

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 27 APRIL 2022

1. Vaccine passports likely to replace Thailand Pass

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

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said on 26 April that his ministry was considering replacing the current Thailand Pass system with a vaccine passport for screening foreign arrivals. He was speaking at the opening ceremony of Thailand MICE Day 2022 at Bangkok's IconSiam shopping complex. Hosted by the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau, the event aims to promote meetings, incentive travel, conventions and exhibitions in the country after the Test & Go system for foreign arrivals ends on April 30. "Vaccine passports are an international standard used to screen foreign arrivals based on each visitor's vaccination history. We could use this to replace Thailand Pass," Anutin said.

2. Govt 'will not legalise' e-cigarettes

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

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul insists the Public Health Ministry will not support legalising electronic cigarettes in the country. He made his remark on 25 April during a meeting with board members of the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth) to discuss tobacco control. Mr Anutin, in his capacity as chairman of the ThaiHealth board, said he has noticed e-cigarettes trending among teenagers and some of them are aiming to have sales legalised. "The ministry will not support the legalisation of e-cigarettes," he said. To help boost e-cigarette control, Mr Anutin said he has assigned a tobacco control panel under the Department of Disease Control (DDC) to review current regulations to determine whether they should be revised or new rules should be issued.

3. Fresh durian rail cargo on way to China

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

A large batch of durians worth 75 million baht is on its way by train to China via Laos, according to the State Railway of Thailand (SRT). It is the second shipment to be sent after the first failed to pass Covid-safety inspections on April 14 and had to be sent back, prompting the Commerce Ministry to call for more thorough oversight on exporting produce to ensure it is free of risk and all safety standards are met. A total of 425 tonnes of durians harvested in Rayong, Chanthaburi and Trat were loaded onto a train at Map Ta Phut industrial estate in Rayong province on Monday. The train was heading to Laos' Thanalaeng station in Laos' capital, Vientiane, via Nong Khai. From Vientiane, the durians will be

transferred to another train destined for China. The durians, valued at 75 million baht, were being delivered in 25 freight carriages.

4. Thai and Chinese experts seek closer bilateral cooperation on fintech

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

A group of Thai and Chinese experts, academics and entrepreneurs made a strong case for enhancing mutual support and collaboration to improve the fintech industry and help sustain growth in the digital economy era. Ben Shenglin, dean of Zhejiang University International Business School, said during his opening speech that fintech is playing an increasingly major role in the current economy. In these few years, both government and private sectors from China and Thailand have progressively built the system and infrastructure needed for the development of the digital economy. Fintech is one of those efforts. However, to sustain the growth of fintech, there is more work to be done to improve the overall ecosystem including technology, innovation, security and regulation. And one of the key success factors is more deep collaboration and data sharing between countries, he said.