

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 12 OCTOBER 2022

1. TAT targets 3.8 million medical tourists under 20-year strategy

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

TAT also aims to make Thailand one of the top five countries in the Medical Tourism Index, TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn said. “Thailand was 17th in the index between 2020 and 2021,” he noted, adding the top five countries were Canada, Singapore, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom. Yuthasak expects at least 3.8 million medical tourists to generate 200 billion baht for Thailand in 2037 under the 20-Year National Strategy (2018-2037). “In 2017, Thailand’s medical tourism sector accounted for 38 per cent of all tourists from Asia,” he said, adding that tourists in the medical sector spend two to three times the amount spent by other visitors. TAT has implemented a strategy to attract tourists with high purchasing power, including those for medical tourism. “The road map to promote Thailand to become the world’s medical tourism hub must focus on sustainability in treatment quality, personnel expertise and technology,” he pointed out

2. Consumer confidence at 8-month high in September

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

Thai consumer confidence rose for a fourth straight month in September, reaching an eight-month high, bolstered by improved economic activity following the easing of Covid-19 curbs, according to a survey by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC). The consumer index rose to 44.6 in September from 43.7 in the previous month, the UTCC survey showed. The bonds are part of a planned issue of 130 billion of government savings bonds for the current fiscal year starting in October, Public Debt Management Office (PDMO) director-general Patricia Mongkhonvanit, told reporters.

3. TAT trumpets increase in airline flight capacity

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) remains optimistic about the industry in the final quarter this year and continuing through to next year as flight capacity is increasing. "We are pleased to announce Covid-19 for TAT has also ended," said TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn. He said the foreign market is growing, with the downgrade of Covid-19 to an endemic disease on Oct 1 supporting the recovery. Mr Yuthasak said TAT is working to

bring tourists back, aiming to reach the government's goal to secure 1.5 trillion baht in revenue from 10 million foreign tourists and domestic tourists.

4. Largest goods shipment by rail from Map Ta Phut to China's Chongqing

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

The train transported 25 forty-foot containers carrying thermoplastic granules, shipped via the Laos-Thailand and Laos-China railways through Thanaleng Dry Port in Vientiane, where the two railways link up. Through this new route, cargo that is in transit from Asean could subsequently reach Europe through Chongqing Dry Port and the China-Europe rail network. The freight train, the fifth of its kind, departed Map Ta Phut in Rayong on October 6. The shipment arrived a day later at Na Tha Railway Station in Nong Khai province, where the containers were sealed. On the same day, the shipment entered Thanaleng Dry Port near the first Laos-Thailand Mekong Friendship Bridge, where a cross-border declaration of the shipment was issued and the containers were X-rayed.

5. Foreign currency exchanges by Thai travellers soar 73%

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

The operator of the multi-currency travel wallet reported on 11 October that the significant rise in demand for foreign currency was due to Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong last month lifting travel restrictions and quarantine requirements for international visitors imposed since the Covid-19 pandemic. "The Japanese yen saw the biggest hike in demand from Thai travellers, with a 341 per cent increase, followed by the Australian dollar at 77 per cent and the British pound at 56 per cent compared to August," said YouTrip Thailand founding partner Juthasri Kuvnichkul. Juthasri pointed out that another contributing factor for the rising demand of foreign currency among Thai travellers was the weakening of the baht to 37.5-38 baht to the US dollar – the weakest in 16 years. "Thais will need to exchange more money for their overseas trips to travel and purchase souvenirs," she said.