

- Chinese tourism MoU signed
- Laos to produce over 5 mln tons of rice annually by 2025
- Telenor now largest 4G network in Myanmar
- Myawady border trade camp sees lower official trade volume this year
- CPI during first four months at the lowest in last three years



## Chinese tourism MoU signed



Cambodia News | April, 29/2019

Cambodia and China have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on tourism cooperation for 2019-21, one which aims to attract more Chinese tourists and investors to the Kingdom. The MoU was signed by Cambodian Minister of Tourism Thong Khon and Lin Jingzhen, Bank of China executive vice-president, during the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on Friday. The content of the agreement includes product creation, marketing, promotion and the creation of online or digital payment systems for Chinese tourists. Ministry of Tourism spokesman Top Sopheak on Sunday said the MoU will further attract Chinese tourists and investors to the Kingdom. "The Chinese coming to Cambodia will not all be tourists but also investors. The arrival of tourists will create new jobs for Cambodians," he said. The Kingdom expects to receive three million Chinese tourists by next year, five million by 2025 and eight million by 2030. The MoU also cited increasing air connectivity to key tourism destinations, human resource training and capacity building for public officials, as well as activities to support and promote the development of Cambodian tourism.

Self-service creation Some argue that the influx of Chinese tourists does not provide much in the way of positive impacts for local communities as they mostly use products and services set up by other Chinese. However, a Ministry of Tourism spokesman said that although locals usually do not receive direct benefits from the tourism sector, they may indirectly do so. "I recognise that in some places [the

Chinese] run businesses to serve other Chinese, but such businesses are also open to Cambodians." Pacific Asia Travel Association president Thourn Sinan hailed the MoU as a boost for cooperation with China. He said that to benefit locals, authorities must strengthen the enforcement of its laws to limit the types of businesses foreigners can open and the size of their initial investments. This would stop them from taking capital and opening businesses on a whim, he said. "I am optimistic that Cambodia will not lose the benefits of cooperation with China if we follow our existing laws," he said. Government-Private Sector Working Group on Tourism co-chair Luu Meng said the increasing number of tourist arrivals is a good thing because the tourism sector can improve people's standard of living. However, he said: "Cambodia should also strengthen law enforcement, management and the business practices of foreigners." Cambodia last year received a total of 6.2 million tourists, up 11 per cent compared with 2017. Chinese tourists made up the largest group for the second consecutive year, with approximately two million visitors last year, Ministry of Tourism data shows.

Source: <http://en.freshnewsasia.com/index.php/en/localnews/13831-2019-04-28-10-39-11.html>

## Laos to produce over 5 mln tons of rice annually by 2025



Laos News | April, 29/2019

The Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry plans to produce at least five million tons of paddy rice every year, as the country's latest five-year agricultural strategy by 2025 states. The report, a five-year development plan until 2025, states that the Lao

ministry's expectation is for the Gross Domestic Product of the agriculture and forestry sector to grow at an average rate of 3.4 percent. This would mean the sector would contribute 19 percent to the national economy, local daily Vientiane Times reported on Monday. By 2025, using good agricultural planning and in cooperation with industry partners, the Lao ministry says all Lao citizens will have a daily minimum intake of 2,600 kilocalories. Each year, the Lao ministry plans for a national yield of at least five million tons of paddy rice, of which 30 percent is non-glutinous. Commercial production of paddy rice for both domestic consumption and export should reach at least 1.5 million tons. Maize production, for use in animal feed, will be more than 1.4 million tons while coffee will reach 280,000 tons, sugarcane 2.4 million tons, cassava 1.6 million tons and various beans 52,000 tons. Production of meat and eggs is to rise to 414,000 tons while fish and aquatic animal production will rise to 297,000 tons a year. Export of meat products is expected to rise to 15,000 tons as production and processing operations are modernized. Economists have urged the government to implement policies that will assist the agriculture sector and rice growers in particular. Productive agriculture is key to the eradication of poverty and improved livelihoods, the daily report said.

