



- Kingdom prepares first fertilizer shipment.
- Laos closes wood processing plants to comply with PM's Order
- Myanmar, Thailand sign agreement to facilitate overland trade
- Unilever says Vietnam, Bangladesh among next 'growth stars'



Kingdom prepares first fertilizer shipment



Cambodia News | June, 13 /2019

In partnership with a Japanese firm, Bayon Heritage Holding Group plans to ship 600 tonnes of organic fertilizer to different Asian markets. Bayon Heritage will become the first local company to export the product, the company chairman and CEO, Sokheang Chan, told Khmer Times. Shipments will be made to Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Japan starting this month, Mr Chan said. "There is big demand for the product in these countries," he said. "After distributing this organic fertilizer in the local market for 13 years, we will soon officially become the first local company to export the product abroad." The shipments will be made under the name Japanese Organic Fertilizer, a joint venture between Bayon Heritage and Japan's Nangoku Agriculture Development. Japanese Organic Fertilizer was created in 2004 with the objective of importing and distributing organic fertilizers from Japan to help Cambodian farmers, Mr Chan noted, adding that the company built a factory in Cambodia to process fertilizers, with the raw material coming from Japan. He said bigger shipments are likely to ensue in the near future if there is demand for the product. Bayon Heritage is the first company in Cambodia to receive a licence to export fertilizers, according to Phum Ra, director of the department of agricultural legislation at the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr Ra said there is great

potential for investment in the fertilizer industry, with Cambodia boasting plenty of the raw materials needed to produce fertilizers, as well as a young and vast labour force. "So far investment in fertilizer production has been limited because Cambodia's export market is still small compared to that of Vietnam or Thailand," Mr Ra said, adding that Cambodian fertilizers can compete in terms of quality with those from neighbouring countries. "I think in the next five to ten years, Cambodia has the potential to significantly expand its production," Mr Ra added. There are around 100 companies importing fertilizers in Cambodia. Last year, Cambodia imported one million tonnes of organic and chemical fertilizers from Vietnam, Thailand, and China, according to data from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50613702/kingdom-prepares-first-fertilizer-shipment/>

Laos closes wood processing plants to comply with PM's Order



Laos News | June, 12/2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - More than 500 wood processing plants and family-based furniture workshops have been shut since the Prime Minister's Order No. 15 was issued in 2016. Of the total 1,595 wood processing plants and furniture workshops functioning in Laos in 2016, only 1,086 plants remain, the Prime Minister, Thongloun Sisoulith, stated at the 7th Ordinary Session of the National Assembly's legislature. At the same time, the government

promoted the production of 140,800 cubic metres of timber products worth around US\$ 71.8 million in exports, he said. The government is stringently implementing the Order and regulating the functioning of the timber industry. In recent years, thousands of cubic metres of timber have been seized and auctioned off, according to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Many chainsaws along with numerous bulldozers, trucks, buses, tractors and other equipment used for illegal logging and transport have also been seized. Forest authorities are scanning the details of wood seized and equipment used for illegal logging and transportation. Through the implementation of the Prime Ministerial Order, authorities in charge said they have been able to prevent numerous incidents of illegal logging, transportation and exports. The Prime Minister's Order also prohibits the export of unfinished wood products - to add value to wood products by processing them before shipping abroad. The Order also requires wood processing plants to improve their operations to satisfy the government's requirements as stipulated by the Order. This means that plant operators need to invest appropriately to ensure their businesses meet the required standards to boost the Lao wood processing industry. However, Lao wood and furniture producers have been facing significant challenges in exporting their products to foreign customers since the government defined the size of wood and furniture products for export by implementing the PM's Order No 15. Foreign

businesspersons, especially Chinese entrepreneurs, need wood and furniture products from Laos, but many products up for export do not meet Lao government specifications, Vice President of the Lao Furniture Association, Mr Kongmala Phommalay, told the local media recently. To ensure that Lao furniture products reach local and overseas markets, the association requires the relevant government sectors to resolve this issue, he said. The association has proposed that authorities should prioritise the export of wood and furniture products purchased by foreigners at exhibitions in the country.

