



THE SET Newsletter



THAILAND Focus 2007

assures investors of

Thailand's future economic growth



To attract investors to the Thai stock market, The Stock Exchange of Thailand has organized numerous domestic and overseas roadshows this year. The most recent such event was “Thailand Focus 2007—Platforms for Growth” on September 12–14. Nearly 600 senior executives, managers and analysts from leading international funds and institutions came to Bangkok to meet top-level Thai policymakers, including H.E. Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont, and leading Thai executives. For more details about the event, please turn to pages 4–6.



Thai bourse's chairman: SET will remain key part of capital market's ongoing growth



To mark **Mr. Pakorn Malakul Na Ayudhya's** election as The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET)'s thirteenth chairman (term: from August 22, 2007 to August 14, 2009), SET Newsletter provides readers with insights about the directions of the Exchange and the Thai capital market from the new chairman's viewpoint. What follows is a summary of SET Newsletter's recent interview with Mr. Pakorn.

Q : Given your competence and experience with the Thai capital market, how do you view the market's development over the past three decades?

A : The Thai capital market has evolved well over the past three decades. For me, the important milestone of Thai capital market development began in 1969 when Bank of Thailand (BOT) formed the *Working Group on Capital Market Development*. The Working Group was comprised of four members, namely, Mr. Sukri Kaocharem, Mr. Paiboon Wattanasiritham, Mr. Prayoon Phoophat and myself. Later, the first two became the first and third SET presidents, respectively, and I was appointed Securities and Exchange Commission Secretary-General. The Working Group had to work very closely with Professor Sidney M. Robbins, Ph.D., from Columbia University, who was recommended by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (later known as the World Bank), to advise on how to develop a capital market in Thailand. Prof. Robbins presented his findings to BOT in the report, *A Capital Market in Thailand*, marking the genesis of the Thai capital market. All this anteceded the establishment of SET in 1975.

Having witnessed the capital market's evolution over this time, I am very satisfied. Since its inception in 1975, SET has stood at the heart of the country's capital market and economic development. As the Thai economy has grown, so has the Exchange. The total number of listed companies on the market has risen to 519, from only 21 in 1975. SET's market capitalization has increased dramatically over the past few decades. This now enables the nation's combined equity and debt markets to compete favorably with bank credit as a source of capital for the corporate sector. The Exchange's market capitalization and the outstanding value of the debt markets account for approximately 65% and 52% of gross domestic product (GDP), respectively. Meanwhile, outstanding loans from local banks represent 73% of GDP. This indicates the increasingly important role of the capital market as a pillar of the national economy.

Moreover, capital market infrastructure, including Securities and Exchange Commission, securities companies, asset management firms and other relevant parties, has grown to support sustained market growth.

So, one can see that, for over three decades the Thai capital market has grown steadily, moving in step with, complementing and facilitating the sustainable growth of the Thai economy. SET has served both investors and private enterprises, providing an efficient and comprehensive securities market whose benefits are shared by the entire Thai public.

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Q: How can we further develop the Thai capital market?

A: The current priority is to further expand supply, e.g., listed companies. Within the 519 listed firms, there remains a limited group of companies with large market capitalization, high free-float, and impressive operational performance. To meet investor demand and to increase both the variety of choice for investors and risk management for businesses, the Exchange will continue to develop a comprehensive range of quality financial innovations, including equities, debt instruments and derivatives. To achieve this goal, SET's *New Listings Committee* and our marketing team have undertaken strategic marketing programs to encourage more firms to use the market as a long-term fundraising source—for both working capital and business expansion.

Furthermore, SET will provide a greater diversity of investment alternatives. The Exchange has recently introduced Thailand's first equity exchange-traded fund (ETF), ThaiDEX SET50 ETF. Also, ETFs for SET's industry groups are in the pipeline. In addition, the Thai capital market will introduce SET50 Index Options in October 2007, in addition to the currently-traded SET50 Index Futures. Given the experience of other regional exchanges with similar products, the index options are expected to be very popular.

Current market development plans also include expanding the quality investor base, including both retail and institutional investors. The Exchange educates investors to maximize knowledgeable investment, and cultivates an investment culture among savers nationwide so that they will use the capital market as an investment marketplace.

In addition, the Exchange recognizes the crucial role that investor protection plays in building investor confidence and contributing to market growth. Consequently, SET ensures that all listed companies comply with *full disclosure* practices, whereby they must publish accurate, comprehensive and timely information. To bolster transparent and fair trading, the Exchange monitors market movements, using a modern surveillance system of international standard. SET also works closely with other relevant bodies, such as Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD) and Thai Investors Association (TIA), in promoting corporate governance among listed firms and shareholders. For example, SET will encourage listed companies' directors to participate in Thai IOD's educational programs which support and inspire directors to carry out their duties more effectively and in line with international best practices. Also, SET will support TIA's valued shareholder training programs to promote good governance among all public firms.



“Having witnessed the capital market’s evolution over this time, I am very satisfied. Since its inception in 1975, SET has stood at the heart of the country’s capital market and economic development.”

Q: What do you see as the future of the Thai capital market and SET?

A: The Thai capital market will continue to grow as a stable driver of national economic growth. The Ministry of Finance is evaluating the Thai Capital Market Master Plan (2006–2010) and will recommend improvements. Furthermore, SET's strategic plan (2007–2009) has mapped out the Exchange's direction over the next three years. In addition, I personally support drafting a five-year strategic plan, involving widely-accepted securities industry third parties with extensive experience in international capital market development. This would assist the Thai market to position itself strategically in a vigorously competitive global environment.

Mr. Pakom Malakul Na Ayudhya is an economics graduate from The Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland. He held several prominent positions in the public and private sectors, including Bank of Thailand Deputy Governor, Securities and Exchange Commission Secretary-General, Export-Import Bank of Thailand Chairman, and board member of Thai Institute of Directors Association and other financial institutions. Among his current posts are Thai Bond Market Association Chairman, Government Pension Fund Board Expert Member, Agricultural Futures Trading Commission Director, Thai Cardif Life Assurance Co., Ltd. Chairman, and Standard Chartered Bank (Thai) PCL Deputy Chairman.

From page 1

Nearly 600 senior executives, managers and analysts from leading international funds and institutions met top-level Thai policymakers and businessmen at the *Thailand Focus 2007-Platforms for Growth*, on September 12-14. The investment promotion event was organized by Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Ltd., Phatra Securities PCL and The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) at Plaza Athenee, Bangkok. Participants expressed general optimism about the Thai economy, and forecast strong gains for the local stock market when the country returns to democracy after the December 2007 general elections.

Prime Minister: Government will safeguard the country's economic stability

A new government will be formed and take office by January 2008, after the general elections in December 2007, H.E. Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont noted in his opening address and keynote speech, *This Government's Legacy for Thailand*.

"Thailand is now embarked on another phase of strategic transition. We are currently



low interest rates and inflation, salary increases for civil servants and low unemployment. Private investment is also expected to rise gradually, with growth of 0.2% in Q2/2007 after a 2.3% contraction in Q1/2007, Gen. Surayud said.

