

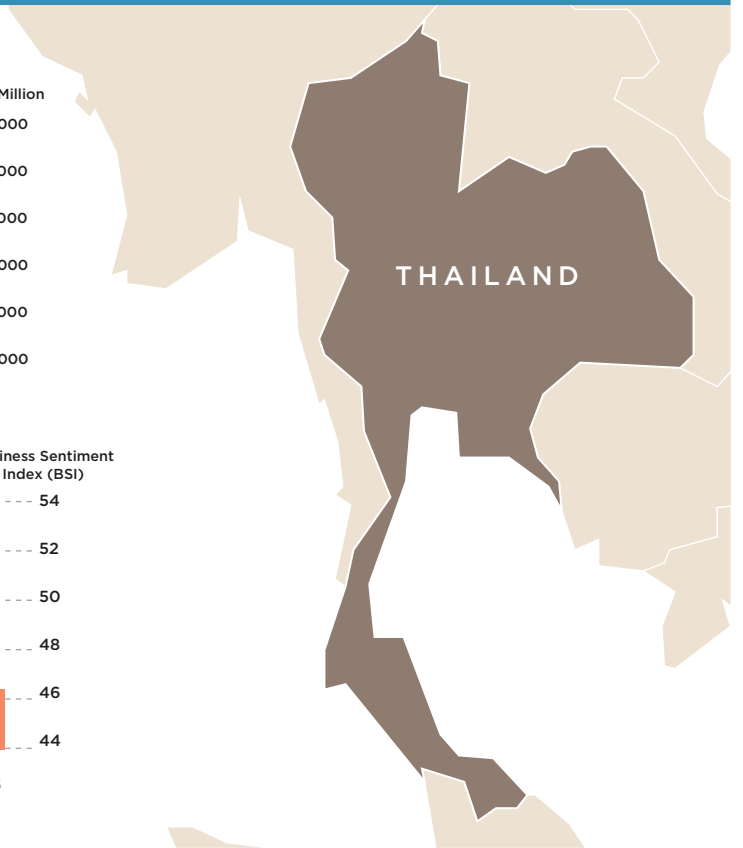
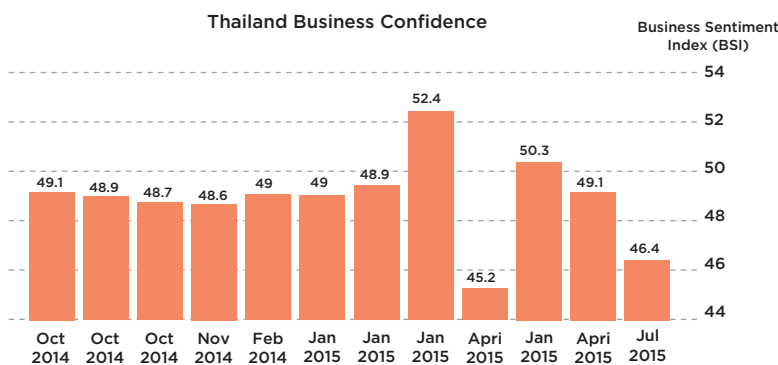
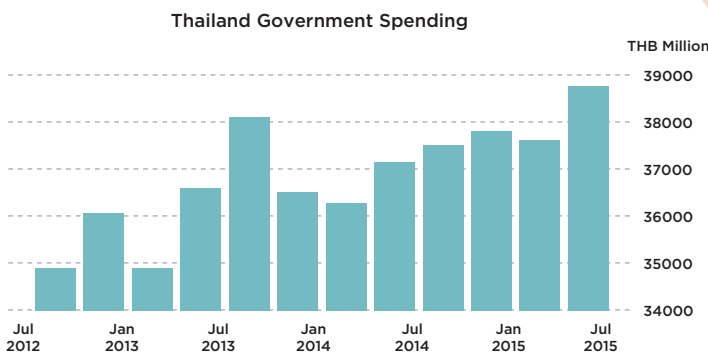
CARI CAPTURES



01 THAI GOVERNMENT APPROVES US\$3.8 BILLION STIMULUS



Thailand's Government Approved Economic Measures



[Trading Economics](#)

In a bid to jump start economic growth amidst lacklustre exports, falling factory productivity, and slowing tourism, Thailand's government has approved economic measures to boost spending in rural areas.

