

Thai News Update: 23 December 2019

1. Trading places: Chengdu's Jinniu District makes a pitch for Thai investment

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

An urban district in Sichuan's Chengdu Municipality, Jinniu is working hard to firm up trade ties with Thailand, recently organizing a conference on the theme "Creating a Southbound Resplendent Glory" at Windsor Suites Hotel Bangkok that brought together more than 40 leading companies from Jinniu and Thailand.

2. Indian visitors to Thailand surges

Source: Vietnam Plus ([Link](#))

Thailand has so far welcomed 1.9 million Indian visitors, meeting the expected growth target of 22 percent for this year and earning 85 billion baht (2.56 billion USD) in revenue. The number of Indian visitors surged after the Thai government decided to extend visa exemption for visitors from 19 countries and territories, including China and India, until April 2020. Chattan Kunjara Na Ayudhya, deputy governor of marketing for Asia and South Pacific at the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), said the TAT plans to beef up this market by leading some 30 operators to participate in the South Asia Travel and Tourism Exchange 2020 in New Delhi next month. In July, it will conduct roadshows in four cities: Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata and Jaipur.

3. New state-of-the-art Thai passports to be issued next year

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

Thailand will start using the latest electronic passports in the middle of the year 2020, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Busadee Santipitaks said. The cover of the new passport has been designed to reflect Thai art and culture. The latest technology is being used to protect personal identities. While the earlier passports used face and fingerprint recognition, the new passport will use the "Iris scan system". Busadee said the time taken to submit a new passport application would not take more than 12 minutes. Five hundred passport service points and 15 temporary passport offices nationwide will be set up.

4. Demo site for waste management opens in Rayong

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

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Varawut Silpa-archa on December 20 presided over the opening of a demonstration site for integrated marine waste management, located at Kodpor Public Park in Rayong province. The minister inspected various areas and witnessed demonstrations, such as non-smoking beach, floating boom, robotic garbage collection, and waste management methods of related authorities and the private sector. He said the garbage issue has always been a priority and the problem should be solved soon.

5. Two new airlines set to take off next year

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

Thai Eastar Jet and Thai Summer Airways -- two new airlines -- are expected to get off the ground next year, according to Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) director-general Chula Sukmanop. Thai Eastar is a joint venture between Thai investors and South Korean carrier Eastar Jet, while the latter is between Thai and China investors. Chula said that Thai Eastar Jet was expected to obtain the CAAT's air operator certificate next month. CAAT is in the process of issuing a certificate to Thai Summer. He added that both carriers could recruit 100 per cent Thai pilots given that CAAT's current Air Operating Licence does not set the ratio of foreign pilots the carriers have to hire.