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DKSH opens B'bang centre



Cambodia News | May, 08/2019

DKSH – a SIX Swiss Exchange-listed market expansion services provider – has opened a new 1,600sqm distribution centre in Battambang province to expand its Cambodian footprint, according to a press release on Tuesday. The company said the modern facility will play a vital role in providing support for state of the art distribution and logistics to clients and customers, as well as in servicing the Kingdom's northwest region with high-quality products. "The new facility will be used as the northwest hub to reinforce DKSH's unique capillary distribution network in Cambodia," it said. The larger and more advanced distribution centre will replace the former facility, which was operating at full capacity. The move represents a significant capacity upgrade in DKSH's consumer goods infrastructure in Cambodia. DKSH is the leading Asia-focused market expansion services provider. The group helps other companies and brands to grow in the consumer goods, healthcare, performance materials and technology sectors. With almost 1,800 local employees, DKSH is one of the Kingdom's leading business organisations, with the new distribution centre set to be operated under a modern warehouse management system connected to the company's global SAP cloud platform. The new Battambang distribution centre joins DKSH's state of the art facilities in Phnom Penh, which opened in 2015, and Siem Reap, which opened in

2017. DKSH's vice president in Cambodia and Laos Kwanchai Assanee said that the Kingdom's fast-growing middle-class demanding high-quality products means it is one of the region's major growth markets. "We are building on more than 60 years of experience in Cambodia and command a strong regional network. Opening a centre in Battambang means we have significantly strengthened our presence in northwestern Cambodia," he said.

Source: <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/dksh-opens-bbang-centre>

Laos: Bananas are top agricultural export



Laos News | May, 06/2019

Bananas are expected to be Laos' leading agricultural export in 2019 despite the Lao government banning the expansion of plantations around the country. In 2017, Laos earned 167.9 million US dollars from banana exports, The figure dipped to 112 million US dollars in 2018, but, according to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, was expected to increase to 168 million US dollars in 2019. The bulk of the crop will be sold to China, some will be sold to Thailand. Other major agricultural export earners in Laos were expected to include cassava with sales reaching 129 million US dollars, raw coffee at 143 million US dollars, rubber at 105 million US dollars, maize at 34 million US dollars, and 25 million US dollars worth of rice. The commercialization policy on banana production benefited rural people. The most notable outcome of this policy has been the influx of investors to assist Lao banana growers in the country's northern provinces of Bokeo, Luang

Namtha, and Oudomxay which led to an increase in banana exports from 46.6 million US dollars in 2015 to over 197.8 million US dollars in 2016.

Source: <https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9101029/laos-bananas-are-top-agricultural-export/>

Laos Telecoms, Mobile and Broadband Market Growth Analysis, Challenges and Industry Key Players – Lao Telecom, Thaicom, ETL, Unitel, Lao Asia Telecom, Star Telecom, Viettel | 2019-2023



Laos News | May, 08/2019

The Laos telecoms market finally gains some momentum. The telecom sector in Laos still has numerous issues to address. For a number of years, the rate of regulatory reform has been well behind wider industry development. However, Laos has started to make significant progress in strengthening of its telecommunications infrastructure. As a result, it attracted more foreign investment into the sector.

The Laos economy continues to perform well. In the last decade there certainly has been a noticeable shift in the economic and social outlook for Laos. Most importantly, a significant number of hydro-electric power projects and mining ventures have become a reality, with even more possible projects in the pipeline. The provision of fixed internet services has been slow, this being a major concern in terms of the overall social and economic development of the country. Fixed broadband penetration in Laos

remains limited in scale and nature and extremely low mainly due to a limited number of fixed lines as well as the dominance of the mobile platform. Over the next five years to 2023 growth is expected to continue but overall market penetration will remain extremely low.

Source: <https://amarketresearchgazette.com/laos-telecoms-mobile-and-broadband-market-growth-analysis-challenges-and-industry-key-players-lao-telecom-thaicom-etl-unitel-lao-asia-telecom-star-telecom-viettel-2019-2023/>

Import value of capital goods in nearly seven months reaches over US\$3.2 bn



Myanmar News | May, 07/2019

Import value of capital goods in nearly seven months in the current fiscal year reached over US\$3.2 billion accounting for over 31 percent of total import, but the amount reduced by about US\$380 million compared to the same period of last year, according to sources from the Ministry of Commerce. From October 1 to April 26 in the current 2018-2019 fiscal year, capital goods worth US\$3.265 billion were imported. In the same period of last year, however, the amount hit US\$3.644 billion, so this year saw a decrease of US\$379.355 million. The amount of imported capital goods in nearly seven months accounted for 31.83 percent of total import of all kinds of goods. From October 1 to April 26 this year, the government approved 150 rounds of foreign investment with