"The overall economic situation remains favorable, with continued stability. Inflation has been contained, averaging 2.1% over the first seven months. The unemployment rate stood at 1.5% while the current account balance enjoyed a surplus of USD 6.6 billion during the first seven months," the Prime Minister noted.

New infrastructure projects, including the expansion of the Bangkok mass rapid transit system and new petrochemical projects in the Maptapud Industrial Estates, would further help boost business confidence.

The government has approved several initiatives to pave the way for future growth, including strategic plans to reduce the private sector's logistical expenses, enhance local SMEs' productivity, promote innovation and research and development in the manufacturing sector, and improve environmental management in the eastern seaboard industrial zone, Gen. Surayud added.

Economic stability and efficiency are the key fundamentals behind a favorable investment climate and sustained economic strength. So, the Government pledges to safeguard the country's economic stability.

working to restore real democracy, explicitly with greater participation by the people. The next three months are one of the most important watershed moments for our progressive political development," Gen. Surayud said.

The government wishes to leave as a legacy a more transparent, more just, more equitable and more sustainable society. The interim government's platform has four major planks concerning Thailand's economic and social development, these being economic management during the transition period, building a strong foundation for economic and social restructuring, strengthening national unity, transparency and equity in society, and political reform through the new Constitution, Gen Surayud stated.

The Thai economy in H1/2007 grew by 4.3%, due principally to exports of goods and services. An expansionary fiscal stance, both in terms of current spending and capital expenditures, also supported growth.

The Thai economy was expected to grow at 4% to 4.5% in 2007, down from 5% in 2006. The key driving forces will be exports, loosened monetary policies following lower-than-expected inflationary pressures, more effective disbursement of government expenditure and higher state enterprise investments. Consumption is expected to pick up, thanks to

"At the end of the day, economic stability and efficiency are the key fundamentals behind a favorable investment climate and sustained economic strength. So, the Government pledges to safeguard the country's economic stability. We have strictly maintained the nation's public debt to GDP ratio at lower than our fiscal sustainability target of 50%. You can be certain of a low unemployment and low inflation environment in Thailand. And I can guarantee you that the exchange rate will be well-managed at a level at which the current account will surely be sustained," Gen. Surayud concluded with confidence.

Restoring investors' confidence: the future government's agenda

Thailand will have a clear agenda after the upcoming elections. However, there is still a need to follow up on the implementation, and assess the effectiveness, of government policies. The 30% reserve requirement announced by the Bank of Thailand (BOT) should be lifted to attract more investment to the country. The kingdom needs financial policies that offer flexible frameworks, Energy Minister Piyasavati Amranand said at the *Policy Options of a Future Government* discussion forum.

In the political discussion, Democrat Party Leader Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva and The People Power Party's Secretary



General Dr. Surapong Suebwonglee stressed the importance of restoring confidence, creating political stability, having transparent government operations and clarifying future privatization policy.

They highlighted their economic stimulus policies, and pledged to implement pensions and savings programs for post-retirement security, to increase competitiveness through cost reduction, especially in the relatively expensive Thai logistics system, and to pursue social development while improving the quality of life and education.

Thai automotive sector faces new challenges in the competitive world

Panelists at the *Thailand's Automotive Industry Outlook* forum agreed that the automotive and parts industry has seen constant growth in production numbers and export values. Mr. David Nardone, President and CEO of Hemaraj Land And Development, said that by 2010, Thailand's auto industry is forecast to record a 16% unit sales growth from 2006. Over the same period, production capacity will grow by 37%, as more Japanese investment is expected.



"Competition in global supply chains and structural shifts in technological development from Japan to Thailand are among the

global issues that need attention. Given greater international competition, a core challenge for the Thai auto sector is the shortage of skilled labor. From Asian countries, particularly China and India, we're facing competition for foreign investment," Thai Summit Group Executive Vice President Mr. Thanathom Juangroongruangkit said.

The local auto industry has plenty of room to grow, considering the country's car ownership ratio of nine persons per one vehicle, which is relatively low when compared with Japan at 1.7 and the United States at 1.3, Toyota Motor Thailand Vice Chairman Mr. Ninnart Chaithirapinyo said confidently.

ASEAN countries collaborate to promote regional tourism

At the *Opportunities and Challenges for Tourism Development in ASEAN* forum, hotel and tourism industry representatives from Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand agreed that tourism in Southeast Asia has a bright future, as indicated by very high room occupancy rates and occasionally insufficient room supply. Panelists promised to cooperate in making ASEAN more attractive and appealing to foreign investors.

Mr. B.J. Sebastian, Senior Vice President, JG Summit Holdings Inc., which owns and operates Cebu Pacific Air—



a budget airline in Philippines—said that opportunities in East Asia are growing due to the region's emerging economies. His recommendations included that ASEAN cooperate

to allow the free flow of foreign investment and capital, become more transparent, employ market-driven currency systems and make it easier for ASEAN citizens to travel.

The introduction of low-cost airlines had helped promote tourism by attracting more visitors, especially middle-class tourists and backpackers. Thai AirAsia CEO Mr. Tassapon Bigleveld recommended that the Thai government, related agencies and the private sector should undertake more marketing. He also called for more supportive state policies, as in Singapore. Medical tourism in Thailand is becoming more popular with travelers from the Middle East, Europe and the US due to the cheap price of treatment.

3G...cutting edge telecommunications

Executives from Total Access Telecommunication (DTAC), True Corporation and Advanced Info Service shared their views in the discussion forum,

Telecommunications: Future Directions. They agreed that Thailand will soon move into a new stage of technological development and there will be more household internet usage.



The need for 3G technology approaches as the mobile market will reach saturation by end-2008. There is a requirement for improved technology to replace the diminishing conventional mobile market. Investment in 3G is needed to meet this potential, DTAC Chief Commercial Officer Mr. Thana Thienachariya said.

However, to facilitate 3G development, the Thai government and regulatory bodies should set clear directions for the telecommunications sector. A National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) is required for 3G license issuance and will be established in the near future, True Corporation Vice Chairman Mr. Athueck Asvanund noted.

Productivity enhancement is a MUST for global competition

Panelists at the *Thailand's Productivity and Competitiveness* discussion urged production efficiency enhancement in the local agricultural sector and the promotion of biotechnology. They suggested that the government should focus on promoting productivity to successfully respond to increasing global demand, and on using product quality as a selling point.

The shortage of skilled labor has reduced Thailand's international competitiveness ranking over the past four years. However, the situation should improve, given the Labor Ministry's



Productivity Master Plan 2007, which includes measures to enhance labor skills, improve machine efficiency, develop shared logistics systems and encourage industrial network establishment. The next government must continue to implement the master plan, Thailand Productivity Institute Executive Director Mr. Phanit Laosirirat, Ph.D. stated.

Animation industry, another attractive sector for foreign investors

The presentation, *Thailand's Animation Industry*, highlighted the outstandingly high growth of the local animation industry over the past three years.

Without restrictions on foreign ownership in the industry, an influx of foreign funding will guarantee ongoing growth. Additionally, the industry is currently supported by the Board of Investment with an eight-year tax exemption for companies in digital content production in Thailand, Thailand Animation and Computer Graphics Association Vice Chairman Mr. Santi Laohaburanakit said.



