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Ministry to evaluate local exporters



Cambodia News | May, 23 /2019

China has asked the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture to inspect local companies included in a list of potential rice exporters to the Chinese market. The Cambodian ministry agreed to conduct new inspections on the 40 firms shortlisted to act as suppliers of rice to China, said Ngin Chhay, director-general of agriculture. "China asked the general directorate of agriculture to conduct quality evaluations on the rice millers in the list of potential suppliers to the Chinese market," Mr Chhay said. "China is only accepting rice millers that can export big amounts." Officials from the ministry and the Cambodia Rice Federation will perform the inspections soon, he said. "This time, we will focus on the areas where these companies source their rice, and we will try to have one company representing one area as to cut down the list," Mr Chhay said. Earlier this year, China agreed to increase its import quota for Cambodian milled rice, allowing 100,000 more tonnes of the commodity into its market for a total of 400,000 tonnes. China currently allows rice shipments from 26 Cambodian firms. Of them, nine have yet to send their first shipment to the Chinese market. Hun Lak, vice president of the Cambodian Rice Federation, said the inspections will be carried out soon. "With these inspections, we want to ensure that the rice millers meet all the requirements of the Chinese market. We don't want

subpar companies that may damage the reputation of Cambodian rice," Mr Lak said. According to Mr Lak, many of the companies in the list do not meet China's export requirements and face several challenges, including a lack of storage facilities. To fulfill China's quota, Cambodia needs at least 40 to 50 approved exporters, he added. In the first quarter of the year, Cambodia exported 75,214 metric tonnes of milled rice to China, a 59 percent increase over the same period last year.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50606827/ministry-to-evaluate-local-exporters/>

Chinese team to study master plan for Sihanoukville



Cambodia News | May, 23 /2019

A team from China's Shenzhen city, in Guangdong province, is in Cambodia to study the possibility of drafting a master plan to guide the development of Sihanoukville. In a meeting with Minister of Industry Cham Prasidh on Tuesday, Xiao Sima, head of the Shenzhen delegation, said the master plan would be drafted using Shenzhen as a model. "We will use our experience developing Shenzhen to develop Sihanoukville in line with the government's Industrial Development Policy for 2015-2025," Mr Xiao was quoted as saying in a Facebook post from the ministry. The government aims to turn Preah Sihanouk province into a "second Shenzhen city", the ministry said. Mr Prasidh said he welcomed the project and added that once completed, the study will be sent to the government to be reviewed.

The minister said the potential master plan would help develop Sihanoukville into a modern, green city, as well as an attractive investment destination and an industrial hub. Located in the country's coast, Preah Sihanouk province boasts Cambodia's only deep-sea port, and international airport, and a railway line that connects to the capital. The province is also home to the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone (SSEZ), a project of investors from China's Jiangsu province. Prime Minister Hun Sen said in 2016 that he considered SSEZ an achievement akin to Shenzhen city. Yun Min, governor of Preah Sihanouk province, said he did not know about the project, but said a master plan would help improve the development of the city.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50606751/chinese-team-to-study-master-plan-for-sihanoukville/>

China grants ICT development for trade, investment facilities



Laos News | May, 22/2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - The Lao government expects that regional and international economic links in the areas of trade and investment will flourish with the development of necessary tools that will improve the business environment. One of the key factors for the improvement of trade and investment is access to information technologies and upgradation of information sharing between the central and provincial levels of their respective areas. The China-aid Information System Remodelling Project for the Lao Ministry of Industry

and Commerce will now support the ministry's policy on ICT development strategic framework for 2016-20. Prior to the formal inauguration of the project commencement at the ministry yesterday, the China Iconic Technology Company Limited (China ICTC), has been in-charge of implementing the project with a focus on improving server rooms, installing e-filling systems, building e-conference and media rooms, installing microphones at the grand conference room and conducting ICT training courses. Speaking at the ceremony, the Deputy General Manager of China ICTC Mr Xie Zhaokai said his company was assigned by the Ministry of Commerce of China to implement the project. "The main task of the project includes upgrading the information system, the development of IT programmes and providing technical training courses for Lao government officials from central and provincial levels," he said. Mr Xie said the construction of the project will take about 20 months and the company has already planned for construction and experts in particular fields are now assigned to be on duty. "With the support from the two governments of Laos and China, our company is keen to complete the project as per the state plan," Mr Xie added. The Deputy Director General of the Planning and Cooperation Department under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce Mr Khamsonvanh Phoutdavong said the project will continue to strengthen more effective cooperation between central and provincial levels. "This reconstructing and remodelling project will enable to support more active contribution to the

development of business environment, business operations and economic integration," he said. Meanwhile, the Economic Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Laos Mr Wang Qihui said over the past years, the leaders of China and Laos made official exchange visits and signed several strategic cooperation pacts in the areas of political and economic cooperation. "This China-aid information system project is one of those strategic cooperation projects, which demonstrates the goodwill of the government of China to support its strategic partners to be prosperous together," he said. Mr Wang said China is the second trading partner of Laos and it is hoped that the project will continue to support the growth of Lao economy, especially in the field of industry and commerce.