US\$1,682.707 million. The amount including investment increase totalled US\$2,412.835 million.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/import-value-of-capital-goods-in-nearly-seven-months-reaches-over-us32-bn>

Tourist arrivals in Myanmar increase in first 3 months of 2019



Myanmar News | May, 07/2019

Tourist arrivals in Myanmar reached 1.136 million in the first three months of 2019, up 208,162 or 22.4 percent from the same period of 2018, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism Tuesday. The significant increase of the tourist arrivals during the period was attributed to the coming in of large amount of tourists from Asian countries especially China. The other countries are Thailand, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, India and Malaysia. However, the number of tourists from Europe was on the decrease, according to the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population which revealed that the tourist arrivals on board ocean liners declined by 15 percent this year, while those entering through border gates increased by 144 percent. Myanmar received 4.6 million tourists in 2015, 2.91 million in 2016, 3.44 million in 2017 and 3.55 million in 2018, and is likely to grow in 2019.

Source: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/asiapacific/2019-05/07/c_138039844.htm

Myanmar Tourism Bank starts operating first branch



Myanmar News | May, 06/2019

The first branch of Myanmar Tourism Bank (MTB), located in Yangon, has started operation on Monday offering financial assistance to tourism companies. MTB is one of five sector-specific banks granted a banking license by the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in 2017. It is founded by a public tourism company. Initiated during U Thein Sein's government, K2 billion was raised to finance the MTB to help promote the tourism sector, but it failed to get the necessary approvals from relevant authorities. "As a tourism-related bank, we will focus on lending to this sector. But we also plan to offer financial support to other related sectors and businesses. We will support the inbound and outbound tour businesses," U Saw Bo Bo, managing director of Myanmar Tourism Bank told The Myanmar Times. The bank aims to offer low interest loans to assist the tourism sector. The CBM has also relaxed its restrictions on collateral this February. As such, loans at rates of 16 percent are available for borrowers without collateral. For those who are able to provide collateral, the lending is a maximum of 13pc. The Myanmar Tourism Bank will decide on the loans to extend depending on the nature of the business of the borrowers, said MTB's managing director. The branches at Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw

and other places will be open in next month, U Yan Win, a shareholder of the bank, told The Myanmar Times. In addition to giving out loans to tourism companies, personal travel loans will also be issued to those who want to travel, as a way to support the development of the tourism sector. According to the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism's statistics, there are more than 2500 travel and tour companies by the end of November, but the majorities are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) In the tourism industry, there are a few hoteliers and travel and tour company owners who are able to invest large amounts to finance their businesses but others are mostly SMEs who face financing difficulties. The bank is located on 347 Pyay Road, Kamayut township, Yangon.

Source: <https://www.mmmtimes.com/news/myanmar-tourism-bank-starts-operating-first-branch.html>

VN looks to export more rice to China



Vietnam News | May, 07/2019

HÀ NỘI —Việt Nam was looking for measures to expand rice exports to China after witnessing a fall in export volume to the market since 2018. **ĐỖ HÀ NAM**, deputy chairman of the Việt Nam Food Association, said at a conference about rice trade between Việt Nam and China in HCM City on Monday that Vietnamese exporters were struggling to access the Chinese market despite China's

massive demand for rice. Since 2018, Việt Nam's rice exports to China have dropped to 1.3 million tonnes, down from a record high of three million tonnes. Nam attributed the decline to changes in China's import policies which required firms to be licensed to export to the market. "We need to be regularly updated with market information to have measures to boost rice exports to China," Nam said. He said he hoped that more firms would be licensed to export rice to China in the near future, adding that many firms could now meet China's requirements.

At the moment, only 22 Vietnamese firms are licensed to sell rice in China. **Phạm Thái Bình**, general director of Trung An Hi-tech Agriculture Joint Stock Company, said Vietnamese export firms need to be provided with more detailed information about China's rice import demand – including consumption volume and rice types – to craft appropriate production plans. The conference was held within the framework of a four-day exchange programme between Việt Nam and China focusing on rice trade, jointly held by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and China's food associations as more than a dozen Chinese rice import firms visit Việt Nam until today. **Trần Quốc Toàn**, deputy director of the Import-Export Department under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, said the programme was a significant opportunity for Vietnamese firms to learn about the Chinese market's demand for rice, network with Chinese importers and reduce intermediary stages in the export process. Việt Nam's rice exports in the

January to April period were estimated at 2.03 million tonnes, worth US\$866 million, down by 7.9 per cent in volume and 21.7 per cent in value over the same period last year. The average rice export price dropped by \$72.7 per tonne to \$430.1. Viet Nam's rice exports to China in the period reached only 43,300 tonnes, worth \$20.8 million, representing drops of 89.5 per cent in volume and 90.4 per cent in value. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/519521/vn-looks-to-export-more-rice-to-china.html#v2IBIMAFs54kyQGJ.97>