The government should launch a national strategy to promote and support the industry, as it could grow ten-fold from its current value of USD 100 million to USD 1 billion over the next five years, Mr. Santi suggested.

Investor numbers visiting Thailand Focus 2007 surpass expectations

"The three-day conference was very successful. Nearly 600 participants crammed into the event, surpassing the expected number of around 400. All panel discussions were well-attended. Of the 270 institutional investors participating, 203 met with 150 executive members from listed companies. Among these investors, 91 were foreign institutional investors, who collectively manage USD 3 trillion in assets. Of these assets, about USD 8.60 billion is invested in Thailand. In addition, participants included 180 fund managers who manage local equity, provident, long-term equity and retirement mutual funds, controlling assets of around USD 12 billion," SET President Ms. Patareeya Benjapolchai said.

There were over 1,000 one-on-one meetings between listed companies and local and foreign investors. The 63 listed companies involved in these meetings were from SET's 15 sectors and represented a combined market capitalization of 70% of total market value, Ms. Patareeya added.

Sectors that caught the attention of institutional investors included banking, property, telecommunications and medical services. By meeting with the leading players from each sector, these investors were updated on companies' operations and prevailing business trends, which are especially important considerations given the slowdown in the world economy. The consensus was that there would be a recovery in domestic consumption next year.

The questions that institutional investors asked of public firms covered company strategic plans, growth potential and capital management. Investors paid most attention to companies' projected growth and yields paid to shareholders relative to growth. Investors also inquired about corporate governance and the protection of shareholders' rights.

"Having received up-to-date information on the Thai market, foreign fund managers will now consider their investment options. We believe they feel confident about Thailand's economic outlook and will increase their investment in the market," Ms. Patareeya noted.

"Confidence returned to foreign institutional investors when they received up-to-date information about the political situation from Thai policymakers. Investors also learned



about the current government's efforts to establish strong foundations during this transition and to propel the country's economic and social development in the long-term," Phatra Securities PCL Chief Executive Officer Mr. Suvit Mapaisansin said.

The Thai stock market offered good potential both in the short- and long-term. Thai stocks were trading at a discount of 40% compared to their regional peers, with a price-to-earnings ratio of nine, Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Ltd. Managing Director and Head of Client Management Group Mr. Anders Wihlbom said.

After attending dozens of one-on-one and group meetings with foreign investors, Thai Oil's Assistant Managing Director Mr. Wirat Uanarumit reported that the majority of investors he met already held Thai Oil's equities and bonds. Even so, *Thailand Focus* was a good opportunity for public firms to provide investors with updated corporate strategic plans, covering production capacity expansions, cost reductions and investments.

The conference also gave institutional investors a chance to meet with three listed firms from the Market for Alternative Investment (mai). There was a healthy level of interest, with these companies meeting with investors four to five times each day.

"The logistics industry's potential, which is supported by rail transportation infrastructure projects, drew a great deal of attention from foreign investors and will attract them to invest in Thailand," Eternity Grand Logistics Managing Director Mr. Poonsak Thiapairat said. ✍️

Thai bourse selects FTSE to launch domestic benchmarks for local stock market

On September 5, 2007, The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) and FTSE Group (FTSE) formally signed an Agreement of Cooperation to develop the **FTSE SET Index Series**, a new series of equity indices for the Thai stock market.

"This collaboration will bring Thai index calculation in line with international standards. In addition, it will contribute to the development of other tradable indices and a broader range of financial products. For example, it will be easier to issue exchange-traded funds (ETFs), derivatives and mutual fund products. As more products use **FTSE SET Index Series** as a benchmark, the underlying securities' liquidity will be increased and, consequently, the Thai market will attract more investors. This collaboration with FTSE Group is a major step towards achieving SET's goal of being an important regional market," SET President Ms. Patareeya Benjapolchai said.

FTSE has brought its innovative and internationally-recognized index standards to more than 20 exchanges worldwide and is the preferred index provider of many in Asia, including the ASEAN group of exchanges.

"We are pleased to offer indexing expertise to the Asia-Pacific region, this time in collaboration with SET. FTSE supports the Exchange's commitment to the Thai market by providing investable and transparent market benchmarks, which can be used as a basis for attractive index-linked products that appeal to both local and international investors," FTSE Deputy CEO Mr. Donald Keith said.

The first step in creating the new indices entailed extensive consultation with market participants in Thailand and other Asian markets, to assess how the **FTSE SET Index Series** might best meet investor needs. Feedback from the consultation has been analyzed and combined with FTSE's globally-recognized methodology standards, such as free-float adjustment and liquidity screening criteria, to produce a set of Thai index series which is investable, liquid and transparent.

According to FTSE, the series' constituents must have free-float of no less than 15% of tradable shares. In addition, those constituents what must pass liquidity screening must have trading turnover of no less than 0.05% of its issued shares, after adjusting for free float, in the 12-month period prior to the index review.

The **FTSE SET Index Series** will be comprised of the following six indices:

1. The tradable index, **FTSE SET Large Cap Index**, which will consist of the largest 30 SET-listed companies that meet free-float and liquidity criteria, ranked by full market capitalization. During trading hours, the index will be updated every 15 seconds.
2. Five benchmark indices, which will be updated every 60 seconds during trading hours are:

2.1 **FTSE SET Mid Cap Index**, which will be comprised of companies within the top 90% of SET's full market capitalization which are not large enough to join the **FTSE SET Large Cap Index**. Constituents must meet free-float and liquidity criteria.

2.2 **FTSE SET Small Cap Index**, which will be comprised of companies

from the top 98% of SET's full market capitalization that are not large enough to join the **FTSE SET Large Cap** or **FTSE SET Mid Cap Indices**. Constituents must meet free-float and liquidity requirements.

2.3 **FTSE SET All-Share Index**, which will be comprised of all firms from the top 98% of SET's full market capitalization. Constituents in this index will come from the **FTSE SET Large Cap, Mid Cap and Small Cap Indices**, and meet free-float and liquidity requirements.

2.4 **FTSE SET Mid/Small Index**, which will be a combination of companies from the **FTSE SET Mid Cap and Small Cap Indices** which meet free-float and liquidity criteria.

2.5 **FTSE SET Fledging Index**, which will be comprised of companies representing the remaining 2% of SET's full market capitalization, which are too small to be included in the **FTSE SET All-Share Index**. Though constituents are not required to meet liquidity criteria, they must meet the free-float requirement.

All six indices will be reviewed and published twice a year, in June and December. **FTSE SET Large Cap Index** will be the first index to be launched in Q1/2008. Additional information about the **FTSE SET Index Series** can be found on www.set.or.th and www.ftse.com.



■ ■ ■ About FTSE Group

FTSE Group is a world-leader in the creation and management of indices. It calculates and manages the FTSE Global Equity Index Series, which covers over 8,000 securities in 48 different countries and captures 98% of the world's investable market capitalization. The FTSE Global Equity Index Series includes world-recognized indices ranging from the FTSE All-World Index, the FTSE4Good series and the FTSEurofirst Index series, to domestic indices such as the renowned FTSE 100.

Thai listed companies record over THB 220 billion in profits for H1/2007

Of the 536 listed firms on The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) and Market for Alternative Investment (mai), 513 companies, including property funds, submitted their financial statements for Q2/2007. They reported total net profits of 229.44 billion (about USD 6.53 billion) and total sales of THB 2.86 trillion (USD 81.39 billion) for H1/2007.

