

## Daily Thai News Summary: 29 June 2015

### 1. Loan rush at Money Expo

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

The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank of Thailand estimates small and medium-sized enterprise loan applications through state-owned banks at Money Expo on the weekend reached Bt8 billion.

Up to 70 per cent of the applications, or Bt5.4 billion, will be approved, SME Bank president Supot Arevart said. He said on the first day of the expo, held in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Rayong, Udon Thani, and Hat Yai in Songkhla, there were loan applications worth Bt3 billion. Supot said the businesses applying for loans came from sectors that included retail, wholesale, logistics and agriculture processing food.

They applied for loans worth between Bt1 million and Bt5 million. The event is a part of the government's effort to provide policy loans worth Bt15 billion to SMEs with an interest rate of only four per cent.

### 2. Tourism to hit the skids if it can't overcome crises

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

Tourism stands to be the big loser if the country cannot overcome the aviation safety crisis and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak ahead of the high season, industry leaders said last week. Tourism may face tough competition as Surveillance conflicts are spreading in Tunisia, France and Italy. The problems many reflect on outbound tourism.

Thailand will soon enter the high season starting in October and ending up in late March or early April. *"We should now be receiving new forward bookings from overseas. This year, European tourists are still taking a wait-and-see attitude, like the Japanese and Australians, who are keeping an eye on our problems,"* said Ittirit Kinglake, president of the Tourism Council of Thailand.

The government should do something about the aviation safety crisis and Mers outbreak by the third quarter or before entering the peak season in order to gain the confidence of foreign partners and tourists and convince them to return to the country.

### 3. Honda gets Green label for all cars produced in Thailand

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

Honda Automobile (Thailand) has received Green Label certification for all car models manufactured in the Kingdom from the Thai Industrial Standards Institute and the Thailand Environment Institute, following the company's successful exploration of innovative measures to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions in all aspects of its production process.

The company recently hosted a factory tour to showcase eco-friendly manufacturing processes and efficient energy management at its Green Factory, reaffirming Honda's global environmental slogan of "Blue Skies for Our Children".

The certification assures that these cars have passed environmental regulations encompassing production process, use and disposal, as well as efficiency of resources management. Honda is currently the only automotive manufacturer operating in Thailand to carry the Green Label, and these models are produced under industry standards at its factory at Rojana Industrial Park in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, which has achieved ISO 9001: 2008 certifications for quality management systems and ISO 14001 certification for environmental management systems.

### 4. Chasing the public's acceptance

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

Implementing the World Bank-sponsored Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) standard is part of a package of the Energy Ministry's efforts to regain public acceptance. Under the package, internal reorganisation is underway, as well as adoption of new technology to reach the public, in support of the ministry's ultimate goal of ensuring energy security.

*"Public acceptance is the key goal,"* said Twarath Sutabutr, deputy permanent secretary for energy. *"We need to restore our image and enhance the immunity of Thailand's energy sector. Corruption prevention is one thing that can win us the public's trust".*

More than 40 resource-rich countries have joined the EITI, which requires extensive disclosure and measures to improve accountability in how oil, gas and minerals are governed. Each country is committed to publishing accounts showing all payments the government receives from its extractives sector.

## 5. China's influence over Thailand and ASEAN to keep growing, experts say

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

The Thailand-China relationship over the next decades will become closer in every way, including trade, investment, tourism and services based on mutual benefit, while China will also play a more significant role throughout the Asean region as a key economic supporter, observers say.

Kraisin Vongsurakrai, secretary-general of the Thailand-China Business Council and vice chairman of the Board of Trade of Thailand, said that from now on trade and investment between the two countries would grow significantly. They will see closer cooperation not only under the China-Thailand Free-Trade Agreement but also under the Asean-China FTA and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

*"Relations between Thailand and China will strengthen in all dimensions into the fifth decade of their diplomatic relationship. Thai and Chinese businesspeople will also work together in doing businesses in both nations and in third countries,"* Kraisin said. He believes more trade between Thailand and China will be denominated in the latter's renminbi currency, better known as the yuan.

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