

Thai News Update: 28 August 2018

1. CP Sees Thailand As ‘Premium’ Shrimp Base; India, Vietnam For Commodity

Source: Undercurrent News ([Link](#))

Thailand’s Charoen Pokphand Foods (CP Foods) plans to use its operations in its home country for large-size, premium shrimp, with Vietnam and India focused on mass production for the commodity market, senior executives with the company said. During a recent analysts call on CP Foods’ second-quarter results, Sujint Thammasart, chief operating officer for the conglomerate’s aquaculture business, said premium products will be the key for Thai shrimp business revival. On the call, Thammasart said shrimp diseases are no longer such a threat after CP Foods came up with a solution to acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND), more commonly known as early mortality syndrome, or EMS.

2. Nissan Works With MEA On Wall Chargers

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

Japan's Nissan Motor Thailand is teaming up with Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA) to install quick-charging outlets in households, supporting the future introduction of the Nissan Leaf, a fully electric vehicle in Thai market. On 27 August, both parties signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to study know-how from MEA in developing the outlets for battery EVs. The MoU is for two years. The outlet type is an EV wall box in a residential garage. Antoine Barthes, president of Nissan Thailand, said this is part of Nissan's plan to introduce the Leaf here.

3. MOFA To Talk With Thailand Over Scheduled Group Visa-Fee Hike

Source: Focus Taiwan ([Link](#))

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) on 27 August said it will communicate with the Thai government over a scheduled increase in the cost of visa applications for tour groups which is expected take effect in October. Taiwanese tourism business representatives told local media on 27 July that the Thailand Trade and Economic Office Taipei has informed them it plans to outsource its visa-application service to a private visa application center starting Oct. 1. From October, the office which originally processed visa applications from individuals and tour groups,

will accept a maximum of 50 applications each day, each one limited to a maximum of nine individual visas.

4. State Asked To Maintain Interest Rates

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

The government is being urged to maintain policy interest rates until the end of the year and curb the impact of foreign exchange fluctuations on the country's export performance. Sanan Angubolkul, chairman of the promotion group for exports and outward foreign direct investment under the Pracha Rat Public-Private Collaborative Committee, said although Thai exports fared quite well in the first half, many farm products such as rubber, tapioca and rubber remain in trouble as their prices were still relatively low. "The private sector is asking the government and responsible units to cap the policy rates until year-end while ensuring the baht's movements are in line with Thailand's peers," said Mr Sanan.

5. Pressures Played Down As Private Sector Sticks With 9% Export Growth

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

Volatility in the baht and the flare-ups of trade wars have been dismissed by corporate Thailand as diverting the export sector from expectations of at least 9 per cent growth for the year. The private sector is encouraged by the rising shipments of agricultural and manufacturing products, despite the baht movements, trade conflicts and a trend for rising interest rates in parts of the world. After a meeting of the Pracha Rat working group on the promotion of trade, service and overseas investment (D4) with over 40 export-related state and private units, Commerce Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong said the private sector has forecasted this year's export growth at 9 per cent to about US\$250 billion, based on the continuous growth in many industries. Shipments of manufacturing products are expected to climb 11 per cent while exports of agricultural and agro-processing products are estimated to rise by 5 per cent this year.