SET-listed companies post THB 2.86 trillion in sales

Among SET-listed companies, 469 out of 492 (including property funds) submitted their H1/2007 financial statements. They posted THB 2.86 trillion (USD 81.39 billion) in sales, or a 5% increase year-on-year (y-o-y). Of those firms reporting their financial results, about 78%, or 367 companies, posted net profits, with their total net profits being THB 229.40 billion (USD 6.53 billion), down 17% y-o-y.

In Q2/2007 alone, SET-listed firms posted THB 114.58 billion in profits (USD 3.30 billion), a 10% decrease on Q2/2006. They had THB 1.49 trillion (USD 42.95 billion) in total sales, up 5% on Q2/2006.

SET100 Index companies racked up THB 206.33 billion (USD 5.87 billion) in net profits, or 90% of those of all listed firms in H1/2007. However, this figure represented a 13% decrease y-o-y. Total sales rose 6%, while the cost of sales grew 8%, and the gross margin rate narrowed from 27% to 25%.

SET50 Index firms earned THB 188.65 billion (USD 5.37 billion) in net profits, or 82% of the overall net profits of all listed firms in H1/2007, representing a 16% decrease y-o-y. Total sales grew 6%, while the cost of sales rose 8%, and the gross margin rate declined from 27% to 25%.

Listed firms in the eight industry groups (excluding companies in the non-compliance and non-performing groups) recorded increased sales in every group except for technology and consumer products. These companies saw a slight decline in gross profit margin, from 21% to 20%.

In descending order of net profitability, industry groups are as follows:

- 1. Resources Industry Group** (comprising the energy and utilities and mining sectors): This group's combined net profit was THB 105.45 billion, an 8% decrease y-o-y. Sales grew 5% due to the rising price of finished oil products. However, cost of sales also increased, narrowing gross profit margins. The strengthening baht resulted in decreased exchange rate gains.
- 2. Property and Construction Industry Group** (consisting of the property development and construction materials sector, plus property funds): This group saw a net profit of THB 41.18 billion, a 29% increase y-o-y.
- 3. Financials Industry Group** (consisting of the banking, finance and securities, and insurance sectors): This industry group saw a net profit of THB 26.74 billion, a

48% decline y-o-y, due principally to setting aside reserves for doubtful debts as required by the Bank of Thailand (BOT).

Thirteen companies in the banking sector posted a total of THB 20.97 billion in net profits, down 54% y-o-y. The decline was mainly due to the banks' having to meet the BOT and IAS39 standard requirements for increased reserves for doubtful debts.

Nineteen companies in the finance and securities sector (excluding hire-purchase and leasing companies) posted THB 1.80 billion in profit, a 26% decrease y-o-y, to meet new accounting standards in provisions for bad and doubtful debts, similar to those applying to banks. The insurance sector saw total net profits of THB 2.10 billion, a 9% increase y-o-y.

- 4. Services Industry Group** (consisting of commerce, health care services, media and publishing, professional services, tourism and leisure, and transportation and logistics sectors): This group posted a combined net profit of THB 23.87 billion, down 23% y-o-y, and enjoyed a 7% growth in sales. The media and publishing sector saw a 32% profit growth.
 - 5. Industrials Industry Group** (consisting of automotive, industrial materials and machinery, packaging, paper and printing materials, and petrochemicals and chemicals sectors): These firms posted a combined net profit of THB 17.96 billion, a 7% increase y-o-y. The group had a 9% increase in sales and costs of sales, while exchange rate gains decreased.
 - 6. Technology Industry Group** (consisting of the information and communication technology, and electronic components sectors): This group's combined net profits amounted to THB 11.66 billion, a drop of 46% y-o-y. However, the electronic components sector saw 26% profit growth and enjoyed gains from exchange rates, in contrast to its exchange rate losses in H1/2006.
 - 7. Agro and Food Industry Group** (consisting of food and beverage and agribusiness sectors): This group recorded THB 3.87 billion in net profits, which was a 44% fall on the same period in 2006. These sectors were hit by declining domestic sales prices, deteriorating exports as the baht strengthened, and higher costs of raw materials.
 - 8. Consumer Products Industry Group** (consisting of fashion, home and office products, personal products and pharmaceuticals sectors): This group posted net profits of THB 2.33 billion, or a 31% decrease on H1/2006.
- The top five most profitable firms, in descending order of profitability, were PTT PCL (PTT), Siam Cement PCL (SCC), PTT Exploration and Production PCL (PTTEP), Thai Oil PCL (TOP), and Bangkok Bank PCL (BBL).

mai-listed firms post 20% sales growth

Turning to mai-listed companies, all 44 firms submitted their Q2/2007 financial statements. For H1/2007, the companies yielded THB 19.40 billion (USD 552.09 million) in sales—a 16% increase y-o-y. Net profits of THB 766.11 million (USD 21.80 million) in H1/2007 represented a 2% decrease y-o-y.

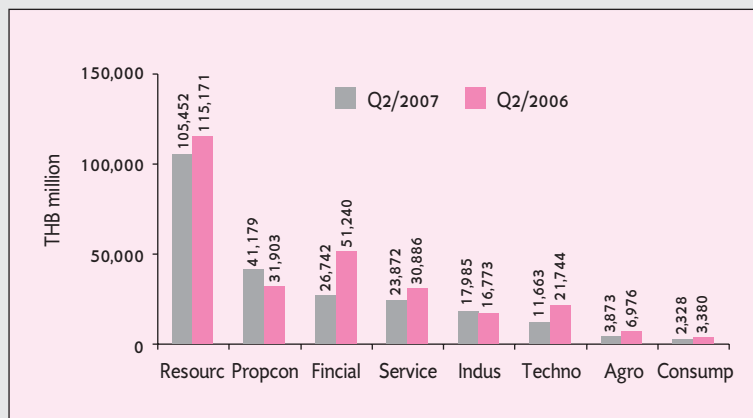
The most profitable company in absolute terms for H1/2007 was Unimit Engineering PCL (UEC), which posted THB 154 million in net profits. It was followed by Unique Mining Services PCL (UMS), with net profits of THB 119 million, while the third was Demco PCL (DEMCO), posting THB 83 million in net profits.

For Q2/2007, mai-listed firms posted THB 10.44 billion (USD 300.94 million) in combined sales—a 19% increase y-o-y. They reported combined net profits of THB 409.26 million (USD 11.80 million), or a 1% increase y-o-y.

Six mai-listed companies, Tirathai PCL (TRT), C.I. Group PCL (CIG), L.V. Technology PCL (LVT), TRC Construction PCL (TRC), Eternity Grand Logistics PCL (ETG), Focus Engineering PCL (FOCUS), yielded exceptional net profit growth rates of 398%, 369%, 267%, 215%, 164% and 113% respectively.

Additional information on Thai listed firms' performance can be found at www.set.or.th and www.mai.or.th.

