

Daily Thai News Updates: 22 June 2017

1. Prayut reveals growth strategies at forum of global fund managers

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

Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha put forward the country's 10 strategies for future growth at a forum of global fund managers on Thursday. In his opening remarks at "Thailand's Big Strategic Move", Prayut said Thailand is aiming to develop competitiveness through innovation that will transform into future industries. He referred to a "Pracharat -State of the People" mechanism, which is a tool for moving Thailand forward and said the government is seeking cooperation with all sectors of society. He invited foreign investors to get involved in the Eastern Economic Corridor which would strengthen economic integration among Asean and South Asia...Fund managers from 20 global investment funds with combined assets under management worth US\$7.66 trillion, are attending a one-day forum, according to the Stock Exchange of Thailand.

2. Cooperation urged to make Thailand a hub for senior market in Asean

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

To help set the government's "Thailand 4.0" economic model in motion, the public and private sectors should work hand in hand to position the country as a hub of Asean's growing seniors market, said Butsaya Prakorbthong, general manager of NCC Exhibition Organiser Co. "The major capability of Thailand is services, which have been accepted as world-class. And since Thailand has several beautiful attractions that are the dream destinations of many retirees, its seniors market tends to grow increasingly," she said. "So the public sector should promote and standardise services to be more efficient and encourage the holding of trade fairs and exhibitions as venues for business negotiations to improve Thailand as the hub of Asean's seniors market." Since the government issued the policy to upgrade the nation to "Thailand 4.0", many government agencies have followed up with policies and measures to support technological and innovative development, which it is hoped will enhance the competitiveness of the economy. Although the medical and health industry is classified as a new target, Thailand has long been delivering medical services and now is trusted by foreigners who come to stay in hospitals and health centres for rehabilitation. This tendency seems to be increasing every year. The government since the end of

last year has shown clear signs of encouraging this trend through the policy of promoting a complete medical industry...Entrepreneurs should develop their products and services to respond to the demands of seniors by studying their requirements and developing products, such as personal utensils, drinking water, toothpaste, soap and shoes, to meet their needs, Butsaya said.

3. Incentives aimed at making the Kingdom a key player in EVs

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

Thailand plans to become a major player in the electric-vehicle industry and is attracting investment by offering special privileges for companies planning EV production in the Kingdom. Speaking yesterday at the “Driving towards Automotive Industry 4.0” seminar organised by the Thailand Automotive Institute and Reed Tradex Co at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (Bitec), Industry Minister Uttama Savanayana said that last year Thailand was ranked as the world’s No 12 auto producer. The country produced 1.944 million vehicles in 2016, while Indonesia was 17th with 1.177 million vehicles and Malaysia 23rd with just over 513,000. “Thailand has a large domestic auto market and the Thai auto industry is made up of producers, parts suppliers and other related industries,” he said, adding that the auto industry contributes 12 per cent of the Thai industry sector’s gross domestic product. “The government is aware that having high-efficiency and eco-friendly vehicles not only helps improve the quality of life but will also raise the standards of future automobiles in Thailand to match upcoming global emission standards,” he said. To promote the production and usage of EVs, the government started to offer privileges for various types of eco-friendly vehicles, including hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and battery electric vehicles.

4. Japan firms keen to invest more

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

At least 50 Japanese companies that have invested in Thailand have said they will definitely expand their investment further, mostly in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), according to the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok (JCC). Industry Minister Uttama Savanayana said he had been informed by the JCC that its latest survey found most Japanese investors are still interested in investing more in Thailand, particularly in the EEC zone. "At least 50 companies out of more than 100 companies in the survey said they will invest more in the EEC," said Mr Uttama. The EEC is a heavily promoted project by the government as a new special economic

zone to attract new foreign investment. It spans more than 30,000 rai in the three eastern provinces of Rayong, Chon Buri and Chachoengsao. It was designed to accommodate new investment in targeted industries to pursue added value and push the economy towards the Thailand 4.0 era. The government aims to attract 30 leading multinational companies to invest in the EEC over the next two years. The area is meant to be Thailand's new growth engine, featuring high-tech and innovative industry clusters. The EEC has been designed to lure investment in 10 targeted industries: next-generation cars; smart electronics; affluent, medical and wellness tourism; agriculture and biotechnology; food; robotics for industry; logistics and aviation; biofuels and biochemicals; digital; and medical services...According to the Thailand Board of Investment, Japan investors have invested in 264 projects in Thailand last year worth of 57 billion baht, making Japan the biggest foreign investor in the country.

5. OIC plans cyberinsurance
Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The Office of Insurance Commission (OIC) plans to design an affordable cyberinsurance policy to encourage small businesses to buy protection against cyberattacks. The cyberattack risk for companies is escalating, OIC secretary-general Suthipol Taweechaikarn said, and large firms are increasingly installing protection systems and taking out cyberinsurance policies to cover unexpected risks. He said very few small and mid-sized companies have taken out protection policies. These companies consider cyberinsurance premiums to be too high to be a worthwhile investment for risk protection, he said. There are five cyberinsurance policy types in Thailand, but the insurance commission does not have specific policyholders numbers for each type, he said...According to the Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) report, cyberattacks increased 10% year-on-year in the categories of fraud, scams, hacking, system attacks, and malware used for cybercrime, terrorism or destruction. Last year, there were 3,797 cases reported to the ETDA, and the actual numbers are likely to be higher.

6. FTI index takes demoralizing dip for second month in a row
Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) index fell for the second consecutive month in May due to falling production capacity utilisation, in line with weak purchasing power. The FTI chairman

Chen Namchaisiri said the FTI index fell to 85.5 in May from 86.4 in April, largely due to concerns about the lack of recovery in both the global and domestic economies. "The FTI index fell for the second straight month in May. This indicates that the economy has not yet recovered, with the most pressing concerns being weak demand and strong baht, which together are hurting Thai exports, a key contributor to the economy," said Mr Chen. The FTI capacity utilisation index also fell to 53.6% in May, down from 65% in the previous month, said Mr Chen. Businesses are demanding government assistance to help stimulate spending as well as measures to help stabilise the Thai baht to induce a boost in exports, which account for nearly 70% of the country's gross domestic product...Apart from exports, Mr Chen said the FTI also expects the government to implement other policies to help support small and medium-sized enterprises and maintain other infrastructure projects, including the development of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) so that the much-touted Thailand 4.0 model for the economy can actually materialise.

7. Thai Airways named world's best economy airline

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

Thai Airways International has been named the world's best economy class airline for 2017 by Skytrax, in a sideline event to the Paris Air Show. Besides the recognition to Thailand's national carrier, another Thai airline - Bangkok Airways - received the award for "world's best regional airline". Qatar Airways was named the world's best airline for 2017, replacing its Middle East-based rival Emirates, which this year dropped down to fourth position. Singapore Airlines came in second, and ANA All Nippon Airways at third. Thai Airways was placed as the world's eleventh best airline, moving up two notches from 13th in 2016. The awards were presented at the Paris Air Show on Tuesday, marking the fourth time that Skytrax has held the ceremony at the world's best-known aerospace event.