

## Daily Thai News Updates: 15 September 2017

### **1. Somkid: Japanese SMEs drawn to Thai policies**

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

Thailand should expect a new wave of investment from Japan's small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as the investment climate here is very supportive, says Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. Mr Somkid said Japanese SMEs have been looking for a perfect location to invest and Thailand's current investment climate is encouraging as the government continues to promote business matching between Japanese SMEs and Thai counterparts. More importantly, most large Japanese companies have been well-established for years in Thailand. Japan is the top foreign investor in Thailand. In the first half of this year, Japan submitted the most applications to the Office of the Board of Investment (BoI). It accounted for 55% of the total foreign investment or 65 billion baht from a total of 120 billion baht...Japan hopes Thailand will form a crucial link in the production chain, connecting the CLMV cluster of nations (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand) with the Greater Mekong Subregion, and Asean as a whole.

### **2. Apiradi: Russia keen on EEC investment**

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

Russia has expressed its interest to invest in Thailand's flagship Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) as well as suggested that Thailand could benefit from a closer cooperation with the Eurasian Economic. Commerce Minister Apiradi Tantraporn said the Russian Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Alexey Gruzdev, talked about Russian firms looking for opportunities to expand their business or start investing in Thailand, when they met at the Asean Economic Ministers meeting (AEM) last week in the Philippines...Russia is keen for trade value between the two countries to exceed UScopy0 billion (330 billion baht) by 2020, well above the current value of \$2 billion a year. The EEC is the government's flagship policy to create new special economic zone spanning 30,000 rai in the three eastern provinces of Chon Buri, Rayong and Chachoengsao.

### **3. August sees 20% jump in new company registrations**

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

Registrations for new companies jumped 20 per cent in August from the previous month. Some 7,159 companies were added to the register for the month, which represented a 15 per cent rise from August last year, according to Banjongjitt Angsusingh, director general of Business Development Department of Commerce Minister. By value, the newly registered companies were worth Bt47.35 billion, up 123 per cent from July 2017 and 145 per cent from August 2016. The number of company that went into liquidation in August was 1,755 companies, up 8 per cent from July this year and 0.5 per cent compare from August 2016, Banjongjitt said yesterday. The five most popular sectors for new registrations were construction, property development, restaurants, logistics and management advisories, she |said.

### **4. Supreme Court final ruling favour Bt 1.7 million in rights compensation to Myanmar workers**

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

The Supreme Court of Thailand on Thursday affirmed a previous ruling in a landmark test case that 14 migrant workers from Myanmar be awarded Bt1.7 million to compensate for rights violations perpetrated against them by Thammakaset chicken farm in Lopburi province. The court dismissed Thammakaset's second appeal requesting a compensation order made in August 2016 by the Lopburi Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW) requiring the farm pay the 14 workers Bt1.7 million in past wages. The Region 1 Labour Court previously rejected a first appeal by chicken farm, which was contracted to supply poultry to Thai export giant Betagro. The latest appeal rejection, which is final, approved the Labour Court's reasoning. The compensation money, lodged with the Court as condition of the appeal, will now be given to the workers. The Supreme Court's ruling dismissing the company's second appeal was publicly read by the Labour Court in Saraburi province on Thursday.

### **5. ICOA 'likely to lift' red flag on Thai aviation**

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

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) has expressed confidence the country will have its "red-flag" status from the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) lifted soon. The assurance comes ahead of the ICAO's planned audit of the CAAT during Sept 20-27,

and its ongoing efforts to address significant safety concerns raised by the aviation body. Thai aviation safety standards have been in doubt since being red-flagged by the UN's aviation watchdog in June 2015. CAAT director Chula Sukmanop said the office has corrected the flaws raised by the ICAO including amending related laws and regulations and granting Recertification of Air Operator Certificates (Re-AOC) to airlines. He said the CAAT and the Transport Ministry expect to receive unofficial results of the ICAO assessment on Sept 27 while the official result is likely a month later. According to Mr Chula, nine out of 21 airlines which operate international flights have been granted Re-AOC and the CAAT plans to complete the process of granting Re-AOC to the other 12 airlines by Jan 31 next year.

