

## Thai News Update: 7 February 2018

### **1. RMI, INET Partner to Offer Superduck Cloud Solution**

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

RMI Global Ventures and INET have joined hands to introduce SuperDuck – an innovative cloud solution that is cheaper, faster and safer for Thais – in support of the government’s “Thailand 4.0” policy. RMI Global Ventures, the provider of ThaiWPS Office Suite, has linked up with Internet Thailand (INET), an IT infrastructure provider, in developing SuperDuck with a shared goal of concretely helping transform the country into a digital nation under the Thailand 4.0 policy. SuperDuck is a smart solution that allows people to use the office suite from anywhere, at any time, and on various devices-PCs or mobiles. Target customers include organisations with a huge demand for such office programs and high security such as financial institutions, state enterprises, and private organisations, the two companies announced.

### **2. Strong Baht May Rewrite Export Goal**

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

The Thai National Shippers’ Council (TNSC) said export growth this year could come in well below its estimate of 5.5 per cent due to a stronger baht and the recent increases in the country’s minimum daily wage. The more downbeat view has prompted the influential group to call on the government to launch relief measures to shore up Thai exports. TNSC chairman Ghanyapad Tantipatpong said that export income could drop by as much as US\$5 billion this year in the absence of official relief measures and continued gains in the baht. Under this scenario, the growth in exports is expected to fall well short of the announced projection of 5.5 per cent, at 3.5-4 per cent. Likely hard-hit industries range from frozen and processed chicken, agricultural products and fresh fruits and vegetables to textiles and garments, he said. If the baht appreciates to 30-31 per US dollar, Thai export will expand 3.5 per cent and if the baht stays at 33 per US dollar, export will grow higher at 5.5 per cent this year, he said.

### **3. Honeywell Eyes Sales to Thai Airlines**

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

Honeywell Aerospace, a manufacturer of aircraft engines and avionics, is negotiating with Thai airlines to provide what the US-based company calls connected aircraft services after it signed three such contracts with the Singapore Airlines Group. The Singapore deals will provide the latest Honeywell technologies and services to help improve operational capabilities for Singapore Airlines, SilkAir and Scoot, Honeywell's vice president for airlines in the Asia-Pacific region, Brian Davis, said in a group interview at Air Show 2018 in Singapore on Feb 6. Thailand is a key market for the company's business in Indochina and needs more technology to develop its aviation facilities to serve the strong demand in the market, he said.

### **4. Stocks Still Attractive Despite Correction, Say Citibank Analysts**

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

The stock market correction sweeping across Asia is expected to be shallow as equities in both developed and emerging markets remain attractive for investors, Citibank analysts say. The market correction triggered by a sell-off in New York on Feb 2 would be limited, in the range of a 6 per cent to 10 per cent global market average, Shrikant Bhat, Citibank's managing director and regional head of investments, said on Feb 6. His comments came amid the tumbles in stock markets worldwide on fears that US interest rates may rise more than earlier market expectations. For Bhat, the sharp falls in global stock markets are not that surprising given the run-up in share values at an average 6 per cent to 7 per cent in January was relatively high for just one month.

### **5. Limiting Tourists on the Most Popular Islands**

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

The Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation held a meeting at the Pearl Hotel on Phuket on Feb 6 to discuss the excessive numbers of tourists visiting the famous islands and bays. Songtham Suksawang, chief of the DNP's National Parks Office, who chaired the meeting, said that the amount of tourists in marine national parks was directly affecting the environment. The DNP has plans for a solution on the Similan Islands by spreading tourists around the other islands, as Island Four and Island Eight are way too overcrowded. "We will spread

tourists to other islands, apart from Islands Four and Eight, by installing piers to connect them. They will be floating piers to avoid disturbing the corals. There will be a floating centre, where tourists can rest in front of the island, as well, explained Songtham.

## **6. Developer AP Unveils Business Plan for 2018**

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

Property developer AP (Thailand) believes the industry will grow continuously, so it will move full-steam ahead to capitalise on the market trend. It said this year's presales are projected at Bt33.5 billion with total revenue turnover projected to reach Bt28.1 billion based on its plans to launch 34 new projects worth Bt49 billion, comprising four condominium projects worth Bt19 billion and 30 low-rise projects worth Bt30 billion. The company said it aims to achieve further success through five strategic drivers: building on successful partnership with Mitsubishi Estate; launching super luxury products; making a difference through mass-customised design in low-rise developments; expanding international portfolio; and developing digital innovation for good quality of life.

## **7. BenQ (Thailand) Turns Focus on Business, Education Sectors**

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

BenQ (Thailand) is focused this year on providing LCD displays and projectors to support both the business and education markets, managing director Thanyarak Nasomyon said. The local unit of Taiwanese maker BenQ also offers a variety of products such as Interactive Flat Panel or IFP-Smart Eye Care & Germ-resistance and Instashow (plug-and-play) wireless presentation to support and cover all business sectors, including start-ups, medium-sized and large operators, Thanyarak said. IFP-Smart Eye Care & Germ-resistance is a unique anti-bacterial offering that features a two-layer-mirror lens coated with ionic silver, with abilities such as anti-glare, flicker free and low blue light for users' eye comfort, the MD added.

## **8. Bio-economic Joint Venture in the Offing**

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

Global Green Chemical Plc (GGC) and Kaset Thai International Sugar Corporation Plc (KTIS) have kicked off the country's first bio-economic industrial complex in Nakhon Sawan with a total

investment of 40 billion baht. The project, Nakornsawan Biocomplex (NBC), is located in Takhli district. Each firm owns half of the yet-to-be-named joint venture that will develop the complex. Development of the first phase is expected to cost 10 billion baht, consisting of basic infrastructure for production facilities for higher-value products, including pharmaceuticals, food supplements, animal feed and biodegradable plastics.

### **9. SMEs Fret over Wage Hikes, Energy Costs**

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

Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) optimism fell for the three months to March as firms worry that the imminent minimum wage hikes and rising energy costs will push up their operating costs, according to a quarterly survey by TMB Analytics, the research unit of TMB Bank. The SME confidence index for income increased to 65.9 during the January-to-March quarter from 62.9 in the final quarter of last year, while the confidence index for operating costs dipped to 37.8 from 41.9.