

Daily Thai News Summary: 1 October 2015

1. Industrial development committee gets upgraded

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

The cabinet yesterday endorsed a proposal to restructure and upgrade the National Industrial Development Committee to become a 'superboard' in a move to rev up the development of potential industries. Government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd said the committee will be tasked to set the direction of industrial development and supervise it. The new superboard will also support and encourage the private sector to develop their efficiency and productivity, especially by applying research and development and innovation in their production in order to increase Thailand's competitiveness. The committee will be also responsible for the development of industries to conform with the government's industrial cluster and investment policies.

To be chaired by the prime minister or his deputy on his behalf, the committee will include all ministers from the economic ministries, Foreign, Labour, Interior, Natural Resources and Environment, Science and Technology, Public Health and Education ministries as well as the director-general of the Budget Bureau, secretaries-general of the National Economic and Social Development Board and the Board of Investment and the heads of leading private organisations.

2. TESCO Lotus invests Bt1 Billion in Clubcard scheme links with Air Asia Big

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

TESCO LOTUS, Thailand's leading retailer, said yesterday that the company had invested about Bt1 billion this year on its Clubcard loyalty programme aimed at attracting new customers as well as increasing shopping frequencies at its stores.

Mark Roughley, Tesco Lotus marketing director, said this was the biggest expenditure ever by the UK-based hypermarket retailer since it launched the Clubcard programme about six years ago. The company has 11 million Clubcard members who are able to earn and collect points when shopping at any of 1,800 Tesco Lotus hypermarkets and its Express stores around the country. Tesco Lotus expects the number of Clubcard members to increase to about 12 million by the end of this year.

Tesco Lotus also announced a historic partnership with AirAsia Big, the coalition loyalty programme of Asia's leading low-cost airline, to offer Clubcard members the ability to transfer their Clubcard points to AirAsia Big points and redeem them for free flights on AirAsia, starting from today. *"Tesco Lotus is always looking for ways to make our customers' lives easier by providing quality products at incredibly affordable prices and with great shopping experience,"* Roughley said.

3. Housing boost imminent

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

A reduction in transfer and mortgage fees to 0.01% for a period of six months to a year and GH Bank's relaxed housing loan criteria for low-income earners will form the backbone of stimulus measures seeking cabinet approval early this month.

The potential fee cuts are aimed at alleviating homebuyers' burden, a Finance Ministry source said without providing further details on which home prices would qualify. The fee reduction would lower local administrations' revenue, with the government then subsidising them to maintain a revenue ratio of 27% of government revenue as required by law, the source said.

The specific business tax -- a levy on property developers when they sell to homebuyers and on property owners who resell their property within five years of it being transferred to them -- would be kept unchanged at 3.3%, the source said. The Finance Ministry has no plans to cut the specific business tax, viewing the sluggish market as largely a result of tightened housing loan approvals by banks.

4. ThaiNamthip spends B2bn on growth plan

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

ThaiNamthip Limited, a bottler of Coca-Cola soft drink in Thailand, will allocate 2 billion baht to upgrade its facilities to support growth. Chairman Pornwut Sarasin said next year's capital allocation would be the same as this year's amount and be spent to upgrade five production facilities across the country except in the South, which is which is under the responsibility of Haad Thip Plc, another bottler of Coca-Cola.

The budget will also be used to upgrade its internal systems including logistics and wastewater treatment for higher efficiency. *"We have no plan to set up a new production facility so far but will extend our existing production if we require more capacity,"* Mr Pornwut said.

5. HK investment firm spends BT2.3 billion to buy 300 units in Proud Residences' Park 24

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

Hong-Kong based Fulcrum Capital is investing Bt2.3 billion to purchase 306 units of the Park 24 condominium project from Proud Residences, in a move that it targets will generate an annual return of at least 30 per cent, said managing director Frank Leung.

"Thailand is the first country in Asean in which we are expanding our investment, after seeing business opportunity especially for residential projects, for which prices are still lower when compared with other Asian markets like Hong Kong, Singapore and China," he said.

By Harsha Hazarika