



Thailand Flood Relief and Recovery Bulletin

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Toyota to Stay in Thailand, a 'Premier Manufacturer without Equal,' Despite Floods, Production to Resume

While Thailand's floods offer a golden opportunity for automakers to diversify their investment across the region - hunting down cheaper suppliers in nearby Vietnam or Indonesia - the kingpin of the Thai market, Toyota, has no plans to go anywhere.

"Toyota is so comfortable in Thailand, I don't see any major move away any time soon," said auto industry analyst Michael Dunne. "Thailand is a premier manufacturer without equal." Toyota has said it has scrambled to source parts from other manufacturers in the region and it plans to resume production by November 21. It plans to restore output further down the supply chain in North America - currently running at 10% lower than before the flooding - to normal levels in the coming week. Nevertheless, Thailand is too good a fit for Toyota for it to leave permanently. When the floodwaters recede the automaker has vowed to return.



Thai Tourism Authority says 97 Percent Of Tourist Sites Safe from Floods

In a statement issued this week by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), it was reported that some 40 of Thailand's 1,200 tourist attractions that appeal to international visitors, or around 3 per cent of Thailand's key tourist attractions, have been affected by the floods. The World Heritage Site in Ayutthaya, around 50 km north of Bangkok, is also dry now.

TAT said tourist attractions and destinations outside of Thailand's central provinces are experiencing normal conditions and continue welcoming visitors. This includes Pattaya, Phuket, Rayong and Chiang Mai. Almost all other tourist destinations in Thailand including Sukhothai, Chiang Rai, Surat Thani and Ko Samui, are also not affected by the flooding in the Central Region. Even in the Central Region, places such as Hua Hin and ChaAm are outside the area affected by the flood.



Quick Recovery in Tourism Expected

BANGKOK (Nov. 18, 2011, based on Reuters dispatches) - Thailand's worst floods in 50 years have hit tourism at the start of the high season, but the country has recovered quickly in the recent past from all sorts of scourges and some tour operators are hopeful a recovery might start next month. Tourism accounts for 6 percent of GDP and employs at least 15 percent of the workforce in Thailand, Southeast Asia's second-largest economy.

Thais Celebrate Loi Krathong Festival amid Floods

Every year when the moon is full and the rainy season draws to an end, Thailand's waterways fill with millions of floating lotus-shaped lanterns — a symbolic, centuries-old gesture once meant to placate the country's goddess of water. Today, many Thais still believe the candlelit boats launched during Loy Krathong can carry misfortune away with them, allowing past sins to be cleansed and life to begin anew.



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Suvarnabhumi Airport Thai Gateway Fully Operating

Suvarnabhumi Airport, the main gateway to Thailand for international flights, is not affected by the flood and all flights continue operating as per usual. The airport, which has considerable water management and flood prevention measures, serves over 800 flights per day. There were more than 958,000 international visitor arrivals at Suvarnabhumi Airport during October 2011, an increase of 6.7 per cent over the previous year. Connecting flights from Suvarnabhumi Airport to other airports to other destinations within Thailand are operating normally. During the first nine months of 2011, international tourist arrivals to Thailand reached 14.4 million. Over 1.3 million of these arrivals were from China, a 9.06 per cent increase over the same period last year. Some 42 per cent were repeat visitors and 43 per cent travelled in group tours.



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