

Daily Thai News Summary: 11 June 2015

1. SET woos Japanese firms to raise funds

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

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) hopes to persuade Japanese multinational firms and their supply chains to raise funds from the Thai stock market. The bourse will partner with Capital Nomura Securities for a roadshow in Japan next month.

SET executive vice-president Pakorn Peetathawatchai said Japanese investors were thinking more of mobilizing funds in Thailand thanks to new instruments recently approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

2. Business groups hope for further reduction in policy rate in August

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

Representative of the private sector believe that if the Bank of Thailand still has room to lower the policy interest rate, it should do so in August to help small and medium-sized enterprises, and in the meantime the Finance Ministry should come through with its stimulus promises.

The central bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) yesterday maintained the benchmark lending rate at 1.50 per cent after consecutive cuts in March and April.

Sakchai Unchittikul, deputy secretary-general of the Federation of Thai Industries and president of the Small and Medium Industrial Institute, said the March and April cuts in the policy rate had done little for SMEs, as strict commercial banks were still demanding high interest rates of 7-10 per cent.

3. Shifts in regional competitiveness reflected in lower FDI share for Thailand: Moody's

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

Other countries in ASEAN are catching up with Thailand's sovereign credit rating, which has remained stable at "Baa1" for the past 12 years, while the Kingdom's share of foreign direct investment (FDI) flowing into the region has halved since 2004, reflecting shifts in relative competitiveness, Moody's Investors Service said yesterday.

Moody's sovereign credit ratings range from "C" to "Aaa", and the Philippines improved from a "Ba2" rating in 2005 to "Baa2" last year, while Indonesia moved up from "Ba1" to "Baa3" in the same period.

"Thailand itself may not be deteriorating in a sense, but there has been a relative loss of positioning, which reflects in our ratings," said Christian de Guzman, vice president and senior analyst of Moody's sovereign risk group. *"In 2003, both Indonesia and the Philippines were six, seven notches below that of Thailand, and now you are in the situation where the Philippines is now only one notch below and Indonesia is two notches below."*

4. Thai premier visits Singapore to boot ties

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Thursday left for Singapore for an official visit today to strengthen bilateral relations in tourism, trade and investments.

Deputy government spokesman Major General Veerachon Sukhontapatipak, Prime Minister Prayut visited the island state at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong.

The two-day trip is aimed at developing stronger bilateral ties and Prayut will meet with Singapore's high ranking officials and observe the country's economic and education policies. Both premiers will preside over the signing of 4 memorandums of understanding, which include cooperation on sea transport tourism, digital market productivity, and digital market information sharing between the Federation of the Thai Industries and Singapore's business sector.

5. Thai GPSC, Marubeni to develop 400 MW power plant in Myanmar

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

Thailand's Global Power Synergy PCL (GPSC) said it was joining with Japan's Marubeni Corp and Myanmar's EDEN Group to develop a 400-megawatt (MW) gas-fired combined-cycle power plant in Myanmar as part of its foreign expansion.

GPSC, the flagship power business of top Thai energy firm PTT PCL, and the consortium have signed a memorandum of understanding with Myanmar's government, Noppadol Pinsupa, the president of GPSC, said in a statement.

The power plant, to be located at Thanlyin, will serve rising demand from the residential and industrial sectors, including the Thilawa special economic zone and the Thanlyin oil refinery improvement project that the PTT group is bidding for, it said.

6. PTTEP to invest in Mozambique project

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

PTT Exploration and Production is ready to invest US\$1.5 billion in the production of liquefied natural gas in a Mozambique project after a joint venture secured orders for 8 million tonnes of LNG a year.

PTTEP chief executive officer Tevin Vongvanich said the company's investment plan for 2015 and 2016 on the further development of petroleum fields would involve LNG production in Rovuma offshore basin Area 1 in Mozambique.

The total investment in the project will be about \$20 billion, including the construction of an onshore LNG plant. Part of the investment will be from cash flow of shareholders in the gas field and the rest from loans. The major stakeholder in the field is Anadarko Petroleum Corporation.

By Harsha Hazarika