

## Thai News Update: 8 September 2020

### **1. TAT reworks stimulus terms**

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) plans to rejig the enrolment process for the domestic stimulus campaign to a more friendly version for the elderly, as well as urge airlines to offer special airfares for local tourists. Only 800,000 room nights have been redeemed under the "We Travel Together" campaign from a total of 5 million room nights available. The agency has to adjust to easier methods so more people, particularly the elderly, join the scheme. The more inclusive version being prepared for the next phase will be relaxed, allowing domestic tourists to travel within their home province and extending the time frame from Oct 31 to the end of the year.

### **2. Foreigners whose visas expire on Sept 26 urged to start renewal process early**

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

Immigration officials are worried about problems of overcrowding from residents and stranded foreigners whose visas expire on September 26 seeking renewal, Pol Maj-General Surapong Chaijan, the spokesman for the Immigration Office, said. To reduce congestion, application for visa extension can be submitted at each local Immigration office from now until September 26. The permission date for all visa types will be effective from September 27.

### **3. Krungthai offers new investment opportunities**

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

Krungthai Bank has introduced a new fund that offers both an investment opportunity and health insurance. Krung Thai Happy Health (KTHH) is a mixed fund, with a "fund of funds" strategy. Under this fund, 30 per cent will be spent on foreign stocks, 30 per cent on Thai stocks, 20 per cent on government debentures of between one and three years, 5 per cent on property funds, 10 per cent on Exchange Traded Funds (ETF) and the remaining 5 per cent on gold. Krungthai said the health insurance rate can be adjusted in line with the six plans it provides. This adjustment will not affect investors' net asset value (NAV).

### **4. Banpu Next focuses on technology**

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

Banpu will focus more on energy technology businesses through its new firm, Banpu Next, during the ongoing global economic recession caused by the pandemic. "Energy technology

is becoming a global trend. People will have their own power generation system based on cleaner resources," said Banpu chief executive Somruedee Chaimongkol. Banpu Next, a joint venture between Banpu and its power generation arm Banpu Power (BPP), will serve as an energy solution provider for a range of businesses including electric vehicles (EVs), energy storage systems, energy efficiency management and Banpu's smart city project, which promotes wise use of energy.

#### **5. Sakun C pushes brand awareness in niche customer markets**

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

Sakun C Innovation, the vehicle marketing arm of Thailand's top auto body maker Choknamchai Group (CNG), is planning to make a Thai vehicle brand more internationally recognised through its vehicle assembling technology. This is the time to trumpet a Thai brand after the country has been a global automotive production hub for almost 50 years, CNG founder Namchai Sakunchoknamchai told members of a House committee on energy during their recent visit to his factory in Suphan Buri. Thai auto parts makers are well-known for product quality and cost control, but their supply chain lacks a brand to compete and build a reputation on.

#### **6. Starbucks adds plant-based items to Thai, Asian menus**

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

Starbucks Corp said on 8 September it will add plant-based food and beverages to menus across Asia from September, including products from Impossible Foods, Oatly and Beyond Meat Inc, as it targets more environment-conscious diners. The Seattle-based coffee chain said it was introducing products in markets such as Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Taiwan and Thailand that suit local tastes and preferences. Producing plant-based food and beverages is less demanding on the environment compared with items relying on animal agriculture, which typically needs far more land and water. Starbucks said its new food items will include the Spiced Impossible Puff and Maize Impossible Sandwich in Hong Kong, and Beyond Meat Bolognese Penne in Taiwan.