

Daily Thai News Summary: 28 April 2016

1. IWIND welcomes China partner

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

Beijing based Goldwind International Holding, a global leader in manufacturing wind turbine generators and providing comprehensive wind power solutions, is taking a 10-per-cent stake in a Thai renewable energy company. Sumet Sutthapaki, executive chairman of Inter Far East Wind International, or IWIND, said yesterday that the initial agreement signed with the Chinese company would result in mutual benefits. Goldwind seeks to grow demand for wind turbines in Asia, while the Thai company would see smooth capacity expansion across Asia. IWIND's benefits include a chance to co-invest in the Chinese company's projects, which target combined installation of 8 gigawatts.

IWIND has already bought wind turbines with a capacity of 8.96 megawatts from Goldwind for its project in Nakhon Si Thammarat, which is expected to commence commercial operations next quarter. Sumet also unveiled the plan to take over HBRE, a wind power company based in Daklak in central Vietnam. HBRE has secured a power purchase agreement for 22MW and expects a further agreement for 62MW. The commercial operations of the project are slated for the fourth quarter. *"This is part of a 210MW project,"* he said. *"Wind power offers a great opportunity in Vietnam due to domestic demand and demand from neighbouring countries,"* he said. Late last year, IWIND acquired 30 per cent of a 30MW wind power project on Jeju Island in South Korea, which is being developed by Hanshin Energy.

2. "Digital money" at core of expo

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

Financial institutions joining the Money Expo from May 12-15 will highlight digital money to deal with the increase in digital consumers and to help educate them on the upcoming national e-payment system. Santi Viriyarangsarit, president of Money Expo, said yesterday that this year's event would be held under the theme "Digital Life, Digital Money", in response to the lifestyle of Thai society that is moving towards the digital era. Next month will see the transition of magnetic-stripe debit cards to chip cards compatible with the national e-payment system, so the Money Expo will feature booths aimed at familiarising consumers with the digital economy, he said.

Financial institutions are ready to support economic activities through attractive campaigns in order to help consumers access financial services, and mortgages will still be the

highlighted products at the expo. The organiser hopes that transactions at the expo will be at least as high as the Bt90 billion recorded at last year's event. Krungsri Group (Bank of Ayudhya and its subsidiaries) will bring virtual teller machines (VTMs) to its digital-banking zone at the expo so people can see how they work. For mortgages, the key product at the event, the bank will offer an interest rate of 0.25 per cent per annum for the first six months. Krungthai Bank will highlight VTMs as well, on which customers can open deposit accounts at the expo; the machines can also issue debit cards. KTB will offer 0.99-per-cent interest per annum for the first nine months to mortgage borrowers at the fair and highlight the unsecured-loan product it calls Super Easy, offering an annual interest rate of 15 per cent to salary earners. Kasikornbank will demonstrate new features of its K-Mobile Banking Plus on Facebook Live. It will also offer free Wi-Fi at the booth to encourage customers to download KBank's applications to watch promotions of its products. Siam Commercial Bank will demonstrate smart-check-in technology at its booth on the first day of Money Expo. Moreover, the bank will set up an "innovative space" to cater to digital customers who want to do transactions via online banking.

3. Laos promotes Thai built wind farm on ASEAN stage

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

Laos aims to use Monsoon Wind Power, Asean's largest wind farm to be built by a Thai developer, as an exemplary prototype for Asean. Monsoon Wind Power is a 600-megawatt wind-farm project that will be the largest in Asean. The site covers two districts in southern Laos - Dak Cheung in Sekong province and Sanxay in Attapeu province. The project has been developed by a Thai renewable-energy firm, Impact Electrons Siam Co. Laos has high hopes for the project and views it as a prototype for the development of the country's alternative-energy source, which has the potential to support a sustainable energy future for all. Chantho Milattanpheng, deputy director of the Institute of Renewable Energy and Promotion under the Laotian Ministry of Energy and Mines, pointed out the potential of Monsoon Wind Power as a major advance in Laos' alternative-energy sector while giving a speech at the "Sustainable Energy and Technology Asia Exhibition and Conference". He said the wind farm would undoubtedly benefit all parties, including Laos, Thailand or even the Asean region, since it is expected to have Asean's largest wind-energy capacity, generate clean energy to be sold at a fair price and promote the well-being of the community surrounding the project site.

In an effort to facilitate alternative-energy development, Laos plans to increase renewable energy to 30 per cent of the total energy supply by 2025. The 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) held in Paris last December saw delegates from Thailand, Laos and 144 other countries sign a pact that aims to avert the rise in global temperatures beyond the threshold of 2 degrees Celsius. At this forum Thailand also pledged to cut emissions of greenhouse gas by 20-25 per cent by 2030 from 2010 levels, equivalent to a cut in GHG emissions of about 111 million to 139

million tonnes. Monsoon Wind Power is expected to avoid 67 million tonnes of GHG emissions throughout the project lifecycle compared with fossil-fuel power plants. Thailand's Cabinet on April 5 gave its approval to the country's participation in the "Partnership for Market Readiness" programme, under which the World Bank will provide Thailand, as a PMR member, with a US\$3-million (Bt105 million) grant for the development of initiatives that will help Thailand achieve its GHG emission-reduction goal.

4. Taiwan's Yuanta securities returns to Thailand

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

Taiwan's Yuanta Securities Asia Financial Services is rebuilding its securities business in Thailand with the acquisition of KKTrade Securities. Kiatnakin Bank reported today that its subsidiary, Phatra Capital, reached a deal with Yuanta for the sale of all shares in KKTrade for approximately Bt686.9 million. The bank noted that the sale would be completed upon regulatory approval. It is yet to win the approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission for Yuanta's holding above 10 per cent in KKTrade as well as approval for Yuanta's representatives to be KKTrade's new directors.

5. SCG's Q1 net soars past estimate

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

Siam Cement Group, the country's leading industrial conglomerate, yesterday reported a 23-per-cent surge in first-quarter net profit that trounced the consensus estimate. The continued robust petrochemical business contributed most to SCG's results, but the improved performance of its packaging and cement units played a big part in the surprise upside. Kasikorn Securities said SCG's consolidated first-quarter net profit of Bt13.62 billion was 24 per cent higher than its projection, because of 5-per-cent growth of the country's cement demand in the three-month period. Most analysts had expected cement consumption to edge up by only 1-2 per cent in the first quarter.

Roongrote Rangsiyopash president and chief executive officer of SCG, said the government's infrastructure investment projects had started to affect the country's cement consumption, although the commercial and residential segments had continued to show flat and negative growth during the first quarter. *"Notably, we saw a lot of sales activities in late March, which I guess was due to [buyers] building up their inventories prior to the long [Songkran] holiday. We may have to wait for April and May's sales figures,"* said the chief of SCG, which controls about 40 per cent of the domestic cement market.

SCG expects local cement demand to grow by 3-5 per cent this year. The upper end of the forecast hinges on the government's capability to push ahead its infrastructure projects. SCG logged flat sales of Bt110 billion in the first quarter, chiefly due to the fall in petrochemical prices. Profit for the period, however, was up 19 per cent from the previous quarter. Exports declined 8 per cent to Bt29.57 billion, accounting for 27 per cent of the group's sales, due to the decline in chemical prices and the start-up of its cement plants in Cambodia and Indonesia, which reduced its shipments from Thailand.



By Harsha Hazarika