



- Railway station set for renovation
- Laos, China discuss development of digital economy
- Myanmar airline rated 7-star for safety
- Myanmar may resume bean exports to India in June
- Việt Nam, Italy promote co-operation



Railway station set for renovation



Cambodia News | June, 06 /2019

A group of European and US investors will spend \$5 million to renovate Phnom Penh's Royal Railway Station and turn it into a modern entertainment centre and hangout spot. According to a press release issued yesterday, the Mall Group seeks to turn the railway into 'Royal Train Square', a 3,000 square metre retail and commercial space. The centre will include shops, cafes, restaurants, and banks as well as office and exhibition space. Scott Bolls, the principle lead on the project, said the railway station is a colonial building of great cultural significance that is rarely visited by locals or foreigners. He said Royal Train Square will give these people a "new place to meet, dine and relax in beautiful surroundings", adding that it will feature high-end cafes, restaurants, and shops. "With the emergence of Phnom Penh's central business district it is the right time to bring the railway station into the 21st century as a destination for all residents of the capital and visitors to come and unwind in a breathtaking location," said Mr Bolls. "It will blend seamlessly with its surroundings, especially the beautiful square in front of the station, and we are confident it will become one of the city's favorite places to meet and enjoy fine dining, shopping, and unique events and exhibition space unlike anything the city has seen before." The renovation project will start in upcoming months, he added. "We anticipate significant interest from international and local brands, and are keen to

lock in a major main tenant soon who can work with us to help shape the ongoing project," said Mr Bolls. The project aligns with the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation's long-term plan to fully rehabilitate Cambodia's railways and related services to make rail travel a viable option for passengers. Phnom Penh's railway station was built by French colonial authorities in 1932 as the terminus for the railway line to Battambang. It was refurbished in 2012 and in the last five years has seen the resumption of regular train services run by Royal Railways to Kampot, Sihanoukville, Pursat, and Poipet with a regular shuttle service to Phnom Penh International Airport. Simon Griffiths, managing director of the Mall Group, who will be taking the lead on marketing the project to potential tenants, said, "With this redevelopment we want people to realise how far Phnom Penh and Cambodia have developed and to see how careful and sensitive renovations can realise the potential of some of our beautiful heritage buildings."

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50611372/railway-station-set-for-renovation/>

Laos, China discuss development of digital economy



Laos News | June, 05/2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Lao and Chinese officials, researchers and businesses came together in Vientiane yesterday to discuss digital economic development, applying big data in tourism and strengthening capacity in emergency response.

A seminar themed “Importance of Digital Economic Development, Experiences and Lessons of China, Application of Big Data in Tourism Industry and Strengthening Emergency Response Capacity Building to Guarantee Socio-Economic Development” was held at the National Convention Centre. The event was attended by the Vice President of the National Institute for Economic Research, Mr Sune Detvongsa, and the Director General of the China International Cooperation Centre, Mr Ke Zhihua. The seminar, jointly organised by the two organisations, was a follow-up to the cooperation agreement signed last year by both groups. The two parties agreed to enhance cooperation in several areas, such as digital economic research, trade and investment and human resources, and in setting up disaster management teams in Laos. Under the agreement, the National Institute for Economic Research and the China International Cooperation Centre also agreed to support the establishment of a joint project for digital economic research by Laos and China. The China Electronic Information Industry Development Institute was assigned to implement the project. The National Institute for Economic Research and the China International Cooperation Centre also teamed up to support the establishment of a Blue Sky rescue team in Laos. The Blue Sky team based in China provided equipment and training in disaster and emergency response to local rescue teams.

During the seminar, participants discussed the development of the digital economy and the experiences and lessons of China. Speakers explained the importance of the digital economy for a country’s development in industrial age 4.0 through the use of digital technology and modern innovations. Attendees also learnt about using big data in the tourism industry and the opportunities it can create for Lao business with its significant contributions to the country’s development and support programmes such as Visit Laos-China Year 2019. The seminar also discussed capacity-building for disaster prevention to ensure socio-economic development, especially ways to cope with climate change and natural disasters.

Source: <http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-china-discuss-development-digital-economy-97922>

Myanmar airline rated 7-star for safety



Myanmar News | June, 06/2019

We are pleased to announce that Myanmar Airways International (MAI) has been awarded 7-star safety rating from AirlineRatings.com, the only safety and product rating agency in the world. MAI is the first and only recipient of the IATA Operational Safety Audit Program (IOSA) in Myanmar and has been able to maintain a 100 percent safety record since it was awarded the air operator’s certificate in 1993. AirlineRatings.com sets the standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity as well as for aviation

environmental protection. AirlineRatings.com Editor-in-Chief Geoffrey Thomas congratulated MAI (IATA code 8M) on this achievement. “MAI has been a major part of the economic life of Myanmar,” said Thomas. “This is an excellent outcome and will help promote tourism to Myanmar.”

