

Daily Thai News Summary: 11 September 2015

1. Tourism Council ups 2015 arrival target to 30 million

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

The Tourism Council of Thailand now expects 30 million international tourist arrivals this year, up from its original projection of 28.8 million. Last month's deadly bomb blast in Bangkok is no longer expected to affect the tourism sector in the coming high season. TCT president Ittirit Kinglake said 8.1 million international tourists were expected to visit the country in the final quarter, up by 9.2 per cent from same time last year. It is projected that 2.2 million will come from Southeast Asia, 3.2 million from East Asia, 1.3 from Europe, and the rest from other parts of the world.

Thailand welcomed 7.8 million visitors in the first quarter and 7.0 million in the second, up by 23 and 37 per cent respectively compared with the same periods last year. A total of 7.4 million are expected in the current quarter, up by 26 per cent from the third quarter of 2014. He said total arrivals should reach 30 million this year, an increase from the earlier projection of 28.8 million, for a 22.8-per-cent improvement over 2014. Total income from the international and domestic markets will also be higher than the original prediction of Bt2.2 trillion, at Bt2.3 trillion, of which Bt1.5 trillion will be from the international market.

2. British beef up operations

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

More British companies are planning to expand in Thailand to use the country as a springboard to tap market opportunities rising from the upcoming Asean Economic Community. Thanatcha Laohakul, trade and investment manager at the British embassy in Bangkok, said at least five big companies from the fashion and food sectors were keen to beef up their businesses.

They hope to use Thailand as a springboard to expand into other Asean countries after the formation of a single market by the end of this year. Currently, there are about 500 British companies and brands available in Thailand, including Tesco, Prudential and Kenwood.

3. Asian Development Bank to revise down GDP projection for Thailand

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

The Asian Development Bank will revise down its growth projection for Thailand's GDP for 2015 from the current 2.9-3.0 per cent because of disappointing first-half numbers, said one of its economists. Luxmon Attapich said that while the latest government stimulus package would help the economy, it would not be enough to offset the lowering of the ADB's growth prediction.

The ADB will reveal the new growth forecast for the Kingdom after its meeting on September 22, she told a seminar arranged by Kasikornbank yesterday, adding that it would be the second revision since the 3.2 per cent that was forecast at the beginning of the year. *"We hope that the first-phase stimulus package to help low-income earners will help the economy during the end of this year but its effect on GDP growth will be more apparent by the beginning of next year onwards,"* she said. *"The second phase of the stimulus package to help small and medium-sized businesses will obviously take longer [to affect] GDP expansion and its effect on the economy is a story for next year. Normally, capital that is injected for low-income earners will circulate, and it will circulate many times, so the effect on the economy will definitely be good, but by how much will remain to be seen,"* she added.

4. Bangkok dental congress gets worldwide response

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

The Dental Association of Thailand (DAT) is gaining the confidence of dental associations and specialist groups from all over the world to attend the FDI Annual World Dental Congress in Bangkok despite the Erawan Shrine bombing. *"It's not only the first time in Thailand, but it's the first venue bringing the western to meet eastern dentistry technologies with 180 exhibitors on more than 10,000 square metres of exhibition space,"* Dr Adirek Wongsas, said chairman of the organising committee.

The convention, which will run from September 22-25 at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (Bitec) in Bang Na, will welcome about 12,000 delegates, generating revenue of more than Bt700 million. After four years of great effort to bid to host the congress, in 1999, the DAT with support from the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), was selected to host it this year under the theme "Dentistry in the 21st Century. This is the biggest dentistry technology show in Asia, allowing participants to experience the newest technologies and innovative dentistry science from the world's leading companies," Adirek said.

5. Starting bid for 900 Mhz licence auction raised

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

The Telecom committee of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission yesterday approved the final auction rules for two 900-megahertz licences, which raised the starting bid to Bt12.86 billion each from Bt11.26 billion.

This reflects the increase of the initial bid to 80 per cent of full spectrum value from the originally planned 70 per cent. The auction rules will be submitted to the NBTC for consideration next Wednesday. The NBTC will also be asked at its meeting to finalise the date for the 900MHz auction, said Takorn Tantasith, secretary-general of the commission.

The auction has already been set for December 15 but some committee members believe it should take place on November 11 or 12. The NBTC will auction two 1,800MHz licences on November 11. Takorn said the date for the 900MHz licence auction should be scheduled after the meeting on Monday between Deputy Prime Minister Prajin Juntong, who is in charge of policy on information and communications technology, and the NBTC to discuss the allocation of spectra as well as management.

By Harsha Hazarika