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Luxury resort breaks ground in Kampot



Cambodia News | March, 18/2019

Amber Kampot, a high-end resort, broke ground last week in the riverside town with developers hoping it will help meet demand in the underserved luxury hospitality sector. The resort is expected to be finished in the third quarter of 2020. Taihei Yamada, founder of Amber International Holdings, an international hospitality development firm, said the team behind the development has combined their passion for exploration with decades of cross-disciplinary expertise to provide an unparalleled travel experience and strong returns for their investors. “Our multinational team of researchers and interdisciplinary experts have travelled the globe in search of undiscovered locations offering unique travel experiences, along with great potential for fast growth in the immediate future. “We look forward to introducing a resort that combines the calm of luxury with the excitement of the unknown, helping people reawaken their adventure spirit while providing attractive returns for our investors,” Mr Yamada said. Kampot is expected to bring in 1.9 million tourists and \$13 million in international tourism receipts in 2019 alone, while the Kampot Ferry Terminal, now under construction, is expected to bring in an additional 442,000 visitors by 2022. The resort is currently offering investment opportunities, including exclusive pool suites and villas.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50587657/luxury-resort-breaks-ground-in-kampot/>

programme for improved nutrition.



Laos News | March, 19/2019

The innovative multi-sectoral nutrition convergence approach will come together in Xieng Khuang, Huaphan, Phongsaly and Oudomxay provinces. In these areas, chronic malnutrition affects over 40 percent of all children under five, with long-term adverse impacts on height, brain development, and their ability to succeed later in life. These two new projects complement three others supported by the World Bank in health, education, and diversified food production. The US\$20 million Enhancing Public Finance Management through Information and Communication Technology and Skills Project builds on reforms already undertaken to put in place a basic public financial management framework.

World Bank Country Manager for Laos Nicola Pontara said “The project supports a new financial management information system which will improve the coverage, timeliness and transparency of financial reporting in Laos. It also supports a new public finance management skills training programme.” “More efficient and transparent financial management can benefit the entire population in the long-term by improving public service delivery through the better use of public funds.” The preparation and implementation of this project is supported by the Public Finance Management Reform Programme, funded by the European Union, which is providing technical assistance and capacity building.

Source:http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_World.php

New Sembcorp Myingyan plant to generate power for 5.3 million people

 Myanmar News I March, 19/2019

Singapore-listed energy and utilities firm Sembcorp Industries marked the official opening of the US\$310 million Sembcorp Myingyan Independent Power Plant (IPP) in Myingyan, Mandalay on March 16. With a contracted capacity of 225 megawatts, the plant is one of the largest combined-cycle gas turbine plants in Myanmar. It is also the country's most efficient power plant, featuring advanced technology to maximise power output and minimise greenhouse gas emissions. Sembcorp Myingyan Power Company began operations in October 2018 with the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) providing 37 cubic feet of natural gas per day to the plant from the Shwe Natural Gas Project. That will enable the plant to generate around 1,500 gigawatt hours of electricity per year, helping to meet the power needs of approximately 5.3 million people, said Neil McGregor, Group President and chief executive of Sembcorp. The plant is also the first competitively-tendered IPP in the country. It will also generate its own solar electricity for onsite use, which means that the plant will need less of the power generated by its gas turbines to run its own operations, thereby maximising the power it can export to the grid. Electricity generated from the plant is linked with the 230-KV Myingyan-Thapyay Wa transmission line, said U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy, during the opening ceremony of the plant. According to an agreement signed in January 2017 between Sembcorp and the MOEE, the company will build, operate and own the power plant for the first 22

years, after which ownership will be transferred to the government. Sembcorp Myingyan was funded by the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), as well as international commercial lenders. Importantly, "the success of Sembcorp Myingyan would not have been possible without the favourable reception of the local community, which has supported us throughout the project," said Dennis Foo, managing director of Sembcorp Myingyan. To give back to the community, Sembcorp has installed 14 water treatment plants in 13 villages in the vicinity of the plant, providing more than 19,000 people with access to clean drinking water within 500 metres of their homes, Mr Foo said. The opening of the plant comes amid heightened attempts to bring a reliable supply of electricity to the farthest reaches of the country. Among them are efforts to draw energy investments from Singapore firms. Other projects involving Singapore include the 52 MW Ywama gas power plant with Avarga Ltd and 50 MW Thaketa gas power plant with Myanmar Power Company.

Source: <https://www.mmmtimes.com/news/new-semcorp-myingyan-plant-generate-power-53-million-people.html>

Mandalay compensates farmers for seized land

 Myanmar News I March, 16/2019

Farmers were paid on Wednesday for land seized by the Prisons Department when Mandalay Central Prison was built in Aung Myay Tharzan township, U Zaw Myint Maung, chief minister of Mandalay Region, said. He said the government paid K30 million per acre for 13 acres

owned by three farmers last Wednesday. “We were ordered to verify claims from farmers without delay and to settle the claims as soon as possible if the evidence was correct. There have been a lot of land seizures in the region, and the cases are complicated,” he said. “We plan to return these lands to their rightful owners.” The prison was built in 1992 on 28.4 hectares (70.12 acres) of land, and the excess land was given back to farmers in 2015 after evaluation, U Cho Win Tun, deputy director of the prison, said. “We had to pay the compensation because we want to build a school for prisoners on this land. We gave four farmers K309.60 million (US\$200,000), which we calculated as the market price. The amount of money we had to pay was large, so it took time, as we had to scrutinise it carefully,” he said. Farmer U Myint Oo, whose land was confiscated for the prison, said he was only compensated for seven acres though more than that was seized. He did not say how many hectares were taken from him. “I’m happy to finally get compensation after submitting claims about my farmland to successive governments.”

Source: <https://www.mmmtimes.com/news/mandalay-compensates-farmers-seized-land.html>

centre under the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The country’s major exports to Laos are oil and gas, steel and steel products and means of transport, which, together, accounted for 40.84 per cent of the total, with \$12.8 million coming from oil and gas. Trade turnover between Viet Nam and Laos exceeded \$1 billion in 2018, up 14 per cent year-on-year, the centre said. Viet Nam is Laos’ third largest trade partner, after Thailand and China. The Lao government is gradually removing its complex administrative regulations and procedures, reducing the time needed for corporate establishment, cutting taxes and upgrading infrastructure. The move aims to improve the country’s business environment to attract more foreign investors, including those from Viet Nam.

Source: http://bizhub.vn/news/viet-nam-exports-974-million-goods-to-laos-in-jan-feb_304023.html

Viet Nam exports \$97.4 million goods to Laos in Jan-Feb

 **Viet Nam News | March, 19/2019**

Viet Nam exported US\$97.4 million worth of goods to its neighbouring country Laos in the first two months of 2019, up 20.26 per cent against the same period last year, according to the industrial and commercial information