



- Da Nang direct flight to take off this month
- Laos local bank partners Everex to facilitate blockchain-based cross border payments
- Myanmar, UN agency to cooperate in country program
- Mobile phone and spare part imports hit US\$4.91 billion



## Da Nang direct flight to take off this month



*Cambodia News | June, 14 /2019*

Cambodia and Vietnam on Wednesday agreed to establish a direct flight between Phnom Penh and Da Nang, in central Vietnam, Vietnam's Civil Aviation Administration and the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation of Cambodia signed an agreement to launch the new route, which will be operated by Cambodia's national flag carrier Cambodia Angkor Air. SSCA's spokesman Chea Oun could not be reached for comment yesterday. Chhay Sivlin, president of the Cambodia Association of Travel Agents, told Khmer Times yesterday that the new route will boost the number of Vietnamese tourists to the Kingdom, adding that Vietnam is one of Cambodia's biggest tourism markets. "Cambodia has a lot to gain from this new flight. For example, foreign tourists visiting Da Nang can now board a plane and travel directly to Phnom Penh," she said, adding that the number of Vietnamese tourists visiting the Kingdom is on the rise. Increasing the number of international flights is the best way to reach the government's goal of attracting 15 million tourists a year by 2030, Ms Sivlin said. According to the Ministry of Tourism, from January to April, Cambodia welcomed about 260,000 Vietnamese tourists, a 1.2 percent increase compared to the same period last year. During that four-month period, Vietnam was the second biggest tourism market for Cambodia, following China. Speaking at a Vietnam

Airlines' award ceremony earlier this year, Tourism Minister Thong Khon urged the airline to increase the number and frequency of flights to Cambodia, particularly to Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and the coastal areas. The minister said Cambodia aims to attract about one million Vietnamese tourists a year by 2020. Currently, about 900,000 Vietnamese tourists visit Cambodia every year. The minister noted that about 15 percent of Vietnamese tourists favour air transportation. Trade between the two countries reached \$4.6 billion last year, an increase of 23.2 percent. The governments have vowed to reach \$5 billion by 2020. Top Sokpheap, spokesman for the Ministry of Tourism, said increasing the number of international flights is a priority for the government. "With more direct flights, tourists won't have to transit in third countries, which will save them time and money," he said.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50614031/d-a-nang-direct-flight-to-take-off-this-month/>

## Laos local bank partners Everex to facilitate blockchain-based cross border payments



*Laos News | June, 14/2019*

Lao Development Bank (LDB) and blockchain-powered fintech Everex have signed an MOU, pledged to implement blockchain technology for cross border payments and trade finance. "Blockchain technologies enable banks to transact faster and cheaper. LDB's mission is to contribute to Lao's financial sector and by utilising

this technology so we can achieve progress for Laos, the banking sector, and for Lao people,” said Phoutsala Omdalah, Deputy Managing Director of LDB. The signing ceremony was witnessed by senior executives of LDB and Lattana Keosihavong, who’s responsible for Laos at Everex. “As a Laotian, it’s a proud moment to see that there’s now blockchain know-how in Laos through Everex’s footprint,” Keosihavong said. Payment digitisation is a big part of many ASEAN countries’ 4.0 digital strategy, especially in Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia. Laos, often under the radar, has started to catch up with its neighboring countries. Tim Scheffmann, Regional Managing Director of Everex explained that this technology can have a great impact on trade finance with Laos’ neighboring countries. Also Read: How blockchain can change the way we think of identification systems “Due to its strategic position, Laos is well suited for digital border trade transactions in combination with migrant workers’ remittances and financial inclusion,” he noted. “Blockchain technology can reduce transaction costs, increase security and transaction speed. This will increase the nation’s GDP and trade volumes.” The next step of the initiative will be defining the project governance as well as the goals for the discovery phase.

Source: <https://e27.co/laos-local-bank-partners-everex-to-facilitate-blockchain-based-cross-border-payments-20190613/>

## Myanmar, UN agency to cooperate in country program



Myanmar News | June, 13/2019

YANGON, June 13 (Xinhua) -- Myanmar government and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have signed a letter of agreement on cooperation in the UNFPA's 4th Country Program 2018-2022, according to the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Thursday. Under the letter of agreement inked in Nay Pyi Taw Wednesday, the program will be implemented with an estimated budget of 20 million U.S. dollars in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and women's empowerment and population dynamics in collaboration with concerned ministries. Since 2002, UNFPA has conducted three programs of assistance in Myanmar in these areas - the first in 2002-2006 with 16 million U.S. dollars, the second in 2007-2011 with 25.2 million U.S. dollars and the third in 2012-2017 with 37.5 million U.S. dollars.

Source: [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/13/c\\_138139489.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/13/c_138139489.htm)

## Mobile phone and spare part imports hit US\$4.91 billion



Vietnam News | May, 14/2019

HCM CITY – Việt Nam spent US\$1.1 billion to import mobile phones and spare parts in May, up 36.2 per cent from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT). In the first five months of the year, total imports of the products were

worth \$4.91 billion, a 3.9 per cent year-on-year decrease. Earlier, imports of mobile phones and spare parts into Việt Nam fell in the first two months of the year and surged in March and April, with increases of 44.6 and 6.5 per cent respectively. Việt Nam mostly imported phones from China and the Republic of Korea (RoK) in the period. Of which, imports from China accounted for 54 per cent of the country's total to reach \$2.06 billion and reducing 19.7 per cent from the corresponding period last year. Meanwhile, mobile phone and spare part imports from the RoK rose by 0.4 per cent to \$1.5 billion in January-May. Việt Nam also imported mobile phones from Hong Kong with total value of \$32.06 million, up 25.8 per cent from the same period last year. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/521283/mobile-phone-and-spare-part-imports-hit-us491-billion.html#Xm62sHYG80HWF4Uf.97>

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