

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 7 JANUARY 2022

1. SEC eyes tighter control for digital assets

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

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has announced that it will adjust the criteria for digital assets in line with their risks. EC secretary Ruenvadee Suwanmongkok said digital assets are more volatile than other investments due to high interest and also because some digital currencies have no fundamentals. She added that investors should study and understand the technology and risks related to digital assets. To prevent huge losses, she advised investors to work out how much risk they are willing to take and set a budget accordingly.

2. Phuket tweaks sandbox rules

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

Phuket has experienced major problems with its sandbox scheme while the Covid-19 infection rate there keeps rising. Deputy provincial governor Pichate Panaphong said Phuket identified four problems after it opened as a pioneer province to welcome tourists under the Phuket Sandbox scheme. The first was the delay in approving the Thailand Pass among foreign tourists. He said the process should be a one-stop service and operate 24 hours. There should be a round-the-clock call centre to answer foreigners' inquiries. He had submitted the idea to the Interior Ministry asking them to consult the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA). The next issue was a shortage of RT-PCR test facilities. Labs in both the public and private sectors were not enough to handle second RT-PCR tests. Since Jan 4, the province has added five more mobile lab vehicles. It expects to handle up to 1,200 people per day.

3. TAT seeks THB13.2 billion for 4th phase of travel stimulus scheme

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has called on the National Economic and Social Development Council to grant a budget of 13.2 billion baht for the fourth phase of the “Rao Tiew Duay Kan” (We Travel Together) stimulus scheme. Under the scheme, registrants can receive a 40 per cent discount on hotel rooms and restaurants. They will also receive an e-voucher when checking in as well as a 40 per cent discount on the flight when they check out. “We hope the new phase of Rao Tiew Duay Kan will help the domestic tourism industry recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and boost overall tourism revenue,” TAT

governor Yuthasak Supasorn said on Thursday. “The fourth phase of Rao Tiew Duay Kan should be open for registration by February 1.”

4. 7,526 new Covid cases, 19 more deaths

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

Thailand logged 7,526 new Covid-19 cases and 19 more fatalities during the previous 24 hours, the Public Health Ministry announced on 7 January morning. On 6 January, 2,895 Covid-19 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovering from the coronavirus. Since the pandemic started in early 2020, there have been 2,252,776 Covid-19 cases, with 2,188,397 complete recoveries so far. The vast majority of the Covid cases and deaths have occurred since April 1 last year when the third wave of Covid-19 began. The death toll stood at 21,799 since the beginning of the pandemic.