

Daily Thai News Summary: 23 June 2015

1. AAV affirms in impact from ICAO's latest move

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

Asia Aviation (AAV), the listed majority shareholder of Thai AirAsia, vows to maintain its aircraft acquisition and route expansion plans despite the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)'s latest decision on Thailand's safety standards.

At a press conference, Tassapon Bijleveld, CEO of Thai AirAsia and Asia Aviation, said: *"We will definitely be introducing new routes. In response to ICAO's action in red-flagging Thailand, we affirm that Thai AirAsia will not be affected in any way and that we are ready to continue serving flights as usual."*

2. Govt mulls future of SRT's Makkasan complex

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

Finance Minister Sommai Phasee said yesterday that the government was brainstorming the future of the State Railway of Thailand's 500-rai (80-hectare) Makkasan complex, and a 100-year concession including a 50-year extension is one of the scenarios being bandied about. *"The 50-50-year model is being studied but there is no conclusion regarding the investment budget or its price yet,"* he said.

Turning the area into a public park under a 30-year concession plus 30-year extension had been considered, but now that could be lengthened to a 50-year concession plus 50-year extension. This could increase the value of the land. The SRT is leasing the land in the heart of Bangkok to the Finance Ministry to reduce its Bt119-billion debt. The SRT estimates that the outlay needed to turn it into a public park would be about Bt200 billion to Bt300 billion.

3. Interprovincial bus company strives to cut high expenses

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

The Transport Co, the state-owned interprovincial bus company, is moving to boost its competitiveness against low-cost airlines. *"The organisation has witnessed a drop of more than 20 per cent in passengers in the first half of this year compared with the same period last year,"* chairman Anusorn Saengnumnuan said yesterday.

The no-frills airlines can offer competitive prices on long-haul routes of more than 300 kilometres. *"If we want to survive in the long term, we have to adjust our business plan, which is now outlining both short - less than three years - and long-term ones, more than 10 years,"* he said.

4. Ministry, consumer protection agency target online cheating

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

Amid the rising popularity of e-commerce, the Commerce Ministry is cooperating with the Office of the Consumer Protection Board (OCPB) to suppress online cheating.

Whichai Phochanakij, deputy director-general of the Business Development Department, said the government would stringently inspect online traders and punish unscrupulous enterprises if they are found using illegal practices or cheating consumers.

The two agencies will investigate several cases that have been filed to the OCPB accusing traders of cheating. If they determine that such traders are guilty of illicit or unfair practices, the department will forward such cases to the police. Under the laws governing e-commerce, these enterprises could face fines of up to Bt100,000.

5. S Korea digital marketer takes stake in Adyim Online

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

South Korea's leading and fastest-growing digital marketing group, Yello Digital Marketing (YDM) Group, yesterday said it was acquiring a large stake in Adyim Online Agency, one of Thailand's major online marketing companies, in one of the major foreign acquisition deals in the digital marketing industry in Thailand.

Based on financial assistance and technological support provided by YDM, Adyim aims to become Thailand's No 1 digital marketing firm within the next three years. YDM is part of Yello Mobile group, the fastest-growing mobile media group in South Korea which comprises more than 70 companies specializing in five major business sectors: shopping, media and content, advertising and digital marketing, travel and online to offline services. YDM is Yello Mobile's first business to expand its presence overseas, targeting the Southeast Asian region as a priority.

YDM currently has more than 20 companies throughout Southeast Asia, including Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. The company employs more than 1,000 people to provide services to more than 5,000 clients.

6. Private companies start to feel pinch of slowdown

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

Thailand's economic growth prospect is skewed to the downside which now affects the private sector's debt financing ability and the banking sector's asset quality, said the Bank of Thailand.

In a statement issued after their first meeting in this year, the Monetary Policy Committee and the Financial Institutions Committee however said that the problems have not yet led to a systematic risk, thanks to Thai banks' high capital level and loan-loss provisions. They also said that the Thai private sectors, particularly large-sized companies, are financially strong and should be able to wither the risks for a certain period.

The committees noted that to be closely monitored is risks from slow economic recovery, aside from global economic uncertainties as well as the US rate hike. The Monetary Policy Committee at the June 10 meeting revised down the 2015 economic growth forecast for the second time in this year, from 3.8 per cent to 3 per cent. However, it raised the 2016 forecast from 3.9 per cent to 4.1 per cent.

By Harsha Hazarika