

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 8 APRIL 2022

1. THAI doubles cargo flights to China and India as fruit demand rises

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

Thai Airways International (THAI) said it will more than double its number of cargo flights to China and India next month, as demand for Thai fruit exports rises. In March, THAI Cargo operated a total of 39 flights transporting fruit to the two major export countries. The major destination was Guangzhou, which saw 27 THAI Cargo flights, while four flew to Kunming, and eight from Kunming to New Delhi. The national carrier said that figure will rise to 87 flights next month to meet growing demand from China and India. April will see THAI Cargo operate 58 flights to Guangzhou, 12 to Chengdu, eight to Kunming, and another nine from Kunming to New Delhi.

2. TAT eyes B656bn from domestic travel

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

Domestic tourism receipts for the first quarter this year are expected to tally 135 billion baht from 29.7 million trips, but the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is still aiming for 656 billion baht in revenue from the segment for the entire year. TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn said total domestic revenue in the first three months surged 53% year-on-year from 29.7 million trips, an increase of 73%, mainly attributed to loosening curbs to stem Covid-19 and a higher vaccination rate. However, the TAT still set an ambitious target of 160 million local trips generating 656 billion baht this year as it will try to encourage 52% of locals who remain hesitant about travel to venture out if they are vaccinated with a booster shot.

3. BoI okays new incentives for EV charging stations

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

The Board of Investment (BoI) approved enhanced incentives and conditions on Thursday for investments in charging stations for electric vehicles (EV), a move to accelerate the growth of the domestic EV market and quickly expand related infrastructure. Speaking after a BoI meeting chaired by the prime minister, Duangjai Asawachintachit, BoI secretary-general, said the board agreed to allow smaller charging stations eligibility for three years of tax benefits, an extra incentive on top of the existing five-year corporate income tax exemption now awarded to investment in charging stations with at least 40 chargers, 25% of which are the DC (direct current) type. The revised measures also abolish two requirements: the condition barring investors from receiving additional benefits from other agencies, and the requirement for ISO certification.

4. Centara welcomes Riverside

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

Centara Hotels & Resorts and Chiangmai Riverside Plaza Hotel Co have signed a hotel management agreement for the Centara Riverside Hotel Chiang Mai. Thirayuth Chirathivat, chief executive of Centara Hotels & Resorts, said he welcomed the Centara Riverside Hotel Chiang Mai to his company. "Chiang Mai is a beautiful province, and we are excited to expand our footprint in the region through strategic partnerships, including this one with Chiangmai Riverside Plaza Hotel," he said. Located next to the Ping River, close to the Old Town, the existing 27-storey hotel has been rebranded as the Centara Riverside Hotel Chiang Mai as of April 1, 2022.

5. FTI wants 'Test & Go' scrapped to facilitate more foreign arrivals

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

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) has called on the government to drop all requirements for travellers to Thailand in order to help boost the country's economic recovery. TI chairman Supant Mongkolsuthree on Thursday suggested scrapping the "Test & Go" programme for people entering Thailand. Also, necessary public health measures should be in place so that Covid-19 could be relegated to an endemic from a pandemic, which he said could restore confidence in foreign tourists as well as Thai citizens. An FTI survey showed that the industrial confidence index stood at 89.2 in March, compared to 86.7 a month ago.

6. 28 Thai tycoons in Forbes list of 2,668 world billionaires

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

The World's Billionaires" comprises people with an estimated net worth of over US\$1 billion, the American business magazine said. The richest 28 Thais in the Forbes list are:

1. Dhanin Chearavanont of Charoen Pokphand Group (CP Group) — net worth \$13.5 billion; ranked 137th in the world
2. Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi of Thai Beverage — net worth \$12 billion; 156
3. Sarath Ratanavadi of Gulf Energy Development — net worth \$11.8 billion; 161
4. Sumet Jiaravanon of Charoen Pokphand Group (CP Group) — net worth \$5.3 billion; 509 and others