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Thai investors seek ties in Kingdom



Cambodia News | June, 25/2019

Dozens of businessmen and investors from Thailand will seek investment opportunities in the Kingdom during a forum aimed at fostering tie-ups with Cambodian businessmen in Phnom Penh scheduled for today. Ngoun Meng Tech, Cambodia Chamber of Commerce director-general, yesterday said that about 40 companies from Thailand will explore partnerships with local partners in Cambodia during the forum this week. "Due to Cambodia's stable economic growth stable, investors including from Thailand are showing interest in looking for investment opportunities in the Kingdom," he said. "Thai businessmen want to explore opportunities here due to the close relationship between the two governments." Mr Meng Tech noted that the business tie-ups would contribute to bilateral trade between both countries. "[I] don't know yet what sectors the Thai businessmen are interested in but I hope their presence will attract more big companies from Thailand to invest in the Kingdom," he added. Seang Thay, Ministry of Commerce spokesman, recently said that investments from Thailand are increasing because businessmen want to set up factories in Cambodia since products are directly imported from Thailand. "With economic growth and political stability, Thai investors have started to invest by building factories inside Cambodia, rather than exporting from Thailand," he said. The governments of Cambodia and Thailand have agreed to push up

bilateral trade to \$15 billion by 2020. Figures from Royal Thai Embassy in Cambodia showed that bilateral trade between the two countries reached \$8.3 billion in 2018, up 35 percent compared to 2017. Thailand's exports to Cambodia amounted \$7.6 billion in 2018.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50617337/thai-investors-seek-ties-in-kingdom/>

Loan to help finance water plant in northern Phnom Penh



Cambodia News | June, 25/2019

The Finance Ministry last week signed a concessional loan pact with the European Investment Bank to help finance its large-scale water treatment facility in northern Phnom Penh. According to a Finance Ministry statement, a total of \$100 million was supposed to be given, but the Kingdom will initially receive \$60 million. The rest is to be distributed at a later time. It said the water treatment facility, to be located in Russey Keo district's Bak Khaeng commune, will cost \$247 million in total, noting that a \$85 million concessional loan was provided by the French Development Agency, a \$15 million soft loan was provided by the EU/Asian Investment Facility, while \$47 million came from Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority, who is behind the project's development. The statement said construction of the water plant will commence this year and is expected to conclude in 2022. It said the water treatment plant would hike production capacity to 195,000 cubic

metres of clean water per day, 560,000 cubic metres higher than current production figures. It noted that the facility will produce water taken from the Mekong river, and that PPWSA was the first company to list on local bourses. According to a report, PPWSA was able to pull \$61.64 million last year, a 6.7 percent hike compared to 2017's \$58 million. The report said production continues to increase, and that PPWSA is expecting that its share price will soon rise. Try Taihy, managing officer at CSX, said a PPWSA listing would attract more investors. "Although the facility development takes some time to get ready, it would likely help to increase PPWSA share price so that it can grow," Mr Taihy said. "Some investors consider that when production grows, dividend goes up as well – this could increase share price starting next year." As of Friday, the total trading value at CSX reached 40.96 million riels, a 145.56 percent increase when compared to the day before. Before the market closed over the weekend, PWSA's share was priced at 5,960 riels, a figure that has remained unchanged since early May.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50617337/thai-investors-seek-ties-in-kingdom/>

Thai and Lao central banks ink MoU on banking supervision



Laos News | June, 24/2019

The central banks of Thailand and Laos on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding on banking supervision. Veerathai Santiprabhob, governor of the

Bank of Thailand, and Sonexay Sitphaxay, governor of the Bank of the Lao PDR, put their names to the document. The MoU serves as a solid foundation for effective cooperation in the supervision of banking organisations operating in both countries, in accordance with the principles set out in the Basel Core Principles for Effective Banking Supervision, they said. It sets out in greater detail the process that the two authorities will follow to foster greater cooperation in the areas of information-sharing, on-site examinations, supervisory colleges, and crisis management. Currently, there are seven Thai commercial banks operating in Laos, one as a subsidiary bank and the other six as foreign bank branches, with eight branches in total. There is one representative office of a Lao bank operating in the Kingdom.

Source: <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/breakingnews/30371651>

Upward trend seen for local gold prices



Myanmar News | June, 24/2019

Local gold prices will continue to rise supported by uncertainties such as the US-China trade dispute, volatile stock markets and the move by major central banks to lower benchmark interest rates. Myanmar Gold Entrepreneur Association chair U Kyaw Win predicts that local gold prices will continue to trend higher from the current K1.1 million per tical compared to the over US\$1,400 per ounce traded in the global markets (one tical is equivalent to 16.329

gramme). “If compared to the international price of gold, local prices are around K20,000 higher,” he said. Local gold prices have risen since early April, when it was trading at K105,000 per tical. U Kyaw Win said local prices were being supported by external uncertainties such as the US-China trade dispute as well as volatile stock markets. “Investors are putting their money into gold,” he said, noting that central banks around the world including China’s are adding to their gold reserves. Yangon Myanmar Gold Entrepreneur Association chair Myo Myint said gold traded in the global markets will also be supported by news flow from the upcoming G20 summit to be held in Osaka, Japan from June 28 to June 29.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/upward-trend-seen-local-gold-prices.html>

Forest industry posts trade surplus of more than \$4b in H1



Vietnam News | May, 25/2019

HA NOI – The forest industry gained a trade surplus of more than US\$4 billion in the first six months of this year, according to the Việ Nam Administration of Forestry under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The export value of forest products in the period reached nearly \$5.3 billion, up nearly 20 per cent year on year and reaching 50 per cent of the industry’s plan for 2019. Export value increased steadily in the first six months of the year, said the General Department of Forestry. About 87 per cent

of Việ Nam’s wood and wood product exports by value went to highly demanding traditional markets such as the US, Japan, the EU, China and South Korea. Nguyễn Quốc Trí, head of the Việ Nam Administration of Forestry, said the nation has maintained its leading position in Southeast Asia in terms of forestry exports. It sits second in Asia and fifth in the world. The country has exported wood products to 120 countries and businesses have returned to the domestic market, providing a push to develop production. During the first half of the year, Việ Nam planted 108,456 hectares of forest, equal to 51 per cent of the plan for the year. 85 per cent of the planted area has certified origins for its seedlings. The area with origin certificates has produced about 9.7 million cu.m of timber, up 4.86 per cent year on year. The quality of domestic production continues to be improved to meet export requirements, according to the administration. Trí said that so far this year, the agriculture and forestry sectors have faced many difficulties due to weather, deforestation and low awareness of the economic value of forest development. The administration expected export performance to improve in the second half of the year as many businesses already have export orders. Trí said the administration is anticipating the industry will have a total export value of \$11 billion for the whole year. For the rest of this year, the administration will urge localities to complete targets on sustainable forest development, management and protection to provide quality

timber for export and the domestic market. It will also focus on implementing the restructuring plan for the sector. The Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Finance will work to stop trade fraud by export firms and closely control timber imported from countries with high rates of illegal logging. According to the administration, the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Forest Governance and Trade (FLEGT), in effect from June 1, will support co-operation between Việt Nam and the EU in resolving illegal logging and trade promoting trade, and developing the local forestry industry. So far, 237,386ha of forest land in Việt Nam have gained the sustainable management certification. – VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/521780/forest-industry-posts-trade-surplus-of-more-than-4b-in-h1.html#F2A2ROhCvCZqKsSq.97>