Net profits of eight industry groups



The five most profitable sectors (excluding financial institutions and firms in the non-compliance and non-performing groups)

Sector	Net profits (THB million)		Growth (%)	Share of overall net profits of all listed firms	Share of industry group's net profits
	Q2/2007	Q2/2006			
1. Energy and Utilities	104,910	114,221	(8)%	46%	99%
2. Construction Materials	22,566	21,847	3%	10%	55%
3. Property Development	18,613	10,055	85%	8%	45%
4. Petrochemicals and Chemicals	13,543	12,524	8%	6%	75%
5. Transportation and Logistics	12,175	17,550	(31)%	5%	51%

The ten listed firms with most net profits, sales and assets (excluding financial institutions, property funds, mai-listed firms, and companies in non-compliance and non-performing groups)

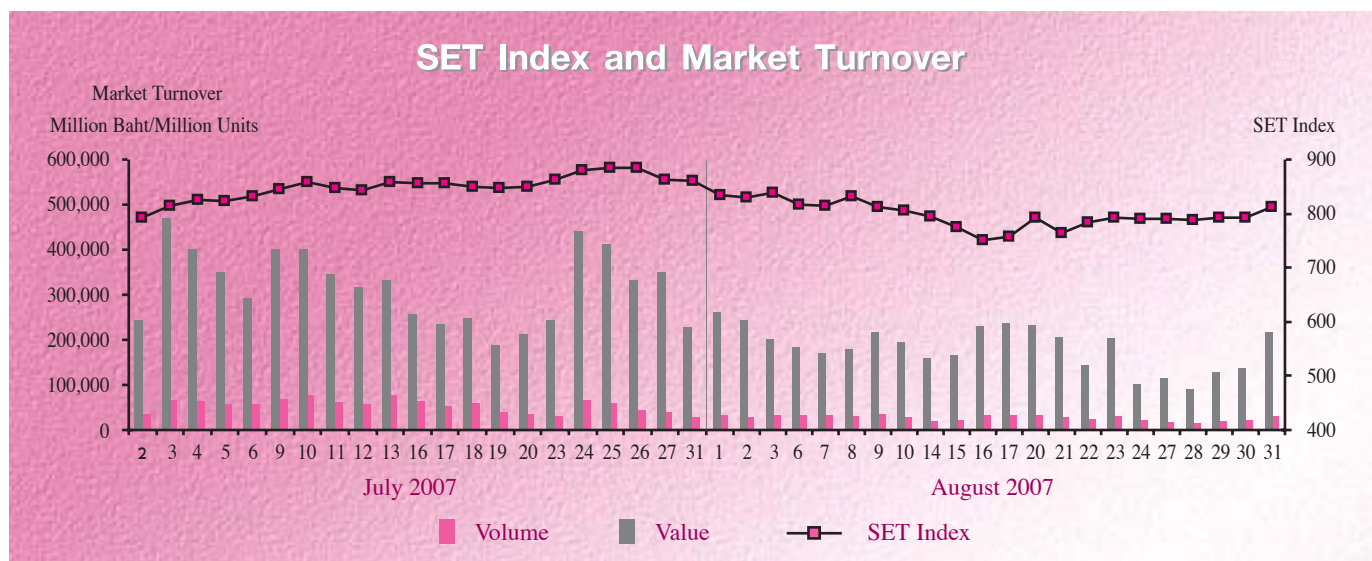
Unit: THB million

Symbol		Net profits		Symbol		Sales		Symbol		Assets	
		H1/2007	H1/2006			H1/2007	H1/2006			June 30, 07	Dec 31, 06
1	PTT	48,862	55,381	PTT	666,317	583,622	PTT	850,732	751,453		
2	SCC	17,028	17,178	TOP	136,498	139,579	THAI	262,937	262,862		
3	PTTEP	13,930	15,116	SCC	128,949	127,892	SCC	241,638	226,264		
4	TOP	12,046	11,033	IRPC	105,827	108,168	PTTEP	173,604	157,813		
5	IRPC	8,022	7,008	THAI	94,126	88,223	AOT	142,772	145,656		
6	ADVANC	7,647	9,415	RRC	77,230	91,145	TOP	137,213	125,200		
7	BLAND	6,384	-132	CPF	63,826	59,325	ADVANC	131,126	134,301		
8	ATC	5,623	1,437	CP7-11	53,769	48,593	PTTCH	124,601	123,094		
9	PTTCH	5,410	8,321	ADVANC	46,177	47,196	TRUE	124,306	122,170		
10	RRC	5,159	5,759	BCP	44,078	50,933	IRPC	115,588	127,828		
Total		130,111	130,516	Total	1,416,797	1,344,676	Total	2,304,517	2,176,641		
Share of overall net profits of all listed firms		64.35%	57.76%	Share of overall sales of all listed firms		54.67%	54.31%	Share of overall assets of all listed firms		44.55%	43.52%
Overall net profits of all listed firms		202,199	225,969	Overall sales of all listed firms		2,591,481	2,475,700	Overall assets of all listed firms		5,173,137	5,001,030

Change in name and symbol of listed firm

Date	Before Changing	Symbol	After Changing	Symbol
20/08/2007	Sun Tech Group Public Company Limited	SUNTEC	Apex Development Public Company Limited	APX

SET Index and Market Turnover



The Stock Price Indices in August 2007

Index	High (Date)	Low (Date)	Close	
			August 2007	Compared with July 2007 (%)
SET	837.73 (3)	750.69 (16)	813.21	↓ 5.41
SET50	599.53 (3)	532.05 (16)	586.31	↓ 5.02
SET100	1,299.17 (3)	1,153.35 (16)	1,267.09	↓ 5.25
mai	263.20 (3)	238.57 (17)	251.37	↓ 3.83

Stock Market Turnover in August 2007

	Volume (Million Shares)				Value (Million Baht)				
	August 2007		Compared with July 2007 (%)		August 2007		Compared with July 2007 (%)		
	SET	mai	SET	mai	SET	mai	SET	mai	
Total	57,786.56	3,426.12	↓ 48.45%	↑ 22.77%	Total	398,961.20	8,002.03	↓ 40.31%	↑ 5.88%
Daily Average	2,626.66	155.73	↓ 50.80%	↑ 17.19%	Daily Average	18,134.60	363.73	↓ 43.03%	↑ 1.07%

Statistics of Listed Debentures in August 2007

Issues	Total Outstanding Value (Million Baht)	Total Turnover	
		Volume (Shares)	Value (Million Baht)
587	3,531,842.27	42,500	39,494,170

Transactions by Type of Investors**

Unit : Million Baht

Type of Investors	July 2007				August 2007			
	Buy	%	Sell	%	Buy	%	Sell	%
Foreigners (corporate & individual)	212,469.81	31.43	182,228.57	26.96	102,422.34	25.17	137,723.62	33.84
Local Institutions*	83,379.71	12.34	91,522.88	13.54	64,218.32	15.78	53,372.64	13.11
Local Investors	380,120.63	56.23	402,218.70	59.50	240,322.57	59.05	215,866.97	53.05
Total	675,970.15	100.00	675,970.15	100.00	406,963.23	100.00	406,963.23	100.00

* Including securities companies, mutual funds, banks, finance firms, insurance companies, juridical entities and provident funds

