

## Thai News Update: 27 August 2018

### **1. E-Waste Sorting 'A Valid Source Of Income'**

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

A local community in Kalasin's Khong Chai district, known for recycling scrap electronic equipment, has brushed off health and environment concerns from so-called e-waste while stressing the need for a long-delayed incineration plant for proper garbage management. Wanchana Nathomthong, a member of tambon Khok Sa-art administrative organisation (TAO), said sorting and dismantling of discarded electronic equipment has been a good source of income for Khok Sa-art people. However, the business is hard-hit by controversial imports of plastic and electronic waste which some firms bring in to dispose of in the country.

### **2. Thin Trade Hinders Rise In Set Index**

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

The Set Index struggled to test the resistance level at 1,710 points last week but failed to break through due mainly to low volume. The average daily trading turnover was below Bt40 billion or a market turnover of 56 per cent of total market cap. It's very low, compared to the 10-year average of 83.5 per cent (peak-101 per cent in 2010 and low-73 per cent in 2008, 2015 & 2017). To reach its 10-year low at 73 per cent, the daily trade at market cap of Bt17.59 trillion, must not be less than Bt52 billion- a level considered sufficient to drive the SET Index to above 1,700 points. Local institutional investors were the main players with no signs of return of foreign capital. It's hard for the SET Index to stay above 1,710 points if there are no positive movements in the market turnover and foreign capital.

### **3. UN Helps Asean Countries Make Business Fairer**

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

Governments in the Asean region are being helped to establish a fairer business environment under a United Nations initiative. The project, Promoting a Fair Business Environment in Asean, was launched yesterday by the UN Development Programme (UNDP). It aims to promote a fair business environment in the region by developing transparent systems in the public and private

sectors, championing sustainable business practices, as well as strengthening rule of law and anti-corruption mechanisms. The project will cover Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The launch of the regional project aims to pave the way for “a multi-stakeholder effort to promote an enabling business environment for the private sector, reduce corruption risks and shape sustainable business practices” in Asean.

#### **4. Korea Visa-Free Arrivals Still In Effect**

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

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has dismissed rumours in the social media that South Korea planned to stop giving a visa waiver to Thais which has been in effect since 1981 due to the influx of refugees and illegal immigrants. Ministry spokeswoman Busadee Santipitaks said yesterday that the ministry has yet to receive any notification from South Korea about the rumoured termination of the visa waiver. She insisted the visa waiver agreement between Thailand and South Korea remains in effect. According to South Korea's mass circulation *Chosun Ilbo* daily, the Korean Ministry of Justice lobbied to end the visa-free entry for Thais. "Thais topped the list since they make up an estimated 100,000 of about 310,000 illegal immigrants in South Korea."

#### **5. BIMSTEC Eyes Higher Profile, Visibility In Indo-Pacific Region**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

Ahead of the fourth summit of a regional economic grouping straddling South Asia and South-East Asia, member nations are seeking a higher profile for the body and its revitalization through concrete steps like a free trade pact and improved connectivity. The envoys of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand, speaking at a conference in New Delhi last week called for increased “visibility” for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, known by its acronym BIMSTEC, and seen as having the potential to emerge as a building bloc of the economically vibrant Indo-Pacific region. In his remarks, Thailand’s ambassador to India Chutintorn Gongsakdi, welcomed the new lease of life that BIMSTEC had received with India’s renewed interest in the grouping. Urging the need to build a “competitive identity” for BIMSTEC, the Thai envoy also stressed that BIMSTEC members should reduce the number of areas of focus from 14 to five to ensure the success of the grouping.