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Smart holds live 5G trial



Cambodia News | 9 July, 2019

Smart Axiata, Cambodia's leading mobile telecommunications company, yesterday hosted the first 5G live trial in Cambodia. The event was attended by Malaysian Ambassador Eldeen Husaini Mohd Hashim and Moa Chakrya, chairman of the Telecommunication Regulator of Cambodia. Smart Axiata CEO Thomas Hundt and Stjepan Udovicic, CMO, armed with a 5G-enabled mobile device from Huawei, showed how 5G connectivity – centred on Gigabit speeds, ultra-reliable low latency and massive connections – will change the user experience and unlock new applications. “Our mission is to enrich the lives of millions of Cambodians through world-class networks and exceptional digital experiences. This is why we invest \$70 to \$80 million every year, primarily in network infrastructure, to improve mobile broadband connectivity across the Kingdom,” Mr Hundt said. “Trust that we will continue to improve our existing 4.5G service while preparing for future technologies like 5G,” he said at the showcase. Yesterday's event highlighted Smart's leadership in the industry, after being the first mobile telecommunications company in Cambodia to launch 4G in 2014, followed by 4G+ in 2016, 4G+ with HD Voice (VoLTE) in 2017 and 4.5G later that same year. The 5G live trial showcased an array of future possibilities that could shape society by transforming interactions, industries and economies. 5G is expected to

revolutionise the world through artificial intelligence, robotics, autonomous Internet of Things, and big data analytics, among many others, Mr Stjepan said. “Today's examples are only the tip of the iceberg. Mobile networks with Gbps speeds will improve streaming and performance of download tasks, while ultra-low latency will improve live quality broadcasts, VR and gaming. Massive connections will be highly beneficial to address the rapidly expanding number of connected devices,” explained Mr Stjepan. International commercial 5G launches are expected to exponentially increase towards the end of the year as more 5G-enabled devices enter the market. It is expected that the initial 5G commercial rollout in Cambodia will be focused on ‘hotspots’ in major cities. “As exemplified through this live trial, Smart is exploring all aspects of this advanced technology and we are making sure we are ready to transition to 5G,” Mr Hundt said. “Our industry has a unique opportunity to be one of the first in the Asean region to launch 5G and we are looking forward to working closely with the government to ensure the relevant policies are enacted,” added Mr Hundt. Aaron Wang, CEO of Huawei Wireless Network, said the company was proud to be involved in the rapid digitalisation of Cambodia “Today, we are going to witness a great moment in Cambodia digital history – the first 5G demo by Smart. And, of course, Huawei will continue to provide the most advanced 5G technical support to Smart,” Mr Wang said. “Cambodia was a leader in the deployment of 4G technology in Southeast Asia, and, for 5G, I want

Cambodia to be a leader again,” he said. In April, Huawei rolled out commercial 5G services in South Korea and Switzerland, and, a month later, launched the service in the United Kingdom and Finland, Mr Wang said, adding that Spain and Italy, who will get the service this month, will be next.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50622026/smart-holds-live-5g-trial/>

Inflation spikes in Laos



Laos News | 8 July, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Laos has steadily faced a higher inflation rate over the past five months after being pressed by several economic factors. The changes in consumer prices index, as a result of expensive commodities such as oil, gold and food weakening the value of the Lao currency (kip), is a key element to push up the rate. This satiation creates concerns for consumers and business entrepreneurs. According to data from the website of the Bank of the Lao PDR in January this year, the inflation rate was 1.5 percent and continued to inch up to 1.57 percent in February. By March it was 1.66 percent, 2.21 percent in April and 2.54 percent in May. On average, inflation has risen by 1.9 percent over the past five months. According to the annual plan, the government has set a ceiling of inflation at 5 percent. However, when compared with the same period last year, the rate of the first five months of this year was a little higher. In January 2018, the rate was 0.95 percent. It was fairly low compared to the first month of 2019. The rate

recorded in February of last year was 1.75 percent, 1.91 percent for March, 1.88 percent for April and 1.97 percent for May. In the first five months of last year, the rate was nearly 1.7 percent. It was a bit lower than the five months of this year. Associate Professor and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Management, Dr Phouphet Kyophilavong, told Vientiane Times last Friday that higher inflation is due to several factors. The first reason is money flow, the weaker value of kip is the second and expensive fuel, the third. Dr Phouphet said the more the money supply, the more inflation goes up. According to a report of the Prime Minister, Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, at a recent meeting of the National Assembly, the money flow was 9 percent over the past five months. While the figure provided in the National Assembly is an average, it has not exceeded 20 percent annually). The value of the kip against the US dollar fell by 0.9 percent and by 3.5 percent to the baht over the first four months of this year, according to a report from the Minister of Planning and Investment, Dr Souphan Keomixay. The report was presented to the government recently at a meeting with provincial governors. Despite the government guaranteeing that its foreign reserves can keep up for a three-month import, demands of US dollar and Thai baht still run high. This makes the kip weaker, there are fluctuations in exchange rates and the consumer price index gets pushed up. Dr Phouphet said speculations have involved stronger demand for foreign currencies as the country has black markets for exchange. Regarding inflation, the

Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Bank of the Lao PDR and other ministries have played a significant role to control goods prices, manage foreign currencies and increase productivity.

