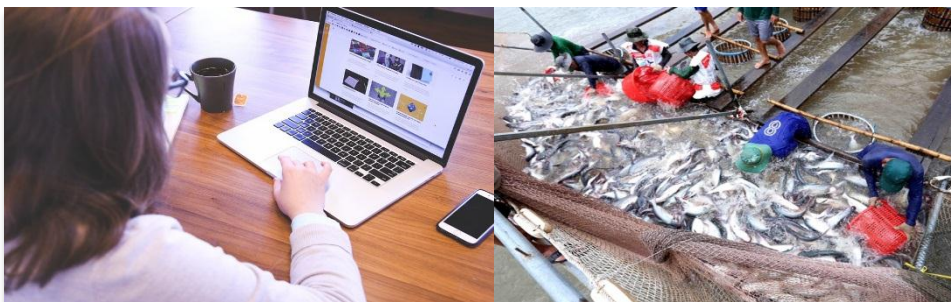


- **Cambodian, Chinese entrepreneurs meet to explore business opportunities**
- **For many Lao women, technical trades are the new “white-collar” jobs**
- **Four mega projects begin construction activities in Yangon and Mandalay**
- **Thailand, Myanmar agree to cooperate**
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Cambodian, Chinese entrepreneurs meet to explore business opportunities



Cambodia News | April, 19/2019

A Cambodian and Chinese entrepreneurs meeting was held here on Thursday, aiming at exploring opportunities for trade and investment, officials said. The meeting brought together nearly 20 entrepreneurs from southwest China's Sichuan province and about 20 Cambodian business executives. Ek Sam Ol, president of the Cambodia-China Friendship Association, said that currently, many enterprises from Sichuan have been doing businesses in various sectors in Cambodia. "The forum is a good opportunity for the entrepreneurs from both sides to exchange experiences and to explore opportunities for investments or business partnerships," he said. Sam Ol said China is currently the top foreign investor in Cambodia and Chinese investments have importantly contributed to socio-economic development in the country. He said Chinese investments have focused on a variety of sectors including transport infrastructure, hydropower plants, industrial zones, garment and footwear factories, banking and finance, real estate and construction, agriculture, tourism, and airlines.

Source: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/17/c_137984560.htm

For many Lao women, technical trades are the new “white-collar” jobs



Laos News | April, 18/2019

In Lao society, most people prefer high-value professions and working in an office. Vocational work is often seen as having a lower status. It's no surprise that parents want their children to get into a university and hope their children get a white-collar job in order to assimilate in and maintain privileged status. Following this trend, many farmers have sold their property to support their children's college education. However, their dreams do not always come true. Many are disappointed because they cannot find a job after graduating from university. Increasingly, families and policy makers in the Lao People's Democratic Republic are discovering that there are many opportunities for good-paying jobs in the vocational and technical sector, outside of traditional white-collar employment. Technical job opportunities emerging in unexpected places. Agriculture is one such option. It is a significant aspect of the country's economy, contributing 16 percent of gross domestic product. About 72 percent of the labor force is engaged in farming. This provides agribusiness opportunities as well as other potential careers. Some of these farmers need agricultural mechanics to maintain and repair cultivation equipment. Agriculture can also be linked to tourism, with food being supplied to hotels, resorts and restaurants. Farms can also be operated as resorts, sometimes called agritourism. There are also connections to health care, with herbs and traditional medicine in demand. The education sector plays a part as well with schools and training centers needed for students to explore areas such as seed and

Four mega projects begin construction activities in Yangon and Mandalay

 Myanmar News I April, 18/2019

fertilizer production. The Asian Development Bank is working with the Lao People's Democratic Republic to fill this gap, in part through the \$25 million Second Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) project, which ran from September 2017 to December 2020. Building on the lessons of a previous project, the initiative supported efforts to realign technical and vocational education and training with current and future labor market needs. This was done by upgrading teaching and learning environments at eight vocational colleges; strengthening teachers' competencies to deliver student-centered practical training in skill areas that are in demand; and improving the management of colleges and fostering an environment that demonstrates the principles of entrepreneurship and promotes involvement of companies and communities. The project, which specifically targeted women for assistance, has increased poor and disadvantaged students' access to technical and vocational training through direct stipends and more dormitory space at colleges. It also worked to improve the public image of technical and vocation training and enhanced understanding of training opportunities among youth, their parents, and communities. As more people, particularly women, consider technical and vocational jobs, the status of these professions will improve. Innovative approaches to creating new, good paying jobs will help this process. It will not be long before students and parents are proud to have a vocational or technical career.

Source: <https://www.responsiblebusiness.com/news/asia-pacific-news/for-many-lao-women-technical-trades-are-the-new-white-collar-jobs/>

Urban –related four mega projects have begun construction activities three in Yangon and one in Mandalay, said a source from the Ministry of Construction. Eco Green City Project has begun implementation on a basis of joint venture with local developer Alliance Star Group of Companies in Hlegu Township, Yangon. Smart District Project is also being implemented in Dagon Seikkan Township in Yangon, said Deputy Minister Kyaw Lin of the Ministry of Construction. New Mandalay Resort City Project is now being implemented on about 7,000 acres of land in PyinOoLwin in Mandalay as Clean, Green and Smart Satellite Town Project. Similarly Korea-Myanmar Industry Complex on 558 acres of land has been under implementation near Nyaung Hna Pin Village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region. The first phase construction of Eco Green City Project in Hlegu is from 2018 to 2023. Ayeyarwun and Yadanar Affordable Housings have been under construction as Smart District Project in Dagon Seikkan Township. Eco Green City Project is located between mile post numbers three miles and one furlong and five miles and two furlongs on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Hlegu Township. The project area covers 1,453 acres. It is jointly carried out by the Ministry of Construction and Alliance Star Group of Company. The first phase of the Eco Green City Project will be implemented on 667.68 acres of land and it will be inclusive of low-cost and affordable housings, highway bus terminal, market, restaurants, offices, shopping mall, mixed use zone, park and playground, road network and

other infrastructures. New Mandalay Resort City Project is being implemented on 10,000 acres of land in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region. The Steering Committee was formed to handle the project under the supervision of Union level in August in 2017. The members of the Steering Committee laid down the project-related policies. The feasibility study was carried out by Surbana Jurong and three groups of developers, said Han Zaw, Union Minister for Construction.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/four-mega-projects-begin-construction-activities-in-yangon-and-mandalay>

