

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 6 JANUARY 2022

### **1. CCSA will be asked to extend sandbox scheme to most main islands**

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

The Tourism and Sports Ministry will ask the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) on Friday to extend the Phuket Sandbox programme. The extension will cover most main islands:

Koh Samui, Koh Pha-ngan, Koh Tao (Surat Thani)

Koh Lan (Chonburi)

Koh Samet (Rayong)

Koh Chang, Koh Kud (Trat)

Koh Yao Noi, Koh Yao Yai (Phang-nga)

Koh Phi Phi (Krabi).

### **2. Ministry keeps inflation average at 1.5%**

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

Despite a sharp rise in the prices of fresh food such as vegetables, pork, eggs, cooking oil, rice and curry, the Commerce Ministry is maintaining its headline inflation forecast in the range of 0.7% to 2.4% (average of 1.5%) this year. Ronnarong Phoolpipat, director-general of the Trade Policy and Strategy Office, said headline inflation is projected to increase in 2022 in line with supply and demand because of the country's economic recovery. Domestic and international demand will be supported by tourism, exports and production, said Mr Ronnarong. Higher demand for energy is another significant factor, while government stimulus packages are expected to help increase the purchasing power of businesses and individuals, he said.

### **3. Thai textile-garment industry weaves magic as export numbers surge**

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

Two of Thailand's economic engines are beginning to roar again after being ravaged by falling foreign demand during the Covid-19 crisis. The textile and garment industries suffered severe impacts in 2020, with 3,000 factories forced to switch to sewing face masks and PPE suits to survive. But the Thai fabric industry turned a corner in 2021 and has now catapulted back to full capacity. In the first 11 months of 2021, Thailand exported 64.8 billion baht of garments and 188.6 billion baht of textiles, Thai Garment Manufacturers Association president Yuttana Silpsarnvitch revealed. Thailand benefited from increased demand for garments from the US due to its trade war with China.

#### **4. TCEB, partners advance plan to tap MICE travellers on 3-nation R3A route**

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

Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) is advancing its collaborations with related parties to turn Thailand into a hub for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS). TCEB, along with the Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA), the Mekong Economic Development Cooperation Institute, the Greater Mekong Sub-region Transport Association (GMS-FRETA) Thailand and Naresuan University have come together again to forge the agenda ahead. They met in full force at the GMS Logistic, Tourism, MICE & Trade Forum 2021 symposium held on 27-28 December 2021 at the Pullman Hotel King Power in Bangkok for the mission.