

## Daily Thai News Updates: 12 September 2017

### **1. PM courts Japanese for investors**

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has urged Japan to ramp up investment in Thailand as ongoing national reforms underscore the importance placed on keeping government policy consistent and transparent in the interest of stability. Gen Prayut was speaking Monday to a gathering of 570 investors from Japan led by Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko. "When you return home, please consider investing [in Thailand] this year. This year, the country is in a transitional period and undergoing reform," Gen Prayut said... Gen Prayut went on to say the government has devised plans to develop the EEC into a series of new economic zones featuring upgraded technology based on an estimated 600 billion baht infrastructure investment plan. The EEC is the government's flagship policy to create special economic zones spanning 30,000 rai in the three eastern provinces of Chon Buri, Rayong and Chachoengsao. It is promoting investment in 10 targeted industries: next-generation cars; smart electronics; affluent, medical and wellness tourism; agriculture and biotechnology; food; robotics for industry; logistics and aviation; biofuels and biochemical; digital; and medical services.

### **2. Giant corporates: Private investment growth driver**

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

2016 was a dismal year for private investment as the figures have been stagnant since 2013. Nonetheless, with positive outlooks for overall economy, it's convincing that private sector will start to invest more, confirmed by recently revised-up figure of private investment growth in 2018 from numerous research houses. Delving further, there are numbers of prophecies which all point to rising momentum in private investment next year. Amid a backdrop of low-probability of trade-protectionism, shining outlooks in global economy especially among Thailand's trading partners such as China, Asean CLMV and Japan, Thai exports should continue to expand at least 4.8 per cent from this year. Robust exports should induce incentives for corporates along supply chains to revamp their manufacturing process and products in order to catch up slews of orders from their clients. Thai firms not only have to invest more but are also ready to spend more capitals. According to financial data of listed firms on Stock Exchange of Thailand, Thai firms are all set

to expand their business as they are sitting on gargantuan free cash flows of around Bt0.5 trillion, twice as much as in 2013. Moreover, their profitability are rising as shown in up-trending return on equity of 11.4 per cent, compared to less than 8 per cent in 2013. Nevertheless, the government are also willing to support and bring more inward investment via mega projects from the Easter Economic Corridor or EEC and infrastructure projects from Public Private Partnership.

### **3. THAI to add services for high season**

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

Thai Airways International Plc (THAI) is set to increase frequencies on its existing popular routes or add new destinations in East Asia and Europe to cope with the expected increase in tourists during the coming high season. Chaoyong Ratanapaisalsuk, vice-president of the network and fleet management department, said more flights or new direct services will be introduced mainly to China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and Vienna during the winter season, starting October. "China is becoming more important for THAI. We plan to operate a direct flight from China to Phuket in October to cope with the high season," Mr Chaoyong said. "The airline is also considering increasing flights from other major cities in East Asia," he added.

### **4. Amazing Thailand to continue in 2018**

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

‘Amazing Thailand Tourism Year 2018’ will be launched on 1 November to support the government’s national tourism development plan highlighting a busy calendar of international events. Thailand’s Deputy Prime Minister General Tanasak Patimapragorn said, “The Amazing Thailand Tourism Year 2018 shows how important tourism promotion is to the Royal Thai Government’s national agenda. “The emphasis is on inclusive tourism, based on the government’s 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan and 2nd National Tourism Development Plan that maintains a balance between the economy, environment and benefits for Thai society. The Amazing Thailand Tourism Year 2018 once again gives the country another outstanding opportunity to showcase its capabilities during many large events the Kingdom will host in 2017 and 2018.”... Mr. Yuthasak Supasorn, TAT Governor, said “Amazing Thailand is the country’s most enduring and award-winning tourism promotion. It highlights many new, exciting international events plus cultural elements that make Thai tourism so appealing.”... The Amazing Thailand Tourism Year 2018 promotion will focus on seven distinct categories. These include:

Sports Tourism, Gastronomy Tourism, Maritime Tourism, Wedding and Honeymoon Tourism, Medical and Wellness Tourism, Community-based Tourism and Leisure Destinations.

### **5. Movenpick counting on political stability for boost**

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

Thailand's greater political stability is expected to draw more tourists from Europe this year and next, predicts Olivier Chavy, president and chief executive of Movenpick Hotels & Resorts, a leading Swiss hospitality chain. Thailand's economy is recovering and its tourism sector is performing well, Mr Chavy said. More Europeans are travelling to Thailand and this trend should continue well into next year, he said. He said Thailand's affordable prices and sunny weather are major draws for Europeans. "Thailand is considered a very competitive market for international hotel chains and I believe more Europeans are coming here," Mr Chavy said...He said Thailand is not only a gateway to Asia and one of the region's most flourishing hospitality markets, but the country also has strong development potential. Thailand has so much potential and is one of the best-recognised destination countries in the world and Bangkok arrivals are very high, and still growing, with the GDP quite high as well, indicating a growing economy that is the best opportunity for the Movenpick group, he said.

### **6. Samui Festival 2017 sets Guinness World Record for largest buffet**

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

World's largest buffet stretches some 2.5 kilometres along Chaweng Beach on Samui. The Tourism Authority of Thailand together with Koh Samui's public and private sector have successfully set a new Guinness World Record for the Largest Buffet during the Samui Festival 2017. The 2.5-kilometre-long beach buffet, free and open to the public, was arranged on Chaweng Beach as part of the five-day festival, which ran from 7-11 September to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the island's founding in 1897. A variety of Thai dishes were prepared by chefs from all over Thailand as the highlight of the world's largest buffet on Chaweng Beach, Koh Samui. The activity is in line with the TAT's gastronomy tourism efforts by promoting Thai food and the country's culinary potential on a global stage.