- ▶ Around US\$1.6 billion of the stimulus package will be used for soft loans via village funds to spur consumer spending, with an additional US\$1 billion for sub-district spending; a further US\$1.1 billion will be allocated towards smaller public works projects to raise employment
- ▶ The stimulus package comes after the national planning agency cut its 2015 economic growth forecasts again by 2.7% - 3.2% from

earlier estimates of 3% - 4%; low commodity prices, alongside record highs for household debt have curbed consumption

- ▶ The policy shift in government's approval of stimulus marks a policy shift by the government in embracing previous economic initiatives carried out by the previous Thaksin administration; it should be noted that heavy government spending by previous governments did spur economic growth at the cost of corruption and government deficit

[The Star \(2 September 2015\)](#)

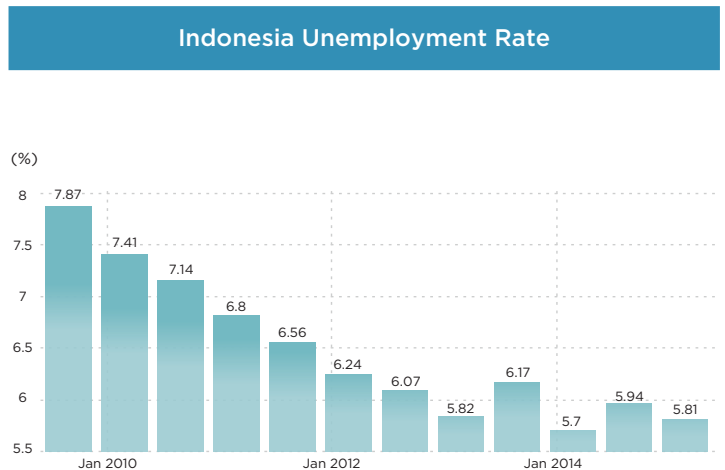
02 THOUSANDS OF WORKERS MARCH ON JAKARTA



More than 50,000 workers marched on Jakarta's main thoroughfare on the 1st of September demanding the government act in prevention of further economic slowdown.

- ▶ The workers, led by president of the confederation of Indonesian trade unions Said Iqbal, protested against the worsening global economy as well as the weakening rupiah; fears that said conditions would lead to their future unemployment spurred a call for action aimed towards the government
- ▶ Currently, the rupiah has depreciated nearly 12% against the dollar in 2015, making it the second-worst performing Asian currency behind the Malaysian Ringgit; furthermore, decreased global demand for Indonesia's exports have forced employers to lay off staff to reduced operating costs to avoid bankruptcy
- ▶ Amongst their list of demands, the workers requested reforms tightening the influx of foreign workers, as well as policies guaranteeing their continued employment; Employment Minister Hanif Dhakiri said in a statement that in the year to the end of August, 26,000 workers have been laid off

[Anadolu Agency \(1 September 2015\)](#)



[Trading Economics](#)

03 INDONESIA, MALAYSIA STEP UP FIGHT AGAINST PIRACY



Indonesia and Malaysia are both stepping up their fight against piracy in the wake of growing security concerns in surrounding waters.

- ▶ According to the International Maritime Bureau, the first six months saw a total of 134 incidents of piracy and armed robbery, an increase from 116 during the same period last year. ReCAAP, a Singapore-headquartered anti-piracy organization, recorded six piracy incidents in the straits of Malacca and Singapore on 21 and 22 August alone
- ▶ Malaysia, too has looked to boost coordination and cooperation. Following the 8 August hijacking of MT Joaquim, a Singapore-registered vessel in the Straits of Malacca, Malaysia's defense minister Hishammuddin Hussein proposed that the country carry out joint patrols with Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore
- ▶ Discussions have also been ongoing between ASEAN countries about joint anti-piracy patrols in the South China Sea

[The Diplomat \(2 September 2015\)](#)

04 EDUCATION SECTORS IN LAOS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE GOALS



Education officials and personnel at public and private schools and institutes around the country need to pay close attention to improving education standards if Laos is to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

- ▶ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Sports Dr Phankham Viphavanh stressed the need to improve standards when giving an address to mark the start of the new school year
- ▶ According to him, by learning to read and write, the people will improve and develop their lives and their communities
- ▶ He also noted that the Laos education system should be strengthened and expand the local education system in order to make their "Education for All" plan a reality

[Vientiane Times \(31 August 2015\)](#)



05 VIETNAM FETES 70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE



On 2 September 2015, huge crowds gathered on the streets of Vietnam's 1,000-year-old capital Wednesday for a massive military parade to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the nation's independence.

