

Thai News Update: 14 September 2018

1. Somkid Credits Government Policies For Buoyant Stock Market

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

Economic growth will accelerate next year as confidence and investment increase following an announcement about the general election and amid generous state spending, Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said on 14 September. He was commenting the day after the stock market rose sharply, boosted mainly by the announcement of clearer plans for the election. Somkid said investors were more confident now that the election had officially been scheduled for February, leading to large inflows into the stock market. The SET index rose 2.3 per cent on 13 September over the previous day to close at 1,718 points and continued to rise during Friday's morning trade.

2. Boi Measures Ordered To Boost Rural Tourism

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

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha has ordered the Board of Investment (BoI) to consider measures in support of tourism in the provinces to boost rural economic growth, BOI's secretary general Duangjai Asawachintachit said. She said after a meeting of the BOI's board of committee, chaired by Prayuth, that the board will consider measures to further boost the country's tourism industry in line with the prime minister's policy. They will be proposed to the board's meeting next month. At present, the BOI offers incentives for investments in meeting venues, culture centre museums, and theme parks.

3. Southeast Asia Stocks Rise On US-China Trade Talks

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

Southeast Asian stock markets rose on 13 September tracking broader Asia on hopes that China and the United States could strike a deal on their tariff dispute. Asia shares ex-Japan snapped nine straight sessions of declines after China said on 13 September that it welcomed an invitation by the US to hold a new round of trade talks. The news comes as a relief at a time when the US is preparing to escalate the US-China trade war with tariffs on US\$200 billion worth of Chinese

goods. The Stock Exchange of Thailand index gained most, jumping 38.57 points or 2.30% on progress toward general elections.

4. Aviation Industry Eyes More MRO Revenue

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

Thailand's aviation industry is pushing a road map to raise maintenance-based income, while launching a plan to push for Don Mueang International Airport as a hub for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) for aircraft engines and U-tapao Airport for integrated MRO service. According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the Asia-Pacific aviation industry is expected to grow about 5.8 per cent during the next 20 years, the same rate as Asean, while the Thai aviation industry is expected to expand the fastest and highest in the world at 8 per cent. Transport Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith said that Thailand is developing its aviation industry, particularly the MRO centre for which Thai Airways International Plc (THAI) has signed an agreement with the Royal Thai Navy and the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Committee for operation in the U-tapao Airport.

5. Thai Economic Prospects Look Brighter

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

The University of Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) has raised its forecast of Thailand's economic growth this year to 4.6 per cent from an earlier estimate of 4.5 per cent after improved export, tourism and crop prices. It also expects the Bt40-billion spending in the 2019 general elections to spur the economy. Thanavath Phonvichai, director of UTCC's Centre for Business and Economic Forecasting, said export and tourism sectors have continued to expand from early this year thanks to a boost in global economy and increase in the prices of several crops, particularly paddy rice, sugar cane and corn. Private investment is also showing signs of recovery and public spending has increased, he said.

6. SRT Proposes Eight Double-Rail Projects

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

The board of directors of the State Railways of Thailand (SRT) has proposed developing eight double-rail projects worth Bt300 billion to the Transport Ministry and the National Economic and

Social Development Board, SRT deputy governor Voravut Mala, who is the acting governor, said on 13 September. He said the board expected Cabinet approval this year and will open bids in 2019. The eight projects are: Pak Num Pho-Denchai; DENCHAI-CHIANG MAI; JIRA-UBON RATCHATHANI; KHON KAEN-NONG KAI; CHUMPHON-SURAT THANI; SURAT THANI-HAD YAI; HAD YAI-PADANGBESAR; and BAAN PAI-NAKHON PHANOM, he said