

Daily Thai News Summary: 7 August 2015

1. Multiple-entry visas welcomed, with caveats

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

Tourism-business lobbies generally welcome the government's initiative to introduce multiple-entry visas, but warn that they could attract more non-tourists or illegal workers.

Key tourism associations say the new type of visa will draw a large number of repeat visitors and extend their lengths of stay. The Tourism and Sports Ministry on Wednesday said the government planned to offer multiple-entry visas valid up to 60 days to all nationalities in a bid to boost tourism. The ministry is likely targeting key markets, especially China and India.

Kasian Watanachaopisut, acting president of the Thai-Chinese Tourism Alliance Association, said that if the government grants multiple-entry visa to all nationalities, a lot of foreigners might come to Thailand more often.

2. Big US firms still committed to Thailand

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

American investors have not been deterred by Thai politics and are ready invest more in the country, said Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. Around 70 businessmen from the US-Asean Business Council (USABC) met the Thai premier and ministers at Government House to discuss investments in the country.

The prime minister said the Americans did not mind a coup-installed leader and that Thai politics was not an obstacle to their investments. *"I explained to them Thailand's political situation and assured them about our stability and progress, that we're working hard to revive the economy, strengthen the country and enhance our competitiveness,"* said Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.

3. Honda's Thai exports beat downward trend in first half

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

Honda Automobile (Thailand) has reported a 27% surge in the value of its first-half exports, to 40.8 billion baht. Honda Automobile (Thailand) has reported a 27% surge in the value of its first-half exports, to 40.8 billion baht. Honda's exports from Thailand of completely built-up vehicles in particular increased by 78% year-on-year to 19 billion baht, driven by strong demand for Honda models in Australia and the Middle East.

4. Land transfer fees to rise by average of 25% next year

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

Land Transfer fees for developers and home-buyers will increase by an average of 25 per cent next year, the same as the rise in appraised land values, property experts said.

Transfer fees are based on appraised value as determined by the Treasury Department of the Finance Ministry, not actual market prices. So, for example, if a buyer pays Bt1.5 million for a plot appraised at Bt1 million, the transfer fee will be 2 per cent of the latter figure, or Bt20,000. But if the appraised value of that same plot rises by 25 per cent next year, to Bt1.25 million, the transfer fee will rise accordingly, to Bt25,000.

5. Ploenchit-Chidlom set to be elevated to the lap of luxury

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

The PLOENCHIT-CHIDLOM area of Bangkok is expected to take its place among the city's most luxurious locations in 2019 after the completion of a plethora of real estate projects ranging from shopping centres to offices and hotels to condominiums.

Since 2013, a number of property firms have been developing property projects worth more than Bt70 billion along this area in the Central Lumpini area. *"We will launch our luxury condominium at a starting price of Bt500,000 per square metre on Ploenchit junction in 2016,"* Srettha Thavisin, president of Sansiri. The interior design will be done by a luxury fashion brand from New York, he said. Noble Development's condominium project, Noble Ploenchit, also plans to transfer units to its customers by 2017.

By Harsha Hazarika