Source: <http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-closes-wood-processing-plants-comply-pm%E2%80%99s-order-98316>

Myanmar, Thailand sign agreement to facilitate overland trade



Myanmar News | June, 13/2019

Overland cross-border trade between Myanmar and Thailand will officially commence at the end of July following an agreement to allow vehicles from both sides across the border to facilitate the transportation of goods between the two countries. The agreement, which followed discussions that started a year ago, will see the governments of both countries issue licenses to logistics companies to transport goods overland through the Yangon (Thilawa)-Myawaddy-Mae Sot-Bangkok (Laem Chabang) route. Under the agreement, 100 vehicles from each country will be granted temporary one-year passes to transport goods across the border

along the route. Thilawa would be where all Thai vehicles will have to stop for customs inspections while Thailand will carry out customs inspections in Mae Sot. According to U Win Hlaing, deputy director for the Road Administration Department at the Ministry of Transport and Communication, Myanmar has already issued international cross border operator (ICBO) licenses for 40 trucks. It will issue another 21 licenses in the initial phase. U Win Hlaing said three logistics companies from the Myanmar side - MK Transportation, Hercules Logistic and Resource Group Logistic - have been granted permission to transport goods overland through the border. Myanmar is the last country sharing a border with Thailand to have an agreement for this overland cross-border trade. Thailand has signed agreements allowing such trade with all its other Greater Mekong neighbours. "Vehicles from Myanmar will stop at Mae Sot for customs inspections and continue to Laem Chabang where goods can be loaded and unloaded," U Win Hlaing told the Myanmar Times. Similarly, Thai vehicles will be able to gain access to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone near Yangon. The vehicles will only be allowed to travel on the specified route. Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association chair U Aung Khin Myint said this agreement will only benefit the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and not the other inland ports in Yangon and Myingyan. He said the ministries overseeing the cross-border trade should speak to their Thai counterparts about loosening the restrictions further as this could

facilitate quicker transportation of goods. "The Myanmar side will also have to do their part in allowing Thai vehicles to use other routes other than that agreed upon. We are now able to go to Laem Chabang only since Thai vehicles are only allowed to go to Thilawa," U Aung Khin Myint, also the owner of Resource Group Logistic, said. He added that more discussions could be held with their Thai counterparts should there be any delays in the unloading and loading of goods at the terminus, as this could lead to more delays for other vehicles waiting to unload their goods. "There will be no problems if all goes well but if there are complaints, then we will have to address the issue of delays," U Aung Khin Myint said.

Source: <https://www.mmmtimes.com/news/myanmar-thailand-sign-agreement-facilitate-overland-trade.html>

Unilever says Vietnam, Bangladesh among next 'growth stars'



Vietnam News | May, 12/2019

Vietnam, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Myanmar will be the top growth markets for consumer goods giant Unilever over the next few years as a rapidly growing population and an emerging middle class rapidly consume the company's household goods products, Chief Executive Officer Alan Jope said. "The combination of quite a big population, strong GDP growth and rapid consumption in the categories we sell means that countries like Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and even Ethiopia will be our

growth stars over the next few years,” Jope told the Deutsche Bank Global Consumer conference in Paris. “These are going to be very important for the future and we are investing heavily,” he said. Unilever, which makes household goods ranging from Dove soaps to Knorr packet soups, reported a 5 percent jump in emerging market sales in its latest reported quarter, compared to a 0.3 percent rise in its big developed markets. The company already gets 58 percent of its sales from emerging markets including China, India and Brazil.

Source: <https://tuoitrenews.vn/news/business/20190612/unilever-says-vietnam-bangladesh-among-next-growth-stars/50295.html>