** Including transactions of mai

Top Ten Securities with Highest Market Value in August 2007

Rank	Securities		Market Value	
			Million Baht	% of Total
1	PTT	PTT	858,495.00	14.06
2	PTT Exploration and Production	PTTEP	402,116.00	6.58
3	The Siam Cement	SCC	300,000.00	4.91
4	Advanced Info Service	ADVANC	275,015.00	4.50
5	Bangkok Bank	BBL	227,152.00	3.72
6	Kasikornbank	KBANK	188,649.00	3.09
7	Thai Oil	TOP	167,282.00	2.74
8	PTT Chemical	PTTCH	163,912.00	2.68
9	The Siam Commercial Bank	SCB	148,976.00	2.44
10	Bank of Ayudhya	BAY	147,409.00	2.41
Total			2,879,006.00	47.13

Top Ten Most Actively Traded Securities (Main Board) in August 2007

Rank	Securities		Number of Securities	Turnover Value	
				Million Baht	% of Total
1	PTT	PTT	143,296,660	41,144.32	10.87
2	Thai Oil	TOP	294,928,838	22,823.71	6.03
3	PTT Exploration and Production	PTTEP	168,380,323	19,381.37	5.12
4	Rayong Refinery	RRC	793,160,779	18,421.46	4.87
5	Kasikornbank	KBANK	170,139,349	13,001.80	3.43
6	Thoresen Thai Agencies	TTA	267,612,307	12,781.10	3.38
7	Bangkok Bank	BBL	102,415,281	12,074.63	3.19
8	The Siam Cement	SCC	47,627,446	11,917.14	3.15
9	Banpu	BANPU	42,737,551	11,508.96	3.04
10	The Aromatics (Thailand)	ATC	147,209,984	10,305.86	2.72
Total			2,177,508,518	173,360.35	45.80

* Excluding transactions on Foreign Board and mai

Top Ten Most Actively Traded Securities (Foreign Board) in August 2007

Rank	Securities		Number of Securities	Turnover Value	
				Million Baht	% of Total
1	Bangkok Bank	BBL-F	61,236,297	7,303.97	35.90
2	Kasikornbank	KBANK-F	71,500,263	5,609.22	27.57
3	The Siam Cement	SCC-F	15,149,749	3,814.31	18.75
4	Land and Houses	LH-F	133,085,918	1,074.10	5.28
5	Banpu	BANPU-F	2,500,000	694.12	3.41
6	Krung Thai Bank	KTB-F	33,923,400	384.95	1.89
7	Bank of Ayudhya	BAY-F	12,122,284	305.33	1.50
8	Electricity Generating	EGCO-F	1,920,033	231.64	1.14
9	The Aromatics (Thailand)	ATC-F	2,807,400	196.66	0.97
10	Advanced Info Service	ADVANC-F	1,622,600	155.28	0.76
Total			335,867,944	19,769.58	97.17

* Excluding transactions of mai

Top Ten Outstanding Non-Voting Depository Receipts (NVDRs) in August 2007

Rank	Securities		Number of NVDRs	% of Paid-up Capital
1	Raimon Land	RAIMON-W	512,730,241	66.23
2	Raimon Land	RAIMON	824,916,112	39.13
3	Golden Land Property Development	GOLD	228,954,315	36.34
4	L.P.N. Development	LPN	529,793,160	35.90
5	Tisco Bank	TISCO	172,779,001	31.85
6	Thoresen Thai Agencies	TTA	177,636,992	27.60
7	Jasmine International	JAS-W	22,018,280	24.54
8	Phatra Securities	PHATRA	50,699,714	23.75
9	Bangkok Land	BLAND	3,698,403,598	23.56
10	Bangkok Bank	BBL	417,136,814	21.85

Market Data of TFEX

Transaction Summary		May 2007	June 2007	July 2007	August 2007
Total Volume	(Contracts)	51,075	115,680	142,028	175,217
Daily Average Volume	(Contracts)	2,554	5,509	6,763	7,964
Total Value	(Million Baht)	26,080.88	62,505.45	85,845.61	98,291.36
Daily Average Value	(Million Baht)	1,304.04	2,976.45	4,087.89	4,467.79
Month-end Open Interest	(Contracts)	10,479	9,095	14,785	14,621

Market Summary: SET50 Index Futures		Open	High	Low	Settle
Symbol	Contract Month				
S50U07	Sep-07	603.00	605.50	504.00	591.70
S50Z07	Dec-07	606.00	607.00	507.70	594.40
S50H08	Mar-08	606.00	606.00	510.00	596.30
S50M08	Jun-08	606.50	606.50	510.30	593.40

Thai Yuan Metal PCL listed on Thai bourse



Mr. Boonchai Jirapongtakul
Managing Director

Thai Yuan Metal PCL (TYM) listed on The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) in the Property & Construction Group, Construction Materials Sector. The company's securities started trading on August 9, using "TYM" as the trading symbol.

TYM...one-stop steel product provider

Thai Yuan Metal PCL (TYM) is a steel product provider operating under an one-stop service policy. TYM manufactures, reforms and distributes different kinds of steel products, making the firm one of the most complete steel product providers in Thailand.

The company divides its operations into two categories:

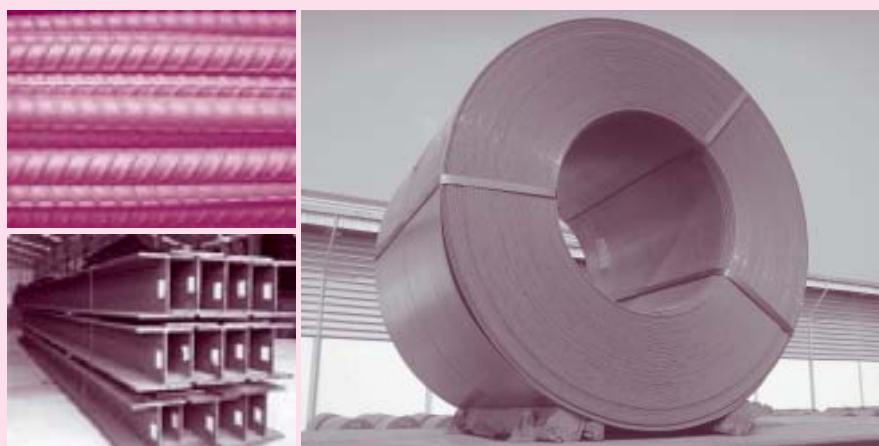
I. Steel Trading and Warehousing

The company procures steel products from local manufacturers and sells them to steel traders, steel manufacturers and contractors. These products are widely used in industries such as construction, machinery and ship-building. The company's products include hot-rolled flat products, e.g., hot-rolled coil and hot-rolled plate; long products, e.g., H-beams, I-beams, wide flange steel bars, steel channel bars, steel channel, steel flat bars, steel angle bars, rip c-channel and steel pipe. The company also purchases other steel products to accommodate customers, such as cold-rolled sheet and stainless steel sheet.

II. Steel Manufacturing

The company processes hot-rolled coil into steel works according to customers' specifications. These products include slitting coil, cutting sheet and flat bar, steel pipe, rip c-channel, steel angle bar and steel channel bar.

Currently, the company has one factory in Samut Sakorn province with a production capacity of 113,500 tons per year.