#### **6. ASEAN watchdogs gather to talk OTT**

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

Eight telecom regulators from Asean have joined forces to push for a tax regime governing over-the-top (OTT) business, says the Asean Telecommunications Regulators' Council. At the ATRC's Wednesday meeting in Bangkok, the council urged Asean regulators to focus on consumer protection and fair competition. Takorn Tantasith, secretary-general of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, said the NBTC agreed to move ahead with the drafting process for an OTT regulatory framework in line with ATRC guidelines, especially regarding the tax regime...On the subject of consumer protection of personal data, the secretary-general said the ATRC meeting heard concerns that a great amount of digital content is uncontrollable when conveyed through OTT and social media platforms. Several telecom regulators highlighted the need for an OTT "code of conduct" in doing business. The code would have to conform to the legal system of each country.

#### **7. Fintech adoption driving local banking trends**

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

Quick response (QR) code payment, robotic process automation (RPA), blockchain, big data strategies, and simplified core bank systems are among the top five technology trends for banking in 2018, says a leading global research firms. "Thailand's banking sector will continue to invest in information technology to prepare for their digital transformation. Those banks will collaborate more with financial technology [fintech] firms," said Michael Araneta, associate vice-president of IDC Financial Insights Asia/Pacific, at the Fintech Innovation Summit 2017. There are several key

tech trends that will attract IT spending in Thailand's banking sector in 2018. QR code payment has already started, with the Bank of Thailand rolling out standardised QR code payment. RPA, or robot software that reduces costs and improves performance by doing repetitive tasks, is also popular with banks. Blockchain is playing a bigger role in commercial banks, running cash management transfers for suppliers to corporate customers in the supply chain, or money transfer to overseas branches. Big data analytics strategies have gained traction as many banks collect their customers' data in social media accounts.

#### **8. Ad hoc body to tackle rising cybrethreats**

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

The government will set up the ad hoc National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC) in October in an effort to tackle cyberthreats more efficiently. The committee will be chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and 30 members represented by economic and society ministries, state agencies and the private sector, according to a proposal from the Digital Economy and Society Ministry (DE) that was submitted to the cabinet secretariat office in August. DE Minister Pichet Durongkaveroj said the proposal is expected to be approved by the cabinet next month and the ad hoc committee will be set up automatically. Mr Pichet said the ad hoc NCSC will be responsible for formulating the national strategic cybersecurity draft and enhancing connectivity between government agencies and the private sector to handle increasingly sophisticated cyberthreats. Thailand Computer Emergency Response Team, under the Electronic Transactions Development Agency, will be the main operational workforce for the committee.

#### **9. 'Tourism for All' casts wider net**

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is expanding the "Tourism for All" campaign by offering nine routes specifically to serve disabled and aged tourists. Somrak Kumputch, deputy governor for administration, said disabled tourists need special assistance when travelling, but they are one of the niche segments the agency will support for the remainder of the year. She said the nine routes are Ratchaburi, Pattaya, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Kanchanaburi, Phuket, Khon Kaen, Ayutthaya and Nakhon Ratchasima. "All these provinces have varying products, ranging from natural sites to local traditions, food, festivals and health and wellness activities. All these [offerings] suit special tourists as well as ageing people", said Ms Somrak. The TAT began

promoting the tourism for all concept after the country hosted the World Tourism Day in Bangkok in September 2016...More than 20 countries are promoting ageing tourism. Some developed countries in Asia such as Japan and South Korea have long been catering to elderly visitors. The Department of Tourism has revealed that senior tourists generated 196 billion baht worth of income in 2016, accounting for 8.66% of total tourism revenue.