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China mulls importing Kingdom's agri-products



Cambodia News | June, 17 /2019

China is considering importing more Cambodian agricultural products following recent agreements to import mangoes and bananas, said Li Jianwei, the director-general of the Animal and Plant division of China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. On Thursday, China signed an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to import Cambodian mangoes, while last year it allowed the Kingdom to export bananas to the Chinese market. On Saturday, Jianwei visited Longmate Agriculture Co in Kampot province's Chhouk district to inspect technical and phytosanitary standards. Phytosanitary certificates are issued to indicate that consignments of plants meet specified standards for the control of plant diseases. Jianwei said that in all circumstances, the Chinese government supports and encourages the Cambodian government's efforts to develop the country and promote people's livelihoods. "We will continue to further examine Cambodia's proposal to export more agricultural products to our market," she said. Jianwei said the agricultural products Cambodia has requested to export include Kampot pepper, longan fruit from Pailin, honey pineapple, fragrant coconut and edible birds' nests. She said China imports more than 10 million tonnes of agricultural products annually from countries around

the world. Hun Lak, the director of Longmate Agriculture, which is currently planting bananas on more than 400ha of a total of 1,000ha of cultivated land, said the company would expand to 100 per cent of its cultivated land by the end of 2020. "In the first quarter of this year, our company has exported more than 100 tonnes of bananas to the Chinese market, and we expect that our exports will reach over 2,000 tonnes for the whole of this year," he said. Lak said the company has more than 900 employees in the banana sector, while some 30 skilled workers have been sent to study growing, harvesting and packing techniques in China. "The export of agricultural products to major international markets such as China not only depends on the quantity and quality of our commodities but requires proper packing according to technical standards as well.

"Moreover, we must have processing and packaging factories and also conform to standards for properly stocking and trading in the foreign markets," he said.

Source: <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/china-mulls-importing-kingdoms-agri-products>

Royal Group to do study on 700 MW power plant



Cambodia News | June, 18 /2019

Royal Group, Cambodia's largest conglomerate, was granted permission last week to conduct a feasibility study on a 700-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Preah Sihanouk province. Victor Jona, spokesman at the Ministry of Mines and Energy, yesterday said that permission to proceed with the

study was given last week during a meeting between Minister of Mines and Energy Suy Sem and Royal Group chairman Kith Meng. Mr Jona said Royal Group has already completed a feasibility study for the project, but added that, given Cambodia's current power woes, the company asked to expand the project's capacity from 450 to 700 MW. He said the expansion requires a new feasibility study. "The government had allowed Royal Group to conduct a study on a 450 MW coal-fired power plant, but the country's power demands have intensified as of late, so the company decided to make changes to the plant's output capacity. "A new study is required due to the change in output capacity." It will take 18 to 20 months to complete the study. It will then be submitted to the government for approval. The government will need to consider whether the tariff at which power will be sold to the national grid is acceptable, Mr Jona said. "This year we faced a serious energy shortage. Because of this, we are allowing investors to increase the capacity of their projects," Mr Jona said. "Unlike hydropower dams, coal-fired power plants are a stable source of power all year round," he added. Mr Jona did not provide details regarding the project's location in Preah Sihanouk province. Cambodian Energy Co Ltd (CEL), a subsidiary of Malaysia's Leader Universal Holdings, operates two 50 MW coal-fired power plants in Preah Sihanouk. The company is building another 150 MW plant which will be completed in October. CIIDG Erdos Hongjun Electric Power

operates three 135 MW coal-fired power plants in Preah Sihanouk province.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50614975/royal-group-to-do-study-on-700-mw-power-plant/>

Laos govt develops new website for investors



Laos News | June, 17/2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Life for entrepreneurs, investors and those interested in running a business became easier with the development and launch of the website www.ned.gov.la. The site is an initiative of the Enterprise Registration and Management Department (ERMD) of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. It contains reliable information about Lao finance law, business registration processes and operations fees. It also has many helpful hints that will help entrepreneurs find an investment pathway that best suits them. The launch was attended by government officials and representatives from companies in the financial sectors. The General Director of ERMD, Dr Somphoung Phienphinit, said "This website will allow investors and the general public to access trustworthy information about Lao investment process. It will help people make better decisions around their financial investments." The website has information for government officials, large investors and small business operators. Information is available in both Lao and English. www.ned.gov.la is a rebranding and improvement of the previous

www.erm.gov.la which first went on-line in 2017. 'Ned' is an abbreviation of National Enterprise Database. The website's development was supported by the Asian Development Bank. "The website was developed so that government officials and entrepreneurs can easily access accurate information about financial processes and so make investment decisions based on sound knowledge," said the website's developer, Mr Phil Munnely.

