

Highlight News

April, 10/2019



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Cambodia discusses sea transport with neighbours



Cambodia News | April, 9/2019

Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam on Friday discussed an agreement on maritime transportation that seeks to reduce the cost of shipping by sea and link coastal tourism destinations in the three countries. The meeting focused on the framework and content of the first draft of the agreement, which was prepared by Cambodia. Significant progress was achieved on the agreement, which is vital to support the socio-economic development of the three countries, the Cambodian Ministry of Transport said. Following the meeting, the ministry noted that maritime transport is not only cheaper than moving cargo by road or air, it is also safer and more environmentally friendly. It also offers great potential linking several tourist attractions in the Gulf of Thailand and the region. The route with the highest potential for coastal shipping tourism between the three countries is Koh Chang-Sihanoukville-Phu Quoc. The ports along this coastal route could be further developed in the future to accommodate cruise ships, which would help boost the number of tourists in the region significantly, the ministry said. Cambodia attaches great importance to the development of its four coastal provinces – Koh Kong, Sihanoukville, Kampot, and Kep – the ministry said, adding that the agreement will boost trade, investment, and tourism among the three countries. Vasim Sorya, spokesman at the Ministry of Transportation, said the agreement allows ships originating from any of the three countries to dock in any port in Thailand, Cambodia or Vietnam en route to its final destination.

“The agreement will allow ships from Thailand and Vietnam to dock in Cambodian ports instead of having to sail in international waters,” Mr Sorya said. Sin Chanthy, president of the Cambodia Freight Forwarders Association, said he expected the agreement to reduce shipping costs. “It is a good strategy that will reduce costs and strengthen the quality of shipping,” Mr Chanthy said. “If ships can dock in a Cambodian port when travelling from Thailand to Vietnam it will make transportation in the region more competitive. “We support any initiative like this that seeks to improve transportation in the region,” Mr Chanthy said.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50594572/cambodia-discusses-sea-transport-with-neighbours/>

Chinese Investors Speed Up SEZ Development



Laos News | April, 9/2019

(KPL) A group of Chinese investors have invested at least 10 billion yuan to speed up developing the infrastructure of the Boten Specific Economic Zone (SEZ) in Luang Namtha Province, northern Laos. “Boten Specific Economic Zone is adjacent to border town of Mohan in China’s Yunnan province. Over 50,000 Chinese tourists are expected to flock to the SEZ annually once it is fully built and the Laos-China railway is completed in 2021,” said Mr Kang Peng, in charge of investment promotion, Boten Specific Economic Zone. “We are trying to make Boten Specific Economic Zone a modern economic hub. It will be a market for cultural exchange, an international financial center, a shopping center, an investment and free trade zone,” said Mr Kang. Once the Laos-China railway

construction project is completed, Boten will be the first stop in Laos for passengers traveling from China. A Chinese contractor has been tapped to build a massive train station in Boten to accommodate the anticipated heavy flow of people and freight. Two months ago, Lao and Chinese officials marked the completion of boring and construction of the Boten tunnel, the first of 10 major tunnels under the Laos-China railway project. The completion has convinced the Lao people that the construction of the Laos-China railway will be completed in 2021 as planned. President Bounnhang Vorachit will attend the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to be held in Beijing, China by the end of this month and the Laos-China Railway project will be among key topics to be discussed at the meeting. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is 70-nation world-wide infrastructure construction programme that has emerged as Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy initiative.

Source: <http://kpl.gov.la/En/Detail.aspx?id=45433>

AIIB approves \$320m for Sri Lanka and Laos loans



Laos News | April, 10/2019

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has given the green light for loans in Sri Lanka, totalling \$280 million, and Laos, which will receive \$40 million. One \$200 million loan targeting Sri Lanka will go towards constructing affordable housing and redeveloping land for low-income families in Colombo. Around 5,500 housing units “and other related infrastructure” will be constructed, the AIIB said in a statement. They will be

given to those currently in underserved settlements with poor sewer and solid waste management systems and decaying houses. “Providing affordable housing will improve the quality of life for those in need in Colombo,” said DJ Pandian, the AIIB's vice president and chief investment officer. “Smarter urban planning will also enable the city to attract more foreign investment and increase its potential as an economic hub for the country,” he added. The remaining \$80 million will go towards reducing the risk and damage from landslides in Sri Lanka. Meanwhile the \$40 million loan for Laos will go towards improving an important section of National Road 13, which will directly benefit approximately 502,100 people living in 471 villages and 11 districts in Vientiane Capital and Vientiane Province, according to the World Bank. In a statement, the AIIB said 58 kilometres of road will be rehabilitated. “The project will also benefit individuals and commercial road users who need to travel to and from the eight northern provinces of Laos, as well as to Vietnam, Thailand and China,” the AIIB added.

