

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

EYE ON THE AEC



Thailand has great potential to become a regional hub for trade and investment under the Asean Economic Community; however, the country urgently needs to solve the shortage of skilled labour as well as develop its education system to ensure upper-industry growth, a key foreign observer says.

In an exclusive interview with THE NATION, Karl-Heinz Heckhausen, president of the German-Thai Chamber of Commerce, said German investors were very confident that the Kingdom's economy would flourish under the AEC because it has many advantages over others in the region. [1B]

AGENDA FOR NEW BANGKOK GOVERNOR

THE NATION kicks off the first of our 10-part series on "Agenda for the new Bangkok governor". Home to 5 million and contributing one fourth of the Kingdom's economy, Bangkok needs a governor with a vision to combat chronic problems and ensure sustainable development for the metropolis in the decades ahead.

GOVERNOR'S TASKS ON FLOOD PREVENTION: [2A]

KERRY SET TO TAKE CLINTON'S CROWN

In just a few days, John Kerry, who has diplomacy sewn into his DNA, is set to land his dream job, taking the helm of the State Department and its 70,000 employees, and helping shape America's future foreign policy. He has big shoes to fill. Hillary Clinton, the former first lady, has won accolades and the expansive title of "the rock star diplomat" during her four years on the job. [8A]



KACHIN-GOVT TALKS TO CONTINUE

Negotiations between the government and the rebel Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) will continue in spite of ongoing clashes, the deputy minister for the President's Office, Aung Thein, told Parliament. "We have reached a truce with 10 ethnic armed groups. But we still can't reach an end to hostilities with the KIO," he said. [5A]

NOVAK DJOKOVIC WINS AUSTRALIAN OPEN [12A]

CHECK OUT THAILAND'S FIRST MICRO FEST [XP, 16B]



14B xp Monday, January 28, 2013

ARTS

TO SEE & TODO

E-mail artsandculture@nationgroup.com



Portraits in the swimming pool

The Cabachon Hotel on Sukhumvit Soi 45 is hosting "Narcissism Now: Illusions of Identity", a live video projection accompanied by a live performance and sound on **Thursday** at 8pm on the hotel's rooftop.

The event presents live mixed visuals, sound and underwater video projection with a performance by German multimedia artist Johanna Keimeyer and Bulgarian visual artist Deyan Raykov of Wetc Studio.

Scenes underwater and outside of the pool will explore narcissism, identity and individuality, a result of several years of artistic involvement with the element water and self-portraits.

Seating is limited. E-mail vincent@eclectic-lab.com.

CELEBRATE

Hindu devotees

THE NATION

There are several festivals in India that welcome the arrival of spring and one of these is the Basant Mahotsav, which traditionally takes place in February.

The Indian community in Bangkok will take part in the festivities on Saturday and Sunday at Dev Mandir, also known as Hindu Samaj, the Hindu temple near the Giant Swing.

This year's festivities include the display of the statue of Shree Vighraha, the deity form of Shree Rani Sati, on loan from the famed Shree Rani Sati Temple, one of India's leading ancient pilgrimage sites, which has been the venue for Basant Mahotsav for the last 29 years. Located in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, the temple attracts devotees from all over India who come to celebrate the Spring Festival and pay respects to Shree Rani Sati, the symbol of feminine bravery and fidelity.

The festivities in Bangkok will enjoy the company of Savitri Jindal, non-executive chairperson of India's Jindal Group of Industries, among the invited guests of honour and more than 2,000 overseas devotees who will be congregating at Dev Mandir.