Source: <http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-govt-develops-new-website-investors-98585>

Myanmar to export recycled plastic pellets



Myanmar News | June, 17/2019

Myanmar will be exporting recycled plastic pellets to China under a new agreement, according to an industry body. Arrangements are underway to export the plastic pellets, which are made from melting the old plastic materials, to China, said U Soe Min, acting chair of Recycling Subcommittee which is affiliated to Myanmar Plastic Entrepreneurs Association. Plastic resin pellets (also known as nurdles) are raw materials the size of a lentil used in manufacturing plastic products such as soda bottles, caps and food containers. Recycling plastic in this method also keeps it out of landfills where it can take 500 years to break down. Two months ago, a sample batch of recycled nurdles was exported to China, and the country said that it will be purchasing the full volume of export, he said. However, the exact amount and date of the export has not yet been

discussed. "We export [the pellets] to China now as a trial. It has been only for two months. If they find our exports desirable they will accept. But, they don't like the quality or they don't buy, we will incur losses for our logistics costs," said U Soe Min. Coordination meetings will be held to export recycled plastic pellets regularly and the market demand of plastic pellets in China is high, he added. The types of plastic pellets, from which polypropylene bags are made, will be exported to the Chinese market. The lack of domestic demand necessitates exporting to foreign markets. The price of the plastic pellets is K200 per pound depending on its quality, he said. Depending on its type, a variety of products such as chairs, tables, and tarpaulin can be made from the material. Around the world, recycling businesses are operating with the support from their own governments, there is no such support from the Myanmar government, according to the recycling business owners. There are around 400 recycling business owners in Yangon and Mandalay, who buy used plastic materials recycling them for reuse. The existing entrepreneurs will be organised to strengthen the Recycling Entrepreneurs Association, and requirements will be discussed with officials from the relevant ministries, said U Soe Min. The current 5-percent commercial tax remains a challenge for the business owners, association members say.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-export-recycled-plastic-pellets.html>

Rubber exports plummet



Vietnam News | May, 18/2019

HA NOI - Việt Nam's rubber exports fell in May due to changing Chinese policies and fears over the US-China trade war, a representative of the Việt Nam Rubber Group (VRG) has said. According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, in May, rubber exports reached 80,000 tonnes, worth US\$116 million, up 6 per cent in volume and 7 per cent in value compared with April. However, those figures were down 26.5 per cent in volume and 26.2 per cent in value year-on-year. Fortunately, in the first five months of the year, rubber exports reached 495,000 tonnes, worth \$673 million, up nearly 12 per cent in volume and 4 per cent in value year on year. The reduction in May's export value was due to China's increase of import tariffs for mixture rubber to 10 per cent, Dương Tuấn Anh, deputy head of VRG's Market Department, told bizlive.vn. Mixture rubber shipped to China made up half of rubber export volume from Việt Nam in the first four months of this year. The trade war was also encouraging manufacturers and traders to be cautious over the movements of the global rubber market, especially with the G20 conference in Japan coming at the end of June, Tuấn Anh said. The prolonged trade war would affect agricultural exports and rubber exports in particular because China is the largest export market of Việt Nam's rubber, accounting for more than 60 per cent of total rubber exports, he said.

Meanwhile, the US increased taxes from 10 per cent to 25 per cent for some rubber products imported from China, including rubber latex, conveyor belts, pneumatic tires, gloves and gaskets from May 10. The China Automobile Manufacturers Association said the US tax policy could have a big impact on the country's auto parts exports. That could lead to reduction in rubber imports from Việt Nam for production of auto parts. However, the trade war could attract investment to Việt Nam's rubber industry as firms moved rubber product factories from China to Việt Nam to avoid the US tariffs, he said. Besides those factors, the prolonged hot weather in Việt Nam, Thailand and China had slowed rubber output, especially in May - the first month of the new harvest season. However, according to the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC), in 2019, supply of rubber would continue to exceed demand with supply of 14.5 million tonnes, including an inventory of 2.9 million tonnes from 2018, with demand of 14.4 million tonnes, Tuấn Anh said. He noted that the Việt Nam Rubber Group had managed nearly 420,000 hectares of rubber in three countries, Việt Nam, Laos and Cambodia with total annual consumption of about 400,000 tonnes. VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/521455/rubber-exports->

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