

Daily Thai News Updates: 31 October 2016

1. Aritco to set up home lift production in the Kingdom

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

Aritco group, a world leading manufacturer of home lifts and platform lifts, will set up factories in China, Thailand and India. The expansion is in line with the Swedish group's investment strategy to focus more on the Asian market to cash in on the region's growing middle-class and modern way of living, which is projected to create huge demand for home lifts in the marketplace. Tommy Lowback, managing director of Aritco Group, said that the opening of production facilities for home lifts in China, Thailand and India will be via the group's sole investment or through a joint venture with local partners. "We will start local production in China probably next year and in 2018 in Thailand and India," said Lowback. He said that using local production would enable the group to save on transportation time and source components, such as glass. "However, to be worth setting up local production, those markets should have a minimum sales volume of about 300 units per annum," said Lowback. He added that the minimum investment for setting up each plant should be between 500,000 euro (Bt19.3 million) and one million euros. Lowback said that Aritco Group's annual revenue is expected to surge from 40 million euros expected this year to about 100 million euros in the next five years.

2. 3.3% growth in GDP expected

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

Gross domestic product is forecast to expand by 3.3 per cent this year on increases in the government's investment and other spending, while next year's growth is estimated at 3.4 per cent, said Finance Ministry spokesman Krisda Chinavicharana. According to October's economic forecast, this year's growth will be in a range of 3.0-3.5 per cent, he said. Last year's GDP growth was 2.8 per cent, said Krisda, who also acts as director-general of the ministry's Fiscal Policy Office. The government's budget disbursement has accelerated, particularly on road systems, water management projects, and the urgent phase of the transport-infrastructure project, he said. The country has also seen a sharp rise in the number of tourists, and this could boost expansion of the tourism-related industries, he said. Private consumption will likely continue its rise from the previous year in light of increases in income and employment in the service sector, while private investment is expected to make a recovery thanks to low interest rates and the progress of government projects, he said.

3. Rice exports rose 10% in September

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

Thailand shipped 790,000 tonnes of rice overseas in September, a growth of 9.9% year-on-year, lifting total exports of the grain for the first nine months of 2016 to 6.85 million tonnes. Charoen Laothamatas, president of Thai Rice Exporters Association, said exports in September were worth 12 billion baht, up 3.4%. For the nine-month period, rice exports rose 3.7% in volume compared to the same period last year, but the value increased by only 1.6% to 108 billion baht. He said September exports jumped from the delivery of both old and new-harvest rice to buyers in Africa, as African countries have resumed purchasing rice to add to their diminishing stocks. Exports of parboiled rice to African markets totalled 255,000 tonnes in September, up 103% from August. Benin was the largest buyer, taking 177,000 tonnes of parboiled rice. The export of white rice to African and Asian countries also rose by 22% in the month to 371,000 tonnes.

4. Genco eyes B10m waste management

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

SET-Listed General Environmental Conservation Plc (GENCO), an industrial waste disposal company, plans to start another waste management business next year with an investment budget of more than 10 million baht. Managing director Ronnachai Tantragoon said the company is about to invest in sanitary landfill services in Ratchaburi and Bangkok. He said it was a part of plans to capitalise on rising amounts of garbage and community waste, which will continue to increase in Bangkok and its suburbs. The Industry Ministry has extended the operating licence granted to Genco for another 10 years to continue its waste management and treatment activities in Bangkok and Ratchaburi. That, in turn, has encouraged the company to expand. "Sanitary landfill closure is a new business for us that we are about to invest in next year. That would make us a fully-integrated waste management company," he said, adding that it also focuses on both toxic waste from industry and general waste from neighbourhoods and households. Genco's current core businesses are waste treatment and real estate development under C-Space and B-Live brands. Mr Ronnachai said the board of directors is set consider expansion plans for 2017.

5. Union Auction JV to target end-users

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

MAI-listed car auctioneer, Union Auction Plc (AUCT), expects to double its car supply next year to 160,000 units following its partnership with MAI-listed media company Three Sixty

Five Plc (TSF). Varunyoo Sila, Union Auction's deputy managing director, said the new joint venture firm, in which the company holds 50.99% stake, will help provide marketing and public relations services directly to target customers and design online auction solutions for personal bidders. According to Union Auction's statement to the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) last month, the company will form a joint venture with TSF Energy Co, TSF's subsidiary, to set up a new entity, Action & Auction Co, with an initial registered capital of 10 million baht. Action & Auction Co's services will include managing and developing asset quality, receiving assets from property owners (such as cars and real estate) and sending the assets to Union Auction to process the auction, increase the value of assets for the benefit of buyers and sellers, and provide appropriate financial advice to clients, asset evaluation services, vehicle examination services and software operation services. The new joint firm is designated to become the centre of asset management data, engaging in used-cars, online bidding, providing PR and marketing service, and antiques. Mr Varunyoo said the new joint venture firm expects to be in operation by early 2017.

By Nandini Malhotra

