

Daily Thai News Updates: 14 September 2016

1. Commerce Ministry outlines 20-year trade-growth strategy

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

The commerce Ministry has launched a 20-year strategy to drive trade and business growth, aiming to promote Thailand as a world centre for innovative agricultural products and other goods. Somkiat Triratpan, inspector-general of the ministry and director of its Policies and Trade Strategies Bureau, said yesterday that after the strategy has been approved by the Cabinet, the ministry will adjust its trade-promotion plans, as well as restructure some of its agencies and amend laws and rules. The 20-year strategy will be divided into phases.

Phase 1 between now and 2020 will emphasise trade reform. Phase 2, from 2021 to 2025, will focus on promoting Thailand as the major regional supply chain. The third phase from 2026 to 2030 will promote Thailand as the world's major supply chain. During the final phase, Thailand will be promoted as a world leader in the trade of agricultural products, including innovative products, as well as a trading centre for many key non-agricultural products.

2. Thai, Brazilian firms urged on investments

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

Brazilian enterprises are looking to expand their investment in Thailand - in the areas of alternative energy and processed agricultural products, in particular - while the South American country is encouraging Thai investors to expand their interests there due to the great opportunity offered by such a large market. During his visit to Thailand yesterday for the "Brazil-Thailand Business Talk on New Perspective in Agricultural Trade and Investment", the country's agriculture and livestock minister, Blairo Borges Maggi, said that as agriculture-based countries, Thailand and Brazil could forge closer cooperation in promoting agricultural products and production. Moreover, Brazil could be an investment base for Thai enterprises wishing to penetrate Latin America, while the country also foresees Thailand serving as a trading centre and investment base for Brazilian businesses seeking to penetrate Asean, he said.

3. Japanese firms collaborate with PTTGC

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

Kuraray co and Sumitomo Corporation, both Japanese companies, have agreed to join PTT Global Chemical, Thailand's largest and Asia-Pacific's leading integrated petrochemical and refining company, in conducting a front-end engineering design for the development of manufacturing and sales capabilities for two plastics in Thailand. After a joint feasibility study on the project's potential, the three partners decided to move the project forward with the early

phase of the engineering study. The investment decision will be made at the end of next year. The agreement will lead to a joint venture that is expected to commence operations in late 2020.

4. Strong upmarket demand for 98 Wireless

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

Sansiri has already sold 45 per cent of 98 Wireless, its Bt8.7-billion luxury condominium project, thanks to strong demand at the top end of the condominium market from both Thai and foreign customers, chief executive officer Apichart Chutrakul said yesterday. Upon completion, 98 Wireless - situated on the prime tree-lined boulevard location of Wireless Road in Bangkok - is expected to be the most expensive condominium project in Southeast Asia. With just 77 exclusive units, the project's average price has risen from Bt550,000 per square metre in March this year to Bt570,000 per square metre now. The developer's management expects sales to be closed next year, soon after the official sales launch to Thai and foreign customers, Apichart said.

5. TPC Power takes 45% of Siam Power

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

TPC Power Holding (TPCH), one of only a few alternative-power companies in the deep South, has invested in a 45-per-cent stake in Siam Power in preparation for a waste-to-energy plant in Nonthaburi. The move comes after TPCH, a listed company, recently successfully bid for a government contract to build and operate three biomass power plants with a combined capacity of 26 megawatts, out of an overall 36MW quota set for three provinces in the deep South. The planned Nonthaburi project forms part of the company's five-year expansion plan for electricity production, under which it targets reaching a combined 200MW of electricity generation in 2020, from 142MW currently.

By Nandini Malhotra

