

Daily Thai News Updates: 9 January 2017

1. No slowing down

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

Expected demise of TPP will barely make a dent in the already strong momentum for increased economic and trade activity in Asia. High levels of economic activity are expected in China, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand this year, thanks to the growth of their middle classes and urbanisation, while Japan will remain a very important. South Korea, meanwhile, will also be very active economically. Along with their counterparts from China and Japan, Korean companies will continue to invest heavily in Asean, particularly in Vietnam. "Key drivers are going to be strong demographic growth and the constant movement of people into the middle classes," said Tim Evans, head of commercial banking in international markets for Asia Pacific HSBC.

2.Rama connection

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

The hero of the Ramakien emerges as a bridge between India and Thailand. The Ramayana and Ramakien have long served as reminders of the deep cultural bonds between India and Thailand. Now scholars and other experts on the two epics are looking at ways to use them in the context of cultural and historical, tourism and economic connections between the two countries. The Indo-Thai Ramayana Forum was formally established at the World Ramayana Conference held from Dec 21-23 in Jabalpur, 900 kilometres southeast of New Delhi. To be jointly coordinated by Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and Rani Durgavati University in Jabalpur, the forum will provide a platform for scholars, writers, artists and others associated with the Ramayana to promote the message of right conduct and happiness and raise awareness of the various versions of the epic. It will also organize seminars, performances & cultural events.

3.Monorail plans for Phuket, Chiang Mai and KhonKaen

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

Plans are afoot for Phuket, Chiang Mai and KhonKaen to have monorails, which would simultaneously offer convenient transport for tourists, boost the local economy and tackle congestion. Investment in the projects would be funded by mid-year additional budget of as much as 190 billion baht for fiscal 2017 to finance local development of the 18 clusters of provinces endorsed by the government last December, according to PM's Office Minister SuvitMaesincee.

4.'I am confident about 2017' - SomkidJatusripitak

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

The military government brought in SomkidJatusripitak to lead the regime's economic team in 2015, as the country was struggling with internal politics and global economic downturn. The position meant that the onus was on MrSomkid, a finance minister and commerce minister in previous governments, to turn the domestic economy around. MrSomkid, now Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic policy, talks with the Bangkok Post on what he has done and will do.

5.Tourism revenue seen rising 8% to B1.8 trillion

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

Thailand expects revenue from foreign tourists to rise 8.5% to 1.78 trillion baht this year, a deputy prime minister said on Monday. The expected rise results from an improved outlook for global tourism, as well as Thailand's investment in infrastructure, Deputy Prime Minister TanasakPatimapragorn told reporters. "This is another year that we will need to focus on quality tourism more than tourist numbers," he said. Gen Tanasak expects daily tourist spending to increase to 5,200 baht per person this year, from 5,100 baht last year. Last year, Thailand had 32.6 million visitors, a rise of nearly 9% from the year before.The Industry Ministry has planned further measures to raise the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the export market, says Industry Minister UttamaSavanayana. He said the ministry is working

with related government agencies to draft stimulus packages that will help cut costs and increase SME exports, yielding more revenue from overseas markets. The government also wants to encourage Thai SMEs to rely more on e-commerce to help increase their export channels. "This year, we want to see concrete success for Thai SMEs in terms of competitiveness. The prime minister also assigned us to figure out more measures to improve SMEs businesses, encouraging them to export more, especially to Asean members and the CLMV countries," said MrUttama, referring to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

By RajneeNarula

