

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 7 OCTOBER 2022

1. Thailand third in 'best country' survey

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

Thailand was ranked third on the "Best Countries in the World" list, while Bangkok ranked second on the "Best Big Cities in the World" list, according to Condé Nast Traveler's Reader's Choice Awards 2022. The US-based magazine conducted an online survey from April 1 through June 30 this year and found that the world's best countries people want to travel to were Portugal, followed by Japan and then Thailand. Singapore was fourth, followed by India, Greece, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Italy and New Zealand in tenth position.

2. Health Ministry to start vaccinating babies, toddlers against Covid next week

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

The Public Health Ministry will start administering anti-Covid vaccines to babies aged six months and all children up to four years old next Wednesday, its permanent secretary said on Thursday. Dr Opas Karnkawinpong said Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul will chair a ceremony on Wednesday to inoculate this youngest group. Disease Control Department (DCD) director-general Dr Tharet Krutnairawiwong said the ministry had so far administered 143 million doses of Covid vaccines to children aged five years and above as well as adults. To cover all of the population, the ministry had decided to administer vaccines to the youngest group who have not being inoculated. Tharet said this group would be given red-cap Pfizer vaccines suitable for kids aged six months to four years old. The first lot of Pfizer vaccines for young kids will arrive on Friday and the Medical Sciences Department will randomly check the vaccines' quality before they are distributed to provincial health offices, he said.

3. Thailand-Laos railway project steams ahead, operations to start in mid-2023

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

During the latest meeting last month with representatives from the Lao National Railway Authority, the neighbouring nation agreed to send train operators, maintenance staff and related officials for training in Thailand, the SRT said. The training is expected to be completed by December, after which both countries will discuss train operations and fees, as well as other related issues. The discussions are expected to wrap up before the scheduled opening date in mid-2023. The project will see the railway linking Nong Khai province to the

Laotian capital of Vientiane, where it will connect the China-Laos railway that runs to Kunming. This stretch went into operation in December last year. The Thailand-Laos-China railway will be a boon for tourists and cross-border trade among the three countries. Under the first phase, the Thailand-Laos rail line will sport four stations – Na Tha and Nong Khai in Thailand along with Thanaleng and Vientiane Khamsavath in Laos.

4. TAT plans new stimulus

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

With local tourism receipts set to fall below the government target of 656 billion baht because of nationwide floods and economic volatility, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) plans to accelerate the use of the fiscal 2023 budget to revive sluggish demand. TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn said a promotional campaign to help absorb travel costs for local tourists is essential because the market is plagued by several unfavourable factors. Moreover, with subsidy schemes such as "We Travel Together" ending this month, some travellers with purchasing power may opt for overseas destinations, limiting domestic revenue and making it likely that the target will be missed, said Mr Yuthasak. He said most domestic tourists typically travel within Thailand on weekends or long holidays, making it unlikely they would spend more even if there were marketing campaigns persuading them to stay longer. TAT will soon outline new projects for the upcoming festive season, which is expected to help revive the market, said Mr Yuthasak.