

Daily Thai News Summary: 8 October 2015

1. Incentives target more investors

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

The Finance Ministry is set to offer incentives to quick-start investment projects that have not applied for Board of Investment privileges -- and they will be on a par with those given to BoI-promoted projects. Projects would have to be launched within six months of the cabinet approving the measures, which is likely to be in the next few weeks. Full details are yet to come, but the incentives would include tax breaks and exemptions aimed at convincing companies to start investing now, a ministry source said.

2. Australia hopes for golden opportunity

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

The Australian government is eagerly awaiting details of the new gold mining policy in Thailand. The nation's ambassador to Thailand, Paul Robilliard, said it is hopeful the policy will motivate more gold mining investment. Mr Robilliard said Australian investors saw a good opportunity for gold mining in Thailand and awaited details of royalty fees. Meanwhile, the Thai government is working on feasibility studies on the new gold mine policy and how it will affect the country, he said.

3. FTI Chairman expects GDP growth near 3% on stimulus

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

The Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) is confident that gross domestic product (GDP) will grow by nearly 3 per cent this year from the government's expected injection of around Bt200 billion into the economy this quarter and the rebound of the tourism sector after the August 17 bombing.

The military-led government last month introduced measures to help low-income earners via the injection of Bt60 billion into the Village Fund programme, job creation via small government projects worth Bt40 billion, and a cash handout programme to fund local projects in more than 7,200 tambon worth Bt38 billion. These measures were followed by programmes to support small and medium-sized enterprises: a Bt100-billion policy-loan scheme offers 4-per-

cent interest rates, an increase of the Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation's budget for SMEs by Bt100 billion, a state-banks venture capital fund worth Bt6 billion, a two-year cut in SMEs' income-tax rates, and a five-year income-tax exemption for start-ups that fit the government's criteria.

4. Garena aims for Thai e-commerce leadership

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

Singapore based Garena recently launched Shopee, its consumer-to-consumer (C2C) marketplace platform focused on social commerce, in Thailand with the aim of making it the leading e-commerce player by the second half of next year. Garena, which has evolved from an online-game publisher to a broader Internet business, has launched the C2C platform here to capitalise on the rapid growth in the number of social-network users, mobile-phone users and e-commerce in Thailand, said Terence Pang, regional managing director of Shopee.

To become No 1 in e-commerce in the Kingdom, *Pang said it needed to have between 15,000 and 20,000 orders per day over the Shopee platform. "Currently, there are almost 1 million [Shopee] users in Thailand, included sellers and buyers. Since we are a C2C e-commerce platform, our users can be sellers and buyers. We aim to have between 1.5 million and 1.8 million users by the end of this year,"* he said. C2C e-commerce is a rapidly growing market, with the strongest adoption trend being among people buying and selling on their mobile phones.

5. Sansiri and JV with BTS to launch 10 projects this quarter

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

SANSIRI and its joint venture BTS Sansiri Holding Co will launch 10 residential projects worth Bt21.5 billion this quarter to boost presales to Bt33 billion for this whole year. Six projects will be under Sansiri. Five are detached-housing projects worth Bt8 billion and one is a condominium. The other four projects are condominiums to be developed by BTS Sansiri. *"The condo projects developed by myself and our joint venture are worth a combined Bt13.5 billion,"* Uthai Uthaisangsuk, senior executive vice president of business development and high-rise project development, told a press conference yesterday. Also yesterday, BTS Group Holdings reported to the Stock Exchange of Thailand the sale of half of its 100-per-cent stake in Nuvo Line Agency Co to Sansiri for Bt769.01 million.
