



Thailand Flood Relief and Recovery Bulletin

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Thai Prime Minister Says Worst may be Over, 'We will Recover Soon' from Devastating Flood in Thailand

BANGKOK (Oct. 31, 2011) - In the aftermath of a close call Sunday for Bangkok from the country's ravaging flood waters, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (below) declared that the worst appeared to be over and that "we will recover soon," the Wall Street Journal reported today. The major problem for Thailand continues to be the mass of water inundating the sweeping housing subdivisions and industrial parks just north of the capital that remains a threat to Bangkok as it pushes to the sea. Thailand's central bank is projecting economic growth to slump to 2.6 percent this year from its early forecast of more than 4 percent. The Thai government is gearing up for a massive cleanup and recovery operation in an effort to retain the confidence of foreign investors who have seen their supply chains crippled by the disaster. "The automobile and computer-component plants in the industrial zones north of Bangkok have been hit especially hard, with around a quarter of the world's production of hard-disk drives now shut down and auto makers such as Toyota Motor Corp. cutting back output at plants as far away as Canada and the U.S. because of a shortage of key parts," the Wall Street Journal reported.



Thai Government Outlines Relief and Recovery Plan for Short-Term, Longer-Term Effects of Flood Damage



The OCA delegation had meetings BANGKOK (Oct. 28, 2011) - Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce Mr. Kittiratt Na-Ranong (left) last week briefed diplomats and NGOs here on a comprehensive, proactive series of immediate and longer-term flood relief measures that included a five-point plan for tackling major economic impact from the flood. For a copy of the Relief and Recovery Plan, please visit www.commercethaiusa.org.

Main Economic Measures

The plan calls for immediate draining of water from factories and industrial parks and launching infrastructure restoration. It also includes complete inventory of damage to machinery and equipment for insurance compensation, expediting claims payments, and cooperation from banks in easing lending

requirements.

Assistance will be provided in moving machinery, equipment and inventory to safe places. Visa procedures will be facilitated for foreign experts and mechanics, while identifying local experts from academia and the private sector for repair of machinery, equipment and infrastructure. Three additional import-export document processing centers will supplement current facilities.

Skill-development programs will help affected workers return to their jobs, meet the needs of employers, and provide training in new skills. Roads and infrastructure repairs to flooded streets will be expedited to restore commuter routes to work. Water from flooded areas will be drained within two months. A series of approaches to monitoring, rationing and regulating prices of goods and services will be put in place.

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US 'has Confidence' in Thailand



BANGKOK (Oct. 31, 2011, Bangkok Post) - Despite the huge task ahead after the flood recedes, Thailand has the capacity to bounce back, US Ambassador to Thailand Kristie Kenny said Monday afternoon. Mrs. Kenny was commenting after delivering the fourth batch of U.S. supplies to the Thai Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. The U.S. disaster assessment team has worked with the Thai military, government agencies, and international organizations to ensure the appropriate distribution of flood relief, said Mrs. Kenny. The US had provided items that would not be duplicated by other donors. "Our aid is so far worth 33 million baht (\$1.1 million) and we are looking beyond the relief stage to rehabilitation in areas such as health care and education. American business is also keen to help with Thai economic recovery," she said

Auto-Rickshaw Racers Bypass Bangkok, Finish Line Moved To Southern Thai Beach Resort



(Oct. 28, 2011, Southeast Asia Real Time) - The thrill-seekers now traversing Southeast Asia in auto-rickshaws are willing to face bone-rattling roads, nasty insects and punishing tropical heat. But they aren't willing to brave Thai floods. Organizers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations rickshaw run ... designed to help promote the common links between ASEAN countries and raise money for charity, have decided to move the finish line from Bangkok...to the southern Thai beach resort of Krabi. More than 20 teams remain in the race, which was put together by Asian nations and UK-based company The Adventurists. It's designed to be as challenging as possible. No specific route was crafted for the trip, and the rickshaws are traveling without back-up. "The flooding is not as widespread as the media coverage may indicate. It has mainly affected some of the provinces in the Central Region," said a statement by Governor Suraphon Svetasreni of the Tourism Authority of Thailand on October 16.

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