

Daily Thai News Updates: 18 August 2016

1. Samsung optimistic about Thai smartphone growth

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

The local smartphone market is likely to improve in the second half this year after growing by 1-3% in the first half, says Thai Samsung Electronics, a Thai unit of South Korea's smartphone maker. The improvement will be driven by intense competition among international phone makers as well as 4G service operators, said Wichai Pornpratang, corporate vice-president for IT and mobile communications of Thai Samsung Electronics. Smartphones still recorded growth during the economic slowdown, he said. The device remains important to Thais, who spend over four hours a day on mobile phones. "We see positive signals of economic improvement and consumer purchasing power happening in the second half of the year," said Mr Wichai.

2. Thai-Danish to jointly build dairy factory

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

The state-run Dairy Farming Promotion Organisation (DPO), the manufacturer of Thai-Danish dairy products, is setting up a new dairy factory in a joint investment with private operators and dairy farmers. The development marks the launch of a new business model aimed at building sustainable growth.

DPO director Narongrit Wongsuwan said it plans to set up its new dairy factory on a 100 rai plot of land in Hang Chat, a district in Lampang province. The new factory, valued between 700 million and 1 billion baht, will be built under a new business model in which farmers will be stakeholders. The format is unlike the DPO's six dairy plants, where the state agency makes its own investments and purchases raw milk from farmers at agreed prices. He said that the new plant, which is expected to start operations in the next 2-3 years, will not only increase operational efficiency, but help farmers in the North reduce milk transportation costs.

3. Cyprus offers Thai investors EU citizenship

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

Cyprus is wooing Thais by offering a lifetime European Union citizenship for Bt100 million. "The country is targeting more capital from Thailand, attracting investors with easy

migrant permission to become an EU citizen through investment."The country expects to raise capital from Thai investors in prospective sectors including property, energy, oil and gas, infrastructure and tourism," Cypriot High Commissioner Demetrios Theophylactou said yesterday.

A series of incentives have been introduced by the Cypriot government to attract overseas investors. Competitive deals over its EU counterparts include lower capital-gains tax and lower minimum capital, making it easy to migrate to Europe. Permanent residencies are going for 300,000 euros (Bt11.6 million) and citizenships for a minimum of 2.5 million euros.

4. Thai AirAsia posts increase of 13% to Bt7.75 bn in second quarter revenue

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

Asia aviation yesterday reported that its majority-owned low-cost carrier Thai AirAsia earned net profit of Bt422.5 million on a 13-per-cent rise in second-quarter revenue to Bt7.75 billion. TAA's load factor increased 3 percentage points to 83 per cent from the second quarter of last year, while the number of passengers increased 18 per cent to 4.17 million. Tassapon Bijleveld, chief executive of AAV and TAA, said the performance was a satisfactory continuation from the first quarter. It was the result of the general robustness of the tourism industry, proactive work of the government and the Tourism Authority of Thailand, and the launch of seven routes during the period, he said.

5. Phyathai 2 launches paediatric care

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

PHYATHAI 2 International Hospital yesterday announced the launch of its Paediatric Care Centre to cater to the rising demand for child-care services in Thailand and elsewhere in Asean - and the markets of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV), in particular. The centre will provide comprehensive care for children and services for their families, with the offering of medical specialists 24 hours a day and more examination rooms to support increased demand from Thai and foreign customers.

The new development will support the hospital's expansion into the Asean Economic Community (AEC) market via a collaborative referral system with hospitals in nearby countries. Hospital executive director Dr Anantasak Apairatana said the outlook after the overall performance of Phyathai 2 International Hospital in the first half of the year was promising, with revenue having increased 9.6 per cent to Bt1.8 billion, against Bt1.63 billion posted for the same period last year.

6. Sales of Taokaenoi seaweed snacks jump 37.5%

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

Taokaenoi food & Marketing saw second-quarter sales of its seaweed snacks soar 37.5 per cent to Bt1.12 billion."Our growth has been driven by the growing domestic market, especially from Chinese tourists who buy the products as souvenirs to take back home," chief executive officer Itthipat Peeradechapan said yesterday.The company's profit leapt by 146.4 per cent to Bt185 million from the second quarter of last year. In the first six months of this year, its sales climbed 41.5 per cent to Bt2.13 billion, while profit spurted 173.5 per cent to Bt345 million.

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