

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 29 APRIL 2022

### **1. Travel subsidy schemes to be extended by authorities**

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

The remaining 4-billion-baht budget for the hotel subsidy scheme "We Travel Together" is enough for a new phase offering 1 million room nights, according to authorities, and the less popular campaign "Tour Teaw Thai" will be extended until the end of the year. Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) governor Yuthasak Supasorn said that after talks with domestic tourism operators this week, the agency will ask the National Economic and Social Development Council to extend the two stimulus programmes. The fourth phase of We Travel Together ends in May and has recorded average traveller spending of only 1,200 baht per night out of a maximum of 3,000 baht.

### **2. TAT offers virtual ‘Amazing Durian’ experience on metaverse**

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) on 29 April launched a “durian metaverse”, the first of its kind that offers virtual tours of Thai durian orchards and an opportunity to virtually own durian orchards on the metaverse. The launch ceremony for the “Amazing Thailand Metaverse: Amazing Durian” project was held at CentralWorld shopping centre. TAT Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said on Thursday that as Thailand’s tourism industry has been severely hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, his agency saw an opportunity to use digital technology to boost the country’s tourism competitiveness while maintaining the industry’s sustainability.

### **3. Energy Ministry to announce new diesel price structure today as Bt30 price cap ends**

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

The Energy Ministry will announce on 28 April the new price structure for diesel oil that will be come into effect after the ministry ends the THB30 price cap. The Energy Ministry decided to end the diesel price cap at THB30 per litre on April 30 as the Fuel Fund Executive Committee is running out of cash reserves. The Cabinet had resolved to use the Oil Fund to subsidise half of the price above THB30. Currently, the real market price of diesel oil is about THB40 per litre, a source from the Energy Ministry said.

#### **4. Thailand, Bhutan to raise bilateral trade to \$120m**

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

Thailand and Bhutan have agreed to raise bilateral trade to US\$120 million in 2025, with Thailand specifically calling for the support of Thai herbal and traditional medicines. Speaking yesterday in Phuket following the fourth meeting of the Joint Trade Committee between Thailand and Bhutan, led by Minister of Economic Affairs Lyonpo Loknath Sharma, Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit said the meeting discussed six areas of economic and trade cooperation. These areas included the agreement to boost bilateral trade to \$120million in 2025 from \$50 million last year, Thailand's request to facilitate the import and support of Thai herbs and traditional medicines to increase the volume of bilateral trade as well as an extension of handicrafts, cultural arts and tourism cooperation between the countries.