

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 6 AUGUST 2021

1. Foreigners in Thailand can now book their first Covid-19 jab

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

Foreigners living in Thailand can now register for their first Covid-19 jab via the Foreign Ministry's expatvac.consular.go.th website or via the Public Health Ministry's thailandintervac.com site. The Department of Information said the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration has earmarked 150,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine donated by the US for foreign residents. Foreigners of all ages can register for a jab, though the elderly, pregnant women and people with chronic diseases will be given first preference. The Public Health Ministry has said it will announce guidelines for foreign students and athletes later.

2. Google, PTT named top employers among new Thai graduates

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

Universum, a global thought leader in “employer branding”, shared its findings in Thailand’s recruitment market and career aspirations of the country’s future workforce. According to the study, tech giant Google was the No 1 employer of choice for business/commerce students, while PTT gained top position as an ideal employer among engineering students. Hospitality, retail industries remain popular. The most attractive employer among business/commerce students was Google, followed by the Stock Exchange of Thailand and entertainment giant GMM Grammy. The fourth spot was taken by duty-free retailer King Power. The preferred industries among students remained diverse, with the tourism and hospitality sector coming in first (39 per cent).

3. Aviation authority allows Nok Air to fly from U-Tapao Airport until Aug 18

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

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) has allowed Nok Air Plc to operate five flight routes from U-Tapao Airport in Rayong province until August 18 to facilitate travel of passengers who wish to leave the province, the airline CEO, Wutthiphum Jurangkool, said on Thursday. The CAAT announcement came after the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration had included Rayong in the “dark-red” zone and limited travel to and from the province to curb the Covid-19 outbreak from August 5 onwards. “Nok Air will fly passengers on four routes to and from U-Tapao, namely Chiang Mai, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Udon Thani and Ubon Ratchathani,” he said. “The fifth route from Phuket to U-Tapao will be one way only to comply with the announcement of Phuket’s communicable disease committee.

4. Thailand, Australia mull economic deal

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

Thailand and Australia have agreed to pursue a strategic economic partnership to boost bilateral trade and investment, with the deal expected to be signed next year. Speaking after a teleconference with Dan Tehan, Australia's minister for trade, tourism and investment, Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit said Australia is keen to forge a strategic economic partnership with Thailand in addition to the existing Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement (Tafta), in which most products have import tariffs eliminated. Tafta came into effect on Jan 1, 2005. The agreement calls for the liberalisation of trade in goods, services and investment, as well as cooperation in working out obstacles to trade caused by non-tariff measures, such as restrictive sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and anti-dumping actions.

5. Island-hopping scheme ready for takeoff soon

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

The 7+7 sandbox island extension scheme looks set to launch this month, with registration for certificates of entry (COEs) for inoculated tourists due to be ready on Aug 15. The initiative is an attempt to boost the international tourist market taking part in the Phuket sandbox and Samui Plus schemes. Charintip Tiyaphorn, president of the Tourism Council of Krabi, said the first group of international travellers in the 7+7 scheme who completed seven-day trips in Phuket will travel via boat to Krabi from Aug 22. The "Krabi Even More Amazing" reopening programme comprises Koh Phi Phi, Railay Bay and Koh Ngai, all of which reported few to zero cases of Covid-19, while all local residents have been fully vaccinated. In addition to Krabi, other destinations under the 7+7 island-hopping scheme include Koh Samui, Koh Phangan and Koh Tao in Surat Thani, and Khao Lak, Koh Yao Noi and Koh Yao Yai in Phangnga.