Mr. Boonchai Jirapongtakul, the managing director of Thai Yuan Metal PCL, revealed the company's key strengths: "TYM places importance on the steel production processes to produce the finest steel product quality at lower cost, which means most of TYM's products meet industrial standards. However, TYM will continue improving its operation process and production efficiency to meet ISO 9001 standard. Currently, we are studying the ISO 9001 information and plan to file for its certification."



Commenting on competition in the steel market and TYM's market strategies, Mr. Boonchai said that: "I would not consider it severe competition, because the steel market is quite large. Currently, TYM's sales revenue accounts for only 1% of the total market value. Therefore, I think we still have more room for growth in this market. Because steel products do not have brands, most customers consider prices as their main key criteria when buying the products, followed by good after-sale services and the complete range of products provided by the company. Lately, TYM has been able to control production costs more effectively, thus enabling it to provide different types of steel products as requested by customers and effective after-sales service. These factors encouraged more growth in the first quarter this year compared to the same period last year."

Consolidated financial summary (in THB million)

	H1/2007	H1/2006	2006
Total assets	1,575.01	1,182.50	2,273.16
Sales revenue	2,870.48	1,769.26	4,297.26
Profit before interest charges and tax	115.27	99.32	201.21
Net profits	55.19	63.35	116.16
Basic earning per share (Baht)	0.18	0.21	0.39

Raising funds on SET to expand its business horizons

TYM has THB 400 million (approx. USD 11.6 million) in paid-up capital, consisting of the existing 300 million shares plus 100 million shares from the capital increase, at a THB 1.00 par value each. BFIT Securities PCL acted as TYM's underwriter. The company will use THB 300 million to build a new factory, pay for machines and equipment, and will use the rest as working capital. The company's dividend policy is to pay out no less than 50% of its net profits after taxes.

TYM's principal shareholder is Mr. Panu Jarupirun who, with related persons, collectively has held 65% of TYM's paid-up capital since the IPO.

More information on TYM can be found on www.thaiyuanmetal.com, www.set.or.th, www.settrade.com, or by calling SET Call Center (66) 2229 2222. ✍

Thailand's first equity exchange-traded fund (ETF), ThaiDEX SET50 ETF, commenced trading on The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) on September 6, 2007, using "TDEX" as its trading symbol. TDEX is yet another attractive product for retail and institutional investors and adds to the variety of investment products available on the bourse.

■ ■ ■ ■ **TDEX...an attractive alternative for all investors**

"Equity ETFs act as both investment alternatives and risk management tools. The fund is supported by SET50 index securities with high market capitalization and liquidity. Since TDEX is benchmarked to the SET50 Index, it diversifies risk. Investors will therefore be sheltered from the fluctuations sometimes associated with an individual stock. It suits both investors who do not want to be directly exposed to the risks associated with an individual stock, and also institutional investors who seek efficient risk management tools for their assets," SET President Ms. Patareeya Benjapolchai said.

"In times of stock price volatility, TDEX will gain popularity. In addition, investors who like to operate on the basis of overall stock market sentiment, rather than



following individual stocks, will find this financial innovation exceptionally attractive," Dr. Somjin Sornpaisarn, President of TDEX's management company, One Asset Management Ltd. (ONEAM), said.

Ms. Patareeya continued, "The product contributes to our international links, as Thai equity ETFs can be listed overseas and foreign ones listed here. It also brings the Thai market into conformity with other Asian markets, most of whom already trade the product. Globally, ETF-managed assets have grown at a compound annual rate of 70%—almost doubling annually since 1993. As of May 2007, global ETF-managed assets totaled over THB 22 trillion (USD 635.55 billion).

"Furthermore, ETFs can be linked to both equity and derivative indices. These advantages will raise the profile of SET50 Index Futures and enhance liquidity in the equity and derivatives market, thus benefiting the Thai capital market overall," she noted.

SET expects an increasing number and diversity of equity ETFs to list on the Thai market. The Exchange is collaborating with other parties in the capital market to introduce a broader range of investment products to better meet investor demand. Currently SET and the FTSE group are developing new indices for the domestic Thai stock market, to be used as a basis for derivatives, ETFs and other index-linked products.

■ ■ ■ ■ **TDEX welcomed at its IPO and first trading day**

TDEX is worth THB 5 billion (about USD 146.21 million). It is comprised of 880,281,690 investment units, each with a par value of THB 5.68. The fund's policy is to invest an average of at least 65% of its net asset value (NAV) in each accounting period in equities. The remainder will be invested in debt or money market instruments, cash deposits, or derivatives to replicate the return from the benchmark index, which is the SET50 Index.

ONEAM offered investment units to the general public during August 21–28, and to participating dealers during August 21–29. As of September 29, there were a total of 778 unit holders, holding 178 million units worth THB 1,011 million (USD 29.56 million). The IPO price was THB 5.68, calculated at 10% of the SET50 Index's closing price on August 29. At the end of its first trading day, TDEX closed at THB 5.88, up 3.52% on its IPO price, with a daily turnover worth THB 196.66 million.

"The large amount of units sold at the IPO was impressive and indicates great interest among investors. About 80% of the units were sold to institutional investors, while the remainder went to retail investors. An additional encouragement for foreign investors in TDEX was the Bank of



Thailand's September 6, 2007 announcement waiving the 30% reserve rule for foreign investment," Dr. Somjin said.

"TDEX is expected to deliver dividends totaling 3 to 4% per year, spread out over two payments, calculated from the current price," he added.

Its policy is to pay dividends to unit holders from accumulated or net profit no more than four times per year, at not more than 100% of accumulated or net profit, whichever the management company deems appropriate.

Equity ETFs can be traded using any brokerage firm at a minimum brokerage fee of 0.10% of trading value and quoted on a real-time basis. TDEX's price is subject to a 30% ceiling and floor price derived from the previous day's closing price and can be sold short. The clearing and settlement practices are similar to those of ordinary stocks.

The fund was established by ONEAM. Its participating dealers are Bualuang Securities Co., Ltd.; Citicorp Securities (Thailand) Co., Ltd.; KGI Securities (Thailand) PCL, Kim Eng Securities (Thailand) PCL and Thanachart Securities PCL. KGI Securities (Thailand) PCL is also its market-maker. Samsung Investment Trust Management Co., Ltd. is its advisor and its registrar is Thailand Securities Depository Co., Ltd.

Additional information on TDEX is available on www.one-asset.com, www.set.or.th and www.settrade.com. For further inquiries, interested people can contact SET Call Center at (66) 2229 2222. ✍

Shareholders' Day promotes good governance in Thai securities business

The recent *Shareholders' Day*, with the theme *Shareholder : You are VIP*, promoted good governance, with particular emphasis on shareholders' rights. It also provided an opportunity to strengthen the ties between listed companies and their shareholders, and bolster the confidence of investors in these firms and the market overall. It was held on August 25–26, at the Esplanade Complex, Bangkok.

Listed Companies Association, Thai Investor Relations Club, Thai Investors' Association and Thailand Securities Depository Co., Ltd. (TSD) co-hosted the event. Thailand's Minister of Finance Mr. Chalongphob Sussangkarn, Ph.D., chaired the opening ceremony and distributed shareholder awards to 10 outstanding listed companies and three individual shareholders.

