

Daily Thai News Summary: 9 September 2015

1. Stimulus 2 draws positive response

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

The Federation of Thai industries (FTI) has welcomed the Bt206-billion second phase of the Council of Economic Ministers' economic stimulus package, which is aimed at supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). FTI chairman Supant Mongkolsuthree believes it could increase SMEs' liquidity and boost the number of new start-ups. The Bt136-billion first phase of the stimulus package, aimed at helping low-income earners, was approved by the Cabinet last week.

"The SME measures that were approved [yesterday] will help SMEs, as they are well-rounded and cover the full loop of everything from allowing SMEs to gain further access to finance, to increasing profit via lowering their income tax and encouraging new businesses through a government venture-capital programme and the tax exemption for new targeted businesses. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of the loan measures will be determined by the response of the financial institutions and SME operators, and I still urge the government to come up with more measures to mitigate the further drop in commodities prices, since the more purchasing power the farmers have, the more products they will buy from SMEs," Supant said.

2. TUF joins forces with Saudi food firm

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

Thai Union Frozen Products (TUF), the world's leading seafood processor, and Savola Foods Company, one of the largest food companies in the Middle East, have announced a joint venture to bring sustainable, innovative and quality seafood products to Middle Eastern consumers.

TUF has more than 20 seafood plants operating across Asia, Europe, Africa and North America. It operates in several seafood categories and owns leading global brands such as John West, Chicken of the Sea, Petit Navire and Mareblu. The company is the largest processor of tuna globally, and operates the world's only tuna-focused global innovation incubator in partnership with the Mahidol University.

3. Airlines active as high season approaches

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

Major Airlines are spreading their wings and offering special promotions in a bid to secure bookings ahead of the coming high season in Thailand.

Thai Airways International (THAI) is promoting its Singapore and Hong Kong routes, while Nok Air, NokScoot and AirAsia have launched new services to overseas destinations with special deals to encourage advance bookings.

4. Prajin to iron out ICT issues with NBTC chief

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

Deputy Prime Minister ACM Prajin Juntong will meet the chairman of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) on Monday to discuss how the watchdog can collaborate with the Information and Communication Technology Ministry to drive the country's ICT development, especially in the area of spectrum allocation and management.

Prajin, who oversees the government's ICT policy, will touch on several issues with NBTC chairman Thares Punsri, including the NBTC's plan to auction both 1800MHz and 900MHz licences this November and its plan to reclaim 2.3GHz and 2.6GHz, said Takorn Tantasith, secretary general of the NBTC.

The NBTC board recently concluded that MCOT, which holds the 2.6GHz, still has a right to operate some parts of the frequency but for broadcasting services only. The NBTC has a plan to reclaim the spectrum for auction next year.

5. EDP 2016 to look outwards to CLMV

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

As more Thai companies venture abroad, the Thai Listed Companies Association (TLCA) has come up with a new mission to develop regional business leaders. The TLCA in conjunction with its key partners in its Executive Development Programme (EDP), which include the Stock Exchange of Thailand, Bangkok Bank and KPMG Phoomchai, yesterday held a press conference to announce the launch of its EDP Class of 2016.

For the first time it will involve field trips to CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) countries and include as its participants entrepreneurs and business executives from CLMV and other Asean countries. TLCA president Surong Bulakul said that among the

outstanding features of the EDP, which had organized 15 classes over the past nine years producing more than 1,200 alumni to date, was its ability to help network the participants who have the right quality and qualifications.

By Harsha Hazarika