



- Sales of Angkor complex tickets down nine percent
- Laos Tackles Unemployment by Partnering with Top Jobs Site
- First commercial solar power plant launched in Myanmar
- Number of foreign visitors to Viet Nam declines in June



Sales of Angkor complex tickets down nine percent



Cambodia News | 2 July, 2019

Cambodia earned \$55.7 million in revenue from the sale of tickets at Angkor archaeological park in the first half of 2019, a 9 percent decrease compared to the same period last year, according to figures from Angkor Enterprise. The number of tickets sold at the park saw an 8 percent decrease from January to June, with just over 1,244,000 foreign tourists buying passes, Angkor Enterprises said. Ngov Sengkak, director of Siem Reap's tourism department, said new tourism destinations in the country may be driving traffic away from the Unesco-listed temple complex. "Officials are working to determine the reasons for the decrease in the number of visitors. We want to find out whether it is due to internal or external factors," Mr Sengkak said. "At the same time, we are working to strengthen the quality of our service to satisfy visitors." Chhay Sivlin, president of the Cambodia Association of Travel Agents, said the fall in sales may be related to a change in regulation in China's aviation industry. "Some companies, particularly from China, have decreased the number of flights to the Kingdom because of changes in regulation there. I think this may be the reason fewer people are visiting Siem Reap," Ms Sivlin said. She noted that, by contrast, the number of Chinese tourists in Preah Sihanouk, in the coast, is increasing markedly, adding that the number of flights connecting China to the Cambodian coastal

province is on the rise. Mr Sengkak said China continues to top the list of tourists by nationality in Siem Reap, with about 540,000 Chinese visiting the province in the first half of the year. China is followed by Korea and the US. A one-day ticket to the park now costs \$37, up from \$20 previously, while the three-day ticket went from \$40 to \$60. A week-long pass now costs \$72, up from \$60. A \$2 donation is included in every ticket sale and is used to provide treatment for Cambodian children in need of medical attention at the Kantha Bopha Children's Hospital. As of June, a total of \$2.4 million have been donated to the Kantha Bopha Children's Hospital. Last year, Cambodia received 6.2 million international holidaymakers, up 11 percent. This year, 7 million are expected to visit Cambodia.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50619856/sales-of-angkor-complex-tickets-down-nine-percent/>

Laos Tackles Unemployment by Partnering with Top Jobs Site

Laos News | July, 1/2019

The Lao government is to provide information on the job market through a new partnership with the country's largest employment website operator, 108 Jobs, in a move to tackle growing unemployment issues. Under the agreement signed on June 27, the Employment Service Center under the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Vientiane-based 108-1009 Group will jointly develop a labor market information system to upload employment vacancies on both the ministry's www.lmi.molsv.gov.la and

108.jobs website.Two websites will provide information about companies in Laos with job vacancies in different sectors.In Laos, positions at the government are preferred among job seekers over private sector opportunities as they are considered more secure, the Vientiane Times noted in a recent article, adding, however, there is a limited quota of such jobs.The newspaper added that unemployment is among the top issues when comparisons are made with the success of other ASEAN member countries, quoting sources as saying that this is because local job seekers have difficulty accessing information about available positions.Statistics from the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare show that as much as 9.4 percent of the workforce, representing about 182,000 people, are unemployed.The World Bank pointed out in one of its latest reports that the growth of Laos over the past years has been attributed mainly to natural resource-based sectors, large infrastructure projects, and public sector spending.“These sectors are insufficient drivers of quality and sustainable growth. They have not created many jobs,” said analysts quoted in the report.The World Bank noted that the private sector would be critical in diversifying the economy and creating more jobs to sustain strong growth in the future.Laos is currently working hard to boost private sector-led growth as it is a priority of Laos’ 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan for 2016-2020.

