

## Daily Thai News Updates: 30 January 2017

### 1. India issuing 5-year multiple entry visas for Thais

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

India has approved 5-year multiple entry tourist and business visas for Thai nationals with continuous stay of 90 days per visit, the Indian embassy said on Friday. The new multiple entry visa is available now. Approved applicants using the express visa service would receive it the next working day, the embassy statement said. Separate immigration counters would be provided at airports for holders of medical visas. The service will initially be available at international airports Like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

### 2. Moves to make business easier in Thailand

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

The government plans to upgrade the efficiency of doing business in the country so that the Kingdom is in the world's top 20 in this area by May. Deputy Commerce Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong said that the Business Development Department would this year modernise its work and its role as a regulator so more business can be set up and grow in the country. Under the plan, the department aims to attract more investors by shortening the period it takes to approve a business via an electronic registration system from about 10 days now to four days. This will result in it taking fewer than 20 days to set up a business instead of the current 21 days, the department said. "This new procedure should be implemented by May and that should help save time and the cost in doing business in the country," he said. Sontirat called for the department to modernise and re-engineer itself to become an e-department for facilitating business registrations.

### **3. Law revision targets high-tech investors**

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

The fourth amendment of the Board of Investment (BOI)'s investment promotion law has taken effect, empowering the BoI to use new tax incentive tools to woo high-tech investment to Thailand. The move is also meant to improve the country's overall competitiveness. One of the new measures involves the BoI selectively offering a maximum of 13 years of corporate tax breaks to high-tech businesses, a change from the original maximum of eight years in the version set out in the first law. While the amendment aims to woo new investment, not all high-tech businesses will be entitled to the maximum 13-year tax break.

### **4. Eight projects to receive FTA Fund support**

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

The Commerce Ministry this year will hand over a budget under the FTA Fund for the development of eight projects in the production and service sectors, with a view to enabling businesses to compete under free-trade agreements. Permanent secretary Wiboonlasana Ruamraksa said late last week that the fund should help increase competitiveness for Thai farmers and enterprises amid market liberalisation. The eight projects approved for this year's development have been chosen to give them the best chance of competing in light of liberalisation under three trade pacts in particular: the Japan-Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement, the Asean Free-Trade Area and the Thailand-Australia Free-Trade Agreement.

### **5. Thai-British deal on track after meeting**

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

Britain and Thailand are committed to moving ahead with a bilateral free-trade pact and have agreed to set up a joint committee to work out the details. Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak, who last Friday met Alok Sharma, Britain's minister for Asia and the Pacific, said the two countries proposed speeding up trade talks and boosting bilateral trade and investment. "We've agreed on the proposal, as the pact will benefit both nations," Mr Somkid said. Thailand and Britain agreed in principle last year during a visit to England by former deputy commerce minister Suvit

Maesincee to work on a bilateral free-trade agreement to lessen the impact of Britain's vote to leave the European Union. Mr Somkid said he had also proposed during the meeting that economic cooperation be implemented on two levels: free trade and strategic partnership in specific industries.

**By Rajnee Narula**