- ▶ With a 21-cannon blast from historic Thang Long royal citadel, the procession of some 30,000 soldiers and civilians started at 7am, in front of Ho Chi Minh mausoleum at Ba Dinh square, where late President Ho Chi Minh had proclaimed the nation's independence on Sept 2, 1945 in the aftermath of the World War II

- ▶ "For the past 70 years, our achievements have been tremendous but not adequate to our potential. Vietnam is at risk of lagging far behind in economy," President Truong Tan Sang said
- ▶ The parade featured 30,000 participants, including marching bands and several military, militia and police units

[Bangkok Post \(2 September 2015\)](#)

06 CAMBODIAN-AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE DEAL FALLS APART

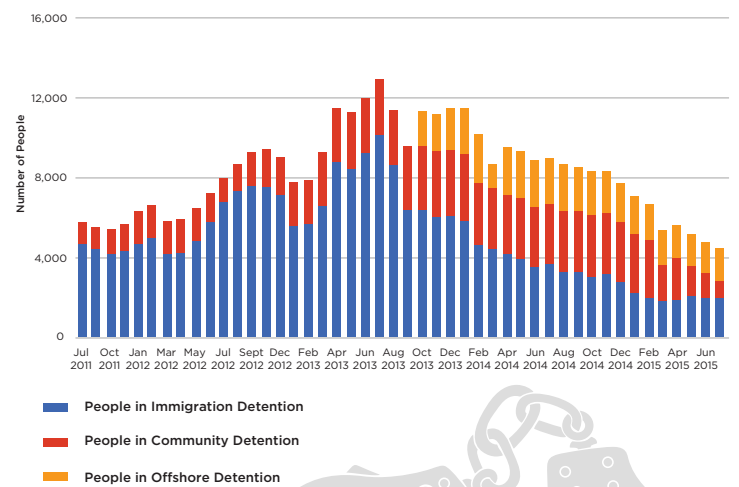


Following the acceptance of four refugees, Cambodia has halted the reception of any further refugees from Australia.

- ▶ As per the deal announced in 2014, Cambodia received US\$29 million in order to aid with the resettlement of refugees being refused entry into Australia; whilst the deal is not contingent on any number of refugees, the paltry number accepted has done little to alleviate the mass of asylum seekers currently being temporarily housed in Nauru and Papua New Guinea
- ▶ According to Cambodia's Interior Ministry spokesman Khieu Sophak, it would take about three months to train and assimilate the four accepted refugees; any further influx of refugees would not be conducive given the current climate within Cambodia
- ▶ Whilst Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has denied the collapse of said deal, the slow relocation of refugees as well as the public condemnation of the deal by human rights activists has marked the scheme negatively

[Khmer Times \(31 August 2015\)](#)

People in Immigration, Detention and Offshore Detention Centers In Australia



[Asylum Seeker Resource Centre](#)

07 FACTORY INSPECTORS UNDERGO TRAINING TO STRENGTHEN GARMENT SECTOR



Fourteen selected labour inspectors together with social partners are learning the skills necessary to help improve working conditions, worker safety and, ultimately, productivity in the country's garment sector.

- ▶ A five-day introductory labour inspection training course began in Vientiane yesterday, organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare under the auspices of the 'Improving the Garment Sector in the Lao'
- ▶ The project aims to improve working conditions, productivity and competitiveness in the country's garment manufacturing sector by strengthening the national labour inspection system to ensure compliance with the national labour law in line with international labour standards

- ▶ The purpose of this training programme is to build the capacity of labour inspectors with basic knowledge and skills relating to their core functions. These include the Labour Law 2014, the minimum wage, and inspection techniques
- ▶ The garment sector is Laos' largest manufacturing employer and makes a significant contribution to exports. Some 30,000 workers are employed by about 60 exporting factories and 45 subcontracting firms with production mainly in and around Vientiane

[Vientiane Times \(1 September 2015\)](#)



08 MYANMAR MONITOR

POLITICS

▶ President Thein Sein made his first public appearance on 9 September since the start of a campaign for the November general elections, meeting leaders of ethnic minority guerrilla groups for ceasefire talks in Naypyidaw. Reaching deal with rebel groups would be a political victory for Thein Sein and boost the chances of his ruling USDP in the elections. An agreement with all ethnic armies is however unlikely, experts say, with some groups excluded from the talks.

[Reuters \(9 September 2015\)](#)

▶ Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on 10 September urged voters to opt for "real change" in the first general election since the end of military rule. "The coming election is our chance to change the system and go for democracy. People should not miss the chance," she added, declaring the NLD's ambition to win all contested seats.

[Reuters \(10 September 2015\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ Myanmar and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a framework agreement that will allow ADB to expand its trade finance programme (TFP) into the country. The ADB will thereby guarantee trade finance instruments, such as letters of credit issued by Myanmar banks, as well as provide credit facilities and technical assistance to partner banks, helping banks in Myanmar to forge new relationships with international banks.

[Global Trade Review \(10 September 2015\)](#)

▶ Almost \$20 billion in dirty money linked to corruption, crime and tax evasion has left Myanmar in the past five decades, slashing government revenue and driving a thriving underground economy, US-based Global Financial Integrity said in a report released on 9 September. Fraudulent invoicing of trade deals and physical smuggling of drugs, timber, gems and other goods still pose big challenges to Myanmar.