Source:<http://annx.asianews.network/content/inflation-spikes-laos-99723>

China-Myanmar cooperation seminar held in Yangon



Myanmar News | 8 July, 2019

A seminar on China-Myanmar sustainable development and cooperation under the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor was held in Myanmar's Yangon Monday. The seminar was jointly hosted by the Center for Myanmar Affairs Studies, Myanmar and the Institute of Myanmar Studies, China's Yunnan University. The Monday seminar featured discussions under the topics Green Energy Technologies and Sustainable Development, Governance: Problems and Challenges, and Progress of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, respectively. During the discussions, Zaw Aung, an independent researcher, said that the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) is a two-way connectivity between Myanmar and China and is mutually beneficial to both countries from bilateral trade and investments. The CMEC is an important impetus for the sustainable development of Myanmar's economy through attracting the investment of the neighbor countries, mainly China, ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and East Asia, he added, stressing that the China-

Myanmar Economic Corridor which is a part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will play a significant role in the logistic and trade infrastructure investments in next decade. With five Chinese scholars from Yunnan University and 13 Myanmar scholars taking part in the discussions, the seminar was the second edition after the first seminar was held in May, 2018. It was learnt that under the CMEC, the Myanmar government agreed to establish three economic border zones in Kanpikete town of Kachin state, Chinshwehaw and Muse of Shan state, respectively. In November, 2017, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed to establish the economic corridor during his meeting with Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi. According to official figures, border trade between Myanmar and China has reached over 4.3 billion U.S. dollars as of June 14 in present fiscal year 2018-2019. Myanmar mainly conducts border trade with China through Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete and Kengtung border gates. The country's agricultural, marine, forest products and minerals to China while machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic devices from China are imported. Meanwhile, Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has permitted a total of 82 Chinese investment projects with the capital of over 323.3 million U.S. dollars as of May 31 in FY 2018-2019, according to figures from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Source:http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/asiapacific/2019-07/08/c_138209797.htm

Rising FDI calls for better supporting industry: experts



Vietnam News | 9 July, 2019

HCM CITY — The domestic supporting industry needs to improve to take advantage of foreign direct investment (FDI) pouring into Việt Nam, experts have urged. In the first six months of the year, Việt Nam attracted more than 1,720 new FDI projects with total registered capital of nearly US\$7.5 billion, according to the General Department of Statistics. The period also saw \$9.1 billion of FDI being disbursed, an 8.1 per cent increase from the same period last year. More foreign investors have also injected capital to buy shares of or contributed capital to Vietnamese businesses, totalling around \$8.12 billion so far, nearly doubling the figure in the same period last year. Dr Huỳnh Thanh Điền of the HCM City University of Economics said that while this was a positive sign for the economy, authorities should examine the capability of domestic businesses, especially those in the supporting industry. The localisation rate in the supporting industry, for example, needs to be increased to attract foreign-invested companies. Businesses' ability to be part of the global supply chain for supporting industries is still limited. For instance, car manufacturers in Việt Nam have to import most parts, while the electrical and electronics industry has to import nearly all of its auxiliary products such as components, plastics and rubber products. Nguyễn Phương Đông, deputy director of the city

Department of Industry and Trade, said that many domestic supporting industry businesses continued to struggle with capital problems, lack of access to market information, and limited management capability to participate into the global supply chain. A survey conducted by the department and Samsung showed that the number of faulty products and inventory goods in Vietnamese supporting businesses was still high, and the prices of their products were relatively high and non-competitive. In addition, there is no concentrated industrial park dedicated to the supporting industry, so manufacturers in the industry are dispersed throughout many areas. Without an industrial park and adequate infrastructure, businesses find it difficult to satisfy FDI companies' demands. To help improve business capability, the department and the city have organised many programmes, one of which businesses received capability evaluation, innovative advices, and preferential interest rates to renovate their technologies. Đông said the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the city would organise more events for the supporting industry to network and learn more about the demands of end-product manufacturers. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/522396/rising-fdi-calls-for-better-supporting-industry-experts.html#zEicRJ7upByfcuZM.97>