

Daily Thai News Summary: 25 July 2016

1. Thailand aims to become centre for organic farming

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

Thailand is promoting itself as the centre of organic farming and trading in Asean and aims to become one of the world's major suppliers of organic products. Commerce Minister Apiradi Tantraporn said yesterday that the ministry and producers planned to increase the country's share of the world market in the organic sector as it foresaw that as a sustainable way to help farmers and promote good living. She said Thailand had good potential to become the centre of organic farming and trading within Asean, but to achieve the goal it required more policy support and awareness about organic products from farmers and consumers.

The government has devised a five-year plan to develop organic products to boost the country's market share globally. The plan started this year and aims to add value to organic goods. The government will help the marketing and packaging development of products. Under the plan, exports of organic products to the world market are forecast to grow 10 per cent each year. Currently, the annual value of organic-product exports is Bt4 billion. The world market value of organic products is US\$72 billion (Bt2.3 trillion) annually and grows at an average rate of 12.8 per cent each year.

2. Petronas gives year's first PSC to Thai and Kuwaiti firms

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

Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) has awarded its first production sharing contract (PSC) of the year to units of Thai state-owned PTT Exploration and Production Public Co Ltd (PTTEP) and Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) for exploration Block SK410B located offshore Sarawak. The national oil company said under the terms of the PSC, PTTEP's unit PTTEP HK Offshore Ltd would operate the block with participating interest of 42.5 per cent , while KPC's overseas exploration and production arm Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co (Kufpec), through Kufpec Malaysia (SK-410B) Ltd, held another 42.5 per cent.

3. Vietnamese scientist, firms invited to Thai laboratory technology exposition

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

Vietnamese scientists and companies working in a range of analytical laboratories will have the opportunity to learn about the latest equipment and technologies at the “Thailand Lab International” event to be held in Bangkok in September. The sixth International Trade Exhibition and Conference on Analytical Laboratory Equipment and Technology, Biotechnology and Life Sciences, and Chemical and Safety will provide applications and solutions for all types of laboratories, said Anucha Parnpichate, the project manager of VNU Exhibitions Asia Pacific, the organiser. More than 1,300 brands belonging to 350 exhibitors from 35 countries, including China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the United States and the United Kingdom, will present their latest laboratory technologies, he said. Several seminars will be held on the sidelines to brief professionals in the industry on the latest information and technologies and enhance cooperation.

4. Thais warm to global auctions

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

Thai Client’s participation in international auction sales will show growth potential over the next few years when the local market environment becomes stable, said Julia Hu, Christie’s vice president in charge of regional offices in Asia. This growth will be in line with Asia in general, which has posted a significant increase in the sales contribution to Christie’s global auction business, from only 12 per cent in 2008 to 22 per cent in 2011, and 28 per cent last year, or around US\$2 billion (Bt35 billion). In five years, the auction house hopes to drive Asian clients’ sales contribution to 30 per cent or above, Hu said. Hu said Thai collectors were able to cope with barriers such as language to engage in international auction events. They are also familiar with the auction process and able to submit bids even for high-priced items. They find information about luxury products and artworks and make their own judgements before participating in the auction process.

5. Boat show expected to showcase Pattaya as Marine travel hub

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

PATTAYA is set to display the largest boats and lifestyle products as part of the famous beach resort's ambitious transformation into a new marine travel hub. The Ocean Marina Pattaya Boat Show, whose run this year will take place from November 24-27, has been a catalyst for the Gulf of Thailand's marine industry, promoting the onshore facilities and offshore cruising grounds worldwide. *"Since launching Ocean Marina Pattaya Boat Show five years ago, we have seen considerable growth in marine tourism and boat use in the Gulf of Thailand. The boat show has helped to position this region as a leading marine destination in Southeast Asia. Both the number of boat owners overseas choosing Ocean Marina to base their boats and the number of Thais buying boats in the region have increased, and this trend looks to continue,"* Scott Finsten, the harbour master of Ocean Marina, said last week.

With 22 boats up to 119 feet in length at last year's show, organisers are planning for an even bigger and better display this year, and have expanded the in-water display space to accommodate the increased interest. Early exhibitor confirmations include top dealerships Simpson Marine and Boat Lagoon Yachting, both of which have secured larger exhibition space this year. They are joined by luxury Italian boat brand Azimut Yachts, Beneteau, Cranchi, CNB Yachts, Jeanneau, Lagoon, Monte Carlo Yachts, Prestige, Princess Yachts, Viking Yachts and Wider. Superyacht brands represented at the show include Admiral and Sanlorenzo, and a large selection of brokerage yachts will also be available for viewing. Tirachai Pipitsupaphol, managing director of Ocean Property, said the show set a new benchmark with increased exhibition space onshore and in the water.

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