Source: <http://www.fundsglobalasia.com/news/aiib-approves-320m-for-sri-lanka-and-laos-loans>

Huawei announces higher 2018 earnings supported by Myanmar demand



Myanmar News | April, 9/2019

Huawei announced a set of good results for the 2018 financial year, with earnings coming in at US\$8.6 billion, up by 25 percent year-on-year, on the back of US\$105.2 billion in revenues, which are up 19.5pc over the same period. This was driven by growth in the company's main

consumer business, which saw sales rise by 45pc year-on-year, the company said. Myanmar contributed substantially to Huawei's earnings during the year, Bob Zhu, Deputy General Manager of Huawei Myanmar, told the media. In 2018, Huawei Myanmar's consumer business grew by 36pc over the previous year, with more than 1 million smart devices sold in the country. During the year, the company also expanded its enterprise and cloud business, working with KBZ Bank to launch mobile money services, which served about 2 million users, Mr Zhu said. "We also applied WTTx (Wireless To The x) technology to enable 200,000 more families to enjoy broadband service. We came up with the CloudAir technology to solve the high costs and low utilisation rate of the LTE spectrum, a move that ensured 40pc extra bandwidth and improved user experience," he said. Huawei Myanmar also introduced Huawei Cloud, which enabled catering services to process food orders online, car renting businesses to manage their fleets on the cloud and chain supermarkets to digitally keep track of storage and logistics. This year, Huawei Myanmar will focus on investments in 5G, broadband, cloud and Artificial Intelligence. "We will bring more advanced information and communications technologies and solutions to Myanmar," Mr Zhu said. "We will stand with telecom operators to further improve 4G network coverage and quality, provide rich, cost efficient smart devices, and fast telecom services to people and homes in Myanmar. We will help operators with early preparations in technologies and business, and government in spectrum and policies, to usher in the era of 5G," he said. Starting from 2019, sales of Huawei device models in Myanmar will also be synchronised with global market, enabling people in

Myanmar to enjoy timely, rich and smart experiences on their device just like other markets.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/huawei-announces-higher-2018-earnings-supported-myanmar-demand.html>

Two companies picked to build new Mandalay market

 Myanmar News | April, 9/2019

Two companies have been chosen to build a new Mingalar Market to replace the one that burnt down in March 2016 in Mandalay city, and construction work is expected to begin at the original site this year, said U Kyaw San Myint of the Mandalay City Development Committee. The MCDC's Tender Analysing Team chose Capital Development Ltd and Mandalay Consortium Co Ltd to carry out the joint venture, and it is forming a committee to select a suitable design, said U Kyaw San Myint. "The committee was formed with 13 members chosen from municipal, general administration, fire brigade and market affairs officials. Their first meeting was held on April 4, at which they decided to set a date and seek a suitable design to meet international standards. Work is expected to be started this year," he said. However, vendors at the market said at a press conference on April 5 that the new design of the market – which was shown at the meeting of MPs, head of the MCDC's Markets Department, and Market Affairs Committee at the regional government office on February 10 – totally contradicts the promises that the regional government made to the sellers. "They've told the original sellers that they would return the market to its original state. Now, they put the plaza in the market area and all the shops on

the ground floor have been moved to the first floor. They have made the corner of 73rd street and 30th street a plaza. Such a design annoys the sellers. We are worried. We don't know what caused the fire. The sellers are beset by doubts and uncertainty," said U Ko Ko Maung, one of the shop owners. Ma Ohnmar, another shop owner, said it is impossible for them to sell retail when a shop that was originally on the first floor will now be on the second floor of the new market. The sellers sent a letter to Myanmar's President and the State Counsellor to complain that the Mandalay Region government had broken its promise regarding the market design. "We don't know where this design came from. It may be a design by a company, but it is not the designated design," said U Kyaw San Myint of MCDC. A fire broke out at Mingalar Market in the downtown area at the corner of 73rd and 30th streets on the evening of March 22, 2016. The blaze destroyed 297 shops, including showrooms, garment shops and shops where people also lived. The public still has not been told the cause of the fire, said the sellers.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/two-companies-picked-build-new-mandalay-market.html>

Viet Nam, Netherlands look to boost economic co-operation

 Viet Nam News | April, 10/2019

The governments of Viet Nam and Netherlands needed to continue removing barriers to help businesses boost trade co-operation, said Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte at a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister VŨng Đình Huệ in Hà Nội on Tuesday. The meeting was part of Prime Minister Rutte's working visit to Viet Nam, with

the participation of CEOs from 70 leading enterprises from the Netherlands and Viet Nam. Rutte said his country admired the country's rapid growth. He appreciated the efforts of the Vietnamese Government in enhancing the business environment, national competitiveness and innovation indicators. He believed economic co-operation, trade and investment between the two countries would grow. The PM also said the two sides had many similarities, due to their proximity to the sea.

Dutch enterprises had advantages in agriculture, water and wind power, and were willing to partner with Vietnamese enterprises, he said. The Netherlands is currently the largest European investor in Viet Nam with total registered capital of more than US\$9.5 billion, with well-known corporations such as Heineken, Unilever and Shell. Last year, bilateral turnover reached over \$7.84 billion, accounting for 1.6 per cent of Viet Nam's total import-export turnover and nearly 14.6 per cent of the total import-export turnover of Viet Nam with EU countries.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Huệ said Viet Nam had set a rapid and sustainable growth target for the next five years. Huệ said Viet Nam would boost economic restructuring, while improving productivity and quality of economic growth, and scientific and technological development and innovation. "We will continue to promote the effectiveness of international integration, and push infrastructure development as well as improving the quality of human resources," Huệ said. Huệ said that when the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) was signed and took effect, it would create new opportunities for Dutch businesses to invest in the country. He expected the Dutch government to support the signing of this important agreement. Huệ said Viet Nam was willing to create favourable conditions for

Netherlands businesses to invest in areas such as electronics, information technology, high technology, sustainable agriculture, irrigation and environmentally-friendly industry, renewable energy, wind power, seaports, shipbuilding, infrastructure development, healthcare, education and green growth. "Your success is also our success," Huân said. At the meeting, CEOs of Dutch enterprises expressed their willingness to cooperate and invest in the interests of both sides and in accordance with the development goals of Việt Nam. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/518518/viet-nam-netherlands-look-to-boost-economic-co-operation.html#RgeIRcyt4kAwOTWE.97>