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-airline-rated-7-star-safety.html>

Myanmar may resume bean exports to India in June



Myanmar News | June, 05/2019

Myanmar may resume pulse and bean exports to India in the second week of June, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. India stopped importing pulses from Myanmar in 2018 but said in March that it would allow an import quota of 500,000 tonnes of selected beans for a three month period during the 2019-20 fiscal year. This includes 150,000 tonnes each of mung beans and green beans and 200,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. The Indian government is expected to announce a list of companies permitted to export pulses and beans to the country between June 10 and 12, he said. The development comes after President U Win Myint's return from India last week. In February, Minister of Commerce U Than Myint also led a delegation of beam traders to India with proposals to increase the import quota of green grams to 400,000 tonnes this year. They also requested that the import period be extended from three months to a year and for new

quotas to be announced ahead of Myanmar's green gram harvest period in March. Although India kept its quota for green grams to 150,000 tonnes, it agreed to the extension of the import period. “But it seems like India is observing the weather and if they get less rain this year, demand could increase. As this year is a hot one, we have to watch and see how things unfold,” U Min Ko Oo said.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-may-resume-bean-exports-india-june.html>

Việt Nam, Italy promote co-operation



Vietnam News | May, 06/2019

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam has a double advantage. It can be both a consumption market for, and a manufacturing partner of Italian companies in the age of Industry 4.0, said Italian Prime Minister, Giuseppe Conte. “We admire Việt Nam's GDP, and I've agreed with Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc that we can improve our bilateral trade to reach US\$10 billion,” he told the ‘Italian technologies for Việt Nam's smart and circular economy’ seminar held in Hà NỘI on Wednesday. Vincenzi De Luca, director general for Cultural, Economic and Innovation Promotion of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation said Italian businesses have paid attention to Vietnamese mechanics, finance and leather sectors. The number of Italian firms in Việt Nam has been on the rise to the current 84. The companies come from different

sectors such as mechanics, pharmaceuticals and food, contributing to the country's development.

In recent years, Italy has strengthened co-operation with Việt Nam in technology research and sustainable development. Italy has an important role in mechanics and sustainable development in Europe. We will try to provide know-how to our foreign partners in ASEAN including Việt Nam, he said. Carlo Ferro, President of the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) said Việt Nam is a leading trade partner in ASEAN. Italy and Việt Nam have advantages to enhance trade ties, especially in the area of technological innovation. Việt Nam has moved towards a smart industry in which priorities are given to reducing the use of natural resources and enhancing reuse. "At the moment, Việt Nam is also aiming to lower manufacturing costs by using more high-technology and digitalisation in the context of Industry 4.0. To this end, Italy has 800 technology research institutes, capable of supporting Việt Nam to reach this goal," he said.

"The Vietnamese business community is very keen on leading the way to achieve sustainable development goals. Currently, Việt Nam is being selective in attracting FDI, directing FDI projects to advanced technology fields, especially eco-friendly technology. Each year, Việt Nam would need \$25 billion in infrastructure development alone but cannot use ODA investment as before, so Public-Private-Partnership is now a highly viable option," Vũ Tiến Lộc, chairman of the Việt Nam Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (VCCI), said. He believed that Italian companies will become an important partner for Việt Nam in its new strategy to attract FDI. The workshop was attended by many representatives of leading Italian companies and manufacturing associations in a number of fields such as machine tools, robotics and industrial automation. In light of the Vietnamese Government's current focus on high technology and environmentally-friendly investment projects such as renewable energy, smart infrastructure and machinery, the workshop offered both countries and their firms a great chance to enhance cooperation in areas of importance to Viet Nam and where Italy has strengths. The event also showcased the success model of the Italian assistance for Vietnamese companies in improving product quality through the example of the Italy-Việt Nam Footwear Technological Training Centre for technology transfer, consultancy and training in the footwear industry. Italy is well positioned to enhance business ties with Việt Nam, particularly in technological innovation as the latter is gearing towards a smart industry and circular economy which is presented as a system of resources utilisation where reduction, reuse and recycling of elements prevails. — VNS

Source: [https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/520932/viet-nam-italy-promote-co-](https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/520932/viet-nam-italy-promote-co-operation.html#zxLIWZ3E1RSfKe.97)

[operation.html#zxLIWZ3E1RSfKe.97](https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/520932/viet-nam-italy-promote-co-operation.html#zxLIWZ3E1RSfKe.97)