

Daily Thai News Updates: 8 December 2016

1. Infrastructure, export and tourism build optimistic outlook

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

The logistics industry's strong growth this year is expected to continue, supported by the government's massive investment in infrastructure projects, better export outlook and the ever-expanding tourism industry, according to analysts and industry officials. The predicted substantial growth is expected to bring about rising competition in the sector and also encourage major players to merge in order to create companies with fully integrated logistics services, ranging from warehouse management to consumer delivery. Kasikorn Research Centre (K-Research) forecasts that Thailand's logistics sector will grow 5.7% this year thanks to strong demand for inland logistics that grew in line with busier economic activities and economic growth. This is higher growth compared with the 5.3% rise seen in 2015, according to K-Research. "For 2016, we see growth in every logistics segment -- land, marine and air. This is because the sector grows in line with GDP growth, which normally leads to busier logistics activities," said an analyst at K-Research.

2. Prasert still top stock investor

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

Prasert Prasarttong-Osoth remains the wealthiest individual stock investor this year, with a holding of listed shares worth Bt67.24 billion. According to a survey conducted by Money Banking magazine, together with Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, his portfolio surged by Bt4.9 billion or 7.8 per cent. Prasert first claimed the title in 2013 with Bt34 billion. He is a major shareholder of Bangkok Dusit Medical Services. His 18.3-per-cent stake was valued at Bt61.68 billion as of September 30. He also owns 10.6 per cent of Bangkok Airways and 0.79 per cent of Nonthavej Hospital. By family, the Prasarttong-Osoths were the champion for the second straight year. The five family members own listed securities worth Bt107.92 billion, up 22.5 per cent.

3. China visit to underline cooperation

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

Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak will hold talks with the private sector in Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen, Hangzhou and Hong Kong during a six-day trip to China. He aims to seek more trade and investment as well as stress Thailand's strategic partnership with the country. Commerce Minister Apiradi Tantraporn said that during the trip, which began yesterday, Mr Somkid is also scheduled to co-chair the fifth meeting of the joint committee on trade, investment and economic cooperation between Thailand and China. The meeting tomorrow aims to underscore the Sino-Thai strategic partnership, which covers not only trade but also investment and economic cooperation. "Thai and Chinese economic development plans are now moving in the same direction, focusing more on regional connectivity, research and development, innovations, and information and communication technology," she said. "We hope the fifth meeting will spur more joint cooperation on several issues in which the two countries share common interests, particularly for China's signature 'One Belt, One Road' initiative, in which Thailand is keen to participate." The One Belt, One Road initiative has become the centrepiece of China's economic diplomacy, with the goal of promoting regional and cross-continental connectivity between China and Eurasia. The One Belt and One Road refer to China's proposed Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road. Connectivity covers five major areas of interest: policy coordination, infrastructure construction (including railways and highways), unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people ties. Among these, infrastructure construction is the dominant feature of the dominant feature of the New Silk Road. Thailand's exports to China including Hong Kong.

4. Strong demand boosts exports to CLMV

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

Exports to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) continue to rise due to strong demand in the neighbouring countries, where the economies continue to grow, according to the Office of Industrial Economics (OIE). Ittichai Yotsi, director of the OIE's Bureau of Industrial Economics Research, said exports to the four countries rose 4.45% in the first nine months of this year to US\$1.7 billion, which helped support exports in general. "The CLMV group is still in the stage of developing the countries to meet rising investment and growing economies. This has helped increase demand at a time when the reputation of Thai goods continues to grow among their consumers, boosting exports to the group substantially," he

said. Thai exports to CLMV account for around 10% of total exports to Asean, which represents some 23% of total annual exports. In the third quarter, exports to Asean rose 7.54% from the same period of last year to \$3.5 billion. In addition, the policy to promote the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) that aims to spur investment in the region should be an additional support.

5. New yachting route to be created at 2nd Phuket show

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

A new yachting route across Southeast Asia is expected to be created at the second “Thailand Yacht Show”, which takes place in Phuket next week. Andy Treadwell, managing director and organiser of the show, said travel business, particularly in the yachting sector, would continue to grow not only in Thailand, but also in other regional countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia. “Today, the number of super-yachts in Thailand is 120, which is expected to rise to 200 over the next few years, while there are only a few in Malaysia and currently none in Indonesia. But this business has high potential to grow [in such countries],” he said. In light of what he sees as such a bright future for the yachting market, Treadwell said he would work with yacht operators and Thai authorities participating in next week’s show to develop the route. Moreover, he will work authorities in other countries on the planned route in order to facilitate yachting requirements, including sailing permissions, crew visas, tax privileges, and access to marinas. “We want to create a new route that links Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia in a loop. The concept will be similar to a famous route in the Caribbean. Yacht operators will also have the option to go further, down to Australia and New Zealand,” he explained. If the project takes off, Thailand can be a hub for yacht business, as Phuket currently offers four marinas and another is about to be developed on the resort-island, he suggested.

By Shreya Chopra