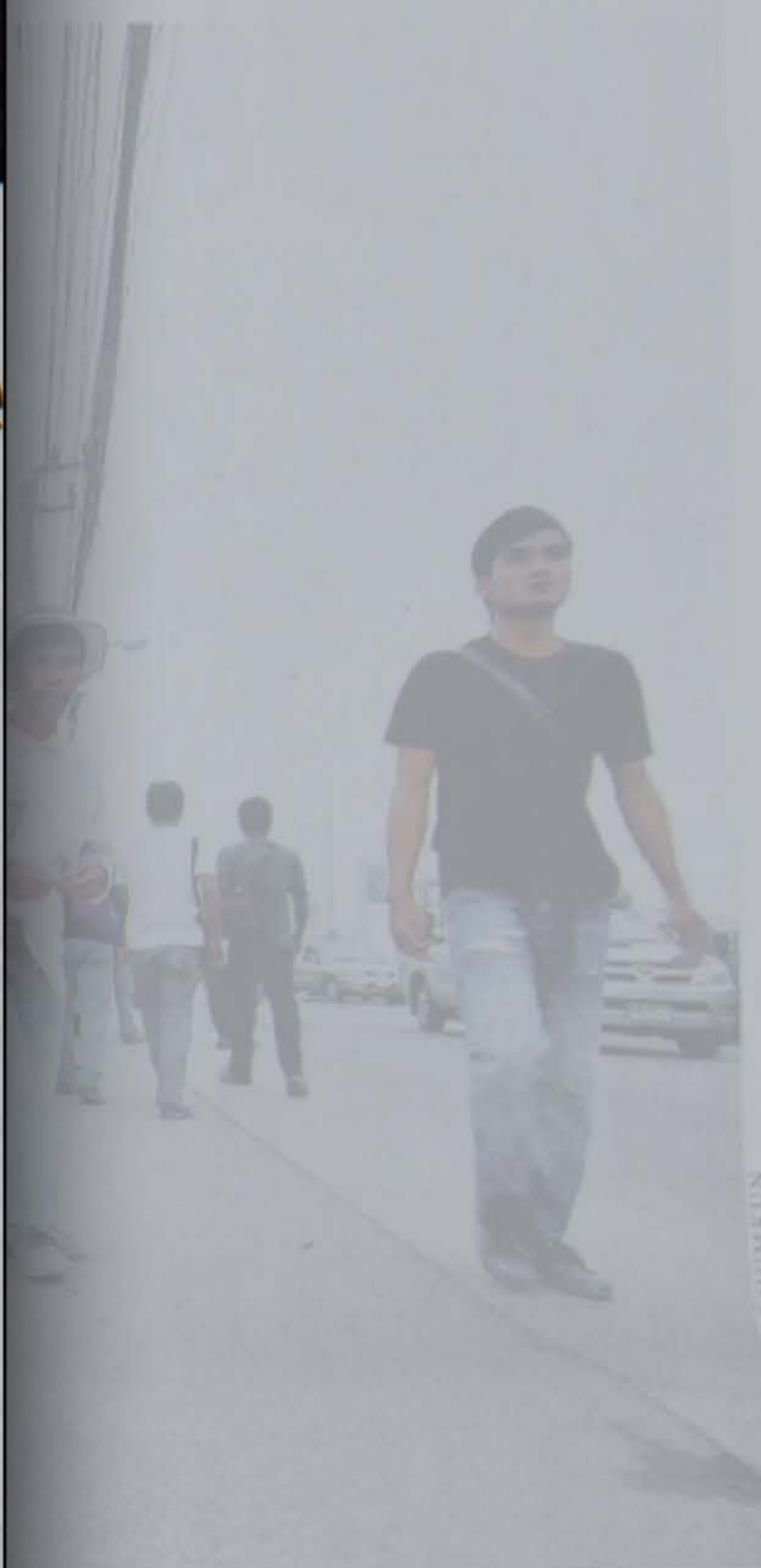
The Bangkok edition is being jointly organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad Association and Shree Dadiji Mandir Trust in cooperation with Dev Mandir. Supporters include Zee TV Asia Pacific, Videohouze Singapore, Sunny Online Travel Thailand, the Saraff Group and Galaxy Diamonds.

The highlight will be a ceremonial procession to welcome the arrival of the spectacular statue of the bejewelled Shree Vighraha decked up in divinity and decorated with 56 *bhog* (food given to the Hindu Gods) offerings.



SEE

en Bt500-Bt900



deals are made, they are work.

AT A GLANCE

Keep Moo Road (located in northern Bangkok, off Ram-Indra Road)

Population
10,000 workers
935 residents, mostly Muslims

Daily rates
Bt500 for basic labour
Bt500-Bt900 for skilled work

Skilled workers:
breakdown by type of work
Bt600-700: Tiler
Bt800: Welder
Bt600-Bt900: Plasterer
Bt600-Bt800: Carpenter
Bt600-Bt700: Electrician
Bt700: Painter
Bt500-Bt600: Planter/gardener

infrastructure projects are kicked off. While they will attract minimum-wage workers, it also means abundant openings are out there for skilled ones who can charge well above Bt300 a day.

DENCE

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