Source: [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/29/c\\_138021637.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/29/c_138021637.htm)

## Telenor now largest 4G network in Myanmar

 Myanmar News I April, 29/2019

Telenor Myanmar is now the largest 4G/LTE network in Myanmar, covering more than 300 townships with over 6100

LTE sites nationwide, the telecommunications services provider said in a statement last week. That's almost all the townships in Myanmar. During the first quarter of 2019, Telenor Myanmar rolled out 856 LTE sites in its network. It is targeting another 1100 sites by the end of this month. "Our 4G SuperLTE+ network has now covered nearly 100 percent of the country," said Jai Prakash, Chief Technology Officer of Telenor Myanmar. Telenor successfully conducted a joint network speed trial last year in collaboration with Ericsson and achieved the record-setting fastest internet speed ever in Myanmar, 1 Gbps, on its 4G/LTE network. The collaboration with Ericsson had reached next level in late November 2018, as a pilot study of IoT technology for the first time in Mandalay city was successfully done showcasing Telenor's commitment of 5G readiness in Myanmar. Telenor Myanmar officially launched its 4G/LTE services since June 2017 and at present, Telenor possesses Myanmar's best mobile 2G/3G/4G network with more than 8,600 sites nationwide with more than 100,000 points-of-sale, serving 18 million customers across all states and regions, the company said in its statement.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/telenor-now-largest-4g-network-myanmar.html>

## Myawady border trade camp sees lower official trade volume this year

 Myanmar News I April, 29/2019

Commodity flow through Myawady border town is getting quicker than the previous year but official trade volume is much lower than last year, according to sources from the Ministry of Commerce. The export value through Myawady border trade camp from October 1 to April 12 this 2018-2019 fiscal year amounted to US\$76.463 million exceeding US\$24.783 million compared to the same period of last fiscal year. The import value

amounted US\$406.181 million decreasing by US\$62.546 million compared to the same period of last year. "This year we see more inflow of Thai trucks loaded with commodities than the previous year. But all will know why trade volume is still low," said an official from Myawady border trade camp. Official trade volume is said to be low as merchants chose other routes rather than Myawady to avoid increased taxes. Most agricultural products are reportedly exported to Thailand via illegal routes such as by motorboat crossing Thaungyin River. Moreover, maize and corns are going to China through Thailand.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/myawady-border-trade-camp-sees-lower-official-trade-volume-this-year>

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## CPI during first four months at the lowest in last three years

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 Vietnam News | April, 29/2019

NDO – The average consumer price index (CPI) in the first four months of 2019 increased by 2.71% compared to the same period in 2018, the lowest increase for the first four months of the year in the last three years. According to the General Statistics Office of Vietnam, increases in gasoline and electricity prices had a direct impact on the increased CPI in April - up 0.31% over the previous month, but consumer reaction over the development of African swine fever and the Government's determination in deploying a flexible monetary policy to maintain macroeconomic stability contributed to curbing inflation. In the 0.31% increase of CPI in April, 9/11 groups of goods and services witnessed price increases, of which transportation saw the highest increase at 4.29%, mainly due to the influence of two adjustments in gasoline and oil

prices during the month. An upturn was also seen in the prices of housing and construction materials at 0.6%, equipment and household appliances at 0.11%, culture, entertainment and tourism by 0.1%, drinks and cigarettes by 0.08%, apparel, hats and footwear by 0.06%, while education was up 0.05% due to an increase of 0.76% in the price of textbooks, and medicine and health services increased by 0.01%. The other two groups to witness a decrease in prices included food and catering services by 0.57%, in which grains decreased by 0.39%, mainly due to falling rice prices, and food was down 0.87%, while post and telecommunication fell by 0.07%. CPI in April 2019 increased by 1% compared to December 2018 and was up by 2.93% compared to the same period last year. Core inflation in April 2019 increased by 0.09% over the previous month and was up by 1.88% over the same period last year. The average figure for the first four months of this year increased by 1.84% year on year.

Source: <http://en.nhandan.com.vn/business/item/7419202-cpi-during-first-four-months-at-the-lowest-in-last-three-years.html>

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