



- Tourist numbers rise sharply during holiday
- Cambodia, Nepal to boost trade, investment, tourism cooperation
- Laos, South Korea agree to future rural development
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- Shark catfish exports to US, China fall Japan among top 10 importers of Viet Nam's tra fish for first time
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Tourist numbers rise sharply during holiday



Cambodia News | May, 16 /2019

The number of tourists rose dramatically during King's Birthday, the Ministry of Tourism said. Higher incomes, better roads and a wider offer of tourism products are encouraging more Cambodians to travel, particularly during national holidays like King Norodom Sihamoni's birthday, they noted. According to the Ministry of Tourism, the three most popular travel destinations during the holiday were Siem Reap, the coast, and eco-tourism sites in the Northeast. Ministry spokesman Top Sopheak said the number of domestic travellers continues to rise every year. "Travelling within the country is becoming an increasingly popular activity, whether during holidays or during the weekend, because people are enjoying higher incomes and because the country is peaceful and stable," Mr Sopheak said. Siem Reap province saw a sharp increase in tourist arrivals during the three-day holiday, according to authorities. Dy Samrith, deputy governor of Siem Reap province, said Siem Reap continues to be the biggest draw for travellers. "The number of tourists increased markedly compared to the same celebration last year, but it was not higher than during Khmer New Year," Mr Samrith said. "Tourists continue to pour into the province because we have a wide offer of tourism and cultural products. Siem Reap continues to be a priority for tourists." Siem Reap's tourism department will

publish official figures on tourist arrivals during the holiday today, Mr Samrith noted. Kampot province, on the coast, saw a twofold increase in visitors compared to the same holiday last year. According to the provincial tourism department, around 104,000 people visited the province from May 13-15, an increase of 12.72 percent. 4,400 of them were foreigners. "We observed that each year the number of tourists grows, particularly during national holidays like King Sihamoni's birthday," Soy Sinol, director of Kampot's tourism department, said. "The availability of more attractive tourism products and access to higher incomes allows more people to travel and spend time in the coast. "In Kampot, there was a shortage of rooms during King Sihamoni's birthday," he added.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50604584/tourist-numbers-rise-sharply-during-holiday/>

Cambodia, Nepal to boost trade, investment, tourism cooperation



Cambodia News | May, 16 /2019

PHNOM PENH, May 16 (Xinhua) -- Cambodia and Nepal vowed to work together to boost bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and tourism, said a joint statement released on Wednesday. The statement was issued at the end of the three-day official visit of Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli to Cambodia. It said Oli had a bilateral meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. It said the prime ministers stressed

the important role of private sector in economic development and encouraged close collaboration between the chambers of commerce of Cambodia and Nepal in fully exploiting economic potentials and business opportunities of both countries. Two prime ministers witnessed the signing of two bilateral documents on trade and investment cooperation. Oli's trip to Cambodia came after Hun Sen visited Nepal in November 2018.

Source: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/16/c_138062594.htm

Laos, South Korea agree to future rural development



Laos News | May, 16/2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) -- South Korea has agreed to continue supporting Laos in rural community development activities through the Saemaul Undong project. The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to carry on expanding rural community development activities in Laos. The MOU was signed by the President of KOICA, Ms Lee Mi Kyuang, and Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr Lien Thikeyo. The signing was witnessed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr Somdy Duangdy. This latest agreement follows on from a previous five-year Saemaul Undong agreement that assisted Vientiane and Savannakhet provinces. Under this MOU,

KOICA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will jointly initiate rural community development projects in three of Laos' southern provinces. The two parties will consult each other with regard to the project's overall progress, finance, form and structure as they strive to improve the lives of people in these rural village communities. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ms Lee said that since 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and KOICA have produced many tangible results in the area of rural development. She said she believed in the project because it involves villagers directly in the improvement of their own lives. Individual and community lives are transformed by the Saemaul Undong ethos. Ms Lee said the focus of future agriculture development projects should be on improving quality of life through creative measures that are appropriate and sustainable into the future. KOICA has implemented many projects in countries that include Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Laos over the last five years. The agency is also planning to run a five-year rural development project in southern Laos beginning in 2020. Lao society has undergone considerable change during the last five years and plans for rural and agricultural development need to be adjusted accordingly. "The new projects will be quite different from the previous ones, having been modified to reflect the changing pattern of values and behaviours," Ms Lee said.

Source: <http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-south-korea-agree-future-rural-development-96733>

More than US\$2.5 B worth of foreign investments had entered Myanmar till May



Myanmar News | May, 16/2019

More than US\$2.5 billion worth of foreign investments entered Myanmar till early May of this fiscal year and transportation and communications sector topped the list of foreign investment amount in 2018-19 FY, according to Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration (DICA). It is more US\$718 million than in compared with the foreign investments entered in the same period of last fiscal year. Transportation and communications sector topped the list of foreign investment amount with US\$1.155 billion and followed by industrial sector with US\$668 million. Other services sector stood third with US\$274 million. The rest of the foreign investment in sectors as per following: over US\$93 million in electricity supply sector, over US\$60 million in hotel and tourism sector, over US\$54 million in housing development sector, over US\$48 million in industrial sector, about US\$34 million in livestock and fishery sector, over US\$14 million in farming sector and over US\$10 million in oil and gas sector. More than US\$134 million of foreign investment entered at Thilawa SEZ. Myanmar is implementing to develop a 20-year elevation of investment project to reach to a level of middle income countries in 2030. Myanmar is planning to earn more than US\$220 worth of investment within 20-year time and to have investments which have

responsibility and accountability. Myanmar is planning a short term elevation of investment project from 2016 to 2020, a medium term elevation of investment project from 2021 to 2025 and a long term elevation of investment project from 2026 to 2035. Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) drew foreign direct investment policy in 2013 in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and it was implemented since 2014.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/more-than-us25-b-worth-of-foreign-investments-had-entered-myanmar-till-may>

