

## Thai News Update: 9 August 2018

### **1. Dasta Reveals Plan For South**

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

The Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Dasta) plans to develop 32 communities in the three southernmost provinces as new attractions, aiming to draw mostly Malaysian tourists. Director-general Nalikatibhag Sangsnit said Dasta has joined with local tourism authorities, educational institutions and the Thailand Research Fund to explore community-based tourism in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces. The group has enlisted six communities, including Julaphon Village 10 in Yala and the Wat Chonthanasinghe Community in Narathiwat, as pilot communities in the first phase, as they are seen as having high potential to attract local visitors and international tourists. Mr Nalikatibhag said a further 26 communities in the provinces will be developed as attractions in the next three years as part of the second phase. Dasta expects the communities to draw foreigners, especially from the upper states of Malaysia. In order to promote the provinces to the Malaysian market, Dasta will bring operators to Matta Fair, a tourist trade show taking place in Kuala Lumpur in March 2019.

### **2. Infrastructure Spree Keeps Regional Stocks On Growth Path, Say Experts**

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

Thai and other Asian equities remain attractive as urbanisation and an infrastructure building spree drive economic growth in the region, fund managers say. The capital outflows that have wobbled some stock markets should ease off, they say. The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) Index has moved on from its lowest mark of the year at 1,593 points, although the benchmark had reached a high of 1,838 earlier this year, Chatkaew Groatong, vice president of the alternative investment department of Krungsri Asset Management, told the “Asia Investment Forum: The World’s Growth Engine” on August 8. However, she predicts more upside after the equity market’s recent rebound. Some foreign investors have resumed their buying of Thai stocks, despite foreigners having been overall net sellers this year.

### **3. Sectors Show Signs Of Improvement In 3rd Quarter**

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

Business sentiment has further improved in the third quarter from the second quarter, but low farm product prices and threat of flooding have impacted on consumption, according to the Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce Sentiment Index released on August 8. Rise in private investments and continued export growth have boosted business confidence in the third quarter, said Chayodom Sabhasri, economist of Chulalongkorn University's Economics Faculty and compiler of the index. Regarding the manufacturing sector, the index of 11 indicators such as purchasing order (70.5), production(67), employment(54), raw materials stock (60.3) and finished good stock (62.5) show that the sector continued to expand amid growth in exports. An index higher than 50 indicates confidence improving. 500 companies responded to questions on the outlook of their businesses posted by Chayodom's team.

### **4. Report Rules For Holders Expanded**

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

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on August 8 announced new regulatory reporting requirements for holders of securities and derivatives, expanding the scope of the reporting and securities categories. The move is aimed at providing investors with clear information and enabling them to better track the movement of securities held by those involved with listed companies, the SEC said in a release. The latest regulatory adjustment is in line with how the Securities Act of 2016 has broadened the scope of reporting for securities holding and mandatory reporting requirements, the commission said. Those who are required to report their securities and derivative holdings include directors, executives and auditors. For listed companies undergoing business rehabilitation plans, this covers temporary executives, business rehabilitation planners, plan administrators and temporary plan administrators.

### **5. Alibaba Scouting Firms To Feed Apps**

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

Alibaba Group is aggressively luring Thai brands and travel operators to its digital platform. "Thailand is one of the strategic countries in ASEAN where Alibaba will bring the core commerce and technology infrastructure for payment, logistics and big data used in China to replicate the

successful digital transformation," James Xu, deputy chief representative for Thailand at Alibaba Group, told Thai reporters infrastructure for payment, logistics and big data used in China to replicate the successful digital transformation," James Xu, deputy chief representative for Thailand at Alibaba Group, told Thai reporters during a media trip at Alibaba's Hangzhou headquarters. "We are in discussions with partners for warehouse construction, and we are exploring bringing Cainiao's data analytic technology for smart logistics to Alibaba's Smart Digital Hub in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC)," Mr. Xu said.