Source: <http://annx.asianews.network/content/china-grants-ict-development-trade-investment-facilities-97074>

Myanmar-China Think Tank Forum kicks off in Yangon



Myanmar News | May, 22/2019

The third Myanmar-China Think Tank Forum kicked off on Tuesday in Myanmar's Yangon, gathering about 40 experts from both countries. Focusing on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Myanmar-China Economic Corridor, discussions and views were exchanged under four topics -- "Economic Cooperation and Border Trade" "People-to-people Connectivity" "Socio-Economic Development" and "Cross-border Ethnic Communities" at the forum

which will last until Wednesday. Nyunt Maung Shein, chairman of Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Myanmar-ISIS), stressed the need of conducting deeper discussions regarding to the challenges and opportunities in implementations of the projects under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which was signed to establish China-Myanmar economic corridor. The forum was jointly organized by Myanmar-ISIS, China's Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, Chinese Academy of South and Southeast Asian Studies (Kuming) and Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture of China. Li Xiaoyan, counselor of Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, expressed her belief that the think tank forum could bring the mutual understandings between the two countries' experts on the future potentials of the Belt and Road Initiative. The first and second of such forum were held in Mangshi, Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture of China in 2017 and 2018, respectively. The Tuesday forum hosted the discussions based on the outcomes of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation which was held in Beijing late April.

Source: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/asiapacific/2019-05/22/c_138079571.htm

Govt plans three-month mining moratorium in disaster-prone

Hpakant



Myanmar News | May, 22/2019

The government will declare a three-month moratorium on jade mining in Hpakant township, Kachin State, during the rainy season from July to August amid concerns about accidents, U Min Min Oo, permanent secretary of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, said on Tuesday. He made the statement in reply to a question during a press briefing in Nay Pyi Taw. He added that a proposal for the moratorium will be submitted to the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House). Every year, dozens of miners die in landslides at Hpakant's jade mines. Last month, at least 55 people were buried in a mudslide in the area. "We're worried about more natural disasters," he said. U Min Min Oo said the suspension is also necessary because the current mining concessions are about to expire and there needs to be a new assessment. "Only a few blocks have long-term permits, and there are blocks that need to be measured again, so we'll suspend all mining for three months," he said.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/govt-plans-three-month-mining-moratorium-disaster-prone-hpakant.html>

Numerous export opportunities with Malaysia



Vietnam News | May, 22/2019

HCM CITY – Malaysia is one of the export markets in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) holding the most potential for Vietnam, especially for agricultural products, seafood, foodstuff, and beverages, experts noted at a workshop in Ho Chi Minh City on May 22. Nguyen Tuan, Deputy Director for the Investment & Trade Promotion Centre of HCM City (ITPC), said that economic and trade cooperation between Vietnam and Malaysia has posted growth in recent years. Vietnam is the second biggest trade partner of Malaysia, while Malaysia is the fourth largest trade partner of Vietnam in ASEAN. Two-way trade in 2018 reached nearly 11.5 billion USD. Vietnam exported computers, electronic products and spare parts, mobile phones, iron and steel, glass products, transport vehicles, garment-textiles, and wood and timber products to Malaysia; while importing petroleum, electronic components, plastics, chemicals, and textiles from the market. By the end of 2018, Malaysia had 586 valid products and was the eighth biggest investor among countries and territories investing in Vietnam, with the total investment of nearly 12.5 billion USD. Faizal Izany Mastor, Malaysian Trade Counsellor in HCM City, said Vietnam and Malaysia are important trade partners in ASEAN. He suggested the two countries enhance trade promotion activities to realise the

bilateral trade target of 15 billion USD in 2020. Zukarnine Shaz Zainal Abidin, a representative from Halal International Selagor, said one of the fields that Vietnam and Malaysia could promote cooperation is developing the production of food and beverages to meet Halal requirements. It is expected that by 2030, the scale of the global Halal industry will be worth up to 30.6 trillion USD, including 1.1 trillion USD in the Asia-Pacific, of which Malaysia will hold some 228.5 billion USD. Vietnamese farm produce and seafood products (excluding pork) are able to meet the Muslim food standards, he said, adding that when Vietnamese products receive Halal certification, they could be exported to Malaysia, as well as the global Muslim market with population projected at 2.7 billion people in 2020. He suggested Vietnamese firms carefully study the Malaysian market and develop international marketing skills. Dato' Teng Chang Kim, member of the Executive Board of Selagor state, held that the cooperation opportunities between Vietnamese and Malaysian small- and medium-sized enterprises are huge. While Vietnam has good export ability, Malaysia has advantages to develop services supporting import-export, marketing, and distribution of products. Vietnamese export firms could coordinate with Malaysian service companies to promote the distribution of goods to the regional market, he said.

–VNA

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/numerous-export-opportunities-with-malaysia/153004.vnp>