Thailand, Myanmar agree to cooperate

 Myanmar News I April, 19/2019

Thailand and Myanmar have signed a collaboration deal to promote tourism routes connecting ancient cities of the two countries in preparation for a travel boom expected from Asean. Thailand's Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Dasta) earlier this month signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Myanmar authorities to foster sustainable and cultural travel. Under the MoU, Dasta and authorities of Myeik, located in southern Myanmar, will together develop and promote tourism plans by linking historical sites from the ancient Dvaravati period, a powerful kingdom. that flourished from the 6th to the 11th centuries. The first phase of the tourism project consists of five routes from Thailand's U Thong ancient city through western Thailand to Tanintharyi, an ancient city in Myanmar, namely U Thong-Suphan Buri, U Thong-Kanchanaburi, U Thong-Nakhon Pathom, U Thong-Prachuap Khiri Khan and U

Thong-Myeik. Chumpol Musiganont, Dasta deputy director, said the new travel routes will help broaden Asean tourism. The routes will be managed under the Global Sustainable Tourism Council's criteria to sustain natural and cultural resources. Moreover, the initiative will preserve the authenticity of local lifestyles, customs and cultures in the ancient Dvaravati areas between Thailand and Myanmar. "We expect the partnership with Myeik city, the largest city in the Tanintharyi Division, and the cooperation from U Thong Ancient City's authorities will help boost tourist numbers to these historical sites in Thailand, especially from Myanmar," said Mr Chumpol. He said if the Singkhon border pass in Prachuap Khiri Khan is upgraded to a permanent border in the near future, this checkpoint will become the main gateway between Thailand and southern Myanmar. Companies in both countries also signed an MoU to promote the region, along with the authority for U Thong Ancient City, the Suphan Buri tourism council, and the Myeik tourism and hotels association and the Myeik tourism and hotels association and Tour Guide Club.

Source: <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/tourism-and-transport/1663652/thailand-myanmar-agree-to-cooperate>

Tra fish industry needs to improve product quality

 Vietnam News I April, 19/2019

Việt Nam's tra fish (pangasius) industry has been urged to strongly improve its quality so as to compete with not only traditional rivals, but also its biggest tra fish importer – China. According to the Việt Nam Association of

Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP), the domestic tra fish sector faces many rivals, including China, India, Indonesia, and Bangladesh – who each represent around 15-20 per cent of global production. Experts said the competitiveness of Vietnamese tra fish should not be assessed through only quantity, but the quality of material and products is the key. To deal with this issue, a high-tech tra fish farm covering 600 ha will be developed in the Mekong Delta province of An Giang in the fourth quarter of this year. When operational, it is expected to supply around 200,000 tonnes of high-quality raw materials each year for processing and subsequent export. VASEP Secretary General **Trương Đình Hòe** said once the quality of Vietnamese tra fish is improved and wins the trust of consumers in demanding markets, it will also have more opportunities to be sold well on the e-commerce platform of Alibaba of China as well as on Amazon of the US. “Through the e-commerce website (Alibaba), Việt Nam’s tra fish products will have greater chances to enter this giant market,” he added. The global production of farmed tra fish was estimated at 2.8 million tonnes in 2018, up 6 per cent from the previous year, and about 45 per cent of this total was sourced from Việt Nam, mostly in the Mekong Delta, according to the association. As of March 2019, there were 20 tra fish processing factories in China whose production capacity had reached some 30,000 tonnes per year. This fact indicates that China is likely to become a big rival to Việt Nam’s tra fish industry in the near future, VASEP said. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has also warned that Việt Nam would have to face more competition from India when this nation has exported seafood products, especially black tiger shrimp, to Japan, one of the traditional export markets of Vietnamese seafood.

India has targeted to triple the domestic seafood output with support from the Government by promoting development of projects relating to the production of shrimp varieties. Besides that, India will focus on promoting tiger shrimp farming in West Bengal, Kerala and Karnataka to boost exports of commercial shrimp products to the Japanese market, especially in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, an event that is expected to boost seafood consumption in Japan. According to the ministry, Việt Nam’s seafood export value in the first three months of this year reached US\$1.8 billion, a year-on-year increase of 0.5 per cent, including \$645 million in March. Japan, the US, China and South Korea are the top four export markets of Vietnamese seafood in the first two months of 2019, accounting for 52.8 per cent of the total seafood export value, the ministry said. The markets with strong growth in seafood export value included Mexico (up 35.6 per cent), the Philippines (25 per cent), Malaysia (21.6 per cent), the UK (16.6 per cent) and Canada (13.7 per cent). The ministry said prices of tra fish and shrimp reduced in March due to a drop in export orders of those seafood products. The purchasing price fell by VNĐ3,000 per kilo month on month for tra fish to VNĐ24,000-25,000 and by VNĐ40,000-70,000 per kilo for black tiger shrimp VNĐ190,000-300,000. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/518874/tra-fish-industry-needs-to-improve-product-quality.html#rsYcTQPfMtIBBHQ1.97>