[Reuters \(9 September 2015\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ A total of 2,633 undocumented Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia have been issued with work permits and the legalization of another 2,236 is underway. Officials from both countries handed over the work permits and approval papers to undocumented workers holding Myanmar passports.

[Mizzima \(7 September 2015\)](#)

09 THAILAND KNOWLEDGE PARK LAUNCHES THAILAND'S FIRST ONLINE LIBRARY



Thailand Knowledge Park (TK Park) has launched the "TK Public Online Library" - the first of its kind in this country - which provides access to ebooks, audio books, newspapers and magazines.

- ▶ The pilot project was launched five years ago, with TK Park introducing a 2eBook service for members. Apart from Thai content, the library also offers material in English. The library contains some 1,700 books in English
- ▶ For the Thai content, TK Park has cooperated with leading publishers namely Nation Books, Nanmee, Amarin, Plan for Kids and Matichon
- ▶ Altogether, the library has more than 7,000 eBooks and 4,000 newspapers and magazines in 35 languages

[Nation Multimedia \(2 September 2015\)](#)

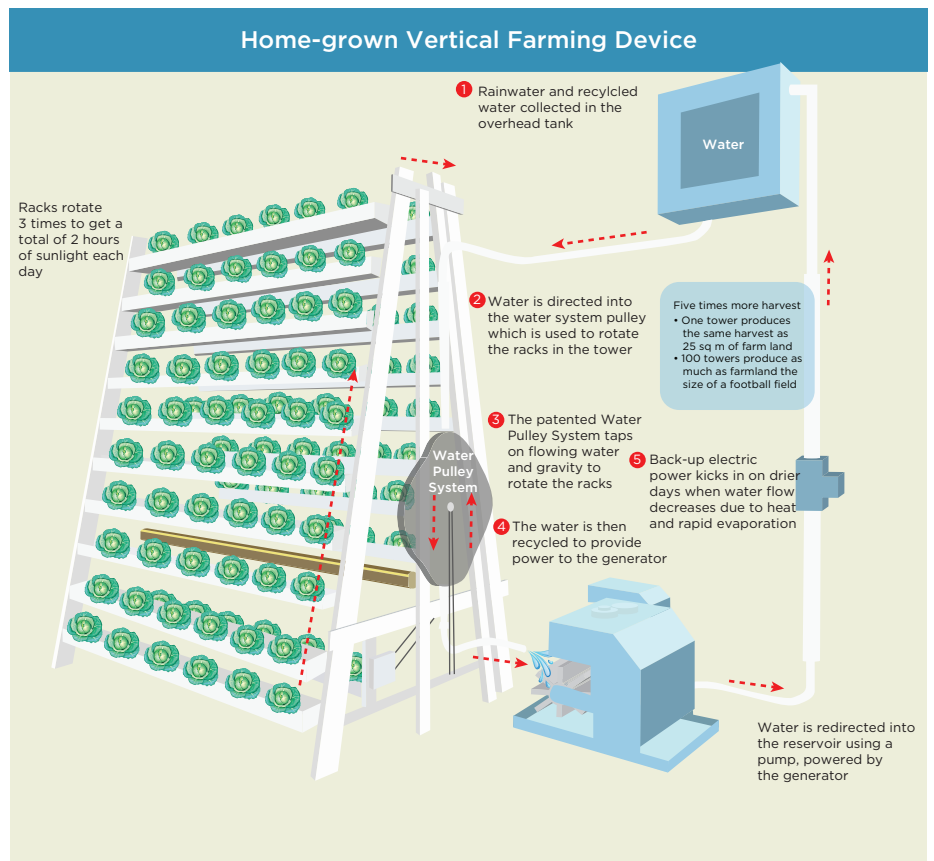
10 VERTICAL FARMING INVENTION WINS AWARD



A home-grown vertical farming device which can grow up to 10 times as many vegetables as traditional farming methods within the same square footage has won an international design award.

- ▶ The invention, which was designed by local firm Sky Urban Solutions, tours a 9m-tall system with tiers of planting troughs which rotate around an aluminium frame; the groundbreaking design clinched the Biennial Index Award in Denmark on the 10th of September
- ▶ Winners in the categories - Body, Home, Work, Play & Learning, and Community - each won USD\$ 15,2160 and were selected based on a wide range of criteria for coming up with solutions to some of the world's major challenges
- ▶ Contenders for the award, organised by Danish non-profit organisation Index: Design to Improve Life, included a cooling cap that protects chemotherapy patients from hair loss, flying drone ambulances, man-made leaves that generate oxygen, and a revolutionary suit that protects Ebola workers

[Straits Times \(29 August 2015\)](#)



[Top Food Lab](#)