Source: <https://laotiantimes.com/2019/07/01/laos-tackles-employment-by-partnering-with-top-jobs-site/>

First commercial solar power plant launched in Myanmar



Myanmar News | July, 1/2019

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi last week launched the first phase of Myanmar's first commercial solar-power plant in Minbu, Magwe Region, adding 40MW of power to the national grid. The Minbu Solar Power Plant project, which will be completed in four phases, will have the capacity to generate 170MW of power and produce 350 million kilowatt hours per annum, which is sufficient to electrify about 210,000 households. Construction first began in February 2018 under a Build, Operate and Transfer arrangement between Green Earth Power (Myanmar) Co and the government. The Minbu plant is part of a longer term goal to electrify the entire country by 2030, said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. By 2021, at least 55pc of the country is expected to receive access to power. This will be achieved by adding to capacity via power projects of different sizes, including power generated by foreign investors and state-owned plants and the expansion of power transmission lines, availability of investment funds and economic viability at privately-owned plants. The country will not rely on a single source of energy, the State Counsellor added. For example, while developing hydropower plants, which are expensive and require a long term view, additional

power can be generated using solar, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and natural gas. Arrangements have also been made to provide about 1,200MW of power with LNG and gas-fired plants over the short term, adding to the 393MW of power generation capacity completed in the first six months of this year. Between 2016 and 2019, a total of 746MW of capacity was added. At current levels, Myanmar produces between 2900MW and 3100MW of electricity, enough for just 44pc of the country. This is up from 34pc in 2015-16, when the NLD-led government first took power. Between 2016 and 2019, a total of 68 townships and 5,191 villages have received round-the-clock access to electricity, according to state media. The launch of Minbu Solar Power Plant comes two days after the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) announced substantial hikes in electricity prices for both residential and business users from today onwards. The government incurs costs of K89 per unit to generate and distribute electricity from hydropower, and K178 per unit for electricity from natural gas, according to the MOEE. Before the hike, electricity was provided to the public at a loss of K507 billion in the 2017-18 fiscal year and losses rose to K630 billion in 2018-19, according to data from the Ministry of Planning and Finance. To address rapidly growing electricity demand, Myanmar needs to invest US\$2 billion per year, which is double the current level and implement projects three times faster, supported by higher electricity tariffs, the World Bank said in a report last month.

Source: <https://www.mmmtimes.com/news/first-commercial-solar-power-plant-launched-myanmar.html>

Number of foreign visitors to Viet Nam declines in June



Vietnam News | July, 1/2019

HÀ NỘI — Nearly 1.9 million foreigners visited Viet Nam in June, data of the Viet Nam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) showed, the lowest number in any month since the beginning of the year. The number of visitors was down 10.6 per cent from May but still represented a year-on-year rise of 0.2 per cent. The number of foreign tourists declined in most markets. More than 964,000 visitors came from Asia, making up 77 per cent of international tourists to Viet Nam in June. The number was down 10.8 per cent from May and 0.4 per cent from June last year. Arrivals from the Americas increased 16.6 per cent but the number of tourists from Europe and Africa both fell 20 per cent and Australia was down 13.7 per cent. By the end of June, the number of foreign tourists to Viet Nam in 2019 had reached 8.48 million, up 7.5 per cent year on year – a big gain but still much lower than the growth rate of 20-30 per cent seen from 2016 to 2018. Viet Nam has targeted attracting 18 million international tourists this year. To realise this goal, VNAT has organised shows in foreign markets since the beginning of the year to introduce Viet Nam's beauty. Last month, it participated in the Beijing International Tourism Expo (BITE) with the aim of promoting Viet Nam to

Chinese tourists. Last week, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism organised a Viêt Nam Culture and Tourism Festival in Seoul. The country is striving to stimulate its tourism in many areas including sea ecological and marine tourism and adventure tourism. — VNS

Source:<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/522053/number-of-foreign-visitors-to-viet-nam-declines-in-june.html#MOW5zxZvKWL5uR1z.97>
