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Thailand sole supplier of pigs



Cambodia News | May, 30 /2019

The ban on importing pigs from Vietnam due to an outbreak of African swine fever has made Thailand the sole supplier of the animal to Cambodia, the head of a livestock association told The Post on Wednesday. Cambodia Livestock Raisers Association data indicates that the Kingdom's domestic pig supply is not sufficient to meet demand. On average Cambodians consume some 5,000 to 6,000 pigs per day, of which 20 per cent are imported from abroad. But this month, the authorities banned the importation of more than 500,000 pigs from Vietnam to prevent the spread of African swine fever, which has taken hold among the country's pigs. More than 1.7 million Vietnamese pigs have been culled since the disease was first detected again in February this year. Srun Poav, the Cambodia Livestock Raisers Association director, told The Post that before the outbreak of African swine fever in Vietnam, the Kingdom imported some 1,000-1,500 pigs per day from Thailand and Vietnam. But with the current ban in place, Cambodia now relies on imports from Thailand. "Currently, more than 1,000 live pigs are imported from Thailand every day due to the African swine fever hitting Vietnam," he said. Poav said the outbreak of African swine fever in Vietnam has increased the price of pigs in Cambodia and that live pigs now sell in the Kingdom's markets for 11,000 riel (\$2.75) per kg, almost double compared to the same

period last year. However, he claimed that pigs are still being illegally imported from Vietnam by traders in defiance of the ban. "Those who are illegally importing pigs from Vietnam will kill the industry in Cambodia because if any farm becomes infected with the disease, it will spread and all the pigs will die." "I urge the authorities to strictly uphold law enforcement so that pigs cannot be imported from the prohibited country," he said. Chan Sothea, general manager of Hok Hieng Co – a farming company that is currently rearing more than 2,000 pigs – said about 400 pigs were illegally imported from Vietnam each day. "Importing pigs from Vietnam could pose a great risk for domestic pig raisers as it can infect our pigs with African swine fever," he stressed. He continued that it would benefit Cambodia to reduce foreign imports of pigs as they lower the prices the Kingdom's farmers receive when selling their livestock. Tan Phannara, the General Department of Animal Health and Animal Production director at the Ministry of Agriculture, declined to comment.

Source: <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/thailand-sole-supplier-pigs>

Japan to support Laos in human resource development



Laos News | May, 31/2019

The government of Japan has agreed to help Laos develop high quality human resources responsible for strengthening administrative capacity and establishing institutions, including improving the

capacity of government officials, according to the website of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The promise of assistance followed talks between the prime ministers of the two countries, Mr Thongloun Sisoulith and Mr Shinzo Abe, in Tokyo yesterday. An agreement on the assistance was signed by Lao Ambassador to Japan, Mr Viroth Sundara and Japanese Ambassador to Laos, Mr Takeshi Hikihara, and witnessed by Prime Minister Thongloun and his Japanese counterpart Mr Abe. Mr Thongloun and his delegation left Laos for Japan on May 29 to attend the 25th International Conference on the Future of Asia, which is taking place in Tokyo from May 30-31. Mr Thongloun will deliver a speech reflecting the views of Laos on the theme of this year's conference: 'Seeking a new global order - overcoming the chaos'. The annual conference has been hosted by the Nikkei news agency every year since 1995. It brings together political, economic and academic leaders from the Asia-Pacific region to offer their opinions frankly and freely on regional issues and the role of Asia in the world.

Source:

http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContenten_Japan_to_125.php

Businesses collaborate to launch new loan facility for landowners



Myanmar News | May, 31/2019

iMyanmarHouse.com has introduced an installment loan programme in Myanmar for those who own land but lack the capital to build a house or a building for

commercial purposes. The company is aiming to grant loans to those who don't have enough capital to construct luxury buildings, high-rise buildings, hotels, warehouses, and other buildings on land they own, said U Nay Min Thu, managing director of iMyanmarHouse.com. Designed in collaboration with KBZ Bank and Myanmar Art Construction and Development Co Ltd, the loan is said to be the first of its kind in the country. KBZ bank will issue loans to the applicants on the condition the building work is done by Myanmar Art Construction & Development. iMyanmarHouse.com will vet the documents for the loans and ensure the buildings are completed, said U Nay Min Thu. He said that Myanmar Art Construction projects that it will be able to construct buildings within a year of the granting of a loan, with construction time stretching to two years for a high-rise building. The maximum loan amount will be dependent on the value of the land U Nay Min Thu said. "The maximum loan that can be granted will be 70pc of the land value, and the maximum term will be 25 years. Those who wish to carry out conservation work on existing buildings can also apply for the loan," said U Htay Aung, head of KBZ's home loan department. The programme will also grant three-year loans for the commercial buildings such as hotels, motels, restaurants, hostels, factories, and warehouses, depending on their business models, he said. The interest rate for the loans is 13 percent a year. Loans with longer repayment periods will be considered based on the value of the land and the financial standing of the

applicant. Required documentation includes land ownership evidence, source of income, a copy of the household register, and bank statements for six months. “If KBZ bank approves the loan and ownership documents have been deposited with the bank, then the loan can be used to start construction,” said U Kyaw Swa Hein, managing director from Myanmar Art Construction & Development. Drawing designs for construction and prices will be negotiated between the applicants and the builder after the bank approves the loan. Once an agreement is made on the terms, these have to be resubmitted to the bank for approval, after which applications for construction will have to be carried out. When construction starts, application for bilateral loan agreements between the lender and the construction company, permission for construction, loan records and income statements will have to be officially submitted to KBZ Bank. The entire procedure is expected to be completed in 14 days. The loan will be issued not only to the businesses in Yangon Region, but also to any land owners across Myanmar, said U Nay Min Thu. “People living in rural areas just need to contact us if they want to get the loan. They don’t even have to come to Yangon. Our inspection team will conduct field study and explain the service to people. No service charges will be applied for this,” said U Nay Min Thu. Land owners in Myanmar will have an opportunity to upgrade their homes or build new ones, he said.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/businesses-collaborate-launch-new-loan-facility-landowners.html>

Vietnam central bank says not pursuing ‘unhealthy competitive advantage’ in trade



Vietnam News | May, 30/2019

HANOI – The State Bank of Vietnam, the central bank, said on Thursday it is not pursuing an “unhealthy competitive advantage” in international trade after the Trump administration raised concern over currency practices this week. The U.S. Treasury Department, in a semi-annual report to Congress, said it reviewed the policies of an expanded set of 21 major U.S. trading partners and found that nine required close attention due to currency practices, including Vietnam. “The State Bank of Vietnam will coordinate with relevant agencies to discuss and address the issue raised by the U.S. Treasury in a cooperative manner,” the central bank said. The central bank said it would pursue a flexible foreign exchange rate “in accordance with domestic and international market conditions”. The United States is Vietnam’s largest export market and the Southeast Asian country is seeing an ever-widening trade surplus, which rose to \$13.47 billion in the first four months of this year from \$10.19 billion a year earlier. Last week, the central bank said it was ready to pump U.S. dollars into the market to stabilize the dong currency’s exchange rate, as it had come under pressure due to fallout from the U.S.-China

trade war. Vietnam's dong has weakened 0.97 percent this year and has fallen 2.7 percent from a year earlier, according to Refinitiv Eikon data.

The dong was quoted at 23,416/23,418 to the dollar on Thursday.

Sources:

<https://tuoitrenews.vn/news/business/20190530/vietnam-central-bank-says-not-pursuing-unhealthy-competitive-advantage-in-trade/50156.html>
