

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 24 JUNE 2021

1. Phuket tipped to receive 6% more visitors

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

Phuket International Airport is ready to welcome international tourists under the island's "sandbox" scheme due to start next month and cope with a 6% increase in air traffic, Aeronautical Radio of Thailand Ltd said on 23 June. Despite the likelihood that air traffic at the airport will drop by 45% during this fiscal year to only around 339,340 flights due to Covid-19, traffic is expected to rebound a little once the Phuket sandbox scheme kicks off on July 1, the state agency's executive vice-president, Tinnakorn Chuwong said. At least five more flights will arrive at Phuket airport each day, bringing the total daily number to 80 flights per day, or a 6% increase on current daily air traffic, he said. "The heavier air traffic is not beyond our capacity, since during a normal period, Phuket airport has up to 350 flights per day," he said.

2. Marriott Bonvoy Invites International Travelers to Phuket

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

With 'Phuket Sandbox' due to launch on 1 July 2021, nine SHA Plus-certified Marriott Bonvoy properties prepare to welcome back guests with "Summer Dreaming" promotion. Marriott Bonvoy, Marriott International's extraordinary portfolio of 30 hotel brands, award-winning loyalty program, and endless experiences today introduces the "Summer Dreaming" offer. The offer is available across a choice of nine hotels and resorts¹ in Phuket, covering eight world-renowned brands to celebrate the return of cherished international guests from 1 July 2021. International guests who have been dreaming of visiting Phuket for the last 15 months will soon be able to return to the "Pearl of the Andaman" following the launch of the 'Phuket Sandbox' program. Under this important initiative by the Government, overseas travelers can fly direct to Phuket, stay quarantine-free in world-class hotels and resorts, and soak up the blissful ambiance.

3. TCC upbeat on prospects as foreign tourists set to arrive

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

The chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC), Sanan Angubolkul, is feeling upbeat about the country's economic prospects after the government on June 16 announced its plan to reopen the country to international tourists and return to normal business conditions within 120 days or by mid-October. He predicted the reopening will help draw foreign tourists back to the country and provide a boost to the country's economy by 0.3 percentage points this year.

Speaking at a seminar titled "Empowering Thailand 2021", Mr Sanan said the country's reopening will allow the tourism sector to resume operations and lure international tourists, resulting in spending worth about 50-100 billion baht between October and December this year.

4. Thailand pushes cooperation on jobs, "green development" at China's Belt and Road summit

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

Foreign Minister and Deputy PM Don Pramudwinai arrived at Wednesday's online "Asia and Pacific High-Level Conference on Belt and Road" armed with two key documents outlining Thailand's cooperation with hosts China. On 20 June, the Cabinet approved drafts on the "Barrier Partnership and Pathways on Cooperation on Covid-19 Vaccines" and the "Initiative on Belt and Road Partnerships and Road on Green Development". The documents informed discussions on the conference's theme: "Promoting cooperation in the fight against the epidemic for sustainable recovery". The Foreign Ministry said the first document expressed intentions to promote cooperation on Covid-19 vaccines by encouraging governments and vaccine manufacturers to help developing countries through donations or exports at affordable prices, making vaccines a public commodity.

5. MEA teams up with EGAT and SRT in EV drive to achieve a clean-energy city and economic restart

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

In a major move towards creating a clean-energy city and restarting the economy with electric vehicles (EV), Bang Sue Origin Power Station and Chatuchak Substation officially commenced operation on 21 June 2021. A collaboration between the Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA), Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), and State Railway of Thailand (SRT), the opening ceremony was presided over by senior representatives of each entity, namely, MEA Governor Mr. Kirapat Jiamset, EGAT Governor Mr. Boonyanit Wongrukmit, and SRT Deputy Governor, Administration, Mr. Awirut Thongnest. The purpose of Bang Sue Origin Power Station and Chatuchak Substation is mainly to ensure smooth electric transmission for Bang Sue Grand Station and Commuter Train System Project (Red Line). The establishment will also accommodate usage by other EVs in Bangkok and perimeter areas.

6. CP takes on climate change, vows to be carbon neutral

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

The Charoen Pokphand Group (CP) has joined global efforts to accelerate its work in tackling the global climate crisis. Representatives of the group, led by Chief Executive Officer

Suphachai Chearavanont, recently participated in the United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit 2021 via virtual conference. According to CP, Mr Suphachai took part in the main plenary session where he shared his vision of the private sector's role in achieving the goal of net zero emissions.