the growth of the social commerce business in Thailand with a stream of new entrepreneurs," said Chantsuda Thananitayaudom, country marketing and partnership head of Grab Thailand. Grab provides instant parcel delivery service under GrabExpress, which mainly targets two groups: office workers and social commerce vendors. GrabExpress competes with Lalamove and Skootar in this lucrative segment.

4. New LG duolcool ac cools 40% faster for 70% less energy

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

LG Electronics (Thailand) Co., Ltd., the global leader in inverter technology for residential air-conditioners, has rolled out its new line-up of LG DUALCOOL air-conditioners, with Dual Inverter Compressor. The new range boasts up to 70% lower energy consumption and 40% faster cooling performance than previous models. Furthermore, LG has also introduced the ground-breaking UVnano technology to the new selection, which sterilises 99.99% of bacteria and viruses that can build up within air-conditioning units. The powerful 5-step Total Air Care System in the new LG DUALCOOL air-conditioner, features an efficient PM1.0 filtration to deliver a healthy and fresh living environment. For greater convenience, the air-conditioners also support connectivity with the LG ThinQ™ application, which enables users to control the air-conditioner anywhere, anytime through Wi-Fi and Thai language voice commands. In introducing the new LG DUALCOOL air-conditioners line-up, LG is looking to increase its share in the Thai inverter market to 15% by the end of 2021.

5. Ministry, Microsoft boost Thais' digital skills

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

The Labour Ministry has joined forces with Microsoft Thailand to help Thai workers acquire essential digital skills as the country heads into the new digital age. Deputy Labour Minister Narumon Pinyosinwat said yesterday the collaboration was due to concerns that the Thai workforce needed to retrain and reskill to meet more demands in the wake of advanced technology development and disruption. The deal will enable workers to acquire digital skills in line with government policy to help people maximise their job opportunities. Ms Narumon said the ministry was also working to address the problem of the so-called "digital divide" and provide more people with inexpensive WiFi connections.