

Daily Thai News Updates: 20 September 2016

1. New company registrations in August hit highest level in eight months

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

New company registrations in August reached the highest number in eight months, thanks to the government's investment promotion measures and strong tourism growth, the Commerce Ministry's Business Development Department said yesterday. New business registrations rose by 26 per cent year on year to 6,200 last month, for a total of 42,911 companies in the first eight months, up by 3 per cent year on year. Pongpun Gearaviriyapun, director-general of the department, attributed the rising number of new companies to the government measures to promote investment, mostly in the construction sector, while strong tourism growth was also encouraging new enterprises. She added that her own department's measures to facilitate new enterprises had also contributed to the establishment of new businesses. The expectation that gross domestic product could grow by 3.2-3.5 per cent this year has also encouraged the setting up of new firms, she said.

2. Bar B Q Plaza unveils new 'black pan' set

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

Food passion has invested more than Bt110 million to introduce a new black pan set, which includes the pan and stove, in all branches of Bar B Q Plaza, its flagship restaurant. A marketing plan will kick off with an online video clip titled "Change - Bar B Q Plaza", paving the way for a two-phase launch of the new black pan set nationwide. "Since the launch of Food Passion at the beginning of 2016, we have closely followed the company's mission of bringing happiness to people through food," said Chataya Supanpong, chief executive officer of Food Passion Company. "The launch of the new black pan set marks another significant milestone and is part of our business strategy to continue to innovate in order to improve our customers' dining experiences." The new black pan sets are a result of more than six years of intense research and development, and an investment of more Bt110 million. The new black pan set will become synonymous with the Bar B Q Plaza brand, retaining the brand's unique character while delivering even better meals and times for our customers."

3. Big C, Tesco Lotus try to cash in on online shopping trends

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

Tesco Lotus yesterday announced the launch of Lazada kiosks at Tesco Lotus Express and Talad outlets, so that customers can select from the extensive offerings in the Tesco Lotus shop on Lazada and conveniently have the products delivered to their homes. Tesco Lotus plans

to introduce the kiosks at 200 stores every year, particularly in upcountry areas, to allow customers to have better access to products and services while saving time and travel costs. Tesco Lotus has also opened another online shopping platform on weloveshopping.com, Thailand's second-largest online marketplace. The new shopping channel is targeted at female customers. Chakkit Chatupanyachotikul, head of Tesco Online at Lazada, said that since the launch of the Tesco Lotus shop on Lazada in 2014, sales had grown consistently.

4. Huawei eyes 250% jump in consumer trade

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

Thanks to a big rise in mobile-handset sales, Chinese telecommunications and technology company Huawei expects revenue from its consumer-products segment to grow by 250 per cent to US\$100 million (Bt3.5 billion) in Thailand this year, said Wang Yifan, Huawei Thailand's managing director. Huawei Technologies (Thailand) operates in three business segments - consumer products, enterprise business and the carrier segment. The consumer segment will post the highest growth this year, while the enterprise segment will grow by 50 per cent. Overall revenue growth is targeted at 20 per cent. Wang did not provide a growth estimate for the carrier segment, which supplies equipment to telecom companies. Thailand ranks third among the 12 markets in Asia outside mainland China that generate the most revenue for the company. No 1 is India.

5. CGD gets B13bn for project

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

SET-listed Country Group Development Plc (CGD) has secured US\$375 million (about 13 billion baht) through China Ping An Bank to continue developing luxury project Chao Phraya Estate. According to chief executive Ben Taechaubol, the financing will be managed through Landmark Holdings Co, a joint venture between the company and BCEG Thai International Co. Structural works for the project's main tower have been conducted over the last two years, and completion is expected by the end of 2018.

Located on a 35.5 rai plot leased from the Crown Property Bureau on Charoen Krung Soi 64 by the Chao Phraya River, the project is worth a total of 32 billion baht and will house Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok and Capella Hotel Bangkok. There will also be 355 condo units of the Four Seasons Private Residences Bangkok, worth 20 billion baht, of which 50% have been sold. To boost sales, the company plans to have roadshows in Taiwan and Hong Kong by the end of the year. In the first half of this year, the company recorded a net loss of 81 million baht on revenue of 350 million baht, down from a net loss of 212 million baht and up from revenue of 216 million baht in the same period last year.

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