Shark catfish exports to US, China fall



Vietnam News | May, 17/2019

MEKONG DELTA — Exports of Mekong Delta shark catfish to the US and China, two of the biggest buyers of the products, have dropped compared to the figure last year. According to seafood exporters in the Mekong Delta, shark catfish exports have been erratic, and the demand in big markets such as China and the US has fallen. Exports to mainland China and Hong Kong in March were worth US\$39.5 million, 12.9 per cent lower than last year, while exports to the US saw a 44 per cent drop. Doãn Tới, general director of the Nam Việt Corporation (which specialises in exporting seafood), told Sài Gòn Giải Phóng (Saigon Liberated) newspaper that shark catfish exports were worth around \$1 billion to China and the US last year. Despite the high figure, both markets can be volatile due to changing policies and

tariffs, so more export destinations are preferable to only one or two markets, he said. **T**ới said that exporters should focus on the EU as the number of shark catfish exports has risen after a period of low exports. Around \$72 million worth of fish were exported in February and March, 42 per cent higher than last year. Exports to ASEAN in the first quarter of the year also increased by 18 per cent, while Japan's imports of the product were also rising, making the country among the top 10 importers this year. Foreign markets are demanding tougher technical specifications to ensure food safety and quality, such as China restricting cross-border imports of agricultural products and seafood, according to the Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture Product Quality Management Department. In addition, the EU restricts imports from **V**iệt Nam if banned substances are detected in Vietnamese shipments. Quality standards, improved linkages between farmers and businesses, use of materials for other processed products, and more promotions are all needed, according to experts. An Giang and **Đ**ồng Tháp provinces are two of the Mekong Delta's leaders in shark catfish farming, processing and exporting. According to An Giang People's Committee, its farming areas for fish amount to 1,300-1,400 hectares, with output of 380,000-400,000 tonnes. The industry targets exports of around \$2.4 billion this year. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/520068/shark-catfish-exports-to-us-china-fall.html#dCcJwwPEXg6WOTfC.97>

Shark catfish exports to US, China fall



Vietnam News | May, 17/2019

HCM CITY - Many Vietnamese enterprises are keeping a close eye on the escalating US-China trade war and have expressed concern about its possible adverse impact on their business. The US recently raised tariffs on US\$200 billion worth of Chinese products to 25 per cent from 10 per cent and has started the process of slapping tariffs on another \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods. China has announced higher tariffs on thousands of US goods in retaliation. **Ph**ạm **H**ải Long, general director of Argex Saigon Foodstuffs JSC, which exports processed foodstuff and seafood to the US and imports feedstock from China, told **Ng**ười **L**ao **Đ**ộng (The Labourers) newspaper: "The depreciation of the Chinese yuan, the appreciation of the US dollar against currencies globally and the strong fluctuations in the USD/VNĐ exchange rate have all affected local exporters. "[Vietnamese] export companies benefit from the depreciation of the **đ**ồng, but if the exchange rate goes up strongly, importers will have to pay high prices, affecting demand, and Vietnamese enterprises are also affected." Therefore, the important thing now is for the Government not to let it fluctuate too strongly, he said. **Ph**ạm **N**gọc **H**ưng, deputy chairman of the HCM City Union of Business Associations, said **V**iệt

Nam should benefit from the escalation in the trade war, including in terms of exports. The trend of Chinese and other foreign firms switching their investments from China to other markets, including Việt Nam, would provide a fillip to many sectors in Việt Nam, he said. The industrial and commercial property sectors are forecast to grow faster, there would be higher demand for labour and enterprises in supporting industries would get large manufacturers as customers, he said. But the trick is in actually exploiting these advantages, and strengthen links between local enterprises and foreign investors to build brands for the former's products and exports, he added. In a media interview recently, Nguyễn Quốc Khanh, chairman of the Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of HCM City, said: "To avoid the impact of the trade war, many Chinese enterprises have shifted their investments to Việt Nam, helping boost the development of the woodworking sector. "But the shift also poses challenges to Vietnamese firms since they will have to encounter fierce competition from the Chinese in many areas, from getting human resources and land to prices. "Most local firms are still young and lack much experience. This requires Vietnamese firms to make more efforts in their business." The association plans to help local firms develop by help them with training human resources, promoting furniture brands in international markets and seeking customers, he said. Asked if the increase in Việt Nam's furniture exports to the US

could attract higher tariffs, he said: "The US does not want to have a high trade deficit with any country. Our furniture exports to the US can increase further, but our import of machinery and timber from this market has also gone up. "Currently Việt Nam is the second largest importer of US hardwood in Asia." Hung and many companies raised the concern that Chinese manufacturers could ship half-finished products to Việt Nam for finishing and exporting to the US under Vietnamese labels. Vietnamese companies should stay alert and not get involved with this, while authorised agencies should closely monitor such activities because if the US detects this, it might impose taxes, they said. According to the Foreign Investment Agency, this year China has been the biggest foreign investor in Việt Nam, with US\$1.3 billion in 187 projects and \$116 million in existing ones. — VNS

Source:<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/520036/vietnamese-businesses-fear-fallout-of-us-china-trade-war.html#hTJ3WHW3tuhibpqp.97>