Finance Minister highlighted crucial role of corporate governance



In his opening address, Dr. Chalongphob highlighted the importance of corporate governance (CG) in providing long-term benefit to the Thai capital market. He encouraged all relevant parties to give a high priority to full information disclosure, and the rights, equitable treatment and freedom of expression of shareholders.

"To achieve sustained economic growth and competitiveness, all parties, ranging from public firms and shareholders to bodies in the public and private sectors, should collaborate to promote good governance in the Thai capital market. Playing an important role in developing transparency and ethics in Thai society, CG is high on the government's national agenda," the minister said.

The minister presided over the granting of *Best Shareholder Treatment Awards* to the following 10 outstanding listed companies (in alphabetical order):

1. Bangkok Expressway PCL (BECL)
2. Bualuang Securities PCL (BLS)
3. Kasikombank PCL (KBANK)
4. Kiatnakin Bank PCL (KK)

5. Krung Thai Bank PCL (KTB)
6. PTT Exploration and Production PCL (PTTEP)
7. The Aromatics (Thailand) PCL (ATC)
8. The Siam Cement PCL (SCC)
9. The Siam Commercial Samaggi Insurance PCL (SCSMG)
10. TISCO Bank PCL (TISCO)



In addition, three individual shareholders received *Valued Shareholder Awards* from the Finance Minister. The recipients were (in alphabetical order):

1. Dr. Bamrung Sri-Ngam
2. Mr. Hangchai Akkawasakun
3. Mr. Peeranart Chokvattana

TSD will continue to foster good governance

"*Shareholders' Day* strengthens the relationship



between listed companies and their shareholders by making firms more aware of CG and recognizing shareholders' rights as company owners. We hope to create a deeper understanding and realization of the importance of ownership, thus

enhancing the image of listed firms and strengthening trust in the market overall," TSD Chief Executive Officer Ms. Sopawadee Lertmanaschai said.

“We hope to create a deeper understanding and realization of the importance of ownership, thus enhancing the image of listed firms and strengthening trust in the market overall.”

Candidates for *Best Shareholder Treatment Awards* were assessed against an annual general meeting (AGM) checklist set by the Securities and Exchange Commission, records of information disclosure and dissemination on the SETSMART system, and the standard of companies' annual reports. Candidates for *Valued Shareholder Awards* were selected from the Thai Investors Association's shortlist derived from shareholders' meetings. Listed firms also voted for this award, Ms. Sopawadee added.



becomes part of corporate culture," Ms. Sopawadee stated.

"In the future, TSD, as the registrar of listed companies, will work more closely with relevant parties to facilitate the exercise and protection of shareholders' rights, e.g., on issues such as ensuring that documents are distributed well in advance of shareholders' meetings, and dealing with matters relating to proxy voting. Currently, the Depository is studying electronic proxy voting to facilitate the participation of shareholders in the provinces and overseas. This is in addition to the currently available electronic dividend service (e-Dividend)," Ms. Sopawadee concluded.

"TSD aims to foster CG practices not only amongst the management of public firms, but also among companies' stakeholders, so that good governance

A shareholder's experience of good corporate governance

Mr. Hangchai Akkawasakun, a *Valued Shareholder Award* winner, shared his experience about investment and promoting his rights as a shareholder.



"The first step I take in making investment decisions is to consider a listed company's financial statements. Then I study the firm's business operations and its strategic directions. Apart from learning about corporate performance and outlook,

I also learn about the company's management. After investing in a company, I monitor the performance of the firm's management and directors, as if I were a business owner. To protect my rights, I actively participate in every shareholders' meeting where I respectfully impart my insights and constructive criticism. More importantly, when irregularities occur, I have the courage to call for justice, factual information and explanations from the management. This not only benefits me, but also other shareholders who are not present at the meetings," Mr. Hangchai said.

A listed company's experience of good corporate governance

We recognize the importance of shareholders' rights and have established a policy governing equitable and fair treatment of shareholders in compliance with the law and regulations, Kasikornbank PCL Senior Vice President **Mr. Adit Laixuthai, Ph.D.**, said.



"Thai investors are now more enthusiastic about their roles and duties as shareholders. At shareholders' meetings, investors or shareholders are keen to ask various questions, ranging from business operations to accounting as recorded in the financial statements. Sometimes, they provide constructive feedback and useful comments, indicating that they are well-prepared for the meeting. Moreover, when they cannot attend shareholders' meetings, shareholders are more ready nowadays to assign a proxy vote. In addition, I notice that the voting and vote counting procedures are now more efficient, as evidenced by the declining number of ineligible votes. This implies that shareholders have become more sophisticated about their duties and accountability to the firm," Dr. Adit noted.

SET promotes investor relations among listed firms



About 550 executives and representatives from 311 SET- and mai-listed companies recently gathered at the SET building for investor relations (IR) training. Held by Thai Investor Relations Club and SET, the event was to raise awareness of IR's important roles and develop IR practices among Thai businesses.

Mr. Peter Schiefelbein from Churchill, Pryce IR Co., Ltd., was the distinguished lecturer. He provided participants with tips and guidelines on how to conduct IR activities and adhere to global best practices. ✍️

SET congratulates

Vietnam's first stock exchange, Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange



On the auspicious occasion of the Ho Chi Minh City Trading Center becoming Vietnam's first stock exchange, it was renamed Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange (HOSE). SET President Ms. Patareeya Benjapolchai, on August 8, congratulated Mr. Nguyen Doan Hung, HOSE Chairman, and Mr. Le Hai Tra, executive member of HOSE's Board of Directors.

Since 2000, SET has assisted HOSE's predecessor in IT development, especially helping develop an automatic order matching system, which became operational on July 30, 2007. SET will next help develop an online system for Vietnamese brokers to connect directly with the exchange. ✍️

SET hosts seminar on US subprime mortgage market meltdown

"US subprime mortgage market meltdown: threat or opportunity for the Thai stock market?" was the subject of a seminar held August 22 at the SET building and hosted by the Securities Analysts Association, Krungthep Turakij Newspaper, Money Channel and SET. Over 460 investors, analysts and the interested members of the public learned about the recent meltdown in the subprime mortgage market that rocked stock markets worldwide.



Distinguished panelists were Mr. Paiboon Nalinthrangkum, managing director of Tisco Securities; Mr. Paritat Lerngutai, managing director of SCB Quant Asset Management; and Mr. Sukit Udomsirikul, assistant managing director of Siam City Securities. The speakers said the mortgage mess would not affect the Thai market in the long run. The key factors affecting the local market would be domestic matters, they said, including the result of the general election in December 2007. ✍️

Simulated online trading attracts huge public interest



About 716 novice and experienced investors crammed into the SET building to participate in the trial runs of the online stock simulation game, Click2WIN, on August 5. Participants practiced online trading in preparation for Click2WIN competition's official launch in October 2007.

The competition will run for nine weeks, from October 1 to November 30. Results will be announced in December. Competitors will have the chance to win 200 prizes totaling over THB 3 million. Applications to play can be made online at www.settrade.com/click2win until September 30, 2007 or through the SET call center at (66) 2229 2222. ✍️