

## Daily Thai News Summary: 8 June 2015

### 1. Indian big spenders catch TAT's interest

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

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) reported that the biggest spenders are Chinese tourists, who fork out 6,346 baht per day, followed by Singaporeans (6,289 baht), Malaysians (6,020 baht), Indians (5,952 baht) and Australians (5,842 baht).

In 2014, Indian tourists were ranked 10th in terms of spending, behind visitors from Britain, Japan, the US, South Korea and Germany. Given their spending potential, the TAT is hoping to welcome 1.1 million Indians this year, beating their record arrivals of 1.05 million in 2013.

The Indian economy is likely to grow by 7.5% this year. It posted 7.3% growth in the first quarter, which benefited Indians' purchasing power, said Runjuan Tongrut, director of the TAT's Delhi office. The TAT expects high-end visitors will account for 30% of total Indian tourists this year, up from 25% last year.

### 2. VietJet Air guaranteed to take off in third quarter, says Vietjet Air

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

VietJet Air, the Vietnamese fledgling no-frills carrier, has confirmed its long-delayed Thai offshoot will start regular flights soon. TVJA is VietJet Air's first foreign joint-venture airline. The parent carrier wants to ensure it is successful so it can be used as a model for other joint-venture carriers VietJet Air plans to establish outside Vietnam in the future.

In an interview with the Bangkok Post in Bangkok, the Managing Director, Mr Luu Duc Khanh, stressed that final preparations are being made for the start-up of scheduled flights by TVJA out of Suvarnabhumi airport, Bangkok's gateway hub.

"Thailand's airline business is very competitive with too many airlines and what we have been trying to do is to find the right strategy to ensure that we can compete with others when we enter the market," he said

### **3. MPC likely to hold the policy rate steady at 1.5% this week**

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

Economists expect the Bank of Thailand's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to maintain the policy interest rate at 1.5 per cent this week after the surprise consecutive cuts in March and April, as the economy is picking up thanks to the weakening baht and the increased tangibility of the government's mega-projects.

*"The baht has already weakened, and that is mission accomplished for the MPC, so it will probably wait and see what happens in the next period before making any more changes to the benchmark lending rate,"* said Somchai Amorntum, executive vice president for the research department at Krung Thai Asset Management (KTAM).

Somchai said that although there is no inflationary pressure on the MPC at the moment, inflation was expected to rise alongside oil prices towards the end of the year. KTAM expects headline inflation to be around 2 per cent in the first quarter of 2016.

### **4. STEC upbeat after boost from private sector projects**

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

Sino-Thai Engineering and Construction is upbeat about keeping its profit growing this year after new orders for construction projects placed mostly by corporations jumped 20 per cent, to make up for a likely drop in jobs from the government because of delays.

*"Of the electric train projects to be put up for bidding this year, only those under the State Railway of Thailand [SRT] are likely, while those under the Mass Rapid Transit Authority [MRT] may not happen this year,"* Pakpoom Srichamni, president of Stecon, said on Saturday.

The SRT's 10-kilometre Rangsit-Thammasat University Rangsit Campus section of the Dark Red Line is expected to open for bidding by the year-end. The contracts for the Light Red Line's 25.5km Bang Sue-Hua Mark section and the 22km extension of the Airport Rail Link from Phya Thai to Don Muang via Bang Sue are also expected to be tendered this year, according to the government's announcement.

## 5. Wynyard Group focuses on advanced cybercrime threats

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

New Zealand's Wynyard Group sees real opportunities in ASEAN and Thailand for its advanced crime analytics solution that helps solve and prevent serious financial, organized and transnational crime as well as new generation threats from extremism and advanced cybercrime. The market leader in serious crime fighting software is listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange.

Craig Richardson, chief executive officer, told The Nation last week that in the last 20 years, transnational and organized crime, or "new crime", had grown rapidly around the world, particularly in the area of cybercrime and new generation extremism. Combined with exponential growth in structured and unstructured data had created a global US\$8 billion (Bt269.9 billion) market for serious crime fighting software.

In Thailand, Wynyard assists the Narcotics Control Board to protect people from transnational crime groups involved in drug trafficking. The company also helps the Customs Department protect borders from drug trafficking.

*"Wynyard is building on its success in the Kingdom and sees real opportunity as organisations are increasingly turning to technology to help address the growing problem of transnational and organised crime. So our company continues to invest in its operations to manage growth opportunities in the region," he said.*

## 6. Flood-hit community bounces back with own rice brand

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

Organic farmers from Ban Kao Samorkhon in Lop Buri's Tha Wung district, supported by Banpu - the "Asian face of energy" - have launched a brand-new Thai rice product, Khao Samorkhon Organic Sinlek Brown Rice.

Suitable for health-conscious consumers of any age, the brand boasts a pure breed of rare Sinlek rice which is 40 per cent richer in fibre, vitamin B1 and iron, is seven times more nutritious, and contains lower glucose levels than other types of rice.

With support from Banpu's "Ban Khao Samorkhon Sustainable Development Project" and Ban Khao Samorkhon municipality, the families have since taken up organic rice farming and successfully began producing organic and nutritious yields three years ago.

## 7. Private role in infrastructure stressed

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

The Government's policy to open up investment in the country's infrastructure to the private sector is crucial if the overall mega-investment target is to be achieved, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said yesterday.

*"The country needs more investment, but spending the [state] budget alone will not be enough for developing the nation's infrastructure. We therefore have to open up opportunities for the private sector to invest, which could be in form of joint investment between the private and public sectors, or through concessions, depending on the project. The government will provide the facility to enable the private sector to invest because of the limited budget available for the government to invest on its own,"* Prime Minister Prayut said at a seminar titled "Role of State Enterprises Committee".

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